



Raisi looks at neighbors and East with particular importance *Page 2*



Iran goalkeeper Niazmand joins Portimonense *Page 3*



Iranian trade delegation to visit Syria in late July *Page 4*



Import of coronavirus vaccine to reach 13m doses *Page 7*

MBS angers MBZ

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Thermal power plants' output up 14% in 3.5 months yr/yr

TEHRAN – Iran's thermal power plants generated 106 million megawatt-hours of electricity since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21) up to July 13, registering a 14-percent rise compared to the previous year's same period.

According to Esmail Namazi, the director-general of Research and Construction Office of Thermal Power Plants Holding Company (TPPH), the output of thermal

power plants in the same period last year was about 93 million megawatt-hours, IRNA reported.

The official mentioned the inactivity of hydropower plants due to drought, the rising temperature, and the increase in electricity demand, as well as the inactivity of the country's nuclear power plants on some days as reasons for the increase in electricity generation by thermal power plants.

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Three translations of book challenging dubious claims on Persian Gulf introduced

TEHRAN – Arabic, Turkish and French translations of the Persian book "A Fuss over Nothing" that debunks dubious claims about the Persian Gulf were introduced in an online session held on Monday.

The session was organized by the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) in Tehran.

Iranian scholar Mohammad-Ali Movahed wrote the book in response to the book "Dispute between the UAE and Iran over the Islands: Abu Musa, Greater and Lesser

Tunb; British Documents" authored by Iraqi writer Walid Hamdi al-Aazami in 2013.

The Arabic edition of "A Fuss over Nothing" has been rendered by Sadiq Khursha, a professional translator of Persian books.

It has been translated into French by Mithra Farzad, an Iranian scholar teaching at the University of Paris-Sud. The London-based company Candle and Fog is the publisher of the book.

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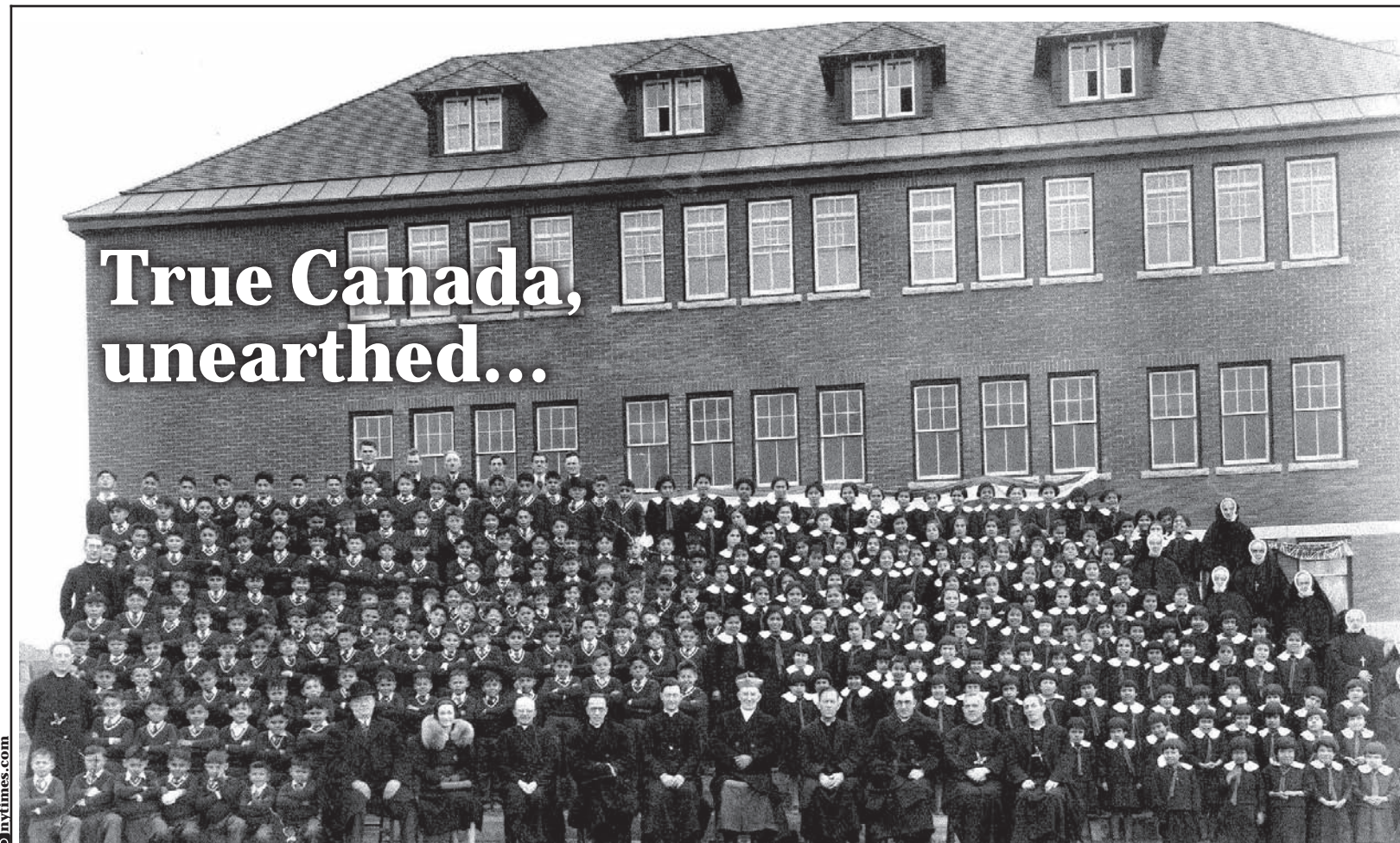
TEHRAN—As the search for discovering more unmarked graves continue, one thing can be said for sure. Canada, a country that commits "cultural genocide," cannot decry over human rights.

On July 12, the Penelakut tribe informed that it has discovered 160 unmarked graves in the Southern Gulf Islands in the British Columbia province.

This is a new addition to the recent series of discoveries of unmarked graves and mass burial sites near former residential missionary schools.

According to the reports, the island was a missionary school called Kuper Island Residential School. The school remained operational between 1890 and the 1970s. The Penelakut tribe notified the other indigenous First Nation communities through an online bulletin. "We are inviting you to join us in our work to raise awareness of the Kuper Island Industrial School, and Confirmation of the 160+ undocumented and unmarked graves in our grounds and foreshore," it said.

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True Canada, unearthed...

U.S. is not champion of democracy: analyst

BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI

Martin Love, an American political analyst, believes that the U.S. is not the leader of democracy in West Asia, Latin American or anywhere in the world.

"The U.S. is no champion of real democracy. At least not overseas. Not in the Middle East (West Asia), not in Latin America especially. Chaos has reigned," Love tells the Tehran Times.

The analyst says U.S. allies are more repressive than others.

"Democracy is less apparent, especially among allies of the U.S. in the Middle East (West Asia) like Saudi Arabia and Israel than it ever has been," Love notes.

A decision by the U.S. to leave Afghanistan has also raised questions among some world leaders and Afghan officials and analysts, calling the U.S. move irresponsible.

The U.S. invaded Afghanistan to topple the Taliban regime for hosting Osama bin Laden, the person considered the main architect of the September 11 attacks, and brining democracy to the country.

However, the Taliban have emerged stronger after two decades of U.S. occupation. Military analysts predict that the Taliban will capture the entire country in future months.

After the attack on Afghanistan, the U.S. invaded Iraq in March 2003 under the false pretext that Iraq was hiding weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

Love says ensuring the security of the Israeli regime has been the only achievement of the U.S. military presence in the region.

"The sole clear 'achievement' of the U.S. in the Middle East (West Asia) over the last 20 years is ensuring that Israeli Apartheid carries on longer than it should," Love argues.

Following is the text of the interview: **What are the main reasons for the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan?**

The U.S. is pulling out of Afghanistan, except to leave some CIA-trained mercenaries behind, because the war has been unwinnable however one defines a "win". Several thousand U.S. troops died and trillions were spent, not to mention the carnage inflicted on many more thousands of Afghans.

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Iranian border towns, beautiful yet underrated

TEHRAN – Countries are defined geographically and politically by their borders.

Borders are fundamentally linked to tourism, as travel almost always entails crossing a political or another boundary, and borderlands are often the first or last areas of a country visited by travelers.

Iran has a total of 5,894 kilometers of land borders with its neighbors Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Pakistan, Turkey, and Turkmenistan. It also borders the Caspian Sea, Persian Gulf, and the Gulf of Oman. Several border cities dot Iran, owing to the vast size of the country's land borders.

The border cities of Iran, however, have limited tourist numbers due to their long distances from the country's center, as well as the fact that they have not been properly promoted for foreign visitors.

Here are some of the most beautiful border

cities that have always gone unnoticed.

Astara

Astara, an Iranian border city and port, offers a wide range of tourist attractions. It is a major tourist and economic center on the west coast of the Caspian Sea, in the Gilan province. It is the last point of the border between Iran and Azerbaijan.

Hakim Nezami School and Shindan Castle are two of the city's historical sites.

Astara Lagoon, Astarachay river, Qarasu river, Chelvand river, Darband river, Lavandvil river, and Espinas mountain are some of the city's natural attractions.

Among Iran's border regions, Astara is the only area that has not experienced any tensions in the last 80 years, making it one of the safest.

There is a great deal of tourism in this region because of the natural beauty and the weather.

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WHO slams rich nations' greed for prolonging pandemic

The World Health Organization has blasted the senseless 'greed' of rich countries for considering Covid-19 booster vaccinations while vulnerable people in other nations are left exposed to the virus. At a joint press conference, top WHO officials said history will look back with shame if rich countries left the world's weakest at the mercy of the pandemic.

The United Nations' health agency has also slammed vaccine manufacturers for prioritizing deals for booster third shots rather than first and second shots for the completely unvaccinated frontline healthcare workers and elderly people in poorer nations. The agency's chief Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus says

"We can end [the pandemic] very soon because we have the tools now. However, Tedros says he doesn't expect that to happen because of a lack of global leadership. He added that vaccine nationalism was 'prolonging the agony' and only 'one word can explain this... greed'.

WHO chief scientist, Soumya Swaminathan, says four countries had announced a booster program and a handful of others are considering the move. She insisted that is currently 'no scientific evidence to suggest that boosters are definitely needed'. The WHO also slammed vaccine manufacturers saying 'Instead of Moderna and Pfizer prioritizing the supply of vaccines as boosters to countries whose populations have relatively high coverage, we need them to go all-out to channel supply to Covax' referring to the program that provides access to doses for the most vulnerable.

Meanwhile, the WHO emergencies director, Michael Ryan, says 'We will look back in anger and we will look back in shame if we don't now move to use the increasing production capacity that's coming online... to protect the most vulnerable'

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Raisi meets heads of supervisory bodies in bid to counter corruption

TEHRAN — In his first meeting with heads of intelligence and supervisory bodies on Tuesday, President-elect Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi said he personally wanted to form this session to formulate executive strategies to reform the government's approach in the efforts to tackle corruption before he officially starts his work as president.

Raisi said it is necessary to devise strategies to close loopholes that are vulnerable to corruption

and prevent wrongdoings in sectors related to banking, taxation, customs, government tenders, organized trafficking, etc.

It is necessary to provide an operational roadmap for transparency in economic systems, reformed the former top judge who won the June 18 presidential election.

"One of the expectations of the people from the new government is to eradicate corruption," the president-elect said.

He continued by saying that Iran must tap monitoring devices to counter corruption in the system.

He asked the officials present in the meeting to create a change in the administrative system in order to dry up the roots of corruption and propose effective executive solutions so that from the first day of his government, it can start taking action without delay.

Continued on page 2

It is about time to...

BY ABIR BASSAM

On Sunday, almayadeen.net published an Israeli declaration that was broadcasted on its media. It affirms Israel's need to establish a workable strategy in Lebanon and work on executing it firmly as soon as possible because the entry of Russia and China into Lebanon will rob Israel's ability in gaining more control over what is happening inside it.

This declaration says it all! A few days before, Israel offered to send aid to the Lebanese people, not to mention that it had asked its friends in the (Persian) Gulf to seize any aid send to Lebanon. These declarations say it all. The big question will remain to be: is there anybody listening in Lebanon? Unfortunately, the answer is: no one is listening, but everybody is shouting.

The conditions are becoming unbearable in Lebanon. Unless someone experiences living in the dark, no one can understand the situation. All the cities, villages, and neighborhoods are drenched in darkness. You walk in the streets as if you are walking in the wilderness. People walk around with flashlights. As the private electricity generators are hollering.

The generators in Beirut are adopting the policy of electricity rationing. Usually, they shut off their power from 2:00 pm to 7:00 pm, and then from 2:00 am to 8:00 am. If you work from home and you are an early riser, forget about it, you have no warm to catch. Then again, if you are a late riser, you have lost your chance to accomplish any duties during the day. Moreover, working hours can be adapted to the owners' moods and sense of responsibility, that is if the generator is valid for work, or it doesn't break most of the time.

In my neighborhood, the generator suddenly stopped working. I went to get some fresh air on the balcony. As I was spending the off-time around 9:00 pm, I heard children crying.

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National housing plan's affordable units handed over to owners

TEHRAN – Iranian Transport and Urban Development Ministry, on Monday, handed over 51,230 affordable housing units to applicants under the framework of a program called National Housing Action Plan.

The National Housing Action Plan aims to construct 400,000 small and medium-size apartments (70-100 square meters in size) across the country and particularly in Tehran, where housing prices have risen most sharply.

Nearly half of the total number of the said houses will be constructed in Tehran's suburban "new towns" such as Parand and Pardis, respectively located in the west and east of the city.



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Iran says believes in constructive dialogue

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Speaking at his weekly press briefing on Tuesday, Iranian government spokesman Ali Rabiei said Tehran believes in dialogue and constructive interaction.

Rabiei also said that negotiations between Iran and the United States are underway on exchanging prisoners.

“Even after the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA, we believed firmly in dialogue and constructive interaction that thwarted ill-wishers’ plot and this led to our refusal to withdraw from the deal,” he noted.



Rabiei noted that it was Iran which prevented the killing of the JCPOA by standing against the great law breaker (the U.S.), and by combining unparalleled resistance on the one hand and pursuing lively and dynamic diplomacy on the other.

Since April, the remaining parties to the JCPOA along with the U.S. have held six rounds of talks to revive the nuclear pact. The U.S. is participating in the talks indirectly as Iran has refused direct talks with the American side until the U.S. rejoins the deal and fulfill its obligations.

The government spokesman said the U.S. had no choice but to return to the negotiating table.

The government spokesman went to say that “some European countries, while considering Iran’s actions as violating the JCPOA obligations, have never done anything with regard to implementing commitments.”

Iran has been reducing its commitments to the JCPOA since May 2019, one year after former U.S. president Donald Trump quit the nuclear agreement and slapped the harshest sanctions within his “maximum pressure” policy against Iran. Iran decided to gradually remove limits on its nuclear program as the European parties to the deal failed to compensate Iran for the sanctions.

Iran’s nuclear steps are based paragraph 36 of the JCPOA which has “provided a mechanism to resolve disputes and allows one side, under certain circumstances, to stop complying with the deal if the other side is out of compliance.”

Rabiei also said U.S. State Department spokesman Ned Price’s remarks toward the JCPOA are unacceptable.

Price had said the U.S. is concerned about Iran’s nuclear steps. Rabiei said the current situation is due to Washington’s illegal and unilateral actions and approaches.

“Iran has humanitarian intentions toward prisoner swap”

Reacting to remarks by the U.S. special envoy for Iran Robert Malley with regard to negotiations on releasing American prisoners in Iran, he said that Iran has humanitarian intentions in mind.

“Thanks to its humanitarian intentions, Iran is ready to swap all political prisoners in return for the release of all Iranian prisoners held at the request of the United States. We even announced the readiness during the previous U.S. administration, but it was the U.S. administration that refused to sit at the negotiating table, insisting on taking the Iranians hostage, Foreign Minister Javad Zarif had proposed swapping all Iranian and American prisoners, and Joe Biden’s administration has been considering this issue,” he elaborated.

“Iran prevents illegal trespassing of immigrants”
Commenting on Taliban presence near Iran’s eastern borders and the Iran’s security measures, he said since the beginning of new changes in Afghanistan various bodies related to the Iranian Ministry of Interior have been continuously monitoring the situation.

He confirmed that Taliban have taken control of the Islam Qala and Abu Nasr Farahi customs near border with Iran. However, the spokesman said, Milak customs is still active and trades between Iran and Afghanistan are underway.

He also said Iran’s plan is to prevent the entry of illegal immigrants from Afghanistan.

“Necessary measures have been taken to reinforce the border, surveillance and security forces on the border with Afghanistan,” the spokesman noted.

“MEK gathering an opportunity to identify hypocrites”

On the virtual meeting of the MKO, aka MEK, he said the gathering is an opportunity to identify hypocritical American politicians who do not pay the slightest attention to the principles and history of terrorism and human rights violations in other countries.

“We never expected those who in recent years supported sanctions, war and terror against the Iranians, which they called the ‘maximum pressure’ policy, to separate themselves from Mojahedin-e- Khalq terrorists,” he added.

“Iran’s nuclear activities are peaceful”

In response to a question regarding concerns expressed by Western countries and Russia over 20% uranium enrichment by Iran and its plan to build uranium silicide fuel pellet, he said all these measures are taken based on civilian uses of nuclear energy. He added Iran had notified the International Atomic Energy Agency of its decision to build fuel pellet.

“The fuel of research reactors and their power is constantly witnessing a qualitative change with the use of new technologies. The %20 uranium metal fuel, compared to the usual %20 fuel, improves the efficiency and effectiveness of the Tehran Research Reactor; in such a way that we can increase the quantity of radiopharmaceuticals and in time the production process becomes faster. In addition, we can produce new industrial radioisotopes that cannot be produced in the current situation,” he elaborated.

Raisi meets heads of supervisory bodies in bid to counter corruption

➔ 1 The meeting was attended by Intelligence Minister Seyyed Mahmoud Alavai, Supreme Audit Court director Mehrdad Bazrpash, Parliament Article 90 Committee chairman Nasrollah Pejmanfar along with other officials.

They briefed the president-elect on the performance of their bodies, and expressed hope that the new administration would inject hope into the veins of the society.

Raisi will be sworn in a president in early August.

True Canada, unearthed...

More unmarked graves discovered in Canada, how many more left?

➔ 1 “We are at another point in time where we must face trauma because of these acts of genocide. Each time we do, it is possible to heal a little more. Courage is not the absence of fear, courage is acting despite fear,” Penelakut tribe Chief Joan Brown said.

The tribe did not provide additional information about how the graves were discovered or whether any ground-penetrating radar technology was employed. Furthermore, no information was provided on the possibility that the child’s remains were in the grave. Joan Brown invited community members to attend the March for the children in Chemainus on August 2 to remember the indigenous children who were forced into the Kuper Island Residential school program. A majority of the deaths were caused due to neglect, tuberculosis, fires, injuries from assault, and rapes.

Canada’s Truth and Reconciliation Commission concluded in 2015 that at least 3,200 students died, later revising that figure to 4,100. The No. 1 cause of death was tuberculosis; influenza hit hard, too. Far from home, children were often buried on-site, their graves marked with wooden crosses, most of which deteriorated and disappeared.

As a nation-state, which was built on the skulls of these indigenous people, Canada is doing the least of all to respect them. Canada’s Prime Minister, Justin Trudeau, has not formally apologized yet. Canada wants to hear more than just “thoughts and prayers.”

A huge advocate for human rights issues in all countries, Canada is dealing with human rights crises all over the country. The indigenous people call on the government to end discrimination against them.

The underfunding of child welfare services



is just one example of the ways that indigenous children are denied fair and equal access to government services such as education, safe housing, and clean water. The vital services that are necessary to just enjoy fundamental rights and not turn them into provisions of life.

According to an article submitted in the United Nations Chronicle, aboriginals make up about 19 percent of federal prisoners, while their number among the general population is only about 3 percent. Between 1997 and 2000, they were ten times more likely to be accused of homicide than non-aboriginal people. The rate of natives in Canadian prisons climbed 22 percent between 1996 and 2004, while the general prison population dropped 12 percent. In similar societies, discrepancies

are equally glaring.

Ed McIsaac, Executive Director of the Office of the Correctional Investigator of Canada, says “We’ve got a social and economic situation that impact on education, health, and employment. These are variables that bring people into conflict with the justice system.”

“With its roots in social and economic problems that span centuries, legal discrimination against indigenous communities is a daunting problem and requires innovative solutions and international support. But while the problem is anything but simple, many native groups have proven that they’re ready for the challenge of finding a lasting solution,” Melissa Gorelick, an associate public

Borrell say EU pursues ‘balanced position’ toward Iran

EU distances itself from Slovenian PM

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said on Monday that the 27-nation European block follows a “balanced position” toward Iran, noting the EU “puts political pressure when it’s considered necessary, in many areas, and at the same time looks for cooperation when it is necessary.”

Borrell made the remarks as he was reacting to a speech by Slovenian Prime Minister Janez Jansa at a virtual meeting of the terrorist Mojahedin-e-Khalq, which drew strong criticism by Tehran.

The EU’s chief diplomat said the remarks by the Slovenian prime minister does not represent the official position of the European bloc.

Jansa, whose country holds the rotating EU presidency, made controversial remarks against Iran at the meeting. His remarks and his participation at the meeting drew a strong criticism from Iran.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry described the Slovenian prime minister’s move as “unacceptable and undiplomatic.”

In addition to the Slovenian leader, Iran hawks like Congressman Ted Cruz and former U.S. secretary of state Mike Pompeo addressed the conference held this year in Berlin.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh earlier denounced the presence of Western politicians in the virtual event, saying they “sell themselves cheap for a Europe-hosted circus arranged by a once Saddam-backed terrorist cult with Iranian blood on its hands.”

In a phone call with Borrell on Sunday evening, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif asked for a clarification of the EU’s stance regarding Jansa’s “unacceptable participation” at the gathering and his “imprudent remarks”.

Borrell said he had told Zarif that “in our institutional setting, the position of a prime minister — even if he’s from the country that holds the rotating Council presidency — does not represent the position of the European Union.”

“Foreign policy remains a competency of [EU] member states and each member state can have the opinion that it sees fit for each issue of international politics. ... For me it’s only up to say whether this position [by Jansa] ... represents the European Union. And certainly it does not,” he added.

The EU foreign policy chief further stressed that only the president of the European Council, Charles Michel, could represent the EU at the level of heads of state and government.

“I have nothing to say about the opinions of the Slovenian prime minister,” Borrell said. “It’s his responsibility, but he does not represent the European Union.”

Raisi looks at neighbors and the East with particular importance

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — in a post published on his Instagram page on Tuesday, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, senior advisor to the parliament speaker said that President-elect Raisi prioritizes his foreign policy plans, and gives special attention to the neighbors and the East.

“By reviewing the background, performance and positions of the President-elect, in Dr. Raisi’s view, a balanced foreign policy, active and dynamic relations with the East and the West of the world, and a special view of all neighbors and Asia are foreign policy priorities,” he said on his Instagram page.

information officer with the yearbook unit of the UN Department of Public Information said in his article, titled “Discrimination of Aboriginals on Native Lands in Canada.”

“It still exists in 2020. It’s not uncommon to hear people say, ‘go back to your reserve.’” said Kerry Benjoe, a Canadian Broadcasting Corporation contributor on July 1, 2020. She said that the issue of systemic racism is not just limited to the United States and European countries.

On May 28, my daughter asked me a question that has taken me a month to answer.

“How can someone hate someone just because of the color of their skin?” Like many parents, I would have preferred she had not seen a video of a police officer killing George Floyd, but she did. Any other time, I would have brushed her off with a simple answer like, “people are dumb.” This time, things were different. “I don’t know baby,” I said, as I hugged her tightly,” she said in her piece on CBC, posted on July 1, 2020.

Two-thirds of Indigenous people feel that the federal government does not respect their community and identity, according to a poll conducted by Public Square Research and Maru/Blue.

The poll ran between May 31 and June 10, 2019, and included 500 Indigenous people from across the country who responded online.

When asked “Do you feel that the federal government respects your community and identity?” 67 percent of Indigenous respondents said no, and 66 percent said they don’t feel like a respected part of Canada.

It seems like Canadian officials must take the time to pay attention to their own country and at the very least, respect the indigenous people whose country they have occupied.

ports terrorism.

Salman al-Ansari, president of the Saudi American Public Relations Affairs Committee, a pro-Riyadh lobby group in Washington, also spoke at the MKO conference in Albania on 13 July, 2019.

He was repeatedly interrupted by cheers from the group’s supporters as he bashed Iran in both Arabic and Farsi.

In an article published in 2018, Al Bawaba revealed that three tons of gold ingots and four suitcases of Rolex watches were given to the MKO by the Saudis when the group was still in Iraq.

Gold and other valuable commodities were later sold in black markets in the Jordanian capital, Amman, via Saudi-linked businessmen and the money went to offshore accounts linked to the MKO. The Saudis have in fact been supporting the MKO since Saddam Hussein’s war against Iran, as the group provided the Iraqi dictator with intelligence and military support, according to Press TV.

Second Announcement



ONE STAGE TENDER INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR PURCHASE OF 18000 MT BAKED ANODE BLOCK

TENDER No.: j/15

DATE: 11th /july/2021

1.Subject.: Iran Alumina Company (IAC) intends to purchase high quality Baked Anode Block, in amount of 18000 MT for using in its Primary Aluminum Reduction Smelter Plant through one stage Tender according to following conditions as mentioned in the relevant Tender documents .:

2.: Bid Bond Guarantee: 172.500 Euro/or 49.650.000.000 Rials

3.:Tender proposal.: Since the tendering is to be done in one stage ,thus the eligible Bidders should follow and regard the Tender instructions and present and submit all of required justified documents and the mentioned Tender envelopes in one package together.

4.:Closing Date.: The eligible Bidders should submit their Bids/proposal to the central administration office as mentioned below and also in the Tender documents before 16:00 pm ,local time , on the day 16th August ,2021 .

5.: Opening Date.: 24th August , 2021 on 11:00 AM.

6.: Contact information.: For more details and receiving the relevant Tender documents , the Bidders can refer to the following contact information.

Add.: Km 7 of Sankhast Road, city of Jajarm, Northern Khorasan Province, IRAN, P. O. Box:1135-94415 legal and contractual Affairs .

Tel .: 0098-58-32604467-32604246 - 0098-21-86073184

Fax.: 0098-58-32272487 - 0098-21-88833748

website: www.iranalumina.ir E-mail.: aluminumjajarm@gmail.com

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MBS angers MBZ

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** – In the latest blow to the United Arab Emirates, Saudi King Salman bin Abdulaziz received Sultan Haitham bin Tariq of Oman for the first time since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, which has put an end to the aging king's in-person meetings with foreign leaders.

King Salman bypassed the corona-related health protocols by receiving the sultan of Oman, indicating the importance of the meeting between the leaders of the two neighbors whose relations had never gone beyond usual diplomatic compliments and expressions of sympathy in times of difficulty. Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman also made sure to underline the importance of bin Tariq's visit by removing the mask he was wearing during receiving the sultan. When he noticed that the Omani leader wasn't wearing a mask upon his arrival at Neom Airport, he quickly moved to take off his mask to imply how welcomed was bin Tariq whose visit to Saudi Arabia was the first since assuming office more than a year ago.

During the visit, Oman and Saudi Arabia established a joint coordination council to follow up on issues of common interest. The visit coincided with the completion of a 680 km-long road linking Oman to Saudi Arabia and offering the latter an alternate route to bypass the UAE which served for a long time as a transit link between Saudi Arabia and Oman.

These developments were not lost on Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Zayed, who is going through a quiet crisis with his old friend bin Salman, who, in turn, has widely been seen as a protégé of bin Zayed.



Many in the region and beyond believe that bin Salman's ascension to the throne was facilitated by bin Zayed. This perception of patronage continued to characterize the relations between Riyadh and Abu Dhabi over the past few years.

But the relations between the two powerful men began to crack in recent days, with several media outlets reporting that the two crown princes started to part ways especially in terms of economic relations.

The nascent disagreements between MBS and MBZ were so obvious that even the cagy and tight-lipped Emiratis acknowledged them. "History testifies that economic

differences sometimes occur, but they do not create breakdown, because there is an understanding that the interests that bind the two countries are greater than any difference in viewpoints," Salem al-Katbi, a prominent Emirati columnist, admittedly wrote in an opinion piece for Al-Arab newspaper.

The gap between the two ambitious men of the region first came to the surface when the Saudis called for an eight-month extension of an OPEC+ production cut deal, only to see the Emiratis beseech them to exempt the UAE from cutting production.

Then the two countries issued travel bans on each other's subjects to seemingly prevent

an outbreak of the coronavirus. The tit-for-tat move further inflamed speculations about a rift between the two. This was exacerbated by a Saudi decision to force multinational international firms to move their regional office to Saudi Arabia if they want to do business in the Arab country. The move was seen by many analysts, and Emiratis, as a plan to target Dubai as it stands to be almost the only business hub in the region that plays host to many international firms' regional offices.

Where these disagreements would lead remains an open question. Some observers believe that MBZ will move to reign in his onetime disciple and make him understand that harming the interests of the UAE has a price tag.

Bin Zayed "will seek to explain to his Saudi counterpart that the price of disagreement with him will be high, and that his dependence on the Emirates was so great that he risks his downfall if he abandons it, and that Saudi Arabia is too weak to threaten the Emirates, even though it is a large country. He has in mind the example of Qatar, which Riyadh lost to it, although it was supported by the Emirates, Egypt and Bahrain," wrote Hussein Ibrahim, an analyst, in an opinion piece for Al-Akhbar newspaper.

"Bin Zayed could go further in his quest to get Bin Salman back into the fold," Ibrahim continued, adding, "He will tout himself to the Americans as the key player in lowering oil prices from the high levels they recently reached, a major point of contention that emerged with the outbreak of the crisis between the two countries, after the UAE tried to evade commitment to its production quota in OPEC."

Iranian, Swedish diplomats discuss Yemen crisis in Tehran

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** – A senior Iranian diplomat has met with a Swedish diplomat in charge of following the crisis in Yemen.

Sweden's Special Envoy for Yemen Peter Semneby held talks with Ali-Asghar Khaji, the Iranian foreign minister's senior advisor in special political affairs, on Monday, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said.

During the meeting, which was also attended by the Swedish ambassador to Tehran, the latest developments in domestic and foreign fields of Yemen were reviewed.

The two sides also exchanged views on the grounds for mutual cooperation between Tehran and Stockholm in order to help resolve the Yemen crisis and ways to immediately end the humanitarian crisis in Yemen.

The Swedish envoy's latest regional consultations and Iran's efforts to help lift the blockade against the people of Yemen, the establishment of a ceasefire and the peace process as well as eliminating the oil spill risk associated with the FSO Safer oil tanker were among the main issues discussed by Khaji and Semneby.

The Yemen crisis began in 2015 when Saudi Arabia attacked the Arab country to eradicate what the Saudis call Iranian influence. The war continued to rage on even though the Saudis failed to unseat the Ansarallah-led government in Sanaa.

Since then, Saudi Arabia has been entangled in one of its worst wars against Yemen. After years of bombardment, Saudi Arabia not only failed to oust the Sanaa-based government, but it also was unable to prevent the Yemenis from mounting retaliatory attacks inside its territory. Facing a well-organized popular resistance in Yemen, the Saudis blamed their failure on Iran, accusing it of providing weaponry to its Yemeni allies.

This is while Iran has sought to soothe the situation in Yemen by supporting a political solution to the war. To this end, several Iranian diplomats, including Khaji, made efforts to put an end to the war in Yemen.

In early May, Khaji and Semneby met online to discuss the latest developments in Yemen and possible solutions to the Arab country's crisis.

They reviewed the latest developments in the peace process in the war-hit Arab country.

The Iranian and Swedish diplomats stressed the need for closer consultations and cooperation between Tehran and Stockholm to reach a political solution to the crisis in Yemen.



They also talked about the results of Semneby's recent visits to Saudi Arabia, Oman, the UAE, and Yemen. The discussions about Yemen held during Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif's recent regional tour, and the consultations to draft a peace deal for Yemen.

In mid-June, Khaji also paid a visit to Oman to discuss the Yemen war. He visited Muscat and met with Omani Foreign Minister Badr Al Busaidi. In the meeting, Khaji and Al Busaidi discussed the latest developments in bilateral relations, the Yemen developments, and regional issues, according to a statement put out by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

"The Iranian official elaborated on Tehran's latest efforts to resolve humanitarian issues and stop the war in the country, and welcomed Oman's move to dispatch a delegation to Sana'a and its efforts to contribute to a peaceful resolution of the crisis in cooperation with the UN. The Omani foreign minister, in turn, described his country's efforts on the Yemen crisis as a step to stop the current humanitarian disaster in Yemen and contribute to the region's stability. He also stressed Iran's effective role in regional developments," the statement said.

During his trip to Muscat, Khaji also met Sheikh Khalifa Al-Harthy, the deputy foreign minister of Oman for political affairs. During the meeting, the two sides discussed "in detail" the latest developments in Yemen, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry statement.

Iran has long denied any military involvement in the Yemen war and expressed its readiness to facilitate a political solution to the crisis. The Saudis began listening to the Iranian calls only most recently, giving the green light to their security officials to meet their Iranian counterparts in the Iraqi capital.

In parallel with the Baghdad talks, Iran intensified its efforts to bring peace to Yemen. Before heading to Oman, Khaji met with the UN Secretary General's Special Envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths to discuss the latest developments in Yemen.

In the meeting, the two sides conferred on the latest political and on-the-ground situation in Yemen, especially the recent visit of Griffiths to Sana'a, the developments in Ma'rib province, the need for the removal of economic siege against the Yemeni people, and the ways to establish peace and stability in the country.

Griffiths and Khaji also conferred on the elimination of the possible risk of oil spill from the FSO Safer oil tanker. Khaji presented Iran's initiative to eliminate the oil spill and environmental pollution risk, and said Tehran is still ready to help establish peace in Yemen.

The UN envoy, in turn, presented a report on his visits to the region, and elaborated on the UN's efforts to settle the Yemen crisis.

Earlier, Griffiths also met with Foreign Minister Zarif during a visit to Tehran. He held talks with Zarif on various aspects of the Yemen crisis and the ways to achieve peace and stability in the country.

During his meeting with the UN envoy, Zarif elaborated on Iran's viewpoint on ending the Yemen crisis, the developments following the beginning of the crisis in the country, and underlined the need to remove the blockade against the country and facilitating the delivery of humanitarian aid to the Yemeni people, according to a statement issued by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Zarif expounded on Iran's principled policy that war is not a solution to the Yemen crisis, and said the current disastrous situation in Yemen - which has put the Yemeni people on the verge of a humanitarian disaster after six years - can only be wound up through political talks and peaceful ways.

Griffiths paid a visit to Iran after failing to make headway on the Yemen peace talks. He said in late May that he was frustrated over the lack of progress in the Yemen peace talks.

"Nobody can be more frustrated than I am," Griffiths said. "We have spent a year and a half on things which are relatively simple to describe, the cease-fire, the opening of Sanaa airport, the opening of Hodeida ports, the much-delayed start of the political negotiations."

Parliament bill prohibiting negotiations with U.S. is 'preemptive': MP

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** – An Iranian lawmaker who helped prepare a bill conditioning negotiation with the U.S. on permission from the Majlis said the measure is intended to forestall any signing of deals by governments without informing the legislative body.

A group of Iranian lawmakers has proposed a bill that, if passed, would ban any negotiations between Iranian officials and their American counterparts without official permission from the Majlis.

The bill, officially called "Plan to Ban Talks between Officials and Authorities of the Islamic Republic of Iran with U.S. Officials," was received by the Iranian parliament's presiding board on June 23 and is expected to be discussed soon.

The bill stipulates that "from the date of entry into force of this law, any initiation of negotiation or negotiation by authorities and officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran with U.S. officials without the permission and approval of the Islamic Consultative Assembly is prohibited."

According to the bill, any violation of the law would result in punishing the violator. Procedures for implementation of

the law will be prepared by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the ministries of intelligence and justice and the IRGC's intelligence agency within two months and will be approved by the cabinet of ministers.

The bill's introduction explained the logic behind it. "U.S. officials have always taken military, intelligence, anti-human rights, and sanctions measures against the Islamic Republic of Iran and our country's officials in various ways, directly or under the guise of their economic, scientific, medical, biological, and industrial activities. The irrational and shameful act of the American authorities in martyring General Qassem Soleimani is one of the clear examples of their crimes against the Islamic Republic of Iran and humanity. On several occasions, the U.S. president has identified the officials and institutions of the Islamic Republic of Iran as terrorists and has imposed sanctions on them," the introduction said.

It added, "Unfortunately, in the JCPOA we witnessed the negligence of American officials, and the reason for this negligence was that despite the emphasis of the Supreme Leader on the negotiating team of

the Islamic Republic of Iran, presented the content of the JCPOA differently and did not give the people's representatives a full and clear explanation on the real provisions of the JCPOA. This led to the ratification of the JCPOA in the Islamic Consultative Assembly."

Thus, the lawmakers justified the bill and called for permission from the Majlis for any negotiations with the U.S. to prevent government officials from using the negotiation as a propaganda tool and putting pressure on the Majlis.

Mohammad Taghi Naqd-Ali, a lawmaker who helped prepare the bill, further explained the logic behind the bill by linking it to fundamental disagreements between Iran and the U.S.

"Because we have fundamental differences with the United States and the Zionist regime, and the hegemony of the United States and Israel is certain, any formal or informal negotiation with the United States without the knowledge of Parliament is prohibited," the lawmaker told state news IRNA.

He added, "According to Article 77 of the Constitution, international treaties, conventions, treaties and agreements must be



approved by the Islamic Consultative Assembly. Given that the constitution requires parliamentary oversight of international treaties, this plan has been prepared in line with parliamentary oversight tools."

Naqd-Ali described the bill as a "preemptive" measure and said it was presented in a bid to prevent any signing of deals by government officials without informing the legislative body.

He also put the bill in the broader context of the Iranian policy of non-alignment with the East and the West. Naqd-Ali noted that this bill aims to protect the well-known Iranian foreign policy principle of "Neither East nor West."

SPORTS

Iran goalkeeper Niazmand joins Portimonense

SPORTS d e s k **TEHRAN** – Iran international football team and Sepahan goalkeeper Payam Niazmand joined Portuguese football club Portimonense on Monday.



He has joined the Primeira Liga side on a three-year contract. The 26-year-old custodian started his goalkeeping career in 2015 with the Iranian team Paykan and joined Sepahan after three years.

He is also Iran national team third-choice goalkeeper. Niazmand has a release clause worth €10 million in his contract with the Portuguese team.

Iran first-choice goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand also joined Portuguese club Boavista from Belgian team Antwerp on loan on Saturday.

Alireza Jahanbakhsh linked with Brighton exit

SPORTS d e s k **TEHRAN** – Brighton winger Alireza Jahanbakhsh has been tipped to return to Dutch football.

The 27-year-old signed for Albion in July 2018 for a then club-record fee of £17 million from AZ Alkmaar but in that time he has made 61 appearances, 31 of which have been from the bench, and scored just four goals.

According to The Athletic, Jahanbakhsh has been linked with Eredivisie outfit Feyenoord but other clubs are also interested.

The Iranian international still has two years left on his contract at the Amex and the Sussex outfit may want to recuperate some of the money they paid for him.

Jahanbakhsh joined NEC Nijmegen in 2013 and after two years signed a deal for AZ Alkmaar, where he capped off the season as the top scorer in the Eredivisie league with 21 goals in 2018.

He will most likely return to the Dutch football in the summer.

Ex-Iran defender Mahmoud Shakibi dies

SPORTS d e s k **TEHRAN** – Former Iran national football team defender Mahmoud Shakibi died of a heart attack at the age of 94 in Tehran on Monday.

Shakibi was a member of Iran football team who won a silver medal at the 1951 Asian Games in India.

He started his playing career in 1943 with Iranian football club Shahbaz and joined Shahin after four years and enjoyed 11 years of playing for that club.

Shakibi scored his only goal for Iran football team in a match against Pakistan on Oct. 27, 1950 in a friendly match in Tehran that ended 5-1 for Iran.

Tehran Times extends deepest sympathy to Shakibi's family, loved ones, and friends over his demise.

Iran woman Bagherpour joins Slovenian GEN-I Volley

SPORTS d e s k **TEHRAN** – Iranian international middle blocker Soudabeh Bagherpour has joined Slovenian volleyball club GEN-I Volley Nova Gorica.

Bagherpour, 31, joined the Slovenian team from Saipa on a one-year contract.

She is a member of Iran national volleyball team at the moment and prepares for the 2021 Asian Women's Volleyball Championship which will be held in the Philippines from Aug. 29 to Sept. 5.

"GEN-I Volley coach Majda Cicic called me and I decided to continue my volleyball in Slovenia. I think the Iranian women volleyball players are capable of playing in the top leagues," Bagherpour said. Bagherpour had been linked with a move to Turkish volleyball club Galatasaray Daikin last year.

Beiranvand looks for new challenge at Boavista

SPORTS d e s k **TEHRAN** – Iranian goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand says he is looking for a new challenge in his new team.

Alireza Beiranvand joined Boavista on loan from Belgian Antwerp until the end of 2021/22 season.

"I am very happy with this new challenge in my career. I was very well received by everyone at the club and I love the stadium. I'm sure we'll have a good season and I feel ready to help the team in whatever it takes," said the 28-year-old goalkeeper.

"It's my first time in Portugal and in the city of Porto. I have been treated very well and I feel very happy with the choice I have made. I have some compatriots playing here in Portugal, so I will never feel alone in Portugal," he said.

The goalkeeper will have to compete with Brazilian Rafael Bracali and João Gonçalves in the 'checkered' goal.

"I know that Boavista's fans are very warm. They are always the 12th player in a team and it is very important to have their support during the season. I promise to give my best and do everything in my power to help the club," said Beiranvand, whose signing broke popularity records on social networks.

Iran captain Haji Safi linked with AEK Athens

SPORTS d e s k **TEHRAN** – Greek football giant AEK Athens have reportedly shown interest in signing Iran football captain Ehsan Haji Safi.

The 31-year-old winger, who currently plays for Iranian team Sepahan, was a member of Greek football team Olympiacos in 2018. Now, AEK want to hire him, iefimerida.gr reported. Hajisafi's countryman Karim Ansarifard is also playing for AEK.

TEDPIX drops 414 points on Tuesday

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 414 points to 1,303 million on Tuesday.

As reported, over 7.935 billion securities worth 67.351 trillion rials (about \$1.6 billion) were traded at the TSE on Tuesday.

The first markets' index dropped 1,148 points, and the second market's index lost 201 points.

TEDPIX rose 43,000 points in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

Iranian stock market is expected to follow an upward trend as the country's foreign currency exchange market has become more stabilized over the past few months, according to stock market analyst Azim Sabet.

"As one of the important factors in the market, [foreign] exchange rates have reached a stage of stability; therefore, one can expect a reasonable upward trend in the market," Sabet told IRNA on Saturday.

He pointed to the effective measures taken for improving the current trend of stock exchange transactions and added: "One of the significant issues regarding the stock market's current trading environment is the management of fluctuations in the market."

The expert stressed that people should not expect the stock market to always follow an upward trend, saying: "Sometimes companies report on their performance and activities in a certain period of time and shareholders must use that information to make decisions based on the value of the companies."

Exchange transactions can take a reasonable course if the macroeconomics of the country is managed and no sudden changes are made, he said.

98% of Tehran province's population enjoy natural gas

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The managing director of Tehran Province's Gas Company said that 98 percent of the province's population enjoy natural gas at the present.

Saeed Tavakoli said, "Currently in Tehran province, 49 cities and 539 villages enjoy natural gas, thus, the coverage ratio of urban gas supply is about 99.9 percent and that of rural gas supply is about 97.5 percent in this province."

He said that Tehran Gas Company established 463 kilometers of gas network, installed 12,636 urban and rural branches, and accepted 124,186 new subscribers in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

As previously announced by the managing director of National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), 96 percent of the country's population enjoy natural gas at the present.

Emphasizing the need to pay attention to the stability of the network, the creation and use of processes, Hasan Montazer Torbati has said: "Iran's 96 percent of population benefitting from natural gas is a unique statistic in the world."

"Now that everyone recognizes NIGC as a leading organization, our task is much heavier, because now with 96 percent of the country's population benefitting from gas, which is a unique statistic in the world, we should think more about network stability and processes and creation so that we will have a better and more dynamic organization", the official further stressed.

Head of National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC)'s Dispatching Department has announced that the country's natural gas consumption in the previous Iranian calendar year 1399 increased eight percent compared to the preceding year (1398).

Some 233 billion cubic meters of natural gas was consumed in the country during the previous year while the figure stood at 216 billion cubic meters in 1398, IRNA reported, quoting Mohammadreza Jolaei as saying.

According to Jolaei, of the total gas consumption in the previous year, 122 billion cubic meters was consumed by domestic, commercial, and non-major industries, 24 billion cubic meters was the share of major industries and 66 billion cubic meters was allocated to power plants.

The official noted that during the past year, the consumption by domestic sector and power plants hit new record highs but NIGC managed to prevent any major blackouts even during the peak consumption periods.

The country's power plants received an average of 167 million cubic meters (mcm) of gas per day in 1398, which reached 181 million cubic meters per day in the previous year, indicating a 5.1 billion increase in the power plants' gas consumption.

According to Jolaei, some 262 billion cubic meters of gas was injected into the national gas network in the previous year, registering a six-percent rise compared to 1398.

Mentioning the average gas consumption during the current Iranian calendar month (started on March 21), the official put the figure at 606 million cubic meters for Saturday, April 3.

Iran is currently producing over 810 mcm of natural gas on a daily basis which is mostly used inside the country for the domestic sector and also as fuel for the power plants and a small portion is also exported to neighboring countries like Iraq.

According to the NIGC managing director, of the total produced gas, some 25 percent goes to household consumption, 37 percent is supplied to the power plants, 30 percent is used in the industry sector, four percent used as CNG and four percent is for other consumptions.

Montazer Torbati stated that gas supply has been developed significantly in the cities and villages of the country over the past eight years due to the increase in gas production in the South Pars gas field (Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf).

Thermal power plants' output up 14% in 3.5 months yr/yr

➔1 "Thermal power plants have tried to stay active for more hours by shortening the time of their periodic repairs and fixing occasional problems in the power plant units, to compensate the electricity generation deficit in the country," Namazi said.

He further noted that all thermal power plants across the country are currently operating at maximum capacity, and the employees of the country's electricity industry are doing their best to keep the power plants in the grid despite the new wave of coronavirus pandemic and the extreme heat.

In the past decade, constant temperature rising and the significant decrease of rainfalls across Iran have put the country in a hard situation regarding electricity supply during peak consumption periods.

This year, however, new deteriorating factors like severe drought and the decline in the country's water resources as well as a new wave of illegal cryptocurrency mining across the country have also worsened the situation.

Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir) has previously announced that the company is implementing over 40 different programs for managing the situation and to prevent blackouts in the country, however, so far these programs do not seem to be working as expected.

16 major projects soon to be inaugurated in Iranian ports

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) has announced that 16 major projects worth over \$267 million are going to be inaugurated in the country's ports by the end of the current week, IRNA reported.

According to Mohammad Rastad, some 6.876 trillion rials (about \$163 million) plus 87.9 million euros has been invested in the said projects, of which about 382 billion rials (about \$9.05 million) has been provided by the private sector.

Of these 16 projects, two projects have been carried out by the private sector investors in Imam Khomeini port and other projects have been implemented by the Ports and Maritime Organization, the official explained.

"These projects are in various fields including infrastructure, buildings, vessels, port equipment, maritime safety, port security, maritime transport facilitation, and maritime reference buildings," he added.

According to Rastad, the mentioned projects are located in Hormozgan, Khuzestan, Bushehr, and Mazandaran provinces.

Six of the projects will be inaugurated in



Hormozgan Province, including a wharf post, three oil wharf posts, a vessel, a hyper-suction dredger vessel, a marine reference building, and a fire alarm system.

Projects in Khuzestan province also in-

clude multi-purpose warehouses for storage of goods, a hyper-suction dredger vessel.

A 60-ton mobile crane, a sailors club building (in Amirabad), a fire station, a corn flour and concentrate factory, and a

CCTV and electronic protection system are among the projects that will be inaugurated in Mazandaran Province, according to Rastad.

Iranian Transport Ministry has been taking serious measures for supporting development projects in the country's ports and in this regard the ministry has been cooperating with domestic companies for supplying the equipment and machinery needed in such projects.

Earlier this year, Transport Minister Mohammad Eslami had announced that the capacity of the country's commercial ports is going to be increased to 500 million tons over the next five years, to make Iran one of the biggest trade hubs in the region.

Also in April, Rastad said that his organization plans to take all the necessary measures for supporting the companies active in various maritime sectors during the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21).

"In line with the current year's motto which is "Production: support and the elimination of obstacles", PMO has put it on the agenda to provide necessary supports for producers in order to facilitate the process of import and export of goods in the country's ports," Rastad said.

ISIPO inks co-op MOU with Armenia's Investor Support Center

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Armenia's Investor Support Center for cooperation in various areas, including establishment of joint industrial parks in border areas.

The signing ceremony, held online on Tuesday, was attended by senior officials from the two sides including the ISIPO Head Ali Rasoulian and Armenian Ambassador to Iran Artashes Toumanian, IRNA reported.

The development of bilateral cooperation, offering appropriate solutions for resolving trade issues, promotion and improvement of mutual investment and creation of an operational framework to strengthen and develop stronger trade relations between the two countries were reported to be the main goals of the mentioned MOU.

Speaking at the ceremony, Rasoulian expressed hope that considering the expansion of economic and industrial

cooperation between Iran and Armenia, the two countries will take serious measures for promoting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and for the establishment of joint industrial parks.

"Small and medium-sized enterprises play an important role in the production and distribution of wealth in the economy, and therefore the governments need to strengthen small industries," Rasoulian said.

Mentioning that 92 percent of Iran's industrial sector is comprised of small and medium-sized enterprises, the official said: "we have successful experiences at the government and private sector levels in this field and try to provide the necessary infrastructure and a competitive environment for such enterprises by applying supportive policies."

"So far, more than 900 industrial parks and zones have been put into operation in Iran and nearly one million people are working in 48,000 industrial units active in these parks," he added.



Rasoulian further expressed hope that the two sides would improve the level of cooperation with the aim of implementing previously reached agreements and facilitating cooperation between the private sectors of the two countries which would lead to the creation of joint industrial parks.

67 industrial, production projects inaugurated in Hamedan Province

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Some 67 industrial and production projects worth 4.2 trillion rials (about \$100 million) were inaugurated in Hamedan Province on Tuesday, in a ceremony attended by senior officials including Deputy Interior Minister Babak Dinparast.

As reported by IRNA, the mentioned projects are going to create job opportunities for more than 750 people.

According to the Hamedan Province's Deputy Governor Zaher Pour-Mojahed, 16 of the mentioned projects were industrial



units that will offer jobs for 466 people.

Pour-Mojahed stated that 2.04 trillion rials (about \$48.5 million) has been invested

in the mentioned industrial units, noting that the said units are active in various areas including brick production, calcium carbonate powder production, production of PVC sheets, production of painkillers, sanitary ware and steel beams and some other products.

He further added that 25 of the said projects were also related to the agricultural sector and 26 projects have been infrastructure projects in the province's industrial parks and zones.

A 5,000-ton capacity cold storage as well

as a flour factory were among the mentioned projects.

Hamedan is one the major hubs of agricultural and industrial products in west-central Iran.

The province exported commodities worth over \$750 million in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

According to Pour-Mojahed, \$103 million worth of the exports in the previous year were done through Hamadan Customs while the rest from other regions to other countries.

Iranian trade delegation to visit Syria in late July

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran-Syria Joint Chamber of Commerce will dispatch a delegation of Iranian traders and businessmen to Syrian in late July.

As reported by the news portal of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), the delegates active in the fields of cement, as well as parts, raw materials, and repair services of cement production lines will visit Damascus on July 26-28.

They will have B2B meetings with the Syrian counterparts on the sidelines of an international cement conference to be held in Syria.

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

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

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

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

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

Keyvan Kashefi has said that currently Syria is moving towards reconstruction, and items in the fields of construction, bridge and dam building, electricity supply, and technical and engineering services are at the top of Iran's

list of exports to this country.

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

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

In early March, the International Institute of Iran Industries Research (MPSIran) hosted a conference on Iran-Syria trade cooperation in Tehran.

The event was attended by senior officials from both sides including Deputy Director of Tehran Industry, Mining, and Trade Organization Houshang Rezaei Samarin, the Director-General of Ministry of Labor, Cooperatives and Social Welfare for Intl. Affairs Ali-Hossein Shahrvir, Syria's Commercial Attaché in Tehran Ahmad Khamis, and Hamid Hosseini, board member of Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce.

The attendees of the meeting discussed a variety of issues in this event and explored ways for removing the barriers in the way of the expansion of two countries' trade.

At the same time, Iran-Syria Joint Chamber of Commerce had also organized and held a conference on the business opportunities of the two countries at the place of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA).

The conference was attended by senior officials from the two sides including the head of Iran-Syria Joint Chamber of Commerce, and the head of the Federation of Syrian Chambers of Commerce Fahd Mahmoud Darwish, as well as TPO Head Hamid Zadboum.

First Announcement

IN HIS EXALTED NAME
Beh-Abad Combined Cycle Power Plant
Yazd Province
INVITATION TO PREQUALIFICATION



Chadormalu Mining & Industrial Co. (PJS) intends to award construction of Beh-Abad Combined Cycle Power Plant (the Power Station) with nominal capacity of 500 MW on Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) schemes, consisting of one combined cycle Block, all ancillary and auxiliary equipment, common systems and the necessary interfaces, located in Yazd Province, to a qualified and competent investor through an international Bid.

Chadormalu Mining & Industrial Co. (PJS) (the Off-Taker) will prepare a short list of bidders possessing the necessary qualifications via this invitation to prequalification after the required process and evaluation. Chadormalu Mining & Industrial Co. (PJS) will then select an eligible Investor (successful bidder) possessing the required financing and technical capabilities and will award the engineering, procurement, construction and total financing of the Project to said investor (the Company).

Development and Construction periods: 30 Months
Authorization period: 12 years and 6 Months after calculated Commercial Operation Date of the Block
Construction Security: Five percent (5%) of The EPC Contract
Transfer Security: 90 % of Last 24 Monthly Invoices

Interested applicants are hereby invited to obtain prequalification documents, within seven (7) calendar days after the first posting of this invitation notice till fourteen (14) calendar days after the last (second) posting of this invitation notice, in the following way:

A representative of the applicant, carrying a valid proxy letter, may refer in person to Chadormalu Mining & Industrial Co. (PJS), No.28 Shabnam Dd., Rafiea Alley, East Atefi St., Nelson Mandela Avenue, Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran
Tel.: +98-21-2620-8045, +98-21-7946-3122 (Mrs Salehi), Fax: +98-21-2620-8051

Deadline for submitting the completed Prequalification Documents is fifteen (15) calendar days after the deadline of obtaining the Prequalification Questionnaire based on second posting of this invitation notice.

U.S. is not champion of democracy: analyst

→ 1 On the one hand, you see the Biden Administration claiming that the war's "aims" were allegedly met, and on the other hand spokespersons like Jen Psaki saying that, well, in so many words, the U.S. was defeated. And it was defeated. What WERE the aims of the war?

That's a difficult question aside from rewarding the Pentagon and the military and corporations with many billions of dollars and with something more to do in Asia. It was allegedly to eradicate the original al-Qaeda and Usama ibn Laden, who supposedly fomented the 9/11 disaster in New York City. But in truth who really was behind 9/11, even if Usama helped, has never been adequately resolved — intentionally, in the opinion of many observers. The U.S. also wanted to reduce the Taliban and overall establish a military presence and control on critical crossroads in Central Asia. Also, Afghanistan is rich in natural resources and even a prime producer of opium. But it has been the longest war in U.S. history and it was time to fold the U.S. tents, even in part because the U.S. is way over its head in debt. As with Vietnam, the lost war on Afghanistan never should have happened. You can't put lipstick on a pig.

The U.S. invaded Afghanistan 20 years ago to eradicate the Taliban but now Americans talk about the necessity of negotiations between the Afghan government and the Taliban. What is the implication of such a policy shift?

The Taliban may be stronger now than ever, and has of late taken over many key districts and border crossings in Afghanistan. Even some "government" soldiers are fleeing the country, and one can wager that before the summer is over the Taliban will



have retaken Kabul.

The U.S. really has no choice but to hope there are "negotiations" between the U.S. installed "government" in Kabul and the Taliban if only to keep the idea of that "government" alive. But it is unlikely it will survive. The U.S. has already abandoned the thousands of Afghans who assisted the U.S. with various services like translating. It canceled the idea of giving them visas to come to the U.S., which may be a death sentence for them. This is a sorry way to treat them.

The Taliban is highly likely to take the full control of Afghanistan. Why is the Afghan army not able to preserve territory despite two decades of training by the U.S. and its allies?

The current Afghan army has been com-

pletely dependent on U.S. support, and now with that support quickly vanishing, it's not hard to imagine the panic in the ranks. Desertions are likely to ramp up dramatically. The fact is that no one can defeat a committed opposition of national zealots whose sole aim is to win back independence and reject an occupation by a foreign power as the U.S. has been. Training by U.S. forces was probably more bribery than anything else. Payment for showing up.

How do you assess some Arab regimes' dependence on the U.S. to guarantee their security? Do you predict a fate like Afghanistan for them?

The critical factor regarding whether Arab regimes dependent on U.S. support survive rests with their general population. We saw,

for example, what happened to Mubarak in Egypt in 2011. He was overwhelmed by popular opposition. Whether anything like this can happen in, say, Saudi Arabia is anyone's guess. Mubarak in any case was an easier target than the Saudis are likely to be, even though the ruling family is not popular in the Kingdom. Yet the Saudis are none too popular in the U.S., too, especially after the bloody Khashoggi murder.

What binds the U.S. and Saudi Arabia are the vast oil reserves there, the Petrodollar, and tradition for decades. But if the Saudis begin to fail, the U.S. could abandon them, too. The U.S. clearly is not a country that is good on its word: look what happened to the JCPOA. The best deal the U.S. ever made in recent memory was summarily trashed by Trump and oaf Pompeo. It's worth noting that Trump has been voted the worst U.S. president and Pompeo the worst U.S. secretary of state ever in a recent poll in the U.S.

What have been the main achievements of U.S. presence in West Asia over the two past decades? Democracy or chaos?

The sole clear "achievement" of the U.S. in the Middle East (West Asia) over the last 20 years is ensuring that Israeli Apartheid carries on longer than it should. No one else has benefited at the bottom, not even Americans, from the U.S. in the region except the Zionists and perhaps the Saudis, whom the U.S. protects. "Democracy" is less apparent, especially among allies of the U.S. in the Middle East (West Asia) like Saudi Arabia and Israel than it ever has been. The U.S. is no champion of real democracy. At least not overseas. Not in the Middle East (West Asia), not in Latin America especially. Chaos has reigned.

It is about time to...

→ 1 The humid summer heat of Beirut is unbearable without at least a running fan. Humidity and darkness were getting on everybody's nerves. The most painful sound was the sound of some fathers shouting at their kids for the most ridiculous reasons. Six months ago, the same fathers were laughing at their kids' most stupid jokes. The pressure caused by the choice between darkness and generators' expenses is becoming a huge burden that no one can put up with it.

In the regions outside Beirut, people are paying a fee of up to 600000L.L. and more to get electricity. We should take into consideration that the minimum wage in Lebanon is 675000L.L., most people are working with the government, and only certain agencies still pay in the American dollar. The unemployment ratio in Lebanon will touch 41.1% this year. The prices for generators have tripled and more since the prices of diesel are constantly rising, and the main electricity power feeding from the state does not exceed a few hours.

My balcony exposes tough secrets: young men were emptying their car's gasoline into empty gallons to sell it to those who can afford the higher prices. I call them the ignorant monopolists. Gasoline is sold to those who don't want to stand in the long lines waiting for their turn to fill



their car tanks. These young men are unemployed and living in hard economic conditions at home. Now they found a fruitful investment in spending their time filling gasoline in the cars and selling it later, participating in deepening the fuel crises in Lebanon.

Gasoline, by itself, is becoming a national problem. People are lining for hours to get it. Lebanon doesn't have a proper transportation system. The country is dependent on taxis

and minivans, which their fares have reached unprecedented prices. Actually, everybody is suffering, whether the drivers or the passengers.

It is all time-wasting and exhausting. This is Lebanon today. It is true that the problem will be solved for a while, but as a matter of fact, it will only "break". The whole dilemma will be back again. However, the repetition of the dilemma this time will definitely be accompanied by even worse consequences. The escalated consequences will be exacerbated by the exploitation of the local and Arab media in the name of the corrupt political class. The same class the Americans and Israelis are depending on to knock down Hezbollah. While in fact, it aims to target Hezbollah and its allies in order to exhaust the Lebanese people between now and the next parliamentary elections in April 2022.

Therefore, it is about time that Lebanon would move towards the East. We need the Russian investments in Lebanon. We need to be part of the Chinese New Silk Road. We need to find other sources from friendly countries that can provide oil products in exchange for the Lebanese Lira. We need to improve relations with Syria. We need Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah to take the giant step and import oil from Iran and spare us the next coming dilemma. It is about time.

British PM, home secretary accused of stoking racism following England's Euro 2020 final defeat

British Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, and the country Home Secretary, Priti Patel have been accused of hypocrisy over their stance on racism. Angry reactions have been leveled against the ruling conservative government after black players in the English football team were subjected to a storm of online racist abuse after their defeat in the final of Euro 2020. The bombardment of online racist abuse messages has been met with condemnation from different sectors of society.

Three black players were the targets of the abuse after they missed spot-kicks in a penalty shootout with Italy that settled the tournament's final after the game finished in a 1-1 draw.

The racist online comments have prompted a police investigation.

However, critics have accused the government of hypocrisy (after they added their voices to the chorus of condemnation) for refusing to support a high-profile anti-racist protest the players had made at start of games.

During the tournament, the English team highlighted the issue of racism by taking the knee before all their matches, a sign of protest that began in the United States, in solidarity with those suffering from racial discrimination. However, a section of English fans inside stadiums have been booing the gesture while government officials, led by Home Secretary (the interior minister), Priti Patel, said she viewed the protest as the politicization of sport and refused to criticize

the booing. At the start of the tournament, Patel said she did not support players taking the knee because it was "gesture politics" and that fans had the choice whether to boo players or not. Ironically, she joined those who denounced the racist abuse after the final. One member of the English team, Tyrone Mings, has slammed the top government minister of hypocrisy saying "you don't get to stoke the fire at the beginning of the tournament by labeling our anti-racism message as 'Gesture Politics' and then pretend to be disgusted when the very things we're campaigning against happens".

On social media, Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, said 'This England team deserve to be lauded as heroes, not racially abused, those responsible for this appalling abuse should be ashamed of themselves. This is while the Prime Minister's spokesman had also declined to criticize the fans for booing at the start of the tournament.

The opposition Labour Party says Johnson and Patel were guilty of hypocrisy. Labour leader, Keir Starmer, says 'Leaders actions and leaders' words and leaders' inactions have consequences, the prime minister failed to call out the booing so whatever he says today rings hollow'. In a public message to Patel, Sayeeda Warsi, a former Conservative party peer accused Patel and the government of 'feeding division' and 'playing with... issues of race'.

Death toll from tragic Iraq hospital fire mounts

Health officials in the southern province of Dhi Qar say at least 66 people have died after a blaze tore through a hospital's COVID-19 ward on Monday night. Two health officials told AP news that more than 100 people have also been injured and they expect the number of fatalities to rise as search operations continue at al-Hussein hospital in the city of Nasiriyah, the capital of Dhi Qar.

Footage from the scene shows bystanders shouting in anger but struggling to do anything, such as the ferocity of the inferno. Rescue workers carried charred bodies out of the burning building while many patients were coughing from the rising smoke. A preliminary investigation indicated the fire began when electric sparks from faulty wiring spread to an oxygen tank that triggered an explosion. The Prime Minister has traveled to the southern city and held an emergency meeting with senior officials.

A statement by the premier's office said Mustafa al-Khadimi has ordered the suspension and arrest of Nasiriyah's health and civil defense managers. The statement added that the hospital's manager has also been suspended and ordered to be arrested. Khadimi has also dispatched emergency medical aid to the southern province. Health officials in the city say search operations are continuing

after the fire was brought under control but thick smoke had made it difficult to enter some of the burnt wards. Hospital workers are among the dead. A reporter at the scene says that 'raging fires' had 'trapped many patients inside the coronavirus ward' and that 'rescue teams were struggling to reach them.

On Tuesday, grief-stricken relatives were still searching for missing loved ones buried under the rubble and debris of charred beds and other equipment. The new covid ward is said to have just opened three months ago and had space for 70 beds. Reports suggest many of those killed were patients in the quarantine facility. Authorities now have the daunting task of identifying the victims. In a tweet, Iraqi President Burham Saleh blamed the 'catastrophe' on 'persistent mismanagement that undervalued the lives of people.

The hospital fire will bring back bad memories in the country of a similar incident earlier this year in April when a fire caused by an oxygen tank blast at a Baghdad COVID-19 hospital killed at least 82 people and injured 110 others. That incident resulted in the resignation of then Health Minister, Hassan al-Tamimi. Iraq, whose oil-dependent economy, is still recovering from decades of sanctions, war and terrorism.

WHO slams rich nations' greed for prolonging pandemic

→ 1 In high-income countries (as classified by the World Bank) 86 doses have been injected per 100 inhabitants. That number stands at just one dose per 100 in the 29 lowest-income countries.

The WHO also warned the 'Delta variant is ripping around the world at a scorching pace' and 'driving catastrophic waves of cases' in countries with low vaccination rates.

WHO chief, Tedros, warned the Delta variant has been found in more than 104 countries and is soon expected to become the dominant Covid-19 strain circulating worldwide.

Japan defense paper warns for first time of crisis over Taiwan

Japan, in its annual defense white paper, has warned growing military tensions around Taiwan, as well as economic and technological rivalry between China and the United States, could threaten peace and stability in East Asia.

This marked the first time that the report (PDF) — which was approved by Prime Minister Yoshihide Suga's government on Tuesday — took up the issue of stability around Taiwan.

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For Japan, Beijing's recent uptick in military activity around Taiwan is worrying since the self-ruled island lies close to the Okinawa chain at the western end of the Japanese archipelago. Beijing claims Taiwan as its own territory, and has never ruled out the use of force to retake the island.

Earlier this month, Chinese President Xi Jinping pledged to complete the "reunification" with Taiwan, while the Chinese military in June branded the U.S. as the region's "greatest creator of risks" when a U.S. warship transited the narrow waterway that separates Taiwan from the Chinese mainland.

As tensions grow, Tokyo has become more outspoken on the issue, with the Japanese Deputy Prime Minister Taro Asa saying earlier this month that Japan should join forces with the U.S. to defend Taiwan from any invasion.

'Saudi war on Yemen caused more than 43,000 civilian casualties'

A Yemeni rights advocacy group called -The Eye of Humanity Center for Rights and Development has released its new report on the number of victims of Saudi-led war on Yemen over the past five years. The report says more than 43,000 civilians are hurt or killed in relentless airstrikes across Yemen since Saudi Arabia launched a war on its southern neighbor. It says nearly 4,000 children are among those killed so far.



Health facilities have not been spared either, as the Saudi-led coalition has targeted 391 hospitals and clinics causing a catastrophic situation to the country's health care system.

The relentless bombardments of civilian areas by the Saudi-led coalition's warplanes and artillery units have turned more than half a million homes into ruin and displaced millions of Yemenis. In fact the destruction of agricultural and other economic sectors have contributed to pushing the country to the brink of famine.

According to Press TV, the extent of casualties and damage reveals the brutality of the Saudi-led coalition toward Yemen. Despite all the crimes, the west continues to show its double-standard when it comes to Yemen as well as amid continued neglect of the international bodies including the United Nations.

Resistance News

Large-scale arrest campaign in West Bank and Jerusalem

INTERNATIONAL d e s k TEHRAN — Israeli occupation forces (IOF) launched on Monday night and at dawn Tuesday a campaign of raids and arrests in various areas of the West Bank and Jerusalem.

In al-Khalil, IOF arrested Hani Amr from his home in Tabqa village, south of Dura. Clashes erupted between the young men and the IOF.

The IOF soldiers also searched a number of houses in Tabqa, al-Khalil city and Yatta town and arrested Bilal Salhab, 38, from al-Khalil.

Meanwhile, the child, Obada Abdel Baset, 10, was injured in his left hand after a settler from the Ramat Yishai settlement threw a stone at him.

Military checkpoints were set up at the entrances to the towns of Sa'ir and Halhul, and at the northern entrances to al-Khalil, Jourat Balas and the southern Fahs. IOF stopped and searched citizens' vehicles and checked their ID cards.

In Bethlehem, IOF arrested three citizens from Beit Fajjar town, south of Bethlehem, after raiding and searching their families' homes.

The IOF soldiers stationing at the Container Checkpoint, northeast of Bethlehem, arrested Muhammad Salah, 28, from Al-Khader town from his private vehicle and took him to an unknown detention center.

In Jericho, IOF arrested Youssef Damra after storming and searching his family's house.

EU to impose sanctions on Lebanese politicians

The European Union (EU) says it will create a sanctions regime targeting officials in Lebanon, which has been grappling with an economic crisis amid a failure to form a new government.

The decision came during a meeting of EU foreign ministers on Monday.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said the European officials had "reached a political understanding that a sanctions regime against those who are responsible for the situation should be established."

"I can say that the objective is to complete this by the end of the month. I am not talking about the implementation of the regime, just the building of the

regime according to [a] sound legal basis," Borrell told reporters in Brussels.

The EU, led by France — the former colonizer of Lebanon — is seeking to ramp up pressure on the Lebanese authorities in an attempt to force the formation of a Western-friendly government.

"Lebanon has been in self-destruct mode for several months," French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian told reporters in Brussels on Monday. He added that the "legal framework" agreed by the bloc "will be a tool to pressure the Lebanese authorities" on government formation.

After setting up a sanctions regime, the EU could see

individuals hit by travel bans and asset freezes, although it may also decide to not list anybody immediately.

The latest development came as French President Emmanuel Macron called for a new political pact among Lebanese political factions and threatened the country's leaders with sanctions if they did not submit to "political change" during an uninvited visit to Lebanon that followed a blast at Beirut port in August 2020.

Back then, Macron's remarks sparked a swift backlash, with many Twitter users denouncing what they deemed as interference in the internal affairs of Lebanon, which gained independence from the French colonial rule more than seven decades ago.

Historical cistern undergoes restoration

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – Qajar-era (1789-1925) Haj Mohammadreza Ab-Anbar (cistern) in Ardakan, a historical city in the central province of Yazd, has undergone some rehabilitation works, Ardakan's tourism chief has said.

A brick parapet is being built to secure the cistern's entrance as part of the restoration project, Mahmud Adiban announced on Tuesday.

The project also involves repairing the façade of the historical structure, the official added.

The cistern has two entrances, three wind towers (badgirs), and a square plan, and the brickwork on the building is quite beautiful.

The historical structure was inscribed on the national heritage list in 2002.



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 underground reservoirs or Ab-Anbars are parts 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 its winding lanes, a forest of badgirs, mud-brick houses, atmospheric alleyways, and centuries of history, Yazd is a delightful place to stay, being referred to as a 'don't miss' destination by almost all travel associates in the region. The oasis city is wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and the southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain ringed by mountains.

The province has an interesting mix of people as well, some 10 percent of whom follow the ancient religion of Zoroastrianism.

Yazd Jameh Mosque, Dowlatabad Garden, the Yazd Atash Behram, also known as Atashkadeh-e Yazd, Towers of Silence, and adjacent desert landscape are among its tourist sites.

Iranian handicrafts: Mekhraj Kari of Mashhad

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – Mashhad, the capital of Khorasan Razavi province, has many gemstone mines. That is why a prospering handicraft of this province is jewelry made of gemstones, also called "Mekhraj Kari".



Some of the most important gems are aquamarine, agates, quartz, jasper, turquoise, garnet, and zeolite, among which turquoise and agate are the most popular. Turquoise specialists believe that no two pieces are the same, just like fingerprints, and they cannot be compared to each other.

The most important stone-cutting workshops of Iran are located in Mashhad where tones of agate and turquoise stones are cut each year. Traditional as well as modern methods are used by Mashhad workshops.

When it comes to making jewelry from gemstones, all the steps including designing, manufacturing, and others require both experience and skill, however, the most difficult part is attaching the stone to the metal, which is called "Mekhraj Kari", "Morasa'e Kari" or incrustation.

Among all the steps in making jewelry that includes gemstones, Mekhraj Kari is the most delicate and important. Various methods are used to attach the stones in Mekhraj Kari.

Some of them are "Reili", "Ghalamzani", "Kaseh'e" and "Changi" for small gems, and "Nabshi", "Changi" and "Divareh'e" for large gems.

No glue is used in this craft, to preserve the beauty and natural streaks of the gems. In order to attach gemstones, the base is designed so that it will not damage the gems.

Gems can be broken, scratched, or cracked by a bit of pressure. Mekhraj is applied to pieces of jewelry such as earrings, necklaces, rings, brooches and etc.

Mashhad was recognized as the global city of precious and semi-precious stones by the World Council of Handicrafts in 2018.

Iranian border towns, beautiful yet underrated

→ 1 Jolfa

Located in northwestern East Azarbaijan province, Jolfa borders the countries of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan to the north.

Jolfa has a semi-desert climate with warm summers and partly cold, moderate winters.

The special importance of Jolfa is due to its historical monuments, strategic location, and appropriate geographical features, as well as its proximity to the commercial and industrial free zone of Aras (one of Iran's most important commercial centers).

Seyyed Abolqasem Nabati tomb, Duzal tower, Saint Stepanos Monastery, Nane Maryam church, ruined mill, Ushtibin village, St. Mary church, Baba Yaqub shrine, Ali Beyg fort, Jolfa historical bath and etc., are the most significant monuments and tourist attractions in this area.

The region's economy is fueled by the abundance of water resources, grasslands, and forest reserves, as well as its high potential for growth and industrialization. Minerals, agriculture, livestock, services, and scientific and training development also play an important role.

There are a lot of cotton fields in this city, and weaving is the major activity of the locals.

Jolfa people are Azeri and they speak in Turki Azarbaijani in their own local dialect.

Maku

Maku is located northwestern province of West Azarbaijan and enjoys a unique geographical and natural location.

In a valley passes through which the Zangmar River divides Maku into two parts, the city is located 1294 meters above sea level.

The city is surrounded by the Qarasu River and Turkey from the north, the



A view of the Iranian border town of Astara

Aras River (the Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic and Armenia) from the east, Khoy from the south, and Turkey from the west.

Due to the surrounding stony mountains, this city has a moderate climate in winter and a hotter climate in summer.

Mountainous landscapes, flourishing pastures, hot water springs, waterfalls, protected areas, and hunting grounds are some of the tourist attractions of this area.

Maku is located on the main Tabriz-Bazargan road and has an excellent strategic location.

Among the city's most significant features is its role as the country's

only land border business and a link to Europe. As part of Maku's economy, there is an industrial complex on the Maku-Bazargan road.

Maku people rely on cross-border trade, agriculture, and animal husbandry for their livelihood.

Zahedan

The city of Zahedan is located in eastern Iran close to the Pakistani border.

There are high lands around Zahedan, so it looks like a pit. The city is home to the mountains of Oshtoran Koh, Anjir Dan, Jico, Pir Khan, and Mulk-e Siah.

Climates in this area are characterized by intense heat, aridity, and warmth. Zahedan consists of 4 parts: "Markazi",

Iranian border cities have limited tourist numbers due to their long distances from the country's center, as well as the fact that they have not been properly promoted for foreign visitors.

Zolfaqari Archaeological Museum upgrades security system

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – The Zolfaqari Archaeological Museum, famed for showcasing some ancient salt men and their belongings in the northwestern Zanjan province, has upgraded its security system, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The project included the installation of new doors behind the wooden doors of the museum, as well as the upgrade of the monitoring equipment on the exterior, roof and inside of the museum, Amir Arjmand announced on Tuesday.

Physical protection and human resources will still be needed to protect the museum, but electronic protection will be used to support them, the official added.

In 2006, the former Qajar-era (1789-1925) mansion of Zolfaqariha was converted into a museum to house the ancient mummies, along with more than 2,000 registered items and relics.

The four salt men are the most unique items of the museum, which are preserved in special windows.

The Zolfaqariha Mansion was ceded to Zanjan Municipality in the post-revolution era, but it was later entrusted to Zanjan's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department.

Nestled in central Zanjan, the historical house belonged to Zolfaqar Khan Asaad al-Dowleh, the son of Hassan Qoli Khan.

He was one of the wealthiest personalities in the city in the Qajar era and the Zolfaqari household was one of the most well-known families in the city.

The house consisted of the interior and exterior sections and a garden but was later divided into two sections by Zolfaqari Street. The garden was turned into a park, and only the central part of the exterior section has remained.

The remained structure is a two-story building,

with halls, bedrooms, and living rooms being influenced by Iranian and European styles of architecture.

In 1993, miners in the Douzlakh Salt Mine, near Hamzehli and Chehrabad villages in Zanjan Province, accidentally came across a mummified head, dated to 300 CE. The head was very well preserved, to the extent that his pierced ear was still holding the gold earring. The hair, beard, and mustaches were reddish, and his impressive leather boot still contained parts of his leg and foot, according to the Ancient History Encyclopedia.

However, in 2004, the miners discovered yet another "saltman," which was followed by further excavation unearthing remains of a human body along with a large number of artifacts made of wood, metal tools, clothing, and pottery.

In 2005, a systematic excavation began, three more mummies were excavated, and a sixth remained in situ due to lack of funds for its storage. The context of the remains suggested that a collapse in the mine had caused the death of the miners in question.

The first mummy dubbed the "saltman," is on display in the National Museum of Iran in Tehran. He still looks very impressive.

This particular "saltman" was originally dated based on the archaeological material found with him. Later, the mummy was carbon dated, which placed him in 500 CE (1750 BP, that is, "before present" or 1750 years ago), the Sasanian Empire's height. The second "Saltman" was carbon-dated to 1554 BP, which placed him in the same era as the first "saltman," the Sasanian era.

The third, fourth, and fifth "saltmen" were also carbon dated. The third body was dated and placed in 2337 BP, the fourth body in 2301 BP, and the fifth mummy was dated to 2286 BP, placing them all in



the Achaemenid period.

The individual "saltmen" has a few secrets of their own, for instance, the first "saltman" that was discovered had the blood type B+, and 3D imaging of his skull revealed fractures around his eye and other damage that occurred before death by a hard blow to the head. His clothing (the impressive leather boot) and his gold earring show a person of some rank; the reason for his presence in the mine remains a mystery.

Saltman No. 5 had tapeworm eggs from the Taenia sp. genus in his system. These were identified during the study of his remains. The find indicates the consumption of raw or undercooked meat, and this is the first case of this parasite in ancient Iran and the earliest evidence of ancient intestinal parasites in the area. The best preserved and probably the most harrowing of the bodies is "saltman" No. 4. A sixteen-year-old miner, caught in the moment of death, crushed by a cave-in.

Tehran hosting Islamic countries on health tourism

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** – The 5th edition of the International Health Congress of Islamic Countries started in Tehran on Tuesday, aiming to find new opportunities for cooperation and development of health tourism among Muslim nations.

Being held at IRIB International Conference Center, the congress is organized by the Health Tourism Development Center of Islamic Countries (HTDC) and supported by ministries, federations, institutions, and organizations in health tourism as well as private and governmental health service providers, the official website of the event announced.

The three-day event has brought together seniors and experts from governmental and private sectors in the health tourism industry.

The congress is being held in five specialized panel discussions of medical tourism, sports tourism, natural,

wellness, and food tourism, medical and laboratory equipment, and nutrition and healthy food.

The event started its official operations in 2015 with the aim of playing an effective role in developing economic relations and facilitating the networks between stakeholders in the health and health tourism industry.

The developing health tourism industry is one of the most important fields of Iran's travel sector, which is trying to prove its capabilities and capacities in attracting medical and health tourists to the country.

Many domestic experts believe that medical tourism in Iran is a win-win opportunity both for the country and foreign patients, as they are offered affordable yet quality treatment services and the country gains considerable foreign currency.

Iran's two most popular medical tourist cities are Tehran and Mashhad, but the



coronavirus outbreak has significantly reduced the number of travelers.

Iran is one of the major destinations for health tourism in the region, and patients with 55 different nationalities, mostly from neighboring countries including Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan are seeking to use Iran's services and facilities in this field.

"Mir Jave", "Nosrat Abad", and "Korin", three cities, and eight rural districts.

It is an academic, cultural, historical, and religious city that has a service structure. Zahedan enjoys a privileged geographic and border location which makes it an ideal place for trade with India thanks to its convenient location on the Afghanistan-Pakistan route.

Pakistan's railway enters Iran from the Mirjaveh border and Iran's railway ends in this city.

By being located among the Khorasan, Kerman, and Chabahar land routes, Zahedan is one of the Iran transit routes. Zahedan's economy depends on agriculture in addition to trade.

There are subterranean, spring, and river wells that supply the water this city needs.

This area is full of color in its literature, clothing, and music. Zahedan's cultural diversity results from migration.

A good example of Baluch handicrafts is the klim bafi, needlework, seke dozi, and pottery. Zahedan architecture is influenced by Iran's ancient architecture due to its tropical weather.

Baneh

One of the border cities between Iran and Iraq, Baneh is located in the western province of Kordestan. The city is located 20 kilometers from the Iranian-Iraqi border, 60 kilometers southwest of Saez and 70 kilometers southeast of Sardasht. The city is known for its large and natural oak forests.

In 1984, Iraqi planes bombed Baneh and some nearby settlements during the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988).

Dul Arzan village, Shevi cave, Baneh Dam, Sorin complex are among the city's tourist attractions, however, most of its reputation comes from its border malls and its status as a trade center.

Local people speak Kurdish with Slemani accent.

Japan, UNDP promote waste management in Tehran

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** – The Municipality of Tehran in cooperation with Japan and the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) unveiled reverse vending machines (RVMs) on Tuesday to promote waste management in the capital.

The machines are manufactured by Iranian knowledge-based companies, which have been funded by the Japanese government with the cooperation of UNDP.

Under the waste reduction plan prepared by the Municipality in 2019, the fourth step is the development of cultural and social infrastructure, and one of the cases is the establishment of RVMs, aiming to recycle the plastic and glass bottles that are widely used in Iran, as well as promoting waste segregation at the source by citizens.

Nine RVMs were launched on the occasion of “International Plastic Bag Free Day”, held annually on July 11, in the presence of Tehran Mayor Pirouz Hanachi, Japanese Ambassador to Iran Ikawa Kazutoshi, and the representative of the United Nations Development Program Claudio Providas.



Within the next 10 days, six more RVMs will be put into operation, and Tehran will soon have 36 RVMs, according to the UNDP

office in Tehran.

Plastic pollution
Plastics remain in the environment for

hundreds of years without decomposing, and their chemicals gradually enter the soil and water, in addition to contaminating them, kill animals and eventually enter the food chain.

Microplastics are the phenomenon of modern life today. The average useful life of each plastic bag in Iran is only 12 minutes, while in the past two years, with the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic in the world, the use of plastic objects, like gloves and disposable dishes has also increased more than ever.

In Iran, a total of 4 million plastic waste is generated annually. Plastic bags constitute half a million tons of the whole plastic waste produced in the country annually. Every Iranian consumes an average of three plastic bags a day, 96 percent of which goes directly into the trash bin.

According to the World Population Review 2021, Iran is ranked 17th in the production of plastic waste.

The report also claims that approximately 500 billion plastic bags are used worldwide, and plastic pollution is a global catastrophe caused by humans.

Import of coronavirus vaccine to reach 13m doses

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** – Twenty shipments of COVID-19 vaccine have so far been imported into the country, and the volume will soon reach 13 million doses.

Since mid-February, 20 vaccine consignments have been delivered to the country, which is estimated at 9.4 million doses.

Toshimitsu Motegi, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, announced on Tuesday that the Japanese government will donate 2.9 million doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine to Iran through the COVAX facility.

The COVAX Facility is a partnership, co-led by Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi-The Vaccine Alliance, and the World Health Organization (WHO), alongside key delivery partner United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Vaccines imported from several countries, including Russia, India, Italy, and South Korea, have been imported to Iran.

Iran has so far received two batches of vaccines from the COVAX facility. The first shipment, included over 700,000 doses of

Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine manufactured by South Korean firm SK Bioscience, and the second one consisted of 1,452,000 doses of AstraZeneca vaccine manufactured by Catalent Anagni of Italy.

In Early-May, the country imported 1 million doses from China, through consultation conducted by the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS).

Iran also has so far taken delivery of nine batches of the Russian “Sputnik V” vaccine, containing 90,000 doses.

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

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

The Islamic Republic is currently producing vaccines jointly with three countries of Cuba, Russia, and Australia, which may also be released by September, while two homegrown vaccines have so far received the emergency use license.

EU allocates €15m for humanitarian projects in Iran

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** – The European Union (EU) has allotted €15 million in humanitarian aid to support those most affected by man-made crises, the COVID-19 pandemic, climate-induced, and other natural disasters in Iran.

The humanitarian funding will focus on supporting humanitarian organizations working to assist the most vulnerable Iranians and Afghans in the country. Part of the funding will support the country's battle against the severe coronavirus pandemic, including the provision of urgent medical equipment.

It also supports Iran's commendable efforts in assisting Afghans on its territory and host communities, on education, health, protection, and livelihood, according to the EU official website.

Iran is highly affected by the pandemic, as the fifth wave is ongoing and the response is challenged by difficulties in Iran's procurement of essential medical goods, due to over compliance of phar-



maceutical and shipping companies as well as banks with U.S. sanctions, despite humanitarian exemptions.

The socio-economic impact of COVID-19 continues to exacerbate humanitarian and developmental needs.

In addition, Iran hosts the greatest number of Afghans worldwide, with an estimated 3.65 million Afghans on its territory. The EU allocation of €15 million in humanitarian assistance in 2021 to the most vulnerable people in Iran brings the total EU humanitarian support in the country to over €76 million since 2016.

UN sets out Paris-style plan to cut extinction rate by factor of 10

Eliminating plastic pollution, reducing pesticide use by two-thirds, halving the rate of invasive species introduction and eliminating \$500bn (£360bn) of harmful environmental government subsidies a year are among the targets in a new draft of a Paris-style UN agreement on biodiversity loss.

The goals set out by the UN Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) to help halt and reverse the ecological destruction of Earth by the end of the decade also include protecting at least 30% of the world's oceans and land and providing a third of climate crisis mitigation through nature by 2030.

The latest draft of the agreement, which follows gruelling virtual scientific and financial negotiations in May and June, will be scrutinised by governments before a key summit in the Chinese city of Kunming, where the final text will be negotiated.

Alongside the 2030 draft targets, new goals for the middle of the century include reducing the current rate of extinctions by 90%, enhancing the integrity of all ecosystems, valuing nature's contribution to humanity and providing the financial resources to achieve the vision.

The Guardian understands that the summit, scheduled for October, is expected to be delayed for a third

time due to the coronavirus pandemic. It is now likely to take place in Kunming in the first half of 2022, pending in-person preparatory negotiations that could happen in Switzerland early next year.

Basile van Havre, co-chair of the CBD working group responsible for drafting the agreement, said the goals were based on the latest science. He added that, if adopted, it could represent a significant shift in global agriculture.

“Change is coming [in food production],” he said. “There will be a lot more of us in 10 years and they will need to be fed so it's not about decreasing the level of activity. It's about increasing the output and doing better for nature.”

“Cutting nutrient runoff in half, reducing pesticide use by two-thirds and eliminating plastic discharge: those are big. I'm sure they're going to raise some eyebrows as they present significant change, particularly in the agriculture.”

Last month, Van Havre warned the world was running out of time for an ambitious deal at Kunming, which is part of a multi-decade ambition to live in harmony with nature by 2050.

Scientists have warned that humanity is causing the sixth mass extinction in the planet's history, driven by overconsumption of resources and overpopulation. One million species are at risk of extinction largely due to

human activities, according to the UN's assessment, threatening the healthy functioning of ecosystems that produce food and water.

In the latest set of 21 targets to be negotiated at Kunming, nature-based solutions such as restoring peatlands and adopting regenerative agriculture will contribute at least 10 GtCO₂e (gigatonnes of equivalent carbon dioxide) a year to global climate crisis mitigation efforts – around a third of the 32 GtCO₂e annual emission reductions needed as identified in the UN Environment Programme emissions gap report 2020 – while ensuring there are no negative impacts on biodiversity.

“We wanted to put [the contribution of nature] into an absolute number. We don't control what is happening on the climate change agenda but science is telling us this is what we can bring to the issues,” Van Havre said. “The challenge is going to be how we do the carbon accounting.”

Other targets include efforts to restore freshwater and marine habitats, maintain genetic diversity of wild and domesticated species, increase financial flows to developing countries, improve business disclosures on how their activities damage the environment and respect the rights of indigenous communities in biodiversity decision-making.

ENGLISH IN USE

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A ← → E

COVID-19 takes lowest toll on foreign nationals in Iran

Iran had the lowest coronavirus cases and mortality among refugees and foreign nationals compared to the population it is hosting, Mehdi Mahmoudi, Director of Citizens and Immigrants Affairs of the Ministry of Interior has said.

Referring to the measures taken for non-Iranian citizens during the pandemic, he said that since the very beginning, when the country became infected with the disease, the community of foreign nationals in our country was no exception to this issue, and prevention programs and necessary measures have been taken for this group.

“We identified foreign nationals in need and tried to provide them with livelihood assistance, as well as health packages and self-protective items needed to prevent the infection,” he explained.

He further added that every year about 800,000 illegal foreign nationals are arrested and deported.

ایران کمترین تلفات کرونا اتباع خارجی را داشته‌است

مهدی محمودی مدیرکل امور اتباع و مهاجرین وزارت کشور گفت در خصوص ابتلا به بیماری کرونا در بین اتباع خارجی، ایران کمترین ابتلا و کمترین تلفات را نسبت به جمعیت داشته‌است.

او در گفت‌وگو با ایلنا درباره اقدامات صورت گرفته برای اتباع غیرایرانی در ایام کرونا گفت: از همان ابتدا که کشور درگیر این بیماری شد، جامعه اتباع خارجی هم در کشور ما مستثنی از این موضوع نبود و برنامه‌های پیشگیری و تمهیدات لازم نیز برای این گروه نیز در نظر گرفته شده است.

اتباع غیرایرانی که نیازمند بودند را شناسایی کرده و تلاش کردیم از نظر معیشتی به این گروه نیز کمک‌هایی صورت بگیرد و همچنین بسته‌های بهداشتی و اقلام مورد نیاز پیشگیری از بیماری کرونا در چندین نوبت به آنها ارائه شده است.

او افزود هر سال حدود ۸۰۰ هزار نفر از اتباع غیرایرانی که به صورت غیرقانونی در کشور هستند دستگیر و طرد می‌شوند.

COVID-19 UPDATES

The statistics are related to 24 hours started 2:00 p.m. July 12

New cases	22,750
New deaths	166
Total cases	3,417,029
Total deaths	86,207
New hospitalized patients	2,399
Patients in critical condition	3,866
Total recovered patients	3,056,160
Diagnostic tests conducted	24,671,220
Doses of vaccine injected	7,271,386

Iran's ecology

(Part 1)

ECOLOGY, the study of organisms, both flora and fauna, in relation to their environments. The biosphere generally encompasses the thin outer shell of the earth, which includes soil and surface rocks, bodies of water, the lower atmosphere, and the life forms that inhabit these zones.

The biosphere of Persia is divided into several ecosystems, determined mainly by geographical (climatic differentiation, topography, soil type, etc.) and biological (vegetation, wild life, etc.) factors.

Five primary ecological regions may be distinguished in Persia, each with a characteristic combination of features: The Caspian lowlands, the Alborz system and mountain ranges in Khorasan, the Persian plateau, the Zagros system with the Makran mountain ranges, and the lowlands along the Persian Gulf.

Although most of these regions can be easily defined and characterized, the vast Persian plateau is host to considerable variation in vegetation cover. Four components are of decisive importance: climatic differentiation, phytogeographical diversity, the impact of topography, and the role of human intervention in nature.



Climatic differentiation. Persia is located between the continental, anticyclonic air masses of Central Asia and Siberia in the north; the Mediterranean wind regime in the center, with westerly winds and wandering depressions bringing rain and snow, especially in winter; and tropical and subtropical, even monsoonal, influences in the southern and southeastern parts of the country.

This position produces marked regional differences in climate and mean annual water surpluses and deficits. The climate ranges from humid subtropical lowlands along the southern coast of the Caspian Sea (annual precipitation almost 2,000 mm, recorded at the Anzali/Rasht station) to hot, dry deserts (e.g., Dasht-e Kavir and Dasht-e Lut, averaging less than 100 mm of precipitation annually).

The Alborz and Khorasan ranges, the Zagros system, and northwestern Persia receive considerable surplus precipitation. They are thus humid for parts of the year or, in the Caspian lowlands, all year round. The vast majority of Persian territory, however, is characterized by extreme deficits.

Lack of precipitation, strong or permanent winds or both, and high temperatures combine to create high potential evaporation and therefore extreme aridity in most parts of the country.

Climatic differentiation corresponds well with ecological differentiation. Henri Pabot considered that 90 percent of Persia belongs to the “Irano-Turanian” climatic zone, with the following characteristics: “extremely variable precipitation, but generally between 100 and 500 mm; maximum in winter or spring.

At least three summer months of total drought extending up to nine months in the most arid regions. Relative humidity in winter between 80 percent and 55 percent (central desert), falling in summer to below 40 percent and even down to 20 percent.

Very variable temperatures, depending on the region, but winters generally cold or very cold. Summers extremely hot in the Khuzestan plain (average July above 36° C), very hot in the central depression (more than 30° C), hot or quite hot (24 to 29° C) everywhere else, except above 2,000 to 2,500 meters' altitude.

The average annual range of temperatures (continentality) varies from 21° to 28° C, but is generally more than 24° C. The daily variations in temperature are also very large. There is a large variability in the precipitation and even the winter temperatures from one year to the next.”

Phytogeographical diversity. The natural vegetation covers and its density, composition, and differentiation are direct functions of the Persian climate, in combination with soil and other topographical factors. Botanists and biogeographers have proposed four or five biogeographical regions.

The comparison of these classifications with climatic regions reveals close similarities in distribution patterns: vegetation as a reflection of and adaptation to climate. Both Harry Bobek and Michael Zohary stress the strong presence of forests; it should be noted, however, that vegetation other than forest actually predominates.

From an ecological point of view, only parts of the Caspian/Hyrcanian regions may be considered genuine forests, whereas the Zagros and other mountain ranges are characterized by xerophilous forest flora. In an analogy to his Iranian-Turanian climatic zone, Pabot described an Iranian-Turanian flora, which covers more than 85 percent of the territory of Persia.

Noting the great richness and variety of species in Persia, Pabot suggested an ecological subdivision into phytogeographical subtypes: subdesert flora, steppe flora, substeppe flora, xerophilous forest flora, and high mountain flora. Xerophilous forest flora will be dealt with in greater detail elsewhere, but the other subtypes may be characterized here, according to ecological adaptation.

(Source: *Encyclopaedia Iranica*)

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Generosity is to help a deserving person without his request, and if you help him after his request, then it is either out of self-respect or to avoid rebuke.

Imam Ali (AS)

Hafez and visual arts

Part 2
Scholars are unanimous in their praise of its paintings, and those signed by Soltan-Mohammad Eraqi, usually described as “The Feast of Eid Begins” and “Worldly and Other-Worldly Drunkenness”, have been published repeatedly.

All of its paintings were clearly intended to provide a visual rendering of specific aspects of Hafez’s text, but some may also have been intended to convey more personal messages to the manuscript’s patron.

The largest group of the illustrated Hafez manuscripts was produced in Shiraz, the most impressive among them dating to the 1580s.

Although clearly produced for persons of means, none is dedicated to a specific patron, so that they are usually described as commercial products.

Some of their illustrations, such as frontispieces and finispieces, are probably generic, but paintings situated in the body of the text probably have a connection with themes in Hafez’s poetry.

Since similar topics are treated in many ghazals, the seemingly generic scenes of gatherings in mosques or taverns illustrating individual manuscripts must be catalogued before general conclusions can be drawn about the way Shiraz painters interpreted Hafez’s text.

One published tavern scene in Paris, BN Suppl. persan 1477, situated just after lines describing how the tavern keeper hands Hafez the “cup of Jamshid,” appears quite literal in its interpretation of the text.

The painting of a mosque where a sermon is being delivered, in a manuscript belonging to the Sackler Museum, Smithsonian Institution, appears to illustrate only the preceding verse that describes such a sermon rather than the poem’s more general theme.

Illustration of Hafez in the 17th century

Most 17th-century illustrated Hafez manuscripts remain unpublished, but comments about them in catalogues suggest that illustrators turned their attention from creating narrative images such as those found in 16th-century copies to the production of studies, often lightly tinted drawings, involving couples—often a mature man and a youth.

The most dramatic examples of this type are two manuscripts probably dating to the 1660s, one now in the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin and the other, H. 1010, in the Topkapı Saray Museum, Istanbul.

The Dublin copy contains 490 tinted drawings in 500 folios, the Istanbul one has 558 illustrations on 578 folios. In each case the books approximate the appearance of a muraqqa or album in which calligraphic specimens alternate with paintings.

It is probable that Hafez’s poetry appears frequently in albums, but few of these have been studied or published.

Illustration of Hafez during the 18th and 19th centuries

Kashmir emerged as a major center for manuscript production during the late 18th century and manuscripts continued to be produced there well into 19th century.

Together with other classics of Persian literature, Kashmiri workshops produced a number of illustrated copies of Hafez’s Divan. Although their illustrations were often executed in a rather summary fashion, Kashmiri painters had an original approach to the illustration of Hafez, exploiting the fact that the ghazal is, in a sense, a recital of shared knowledge, mythical or historical, between the poet and his audience and often merely alludes to a person or an incident described at length in the long and leisurely tomes of narrative poetry.

Their compositions thus usually have two levels: the lower one shows a seated, bearded man who appears to be speaking, who is usually understood to depict the poet himself reciting his own verses. The painting’s upper level contains a separate composition that is usually linked to themes mentioned in the associated verse.

Many depict well known personages made famous by other poets and only mentioned in passing by Hafez, such as Yusof, Jamshid, Farhad or Shirin.

Illustration of Hafez in the 20th century

The poetry of Hafez continues to inspire Persian artists, but the scanty publication of their works makes it difficult to generalize about their creations.

Here one such example will be noted, the paintings executed by Hossein Zenderudi to accompany a short anthology of Hafez’s poetry in both the original Persian and an English translation entitled Dance of Life, published in 1988.

Zenderudi created a “word picture” to accompany each of the twelve ghazals included in this book. All contain several layers of calligraphy superimposed on each other, but some also employ geometric shapes or symbols such as the crescent moon.

Although all are calligraphic, not all of Zenderudi’s creations are easily read. Most appear to have been created for an audience that knows by heart every word of every Hafez verse.

The recognition of any phrase permits such persons to recall an entire ghazal so that the verses need not be cited in their usual order, though the matla, or opening hemistich, is usually given a prominent place in the composition.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
Concluded

Three translations of book challenging dubious claims on Persian Gulf introduced

→1 The Turkish edition published by the Istanbul-based publisher Demavend has been translated by Professor Nimet Yildirim of Ataturk University in Turkey.

“I’m really happy that translations of my book into three great languages of the world are being unveiled,” Movahhed said.

“I wrote this book years ago shortly after Walid Hamdi’s book was released. I first planned to author only an article,

however, when I put the pen on paper it went its own way and the article turned into a book,” he added.

Speaking at the meeting, ICRO director Abuzar Ebrahimi-Torkaman said that Hamdi al-Aazami did not possess sufficient expertise to write the book, and added that the historical documents cited in his book have been distorted.

“In a research project, experts can discuss



This undated photo shows Iranian director Narges Abyar in her meeting with Chinese Ambassador Chang Hua.

A R T TEHRAN — The Chinese ambassador to Tehran announced on Sunday that Narges Abyar, the director of acclaimed Iranian drama “When the Moon Was Full”, will be heading for China to collaborate on a joint film project about the Silk Road.

“I’m really glad that I had a meeting with the renowned Iranian director Mrs. Narges Abyar,” Chang Hua said on his Twitter account.

A R T TEHRAN — Five-time Grammy Award nominee Kayhan Kalhor and Turkish baglama virtuoso Erdal Erzincan will give an online performance for their Iranian fans.

The concert will stream online on aparat.com on July 28 at 9:30 pm, top kamancheh player Kalhor announced in an Instagram post on Monday.

The duo has performed several online concerts for Iranians over the past year during the pandemic.

Kalhor and Erzincan have earlier mesmerized Eastern music enthusiasts during many duets in Tehran, Istanbul, Rotterdam, Schiltigheim and many other cities around the world.

They performed a duet during the 19th Offest festival at the Macedonian

Philharmonic in Skopje, Macedonia, in November 2020.

In a statement, the Offest 2020 organizers praised Kalhor, noting that “one of the most exciting of his innumerable projects and unique collaborations that have attracted audiences around the globe is his duo with the renowned Turkish baglama player Erdal Erzincan.”

“The classical music traditions of Persia and of Ottoman Turkey that inspire the music of Kalhor and Erzincan share a great deal in common, including the ancient modal compositional system known as maqam, and the idea of improvisation plays a definitive role in their intensely spiritual and emotional performances.

“Their music is thoroughly modern and seeks to bring the listener into its trance-like realm by interweaving ecstatic rhythms



This combination photo shows writer Anne-Laure Bondoux and the front cover of the Persian translation of her book “A Time of Miracles”.

A R T TEHRAN — French writer Sebastien Thiery’s play “Guinea Pigs” will go on stage at Tehran’s Mehregan Theater on Wednesday.

Starring Negar Azizi, Mohammad Baratali, Faezeh Sanai, Laleh Heshmatpasand and Amir-Hossein Naemi, the play will be directed by Ramin Dowlatbadi based on a translation by Sanaz Fallahfar.

The play tells the story of Alain Kraft, a fifty-something nouveau riche, who comes to withdraw money from his bank.

The bank clerk cannot give him his money because his account is blocked. Alain Kraft gets angry, especially since the bank doors are also locked.

The Bank of India management who has bought the CIF, charges Mr. Kraft with breaking Indian law by changing

his social class.

His success, of which he is so proud, is considered an offense in India. The customer’s arrogance quickly gives way to concern and anxiety when he understands that he is trapped in a world over which he has no control.

Corruption, threats, lies... close to hysteria, Alain Kraft tries to get out of this nightmare using any means. This farce, set against a backdrop of globalization, shows us a middle-class man whose certainty and arrogance end up gradually crumbling away when he is faced with a situation that is beyond his control.

Thiery’s comedy play “Who’s Mr. Schmitt?” (“Qui est Monsieur Schmitt?”) was also staged by director Mohammad-Mehdi Rezaian at Tehran’s Shano Theater in August 2020.

Published in 2009, the play is about

“When the Moon Was Full” director Narges Abyar joins Silk Road film project

“She will travel to China for a joint film project on the Silk Road,” he added, not giving any further details about the project.

Abyar received the HUM Women Leaders Award at the Governor’s House in the Pakistani city of Karachi in 2020.

The HUM Women Leaders Award is presented to female achievers from Pakistan and abroad by the HUM Network Limited, a global entertainment and news network and one of the largest broadcasting brands with a strong following among South Asia diaspora around the world.

Her 2019 movie “When the Moon Was Full” received the audience award at the 23rd Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival in Estonia.

Other Iranian filmmakers have also collaborated in joint projects with their Chinese counterparts over the past decade.

Kalhor, Erzincan to perform online for Iranians

with sensual melodic phrases. The result is a set of instrumental compositions that flow into each other like one continuous work, with gently drifting passages, in which the two instruments echo and improvise on different phrases.”

Their album “The Wind” was released in 2006 by ECM and their collaboration has remained vibrant ever since.

Before the online concert, Kalhor and tombak player Behnam Samani are scheduled to perform a concert of classical Persian music at San Giorgio in Venice.

The concerts will be organized on July 14 at the invitation of the Intercultural Institute of Comparative Music Studies.

The performances will be held with contributions from the Department of Philosophy and Cultural Heritage at Ca’ Foscari University, Venice.

“A Time of Miracles” at Iranian bookstores

CULTURE TEHRAN — A Persian translation of French writer Anne-Laure Bondoux’s “A Time of Miracles” has been released by Peydayesh Publications in Tehran.

Bitā Ebrahimi is the translator of the book rendered into English by Y. Maudet.

The winner of the Batchelder Award, this tale of exile, sacrifice, hope and survival is a story of ultimate love.

Blaise Fortune, also known as Koumail, loves hearing the story of how he came to live with Gloria in the Republic of Georgia.

Gloria was picking peaches in her father’s orchard when she heard a train derail. After running to the site of the accident, she found an injured woman who asked Gloria to take her baby. The woman, Gloria claims, was French, and the baby was Blaise.

When Blaise turns seven years old, the Soviet Union collapses and Gloria decides that she and Blaise must

flee the political troubles and civil unrest in Georgia.

The two make their way westward on foot, heading toward France, where Gloria says they will find safe haven. But what exactly is the truth about Blaise’s past?

Bits and pieces are revealed as he and Gloria endure a five-year journey across the Caucasus and Europe, weathering hardships and welcoming unforgettable encounters with other refugees searching for a better life.

During this time Blaise grows from a boy into an adolescent; but only later, as a young man, can he finally attempt to untangle his identity.

Bondoux has received numerous literary prizes in her native France. Among her previous books published by Delacorte Press is “The Killer’s Tears”, which received the prestigious Prix Sorcieres in France and was a Mildred L. Batchelder Honor Book in the United States.



This combination photo shows the front covers of the Arabic, French and Turkish translations of Mohammad-Ali Movahhed’s book “A Fuss over Nothing”.

the documents and comment about them, but, they are not allowed to manipulate the information,” he noted.

Ebrahimi-Torkaman called Movahhed’s decision to write the book “a good example of a patriotic defense of Iranians’ rights,” and said, “Those

states that seek to change the name of the Persian Gulf or make claims about Abu Musa, Greater and Lesser Tunb, know the truth better than the others, but they want to close their eyes to the truth, which has been scientifically exposed in Movahhed’s book.”



Iranian kamancheh virtuoso Kayhan Kalhor (L) and Turkish baglama master Erdal Erzincan perform at Tehran’s Vahdat Hall on December 4, 2016. (ILNA/ Mehdi Nasiri)



A poster for “Guinea Pigs”, which will go on stage at Tehran’s Mehregan Theater on Wednesday.

Salimi staged the play at the Abbas Javanmard Hall of the Iranian Theater Forum.

Qatreh published a Persian translation of “Who’s Mr. Schmitt?” by Shahla Haeri in 2017.