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Opening new oil export pipeline, Iran takes new step toward energy independence

BY EBRAHIM FALLAHI

Earlier on Thursday, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani officially ordered the inauguration of a strategic crude oil transfer project through which the country will bypass the Strait of Hormuz and cut reliance on the chokepoint for its oil trades in the future.

Goreh-Jask pipeline project provides Iran with an alternative route for the country's crude oil exports that are currently carried out through the Strait of Hormuz. The pipeline will open a new gate for Iranian oil to the Indian Ocean by transferring it from Goreh in southwestern Bushehr Province to Jask on the shores of Oman Gulf.

The strategic Strait of Hormuz

The Strait of Hormuz, located between Oman and Iran, is a critical gateway for the global oil industry. According to the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA), in 2018, over 21 percent of the world's oil supply and over a quarter of global liquefied natural gas was flowing through this narrow sea channel.

The strait which connects the Persian Gulf with the Gulf of Oman and the Arabian Sea, is the world's most important oil chokepoint because of the large volumes of crude oil that flow through the strait.

The EIA defines a chokepoint as a narrow channel along widely used global sea routes that are critical to energy security.

The disruption in oil transit through a major chokepoint, even temporarily, can lead to substantial supply delays and higher shipping costs, resulting in higher world energy prices. Although most chokepoints can be bypassed using other routes, bypassing can add significantly to transit time and costs and some chokepoints have no practical alternatives. There are limited options to bypass the Strait of Hormuz, and so far only Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) had pipelines for shipping their crude oil outside the Persian Gulf circumventing the Strait of Hormuz.

Now Iran has also established its own strategic pipeline for bypassing the strait. With the full operation of the Goreh-Jask pipeline the country will be able to transfer one million barrels per day (bpd) of oil without the need for using the strategic Strait of Hormuz.

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Basketball expert lauds Iran's performance against Czech Republic

BY FARROKH HESABI

TEHRAN - Mostafa Hashemi, former coach of Iran's national basketball team, says lack of self-confidence and exaggerated compliments about the rivals' strength, led to the loss of Iran against the Czech Republic in the first game of the group stage at the 2020 Olympic Games.

Iran basketball team were defeated against the Czech Republic 84-78 in their first match in Saitama on Sunday.

In an interview with Tehran Times, Hashemi said: "I think we exaggerated the strength of our rivals and it is a cultural problem that we should solve, not only in basketball but in the other areas we have the same attitude."

"Given the good performance of our national team in the last quarter against Czech, we could say that we could've started the game much better than what we did in the first half. It was because of the fact that we started the game with

a weak mindset because some people thought we would definitely lose this game," Hashemi said.

"Iran's coaching staff and players did their best in their first Olympics game. They worked hard and did whatever they were supposed to do. Our team played very well in the defensive zone and forced the opponent to make a lot of mistakes."

"I think Iran were their own worst enemy and allowed the Czech to score many points. We came alive in the fourth quarter and trimmed the lead to four in the last seconds. It proved that Iran had the potential to win the game with more concentration and fewer mistakes," said the Iranian basketball expert.

Iran will return to play Wednesday, facing the U.S. on the second day of Group A matchups. Hashemi, while emphasizing the differences between the two teams, believes that Iranian players are able to play well against the U.S stars.

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Macron's Polynesia trip clouded in controversy over France's nuclear weapons tests

French President, Emmanuel Macron, has kicked off his first official trip to French Polynesia where residents of the more than 100 Islands will be eager to confront him.

Despite being welcomed by flowers upon landing at the French colony, Macron will certainly be met with anything but flowers by the victims of France's devastating impact of its decades-long testing of nuclear weapons in the archipelago.

Macron is under pressure from the locals to address the controversial tests that Paris conducted not in its homeland but far away in French Polynesia a program that began in 1966. More than 100,000 people on the Islands are believed to be suffering from radiation exposure since the nuclear arms tests finally ended in 1996. Many of those who have been contaminated are suffering from diseases such as leukemia, lymphoma as well

as other types of cancer including thyroid, throat and lung cancer.

The residents of the Islands are demanding acknowledgment of the atomic program, an apology and confirmation by Macron that all the victims will receive compensation. So far, only 63 civilians have reportedly been compensated by Paris since the French testing of 193 nukes to develop its nuclear weapons program.

According to joint research by multiple institutions earlier this year, the damage to the Islands was far greater than France had publicly acknowledged. The study included 2,000 pages of recently declassified documents by the French Defense Ministry and one of the investigators told media outlets that "[France] has tried hard to bury the toxic heritage of these tests".

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Nanotechnology development in Iranian agricultural sector

BY FARANAK BAKHTIARI

TEHRAN - Agriculture is one of the fields in which nanotechnology has been able to develop, as over 50 widely used nanoproducts have been launched in the agricultural sector of Iran.

Although the use and effectiveness of nanotechnology are often associated with future advances in medical and chemical technology, its usage is far more subtle and wide.

Nanomaterials and nanostructures with unique chemical, physical and mechanical properties are being widely used; For example, electrochemically activated carbon nanotubes, nanofibers, and nanoparticles are just some of the usages of this technology.

In developing countries, nanotechnologies can be used in several areas, including food security, livestock, poultry and aquaculture inputs, rice production systems, agricultural biotechnolo-

gy, animal health care, smart agriculture, food industry, and water.

Recently, highly sensitive biochemical sensors have been developed and used with the help of nanotechnology. These nanosensors have been widely used in agriculture, especially for soil analysis, easy measurement, and control of biochemicals, water management, and transfer, pesticides, and nutrients.

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Aghaei starts Tokyo on high

TEHRAN - Iranian badminton player Soraya Aghaei started the 2020 Olympic Games on high note on Monday.

She beat her Maldivian opponent Fathimath Nabaaha Abdul Razzaq 2-0 (21-14, 21-7) at the women's single in Group G.

Aghaei will meet Chinese badminton player in her second match.

She became the first Iranian woman to qualify for Olympics in badminton.

Kaveh Mehrabi had already represented Iran in the men's badminton competition in the 2008 Olympic Games.

Rights activist says U.S. in dire need to repair decaying infrastructure

BY M. A. SAKI

TEHRAN - An American human rights activist is of the opinion that out-of-date, antiquated, hazardous, and decaying infrastructure questions America's position as an industrial and modern state.

"Throughout the United States out-of-date, antiquated, hazardous, and decaying infrastructure scandalizes America's claim to be the world's leading industrial and modern state, and severe weather conditions, chronic natural phenomena (i.e., earthquakes, floods, erosion, blizzards, etc.) worsens a serious crisis," Randy Short tells the Tehran Times.

Heavy rains continued to spill through New York, New Jersey and Connecticut on Friday morning as Tropical Storm Elsa made its way up the Northeast coast.

After a relentless storm and mass flooding, tropical storm warnings and flash flood watches were in place until late Friday, according to the U.S. National Weather Service.

The storm passed through southern New England with winds up to 50 miles per hour, prompting flood warnings until 4 p.m. for parts of Massachusetts.

Connecticut was hit with major floods Friday morning as several inches of water filled the streets of Hartford and downtown New Haven. In West Haven, Metro North service was suspended after rainfall caused a landslide near the tracks.

Many pundits in America are of the opinion that the nation's infrastructure is sorely in need of repair as it recently earned a C- score from the American Society of Civil Engineers, which said an additional \$2.6 trillion in funding is required over the next decade.

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Zarif meets with Cuba's Finlay president to facilitate vaccine production

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Dr. Vicente Verez Bencomo, president of the Cuban Finlay Vaccine Production Institute, who has traveled to Tehran, met with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif on Monday.



At the meeting, the two sides highlighted the friendly relations between Iran and Cuba as well as the joint cooperation in the field of biotechnology and genetic engineering.

Dr. Vicente explained about the cooperation between the vaccination institutes of the two countries to produce the COVID-19 vaccine and the unique features of the intended vaccine.

During the meeting, the Cuban ambassador described Zarif's visit to his country last year as a very important start for the cooperation between the Pasteur Institute of Iran and the Cuban Finlay Institute for Vaccine for the joint production of the COVID-19 vaccine.

The Pastu Covac coronavirus vaccine, developed jointly by the Pasteur Institute and the Finlay Institute, is the only vaccine in the world that can fight several mutations simultaneously, Alireza Biglari, head of the Pasteur Institute, has said.

Due to the vaccine's capabilities, the global demand is increasing day by day, because it is the only vaccine in the world that can fight several mutations simultaneously, he highlighted, IRIB reported on Sunday, July 25.

The third phase of the clinical trial of the vaccine is underway in eight cities. It is going to be administrated to 24,000 people by August 20. Results of the evaluation will be announced, which will help obtain sufficient documentation for the approval of the World Health Organization, Biglari said.

In previous weeks, 130,000 doses of vaccines produced in Iran and Cuba were delivered to the Ministry of Health and have been distributed in several provinces across the country, he noted.

In previous weeks, 130,000 doses of vaccines produced in Iran and Cuba were delivered to the Ministry of Health and have been distributed in several provinces across the country, he noted.

In September, the installation of the production line will be completed with a capacity of 3 million doses and will begin operation in early autumn.

Iranian, Russian navy chiefs hold talks

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iranian Navy Commander Admiral Hossein Khanzadi met with Admiral Luminov, commander of the Russian Navy, to discuss ways to expand maritime cooperation.

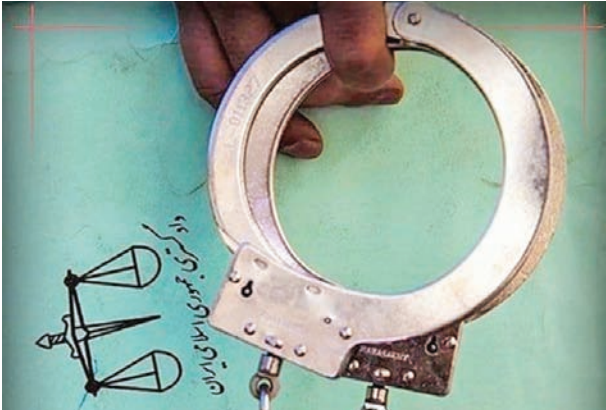
The need for joint actions to comprehensively strengthen defense and security relations, holding joint naval exercises, increasing the presence of the two countries' navies in strategic areas of the world, exchanging naval experiences in combat equipment, training forces and increasing cooperation of the two countries in face of common threats, was the focus of talks between the Iranian and Russian naval commanders.

According to the Iranian embassy in Moscow, the Iranian ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali, Deputy chiefs of staff for strategic and naval training of the Iranian Navy, and Iran's military attaché in Russia were present in the meeting.

36 terrorists arrested in Iran: 11 in Fars, 25 in other provinces

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Security forces have succeeded to disband a Takfiri terrorist group that had intended to carry out simultaneous terrorist attacks in several Iranian provinces under the direction of the intelligence services of two foreign countries, a local official From Fars province announced on Monday.

Hojatoleslam Seyyed Kazem Mousavi, director of the Justice Department in Fars province, said members of the nucleus of the terrorist team have been identified and arrested in the province in an operation launched by the Intelligence Ministry and police.



Mousavi said 11 active members of the terrorist group were arrested in Fars and 25 others in six eastern and western provinces in a coordinated operation.

To show its existence and create panic among the public, the terrorist group had released video clips in the virtual space, he explained.

The local official added a large amount of ammunition and weapons have been confiscated from the members.

According to Tasnim, Mousavi also said the group's ringleaders have been identified in foreign countries.

The group had plans to carry out simultaneous terrorist attacks in several provinces with the intelligence and financial support provided by the intelligence services of a European and a regional country, the local official stated without giving further details.

Qom Seminary scholars warn Afghans beware of U.S. soft war

→ 1 and leave Afghanistan in disgrace and humiliation. This is a historic defeat, and a glorious victory for all the resilient nations of the region and the dear nation of Afghanistan.

3. The United States, which is withdrawing its troops from Afghanistan, is seeking to spread extremism behind the scenes, creating sectarian and religious warfare, and creating internal insecurity and instability in Afghanistan. The United States is now trying to thwart efforts to establish lasting peace in Afghanistan by disrupting various inter-Afghan talks, including the Afghan-Afghan talks, and paving the way for its continued presence in Afghanistan through other means and execute its evil against the oppressed Muslim nations, especially the oppressed nation of Afghanistan.

As the Leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Khamenei, pointed out in his important message on the occasion of Hajj in the past few days, the people of Afghanistan must be aware of the evil and soft war of the United States and be ready to face this great devil.

4. It is necessary for all parties in Afghanistan to make their decisions based on justice and fairness to the rights of all Afghans and consider the ethnic and religious diversity of this country and the rights of the public, including women, men, children, and youth in these decisions. They shall also note that the public's happiness lies in the non-interference of foreigners, including the Americans, in their internal negotiations, and that any American interference will bring a dark fate for the oppressed people of Afghanistan.

5. The best path for inter-Afghan negotiations is to put the train of these negotiations on the track of Islamic principles and values and base them on rationality, wisdom, ethics, justice,



civilization, expediency, dignity, and fulfillment of the covenant, and its executive guarantee can be the universal constitution of the future of this country.

6. All the people of Afghanistan, the political leaders of this country, and the Taliban must be aware that going to religious war is the new edition of the imperialism, international Zionism and their untouchables, and everyone around must approach the issue strategically in line with Islamic sharia and the sense of responsibility for connection between the Muslims of Afghanistan, and put a joint and united struggle against the takfiri, extremist and divisive currents on the agenda while maintaining peaceful relations with the neighboring countries.

We ask the God Almighty for security, comfort, independence, freedom, lasting peace, progress, justice, dignity, and victory with unity for the Islamic Ummah and the Muslim nation of Afghanistan.

Iran trying to broker peace between warring sides in Afghanistan

Fighting between the Taliban and Afghan government forces has increased

over the past two months as foreign troops pull out of the country.

The Taliban is thought to have captured up to half of all territory.

As U.S. forces have withdrawn, the Taliban have made rapid gains, retaking border crossings and rural areas.

The Taliban, who were pushed out of power by the U.S. invasion nearly 20 years ago, have also seized key roads as they seek to cut off supply routes.

According to the BBC, their fighters have been closing in on a number of major cities, but have not yet been able to capture one.

The Afghan government imposed a month-long curfew across almost all of the country on Saturday in a bid to stop the Taliban from invading cities.

The curfew bans all movement from 22:00 to 04:00 (17:30-23:30 GMT), apart from in the capital Kabul and two other provinces.

The Interior Ministry said the new curfew was "to curb violence and limit the Taliban movements", adding that Kabul, Panjshir and Nangarhar were

exempt.

Facing turmoil in neighboring Afghanistan, Iran has tried to broker peace by getting the warring sides of Afghanistan to sit together at the table and discuss ways to put an end to hostilities.

To this end, Iran hosted a meeting between a Taliban delegation and a group of figures who support the republican system on July 7 and 8. Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, who led the talks, urged both sides to show courage in making peace.

"Courage in peace is more important than courage in war, because peace needs sacrifice and forgiveness, needs ignoring one's maximal demands, and paying attention to the other side's demands, especially in these talks where there is no other side, and both sides are brothers seeking peace and calm for the Afghan nation," Zarif told the Afghan participants.

The Iranian foreign minister added, "What I ask you is that use this opportunity and end the war in Afghanistan as soon as possible, and provide the Afghan people with the chance to develop."

He also voiced Iran's readiness to facilitate peace talks. "The Islamic Republic of Iran is always ready to facilitate your talks in any way you prefer," he pointed out.

The recent talks were the second time Iran officially host a delegation from the Taliban, a group with which Iran has avoided talking given its track record of bad relations with Iran when it was in power. The history of Iran-Taliban relations carries a lot of antagonistic baggage, most notably due to the group's anti-Shia leanings and its killing of Iranian diplomats in Mazar-i-Sharif in 1998, which brought Iran and the Taliban-led Afghanistan close to an all-out war.

Assassination of Gen. Soleimani has 'made America less safe', Washington admits

Robert Malley says Trump's maximum pressure against Iran 'failed miserably'

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — The U.S. special envoy for Iran has acknowledged that the maximum pressure campaign pushed by former president Donald Trump's administration against Iran "failed miserably" and "hurt U.S. interests", Press TV reported on Monday.

Speaking on a television show hosted by MSNBC journalist Mehdi Hasan, Robert Malley said Iran's nuclear program accelerated only after the former U.S. president launched his maximum pressure campaign.

Malley is Biden's point man for Iran, tasked with reviving the 2015 nuclear accord that Trump unilaterally abandoned in 2018. He was part of the U.S. negotiating team that worked out the deal in 2015.

Asked whether the U.S. should be the first to extend an olive branch and rejoin the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official name for the nuclear deal, the envoy moved the goalposts quickly.

"We said very clearly we are prepared to come back into the deal if they're prepared to do their part," Malley said, adding that the U.S. "will lift sanctions" if Iran returns to full compliance with its nuclear obligations under the JCPOA.

Malley, who had been in Vienna as Iran and P4+1 countries engaged in marathon negotiations to resurrect the dying deal, said "ideas" were put on the table about removing sanctions that Trump had imposed on Iran "in violation of the deal".

He also slammed the Trump administration's decision to assassinate Iran's top anti-terror commander Gen. Qassem Soleimani, saying it "made America less safe".

The show host referred to Trump's recent remarks



that he ordered the assassination because he was "under pressure" from his party senators before his impeachment trial.

He also cited a report that Gen. Mark Milley, chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, had warned Trump not to strike the top Iranian commander, saying it would spark war.

"Don't the Iranian government and the Iranian people have a right to be outraged by these revelations that the U.S. killed Iran's top general for domestic political purposes, that the U.S. top general had to prevent the U.S. president from starting a war with Iran for nakedly political reasons," Mehdi asked.

Malley, pushed on the back foot, agreed that the Trump administration's move "invited more trouble rather than de-escalating tensions".

"The American people have a right to be outraged with the fact that a policy that was designed to keep

America safe, by killing Qassem Soleimani, by imposing a maximum pressure campaign," the envoy said in his response. "Three years on, the verdict is clear, America is less safe because Iran has a more expansive nuclear program and because it accelerated and intensified its regional activities."

Gen. Soleimani, the celebrated anti-Daesh commander, was assassinated in a U.S. airstrike near Baghdad International Airport on January 3, 2020. It led to heightened tensions between Tehran and Washington.

Vienna talks in stalemate

In an editorial published on Sunday, the Wall Street Journal said Iran's latest demand is that the U.S. agree to a clause that makes American withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal contingent on the United Nations' approval, since it was the U.S. that unilaterally withdrew from the deal.

The newspaper, doing Washington's bidding, termed the clause "unconstitutional", asserting that the U.S. president "can't stop a future Congress or president from changing policy, especially when the nuclear agreement was never submitted to the Senate for ratification as a treaty."

It further stated that President Biden, like his former boss Barack Obama, would not submit the deal for a Senate vote "because he knows it would be unlikely to get a simple majority, much less the two-thirds needed to ratify a treaty."

"Giving the UN more sway than Congress over U.S. foreign policy would be a gross abdication of the president's oath of office," the editorial noted.

The ongoing talks in Vienna have been temporarily shelved due to the transition of power in Tehran, but Iran has made it emphatically clear that it is the U.S. that must make the first move.

Iranian officials have repeatedly called on their U.S. counterparts to "take tough decisions" to revive the deal, but the Biden administration has so far refused to budge from its stand.

Iranians do not fall prey to enemies, says IRGC commander

Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Major General Hossein Salami said that the Iranian people have always shown that they do not fall into enemies' traps and foil their plots with their vigilance.

"Nowhere in Iran can be occupied and the Iranian people are never spectators and they make their best to extinguish enemy's fire and defeat the enemy because this is the characteristic of the Iranian people," General Salami said, addressing a ceremony in the Western city of Kermanshah on Monday.

"The US system is declining and being destroyed. It has lost its power and has been forced to return to the nuclear deal, and it is us who set conditions; this means Iran's power," he added.

"Today, the Iranian nation has made enemy's calculations go wrong. The enemies think that if the electricity is cut off or an area is facing water shortage and drought,

the Iranian people will abandon their beliefs and beat on the drums of foreigners (but they are wrong)," General Salami said.

"The Iranian nation has shown how loyal they are and how well they know the enemies and do not fall prey to the dreams of mercenaries," he added.

His comments came after the recent unrests in Khuzestan in which the terrorist and separatist groups sought to advance their sinister goals by turning the protest rallies into armed conflicts and divert the protests from the main goal and demand of people once again showed that the use of weapons is part of the agenda of the terrorist groups.

Countering the flow of weapons into the country is one of the necessities that have been well defined by the security incidents of the recent years, and it seems that it needs more attention from the authorities as a security challenge.

People in Khuzestan province rallied

this week to protest shortages of drinking and agricultural water, and the drying up of wetlands and rivers.

It is less than a month that the western regions of Khuzestan have been in a water crisis, and due to the lack of water in the Hur al-Azim wetland, some local people have lost their livestock. Several young people have been holding mostly peaceful protest rallies in the past few days in certain regions of Khuzestan province. Yet, Separatist and anti-revolutionary groups have been attempting to provoke rallies into rioting by false-flag operations and through a large disinformation campaign.

Rioters and armed militants disguised among protestors who have been holding rallies to demand solutions to their problems related to water shortage and drought in Iran's Southwestern province of Khuzestan killed a young protestor and a policeman last Tuesday.

One factor behind Iran's water shortages

is a sharp drop in rainfall, which has been more than 40% below last year's levels in recent months, combined with high summer temperatures. The drought has left Iran's dams with less water to generate electricity, contributing to blackouts in recent weeks.

Iran's Judiciary Chief Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ejei issued an order to immediately follow up on resolving the water problem in Khuzestan, and a senior judicial and executive delegation was sent to the Southwestern province to investigate the issue. President Hassan Rouhani also sent the Head of the Crisis Management Organization to Khuzestan at the head of a high-level delegation to settle the problems in the province as soon as possible.

Meantime, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei underlined the necessity for resolving water shortage problems in Khuzestan as fast as possible.

(Source: Fars news agency)

Jordan king makes unfounded claims against Iran

POLITICAL
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TEHRAN — In what can be called diplomatic mal-practice that could harm relations between Iran and Jordan, King Abdullah II of Jordan made a litany of allegedly hostile claims against Tehran.

In an interview with CNN's Fareed Zakaria, the Jordanian king struck a note of warning about a range of alleged Iranian hostile activities in the region and hoped that these activities be addressed in the current nuclear talks between Iran and the remaining parties to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"There are legitimate concerns in our part of the world on a lot of portfolios that the Americans are hopefully going to be able to discuss with the Iranians," King Abdullah said, "So, the nuclear program affects Israel as it does the [Persian] Gulf. The ballistic technology has improved dramatically, we've seen that unfortunately against American bases in Iraq. We've seen Saudi being a recipient of missiles out of Yemen. Israel from Syria and Lebanon to an extent and what misses Israel sometimes lands in Jordan."

The Jordanian king went so far as to claim that his country has been targeted by Iranian-made drones, a bizarre claim that was made for the first time by Abdullah.

"And unfortunately, Jordan has been attacked by drones that have come out that are Iranian signature that we have had to deal with," he claimed.

While the king claimed that these drone attacks took place in the "past year or so" and are "escalating", the Jordanian press has never reported any drone attacks by Iran against Jordan. Nor has it reported any Iranian missiles missing Israel and landing in Jordan. This may explain the confusion that emerged among regional observers after the king's remarks.

Iran has always sought to be on good terms



with Jordan despite its occasional hostile remarks against Tehran. For instance, nearly four months ago Iran expressed support for King Abdullah when he faced a foreign-backed scheme by his half-brother Prince Hamzah bin Hussein to depose the king.

Referring to the recent developments in Jordan, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh emphasized at the time the significance of peace and stability in Jordan.

Khatibzadeh said in a statement that any internal instability and tension in the West Asia region benefits the Zionist regime.

"This regime's fingerprint can always be found in any sedition in Islamic countries," he noted.

He highlighted Iran's amicable relations with Jordan, and said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran is opposed to any internal instability and foreign interference, and believes all internal affairs of countries must be pursued within the framework of law."

Israel and some Arab states such as Saudi

Arabia and the United Arab Emirates were widely rumored to be behind what the Jordanian government called "the sedition" to oust King Abdullah.

In his recent interview, however, King Abdullah appeared to be soft on the plotters and hard on those who voiced support for him during his times of difficulty.

The Jordanian king disclosed that he met with Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett and Defense Minister Benny Gantz before heading to Washington. He said he felt encouragement during his meetings with the Israeli officials.

"It was important for me not only to meet with the Palestinian leadership after a war, which I did, with Abu Mazen [Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas]; I met the prime minister; I met General Gantz. We really have to get people back to the table, under that umbrella of how do we get Israelis and Palestinians to talk — maybe understanding the challenges that this government may not be the most ideal government, in my view,

with the two-state solution (which is the only solution) — how can we build [understanding] between Jordan and Israel, because it has not been good, but more importantly, from my view, is getting the Israelis and Palestinians engaging again," King Abdullah said.

He added, "And I came out of those meetings feeling very encouraged, and I think we have seen in the past couple of weeks, not only a better understanding between Israel and Jordan, but the voices coming out of both Israel and Palestine that we need to move forward and reset that relationship."

It strains the imagination to think that King Abdullah has forgotten what the Israelis and their newfound friends in the Persian Gulf did to him. One thing that could explain his animosity toward Iran is his old habit of bashing Iran with the purpose of propitiating regional allies.

In the interview, King Abdullah refused to explicitly point the finger of the blame at Saudi Arabia for playing a role in the Prince Hamzah plot.

It should not be forgotten that it was King Abdullah who coined the phrase "Iranian crescent" to denote Iran's influence in the region and accused it of meddling, accusations that drew a harsh response from the then spokesman for the Iranian foreign ministry, Bahram Qassemi, who described the Jordanian king's remarks as against the calls by the people and most countries of the region for establishing lasting peace and security.

"Such unfair statements cannot deny Iran's stabilizing role, relentless efforts in fight against terrorism and its contribution to establishing security in the region," Qassemi said, adding, "Such remarks only benefit the ill-wishers, occupiers and aggressors who cannot put up with the peace, economic development, territorial integrity and national sovereignty of the states in this sensitive region of the world."

Hezbollah will nip any Zionist move in the bud: IRGC chief

POLITICAL
d e s k

TEHRAN — Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps Major General Hossein Salami has castigated the United States and Israel, saying that Lebanon's Hezbollah stands ready to foil any Israeli plot.

Speaking at a ceremony in Kermanshah province, the IRGC chief commander said, "Today, Lebanon and Hezbollah are standing strong against the Zionists, and whenever the enemy wants to move, Hezbollah suffocates them from the very beginning."

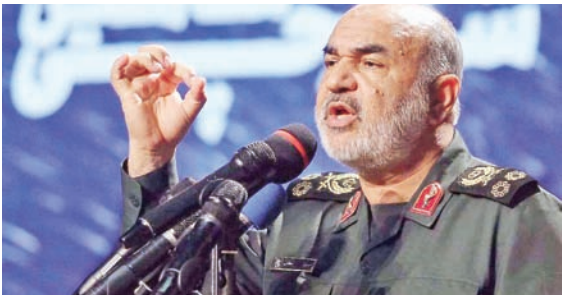
Saying that the United States has done nothing for all the nations of the world except poverty, backwardness and plunder of their wealth, General Salami pointed out that Iran is no longer affected by the U.S. propaganda.

Now that the enemies have realized that they cannot defeat the Iranian nation through hard war, they have resorted to other conspiracies such as economic sanctions and want to take the nation away from this establishment by imposing sanctions and economic pressures.

He added though economic sanctions may seemingly put pressure on the nation, they will lead to the victory of Islamic Iran, Tasnim reported.

Earlier on Sunday, General Salami hailed the Iranian nation's vigilance against the hostile plans for inciting insecurity and creating problems in the country.

"Afflicting insecurity on Islamic countries' borders,



including those of Iran, has invariably formed one of the enemies and foreigners' strategies," he stated.

"However, they will take this dream to their graves," he added.

"Our borders are safe and strong, and the Islamic Iran's youths are standing strong and preserving the security," he noted while visiting the western border province of Kord-estan's Sanandaj County.

The commander made the remarks during a ceremony entitled to commemorate those who have been martyred in the service of defending the country.

He acknowledged the province's decades-old sacrifices in the face of the "vehement invasions" that the global arrogant powers have been waging against the country on various

fronts, Press TV reported.

General Salami also paid tribute to the province's ongoing endeavors towards ensuring the country's security.

Earlier this week, General Salami also paid a visit to the protest-stricken province of Khuzestan, where he said that the IRGC will stay with the people of Khuzestan until problems in the southwestern province are resolved.

Speaking on the sidelines of his visit to Khuzestan on Saturday, Salami said the IRGC's Khatam al-Anbia Construction Headquarters has laid hundreds of kilometers of water pipes in different areas and stationed tankers in villages to alleviate the water shortage problem.

Regarding the sewage system in Ahwaz, the provincial capital of Khuzestan, the Khatam al-Anbia Construction Headquarters has signed a contract and provided equipment for the project, he added, according to Press TV.

"The important point I want to make is that we are committed and loyal to these people. We will not leave them alone and we will stand with them during hardships, as was the case in the 2019 flood," Salami asserted.

"We will work with these people until the work is done and we will never leave them alone."

Referring to Khuzestan's resistance during the eight years of war imposed on Iran by Iraq's former dictator Saddam Hussein, the IRGC chief said the province "is not only important but also sacred to us."

Rouhani says enemy's dirty hands and internal incitement are to blame for Khuzestan protests

POLITICAL
d e s k

TEHRAN — Iranian President Hassan Rouhani has pointed the finger at the enemy's dirty hands and some internal provocations as the main instigators of protests in the southwestern province of Khuzestan.

"Civil protest is one of the fundamental rights of all members of the nation, and managers have a duty to listen to the protests and be humble and tolerant, but there is no doubt that behind these incidents are the dirty hands of the enemy and the provocations of some internal groups," the president remarked.

Rouhani made the remarks during a cabinet meeting on Sunday afternoon, during which First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri presented a report on his visit to Khuzestan province.

According to Jahangiri, the patient people of Khuzestan, including sheikhs and tribal leaders, while expressing loyalty to the country and the system, demanded a solution to the problems that were in some cases due to drought and illegal water use.

Jahangiri stated in his report that appropriate decisions were made and implemented in the region.

The president thanked the dear people of Khuzestan for their patience, and members of the government for their work, especially the first vice president in solving the problems of the "heroic" people of Khuzestan.

Rouhani underlined the need for authorities to heed the people's grievances. "The government cannot ignore recognizing peo-

ple's right to protest because of the fact that enemies may use it," Rouhani continued.

Rouhani added, "This government has provided the most water and sewage services, building canals, tree planting, dust control and agricultural development to this province to honor the sacrifices of the dear people of Khuzestan in the eight years of the Holy Defense."

Iran refers to resistance against the invading Saddam army in the 1980s as Sacred Defense or Holy Defense.

In the end, the president ordered all the relevant managers to continue working in this dear province until the problems are completely resolved.

Officials have shown sympathy with the people of Khuzestan while underlining that the people should be careful not to provide grounds for the enemies to abuse the protests.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has castigated the United States for its comments on the Khuzestan water protests, saying Iran will not let anyone meddle in its internal affairs.

Responding to a question from Fars News on the protests over water shortages in the oil-rich Khuzestan, the spokesman said Persian-speaking news organizations affiliated with foreign governments are seeking to undermine the unity and oneness of the Iranian nation.

"Of course, this is not their first effort in this regard and it will not be the last one. We are also aware of the comments by a U.S.

State Department official [on Khuzestan protests]," Khatibzadeh told Fars News. "What is important is that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not let any country meddle in its internal affairs."

"The government and officials are well aware of their duties towards the honorable people of Iran, and at the highest levels, they take care of the rightful demands of their citizens and try to eliminate the shortcomings," he added.

The spokesman also called the stance of the United States and their claim of compassion for the human rights of the Iranian people "shameful" and stressed, "The U.S. regime itself is the direct cause of many of the sufferings that have been inflicted on the honorable people of Iran through conspiracies or oppressive sanctions."

He noted, "The brave Khuzestan will never forget the crimes of Washington's strategic partner, Saddam [Hussein] and the Ba'athist regime in Iraq."

Khatibzadeh also condemned the U.S. "hypocrisy" because of its insistence on continuing with the Trump administration's so-called "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran. Khatibzadeh said the Biden administration is following in Trump's footsteps in terms of clinging to this campaign even though Trump has gone. "At the same time, they shed crocodile tears over the Iranian people's human rights," the spokesman said of the Biden administration.

Protests have erupted in several cities of

the southwestern province of Khuzestan in recent days. Demonstrators called on local authorities to release waters stored behind the numerous dams on rivers flowing into Khuzestan plains and marshes, where hundreds of thousands of people make a living by tilling lands and raising water buffaloes and dairy cows among other livestock.

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution also reacted to water protests in Khuzestan on Friday, underlining the legitimacy of the protesters' demands.

"In the past seven, eight days, one of our concerns has been the issue of Khuzestan and the people's water shortage problem in that area. It is really painful for us to see that despite the loyal people living in that province and with all the abundant natural resources in that area and with all the factories working there, the people have reached a point where they are dissatisfied with the shortage of water and sewage system," Ayatollah Khamenei said, according to the khamenei.ir.

Ayatollah Khamenei pointed out, "Well, the people cannot be blamed and their problem should be addressed, as should have been addressed until now. If the necessary measures had been adopted in due time, this situation would definitely not have arisen for the people. Thankfully, various organizations — executive and non-executive — have involved themselves and are pursuing the matter seriously and when the next administration takes office, they should seriously deal with the matter."

S P O R T S

Iran's Hazfi Cup semifinals draw confirmed

S P O R T S
d e s k

TEHRAN — Esteghlal will meet Gol Gohar in semifinals round of 2020/21 Iran's Hazfi Cup.

The match will be held in Tehran's Azadi Stadium on Aug. 4. Foolad will also host First Division Malavan in the same day in Ahvaz.

The winners will lock horn in the final match four days later. Esteghlal are the most decorated team in Hazfi Cup competition, winning the titles seven times.

Persepolis move a step closer to IPL title

S P O R T S
d e s k

TEHRAN — Persepolis football team defeated Tractor 3-1 on Sunday in penultimate week of the 2020/21 Iran Professional League (IPL) season and moved one step closer to winning the title for the fifth time in a row.

The Reds battled back from a goal down to beat Tractor 3-1 in Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

Peyman Babaei gave the visiting team a lead in the 50th minute but substitute Mehdi Abdi equalized the match in the 64th minute. Captain Ahmad Nourollahi made it 2-1 four minutes later and Abdi completed his brace in the added time.

Sepahan also defeated Zob Ahan 2-0 in Isfahan derby. Omid Nourafkan and Reza Mirzaei scored two goals for Sepahan at the Naghsh-e Jahan Stadium. Zob Ahan defender Vahid Mohammadzadeh missed a penalty in this match.

In Ghaemshahr, Esteghlal came from a goal behind to beat Nassaji 3-1. Karim Eslami scored for the hosts in the 17th minute but Esteghlal captain Vouria Ghafouri levelled the score from the penalty spot in the 45th minute. He netted his brace six minutes later and Matin Karimzadeh scored Esteghlal's third goal with seven minutes remaining.

Furthermore, Mes beat Padideh 2-1 in Rafsanjan, already-relegated Machine Sazi suffered a 5-0 loss against Paykan in Tabriz, Foolad defeated Sanat Naft 2-0 in Ahvaz, Naft were defeated against Gol Gohar 2-1 in Masjed Soleyman and struggling Saipa edged past Aluminum in Tehran.

Persepolis lead the table with 64 points, two points above Sepahan. Esteghlal sit third with 56 points.

Machine Sazi had previously relegated from IPL and Saipa, Zob Ahan and Naft will struggle to avoid relegation in their last match on Friday.

Iran volleyball ease past Venezuela

S P O R T S
d e s k

TEHRAN — Iran volleyball team defeated Venezuela in straight sets (25-17, 25-20, 25-18) in Pool A of the 2020 Olympic Games on Monday.

The Vladimir Alekno's men, who had started the prestigious campaign with a 3-2 win over Poland on Saturday, are scheduled to play Canada on Wednesday.

Iran's Amir Ghafour collected the match high of 16 points, while Willner Rivas from Venezuela scored 15 points.

The 12 men's teams are divided into two pools of six teams. Each team will play against the five other teams in the same pool in a single round robin system. Then the top four teams from each pool will advance to the next phase playing in a knockout system in the quarterfinal, semifinal and final rounds.

Iran victorious over Tajikistan at Continental Futsal C'ship

S P O R T S
d e s k

TEHRAN — Iran emerged victorious over Tajikistan at the Continental Futsal Championship in Thailand on Monday.

The Persians registered a 7-0 win over their opponents in Group B.

Iran are scheduled to play Egypt on Tuesday. The tournament is being held in Bangkok, Thailand from July 25 to 30.

Iran participate in the competition as part of preparation for the 2021 FIFA Futsal World Cup, which will be held in Lithuania from Sept. 12 to Oct. 3.

Iran are in Group F along with Argentina, the U.S. and Serbia.

Sitting volleyball changed Morteza Mehrzad's life

S P O R T S
d e s k

TEHRAN — Iran sitting volleyball player Morteza Mehrzad says that the sport has changed his life.

He distinctly remembers the moment sitting volleyball came into his life. And it is not because it brought him worldwide success or even fame. It is for reasons far more important.

"Before joining the sport, I was an isolated person," Mehrzad told Paralympic.org just a few weeks before the start of the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games. "In the past, I could never imagine such a future for myself."

"But sitting volleyball changed my life. For this reason, I call sitting volleyball a miracle in my life."

Sitting volleyball feels much the same about the 2.46m tall man. Mehrzad, who was talent spotted after a coach saw him on TV in 2011, has added dynamism to a sport already famous for its fast play. And he has also become something of a poster figure.

This feeling of warmth, respect and true team spirit is clearly vital to Iran's mesmerizing run of success in men's sitting volleyball. The team will arrive in Tokyo having claimed a remarkable six out of the past eight Paralympic titles.

Basketball expert lauds Iran's performance against Czech Republic

→1 "France handed the Americans their first loss in Olympic basketball after many years and it shows that the U.S. team are not untouchable or invincible. I don't mean that Iran can beat the U.S. because considering the level of the two countries' basketball and facilities, it's an illogical expectation. However, I believe that we can play well against the Americans as we did in the last quarter against the Czech Republic.

"It's a challenge for us and I'm sure that Iran will perform well against the United States if we use all our potentials and avoid exaggerating the strength of opponent," Hashemi concluded.

TEDPIX gains 12,000 points on Monday

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — The main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 12,113 points to 1.323 million on Monday.

Over 6.604 billion securities worth 55.578 trillion rials (about \$1.323 billion) were traded at the TSE on Monday.

The first market's index rose 17,198 points, and the second market's index gained 1,940 points.

TEDPIX had risen 143,000 points to 1.311 million in the previous Iranian calendar month (ended on July 22).



Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has launched three single window systems for facilitating the processes and procedures related to the stock market activities.

These systems are going to offer various services to the companies and people active in the market.

Launching these single window systems would accelerate and facilitate many affairs and hopefully services would be provided more quickly and easily to the clients and companies.

Quarterly exports to Caspian Sea littoral states nears \$329m

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — The value of Iran's exports to the Caspian Sea littoral states stood at \$328.917 million in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Ruhollah Latifi named Russia, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, and Turkmenistan as the export destinations of the Iranian products in the three-month period.

Of this amount, 300,941 tons of goods worth \$135.392 million was exported to Russia, 194,800 tons of goods worth \$86.395 million to the Republic of Azerbaijan, 129,000 tons of goods worth \$38 million to Kazakhstan and 399,000 tons of goods worth \$69 million has been exported to Turkmenistan, the official stated.

He also announced that Iran has imported 579,000 tons of commodities valued at \$353 million from these countries in the first quarter.

Of this amount, 510,000 tons worth \$321.475 million was imported from Russia, 51,272 tons worth \$17.45 million from Kazakhstan, 12,150 tons worth \$9.450 million from Turkmenistan and 4,728 tons worth \$4.704 million has been imported from the Republic of Azerbaijan, according to Latifi.

The value of Iran's non-oil exports reached \$10.7 billion in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year, up 69 percent compared to the last year's same period, the head of IRICA has previously announced.

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Opening new oil export pipeline, Iran takes new step toward energy independence

→ 1 This will give Iran a huge advantage over other Persian Gulf Nations and also over the U.S. which have constantly used this chokepoint to pressure the Islamic Republic and negatively affect the country's oil transactions.

Other benefits of the pipeline

According to the Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, the new pipeline plays an important role in the Iranian oil industry as the country has officially commenced the export of crude oil from the Makran region.

This project will create employment for 10,000 people and ensures economic development in the Makran region.

The pipeline project has currently a capacity of transferring 300,000 bpd and this capacity will gradually increase to one million barrels in the near future.

Constructed with about \$2 billion of investment, Goreh-Jask project also aims to ensure continued oil exports, decentralization of export terminals



and diversification of oil export centers, sustainable development, and job creation on the shores of Makran.

The important features of the project

One of the most important features

Projects worth over \$397m inaugurated in free trade, special economic zones

→ 1 Four major development projects worth 1.03 trillion rials (about \$24.5 million) were also inaugurated in Kish Free Trade Zone to create job opportunities for over 78 people.

As for Qeshm Free trade and Special Economic Zone, nine economic and infrastructure projects with 6.37 trillion rials (about \$151.6 million) of investment were put into operation to provide jobs for 302 people.

Over the past few years and especially since the re-imposition of the U.S. sanctions, the Iranian government has been taking serious measures for promoting domestic production and pushing the country's economy towards self-sufficiency while cutting reliance on oil.

In this regard, last year, which was named the year of Surge in Production by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Seyed Ali Khamenei, the government started a program in which every week several projects would be inaugurated across the country to show that the country's economy is still dynamic and moving forward.

The program has been continued in the current year which is named the year of "Production: Support and Elimination of Obstacles" despite the pandemic and the restrictions created by the U.S. sanctions.

Since the beginning of the current years, every week several industrial, development, infrastructure, production, and agricultural projects have gone operational in various provinces.



Over 320,000 tons of copper concentrate produced in 3 months

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran produced 320,449 tons of copper concentrate during the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), which was three percent more than the figure for the same period of time in the past year.

Production of copper concentrate stood at 105,595 tons in the third month of this year, which was five percent more than the figure for the same month of the previous year.

The periodical reports and statistics indicate that Iran's metals sector is progressing both in terms of production and export despite the limitations imposed by the U.S. sanctions.

The country's copper industry is moving forward noticeably, as some outstanding projects are implemented.

Meanwhile, in early April, the managing director of National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICIC)



announced the discovery of one billion tons of new copper reserves in the country.

NICIC carried out 101,000 meters of deep drilling to identify new copper reserves across the country in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), which resulted in the discovery of one billion tons of new reserves, Ardeshir Sa'd-Mohammadi said in a

press conference.

Sa'd-Mohammadi put the value of the discovered reserves at 350 trillion rials (about \$8.3 billion).

According to the official, NICIC had also discovered 523 million tons of copper reserves across the country during the Iranian calendar year 1398 (March 2019-March 2020).

Considering the new discoveries, NICIC's total copper reserves across the country have currently surpassed eight billion tons.

The official put the country's total copper reserves at 40 billion tons, saying that Iran currently has the world's seventh-largest copper reserves, and hopefully the country will climb to sixth place in the current Iranian calendar year.

Sa'd-Mohammadi further mentioned the new record achieved in the country's copper cathode production and noted that over 280,000 tons of the mentioned

product were produced in the country during the previous year which was 12 percent more than the preceding year.

Pointing to the NICIC's new projects for the current year, the official noted that three major copper-related projects will go operational in the current year which is going to add more than 400,000 tons to the country's copper concentrate output, boosting the company's annual incomes by \$800 million.

According to Sa'd-Mohammadi, NICIC has defined more than €2.4 billion plus 300 trillion rials (about \$7.1 billion) worth of projects to be implemented over the next four years, which will increase the company's total copper concentrate capacity to 2.3 million tons.

He further noted that the country's copper exports increased in the previous year despite the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and the U.S. sanctions.

Iranian company constructs sponge iron production plant for China

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Iran's Mines and Metals Company (MME) has established China's first gas-based sponge iron production unit using the Persian Direct Reduction (PERED) technology, the portal of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) reported.

As the world's first manufacturer of gas-based sponge iron, Iran is now transferring the technology to the world's biggest steel producer.

The deal for the construction of the first gas-based sponge iron plant was concluded between China's CSTM Company and MME Company from Iran as the license owner of PERED technology.

With a capacity of 300,000 tons, the plant has been launched in China's Taiyuan city.

PERED is a new technology for producing sponge iron using natural gas as fuel, which according to



MME is a masterwork of the Iranian steel industry and is more efficient and effective in all respects such as the degree of metallization of the product, fuel consumption, operating costs and ease of operation compared to similar technologies.

This technology is already being used in several production units across Iran including Shadegan Steel, Miyaneh Steel, Neyriz Steel, and Baft Steel companies.

The main difference of the PERED technology with other technologies is the high and tangible quality of the sponge iron metallization, which has been reached above 95 percent on the initial day. In other technologies, however, it is very difficult to achieve a degree of metallization above 95 percent during the first months of a unit's operation.

As a subsidiary of IMIDRO, MME was registered in Germany in 1996.

Daily electricity demand in Iran tops 65,000 MW

ECONOMY d e s k **TEHRAN** — Daily electricity consumption in Iran is currently over 65,000 megawatts (65 gigawatts), nearly 11,000 MW more than the country's current power generation, Iranian Energy Ministry's Spokesman for Electricity Industry Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi has said.

According to Rajabi Mashhadi, the country's power plants are currently able to generate only 54,000 MW of electricity, IRNA reported on Monday.

Emphasizing the cooperation between the Energy Ministry and the country's industrial and agriculture sectors for managing the electricity consumption, the official said: "We are now implementing various programs

in collaboration with agricultural and industrial subscribers to compensate for the power shortage so that the domestic sector don't face blackouts."

He expressed gratitude for the country's industries, including cement and steel companies, for their maximum cooperation in the ministry's programs and noted that the ministry will reward such collaborations in the future.

He also mentioned electricity exports, noting that the country's power exports are nearly zeroed and the Energy Ministry is currently importing about 500 MW of electricity from the neighboring countries.

Rajabi Mashhadi also announced that over 200,000 illegal cryptocurrency mining devices with a total electricity

consumption of about 585 MW have been identified and collected across the country.

Over 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 imple-



menting over 40 different programs for managing the situation and preventing blackouts in the country.

Rights activist says U.S. in dire need to repair decaying infrastructure

➔ Meanwhile, President Joe Biden is pitching his plan as an investment to benefit communities of color, rural Americans and others burdened by decay or lagging modernization.

"The United States as a nation urgently needs to marshal all its resources to rebuild, revamp, and construct the nation's most vital infrastructure," the American activist argues.

"The failure of the Federal government to not upgrade the infrastructure is treasonous, and the collapsing infrastructure is a threat to national survival, national security, and the economic future of America," Short says.

Following is the text of the interview:

Over the past weeks, heavy rains spilled through New York and New Jersey. What do they imply when we look at U.S. infrastructure? Is there a need for reconstruction?

Throughout the United States out-of-date, antiquated, hazardous, and decaying infrastructure scandalizes America's claim to be the world's leading industrial and modern state, and severe weather conditions, chronic natural phenomena (i.e., earthquakes, floods, erosion, blizzards, etc.) worsens a serious crisis.

The United States as a nation urgently needs to marshal all its resources to rebuild, revamp, and construct the nation's most vital infrastructure. The failure of the Federal government to not upgrade the infrastructure is treasonous, and the collapsing infrastructure is a threat to national survival, national security, and the economic future of America.

People's death due to heatwaves in Canada and from floods in the U.S. may warn about environmental crises. How do you assess U.S. performance when it comes to environmental preservation and climate change?

Your question either asserts that climate change is and or assumes that only the prevailing scientific theories explain usual weather patterns, and as a Bible-believing Christian I reject the secularist, atheistic, and temporal philosophies that make human beings the masters of planet earth and the cosmos. God Almighty is the creator of all life and matter. It is God that rules nature-not arrogant nations.

The Holy Bible has many prophetic passages in Revelations, Daniel, and other chapters that have accurately warned of God punishing humanity for wickedness and unbelief via natural disasters and severe weather. There are numerous references in the Old Testament of Yahweh/Jehovah God manipulating weather and natural phenomena to demonstrate His power, His glory, His loving kindness, His wrath, and His desire to destroy. Frankly, humanity is an affront to the Highest God, and we have become a stench in the nostrils of God our wickedness, our arrogant science, our idols, our wars, our hatreds, our unbelief, our immorality, and our abortions and abominations have set God against us.

If we want the climate to be more suitable to us, we must first repent and tempt God back to loving us whom he created. As also an Aboriginal American mixed with Africans, I hold contempt for the scientific community which has done more evil than good having created Eugenics, weaponized medicine, Scientific Racism, biowarfare, nuclear weapons, industrial waste writ large, and the scam of Evolution that has been the gospel of all of modern humanity's great killers.

How do you see Trump's withdrawal from the Paris climate agreement? Aren't the American people concerned about climate change as a global threat?

Everybody knows I support Trump on any endeavor he took to save America from her



enemies, and his policy was correct to trash the execrable treaty signed by the deviant, traitorous, anti-Black, atheistic Barak Sotero Obama - an ungodly, CIA trust-fund baby, and the most notorious mixed-race liar in modern history. Obama is an operative of the Deep State, and anyone familiar with the precise racial classifications used on American birth certificates has ample reason to question his citizenship.

Thus, Trump's instinct was right when he tossed the Paris accord in the trash which has a godsend to American industry because he knew that the atheistic Communist Chinese Party has as much transparency as its polluted rivers. Trump refused to allow Americans and the American businesses to be prostituted to the Chinese Communist Party by traitors like the Clintons, Bushes, Obamas, Bidens, and the rest of the flotsam and jetsam filth of the traitor globalists who outsourced our nation to the Chinese for a mess of pottage.

The New York Times has published an article that says, "The United States used to be a country of the dramatic invention and dynamic change. Today, our politics are sclerotic, and our dreams are small. What happened?" What is your comment?

What has dethroned America is a combination of gluttony, greed, racism, hubris, and atheistically fatalism. The gluttonous and greedy racist Anglo-American and Jewish oligarchs in the 1960s traded their interest in building, manufacturing, inventing, and investing in their nation for the get-autocratically-rich-quick narcotic of speculation, and these folks also enjoyed the great profits that came from the war economic boom of 1939 to 1945. War inclusive of demolition and reconstruction became an important part of how many gained wealth, and they used their riches to buy political influence to make sure that the military-industrial complex always had an eager Uncle Sam to buy their wares or could via the government's agencies promote arms purchases by dictators and other alleged anti-Communist thugs. Other oligarchs sought quick riches in narcotics which helps

underpin much of the financial sector of the USA. Perhaps, what most people miss that is an unsung aspect of America's greatness is her Black-Indian minority that has produced many scientists, products, inventors, social reformers, pioneers, and innovations that due to the extreme and maniacal hatred of these people their key role in American life - aside from being the blood bones, and muscle that built America (especially its most viable economic goods) - is ignored. Everything you know that is uniquely American - its music, food, styles, lore, and so forth - has been made by the people unique to America the Aboriginal-African people. What they make is stolen and attributed to being made by Anglo and Jewish Americans.

In a nutshell, the founders of the moments for public education, public health, women's rights, civil and voting rights for all, property rights, and so forth have been - despite an Adolph Hitler Nazi hatred against them - has been significantly or dominantly influenced by people called Blacks. Everything progressive about America has a strong infusion from so-called Blacks because the land was theirs and they Indian and African together were birthed, bred, fed, and enserved together. American Anglo American elites in the 1960s decided to react to the demand for the United States to be a fairer, more equal, and most progressive nation by unleashing narcotics in Black areas, human experimentation, mass incarceration, militarizing police as legal death squads, mass immigration (before helping its own citizens), assassination (Dr. King, Malcolm X, Medgar Evers, Whitney Young, Fred Hampton, and legions of others), ethnic cleansing (urban removal of Blacks and the destruction of entire communities, legalizing abortion targeted at Blacks, abolition of phonics in schools to increase illiteracy, implementing policies to destroy families, introducing philosophies to destroy morals and values (Sodomite Liberation, Sexual Liberation, Minorities Liberation, Feminism, and Relativism), and the promotion of forced assimilation under the false name integration. There is a false notion among Anglo-American oligarchs that they can commit slow genocide

"I hold contempt for the scientific community which has done more evil than good having created Eugenics, weaponized medicine, Scientific Racism, biowarfare, nuclear weapons, industrial waste writ large, and the scam of Evolution that has been the gospel of all of modern humanity's great killers."

on the so-called "Blacks" and there will not be ramifications for the whole society.

The oligarchs organized a white backlash among the poor, working-class, and middle-class whites to destroy the progressive movements led by or primarily influenced by the Aboriginal-African American people.

The masses of whites were duped into supporting the adoption of a regressive, racist, and unprogressive public policy thrust as a means to punish "Blacks" as a collective. As a result, American living standards and other indices of how well the American people are faring manifest a stagnation in wages and living standards since the early 1970s - about the same time the "Black" struggle crushed.

The majority of non-oligarch whites were so dedicated to flexing their racial muscles that they gave the white elites carte blanche to brazenly redistribute wealth to the richest 10% of the population. Hatred of Blacks is the central theme to why America is backward as compared to other industrialized nations. No other nation in the world has an ethnic nationality grouping of our size that has the same socioeconomic disparities.

Therefore, the greed of the same rich families that got rich off of the enslavement of Aboriginal-African mixed people was able to recycle their power and authority by weaponizing the white masses into opposing important social and economic change in exchange to feel racially superior to their fellow citizens. Adolph Hitler studied America and manipulated the German masses into hating the Jews to gain power and wealth.

How do you describe the lives of ordinary people in the U.S. as a superpower? Where is most of the U.S. budget going? To military expenditure or welfare?

Most American people feel insecure and the so-called Corona pandemic has made things much worse. Violent crime, suicide, narcotic/opioid overdoses, diseases caused by distress, food insecurity, homelessness, and mental health meltdowns are soaring. The constant pressure to be vaccinated with an experimental drug that has killed and injured scores of thousands - that is in concert with efforts to force all Americans to be vaccinated even forcibly - has made many Americans fear for their lives and the future.

The coming month of August will bring the issue of the non-FDA-approved experimental injections ahead. I anticipate mass violence and outbursts if the Biden-aligned forces try to mandate mass vaccinations. The American people are likely to rise up and use their guns to retaliate against the entities trying to force them to commit mandated medical suicide. No concerned and loving parent will accept this scam without using whatever means at hand to resist this. The military personnel have refused to take the vaccine. Many are losing their jobs and those who have taken the vaccine are sick. If another shutdown is attempted the public that is tired of the fraud of this fake pandemic will rebel against Biden.

America spends too much on the military, but you must understand the mind of a racist. The hater Anglo American wants no non-white friends. Such people hate 95% of the world's population, and as a result need arms in their homes, cars, and foreign military bases in every country to feel secure leaching off the wealth of the non-white "others" that they hate without a cause. Until there is a resounding demographic change or military showdown wherein the majority population has to reconsider their state of affairs with regards to racial others this system with persisting - even if we all starve.

Macron's Polynesia trip clouded in controversy over France's nuclear weapons tests

➔ However, it's not just the toxic nature of the path France took to acquire nuclear arms and the fact Paris denounces other countries over their peaceful nuclear program; there is another painful element to these tests for the residents of Polynesia. Locals say the fact that France conducted its nuclear weapons tests on the archipelago far away from home all the way in the South Pacific Ocean, midway between Australia and Mexico, is a symbol of racist French colonial attitudes that viewed the islanders as inferior to the residents of France.

Critics would naturally ask why Paris did not conduct these very dangerous tests closer to a home near its borders. The 193 Association of victims of nuclear tests says "Just as)President Macron(has recognized as a crime the colonization that took place in Algeria, we also expect him to declare that it was criminal and that it is a form of colonization linked to nuclear power here in the Pacific."

A French presidential official, speaking on condition of anonymity, claims Macron will be "encouraging several concrete steps" over the legacy of the tests, reports citing the unnamed official said this will involve the opening up of state archives and will address the issue of compensation. It remains to be seen if these steps will stem the anger of the locals, over the decades, pro-independence movements have increased in popularity which resulted in the Islands taking more control of its internal affairs and more autonomy. In 2014, French Polynesia's assembly passed a resolution demanding France pay around \$1bn in compensation, only for the environmental damage that Paris caused by its nuclear weapons tests.

Those tests on French Polynesia are very reminiscent of the United States' testing of nuclear weapons on the Marshall Islands. During the height of the Cold War, from 1946 to 1958, Washington tested 67 nuclear weapons in what is now the Republic of the Marshall Islands, located in the central Pacific Ocean, between Hawaii and the Philippines.

This is perhaps one of the least-known and least-spoken tragedies that the U.S. has committed. 75 years later, Washington has yet to issue an apology to the victims, where radiological contamination is an ongoing problem. What makes this tragic crime even more disturbing is the way the U.S. tricked, deceived and killed the residents of the Republic of the Marshall Islands. When it detonated scores of nuclear bombs in the Marshall Islands, at times Washington destroyed entire Islands.

One morning in 1954, the residents of the Rongelap Atoll and the Utrok Atoll woke up to the sound of the U.S. military testing one of its largest thermonuclear bombs, dubbed Bravo, but the residents had no idea what the mushroom cloud in the sea was. Nobody told them. It took a couple of hours until the fallout from a nuclear weapon fell down on them, contaminating their food, water and skin.

A few days later, the U.S. Army came to evacuate the residents, however by that time they had already suffered from radiation poisoning. Their hair had fallen out, their skin was burnt and they were vomiting. Essentially, the residents had become human trial guinea pigs for experimental purposes. In April 1955 the U.S. Naval Medical Institute in Maryland and the U.S. Radiological Defense Laboratory in California Compiled a 37-page report titled 'Medical Examination of Rongelap People Six Months After Exposure to Fallout'.

It details every aspect of the Rongelap Islands residents' side effects to the nuclear bomb with a follow-up medical examination that was made six months after they had been exposed to the atomic bomb radiation. The document shows the residents were then brought back to Rongelap so U.S. researchers could have the opportunity of conducting further research on the future side effects of radiation on human beings. In 1956, a U.S. Atomic Agency Commission official said "While it is true that these people do not live the way that Westerners do, civilized people, it is nonetheless also true that they are more like us than the mice."

The future proved to be a disastrous one for the people of the Rongelap Islands. Cancer cases, miscarriages and other deformities multiplied. By 1967, out of 19 children, who were younger than 10 (the day the Bravo nuclear bomb exploded) 17 had developed thyroid disorders and growths with one child dying of leukemia. By 1985, according to U.S. government documents and news reports at the time, the people of Rongelap asked Greenpeace to evacuate them after the U.S. refused to relocate them or to acknowledge their radiation exposure. In some cases, the U.S. did relocate residents from one Island to another without informing them what was happening, all the US army said was they were being transferred somewhere more luxurious. But there was no luxury and the residents returned to radioactive waste that would eventually kill them.

Nowhere is this more evident than in Enewetak Atoll. Before the U.S. forces arrived and occupied the Islands, the natives lived a normal healthy life before being told to leave their land. Enewetak's chain of Islands withstood the brunt of America's last stage of nuclear bomb detonations. Between 1948 and 1958, 43 atomic bombs had been detonated there.

After agreeing to a 1958 temporary deal on nuclear testing with the Soviet Union, the U.S. began using the Enewetak Islands as a testing ground for conventional and bioweapons. The U.S. would go on to shoot ballistic missiles at it from California. After the American military exhausted its military interest in the region, it invited the leaders of Enewetak back for the first time since 1946. The leaders were mortified by what they saw. Photographs show an apocalyptic scene of windswept, deforested islands. Meanwhile, until today, the Runit Island, contains radioactive soil and debris left behind from a nuclear weapons test; more than 3.1 million cubic feet to be more accurate. This includes lethal amounts of plutonium and so much nuclear waste that the U.S. refuses to take responsibility for it. It's a disaster of untold magnitudes and it shows how the U.S. developed its nuclear weapons using other people's land in a remote region, where the residents were deemed not worthy enough to be protected from 67 nuclear weapons tests. The decades that followed and America's mistreatment of the residents of the Marshall Islands, not protecting them from any further harm, such as more radiation exposure, further revealed Washington's true face to the world. The French followed a similar line.



Iraqi resistance group vows to keep targeting U.S. forces regardless of new title

A spokesman for Iraq's al-Nujaba Movement says the country's resistance forces will continue to target American forces regardless of their name being changed from combat forces to trainers and advisers.

"Regarding the U.S. military's presence, names and titles do not matter, and they will still be targets for the weapons of resistance under any title or attribute," Nasr al-Shammari said in an interview with Lebanon's al-Mayadeen television network.

Al-Shammari noted that Iraq's prime minister, defense minister, and national security adviser have all emphasized that the country does not need the presence of foreign forces as it enjoys ample defense capabilities.

He said when Iraq was badly in need of American troops and advisers, they were of no use and their presence was not a source of any benefit to Iraqis.

"The Americans are changing the title of their presence in Iraq to deceive the public," he said. "What good can come out of changing the title of 'occupier' to 'adviser'? American troops are present in Iraq; what difference does it make under what title and pretext their presence is defined?"

He reiterated that Iraqi resistance forces will continue to target American forces because "nothing has changed from the perspective of al-Nujaba Movement and Iraq does not need American forces."

The remarks come while Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi is scheduled to meet President Joe Biden on Monday to push for a concrete timetable for the withdrawal of U.S. troops.

Currently, there are approximately 2,500 U.S. troops in



Iraq. In April, the two countries agreed that the U.S. transition to a train-and-advise mission requires the withdrawal of combat troops, without setting a timetable for the withdrawal.

Pentagon and other administration officials say they will remove a small but unspecified number of the American forces currently stationed in Iraq, and by reclassifying on paper the roles of other forces.

Summing up the situation, the New York Times said al-Kadhimi will have a political trophy to take home to satisfy anti-American factions in Iraq and the U.S. military presence will remain.

But while giving al-Kadhimi temporary political cover, a reclassification of U.S. forces rather than a drawdown likely won't satisfy the Iraqis and political parties calling for a withdrawal of all troops, the paper said citing Iraqi officials.

"Changing their name from combat forces to trainers and advisers — we consider it as an attempt at deception," said

Mohammad al-Rubai'e, political spokesman for Asaib Ahl al-Haq, which maintains 16 seats in the Iraqi parliament.

'One side is lying'

"We have told the American side to withdraw all foreign forces from Iraq. But the Americans say the Iraqi government has requested the keeping of foreign military forces," al-Shammari said.

"I'm sorry to say this, but one of the two sides is lying, and it seems to me that the Americans are more credible," he added.

Iraq's Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein sparked controversy after he said Baghdad still required Washington's help and called for maintaining bilateral security cooperation.

"We need to work with the International Coalition, led by the United States, against the terrorists of Daesh," Hussein said during a joint press conference alongside his U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken in Washington on Friday.

"We need cooperation in the field of intelligence. We need help with training. We need troops to help us in the air."

Al-Shammari said the Iraqi foreign minister's remarks run counter to the approach of the country's security authorities.

"Surprisingly, instead of referring to experts, the foreign minister speaks of Iraq's need for American troops and advisers," he said.

Al-Shammari, on the other hand, praised Iraq's national security adviser Qasim al-Araji for describing the full U.S. withdrawal as a historic day.

"All factions must take a stand similar to that of Mr. al-Araji because Iraq currently has high military capabilities and an experienced army that was able to defeat Daesh," he added.

Exhibit of Iranian handicrafts, arts opens in Tokyo

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – On Monday, an exhibition of Iranian handicrafts and arts opened at the Iranian embassy in Tokyo.

Head of Iran's National Olympic Committee (NOC) Reza Salehi Amiri, and Japan's Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology Koichi Hagiuda were almost officials who attended the opening ceremony of the exhibit, IRNA reported.



The Olympics is currently underway without spectators in host city Tokyo as a resurgent coronavirus forced Japan to declare a state of emergency in the capital that will run throughout the games.

The Iranian delegation for Tokyo 2020 has selected a magnificent Elamite-era bowl, named Jaam-e Arjan ("Arjan bowl"), as its symbol for the Summer Olympic Games.

The iconic bowl was officially unveiled during the opening ceremony, the report said.

Cultural heritage elements in eastern Iran added to national list

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – A total of eight cultural elements, which are practiced in South Khorasan province, have recently been added to the National Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan declared the inscriptions in an official document that he submitted to Hamid Mollanourishamsi, the governor-general of the southeastern province, IRIB reported on Sunday.



The skills of Pelasbafi (a kind of rough nomadic tent), and making embroidered tobacco bags, and baking an indigenous bread, the Kakol ritual were among the elements added to the prestigious list.

South Khorasan is home to many historical and natural attractions such as Birjand Castle, Dragon Cave, Furg Citadel, and Polond Desert. It is also known for its famous rugs as well as its saffron and barberry which are produced in almost all parts of the province.

Police seize relics from smugglers in southern Iran

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – A total of 21 historical objects have recently been confiscated from two smugglers in Neyriz, southern Fars province, a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage said on Sunday.

During the control of passing vehicles at the entrance of Neyriz, a vehicle was suspected and stopped for an inspection, Mohamadreza Bahmani said, IRNA reported.



File photo depicts relics confiscated by Iranian police.

Objects including clay and metal vessels were discovered from the car ... and in that regard, two people were detained and surrendered to the judicial system for further investigation, the official added.

The official, however, did not refer to the exact age of the relics. The ancient region of Fars, also spelled Pars or Persis, was the heart of the Achaemenian Empire (550–330 BC), which was founded by Cyrus the Great and had its capital at Pasargadae. Darius I the Great moved the capital to nearby Persepolis in the late 6th or early 5th century BC.

The capital city of Shiraz is home to some of the country's most magnificent buildings and sights. Increasingly, it draws more and more foreign and domestic sightseers flocking into this provincial capital which was the literary capital of Persia during the Zand dynasty from 1751 to 1794.

10 amazing and overlooked travel sites in Iran

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN** — For those wanting to get off the beaten track, Iran has a wealth of lesser-known destinations that rival the stunning beauty and historical significance of their more famous counterparts.

The well-worn tourist circuit of the country ranges from ancient villages, fortresses, bridges, mosques, towers, and houses to scenic, forests, canyons, mountains, deserts, and waterfalls to name a few.

Here are ten of the best:
Toghrol Tower
Situated in the city of Rey, on the southern outskirts of Tehran, the Seljuk-era Toghrol Tower is often overlooked by visitors who tend to stick to the higher-income northern and central areas of the Iranian capital.

The tower is said to serve as the mausoleum for Seljuk king Toghrol Beg, who established Rey as a major administrative center of the Seljuk Dynasty until its destruction by Mongol armies in the early 13th century.

Rey is the oldest county in Tehran province and is speckled with historical monuments, including a 500-year-old Safavid-era bazaar.

Rey was one of the capital cities of the Parthian empire (3rd century BC–3rd century CE). According to Encyclopedia Britannica, the city was briefly a capital under the rule of the Seljuqs, but in the 12th century.

In 1220, Rey was almost destroyed by the Mongols, and its inhabitants were massacred. Most of the survivors of the massacre moved to nearby Tehran, and the deserted remnants of Rey soon fell into complete ruin.

Raqaz Canyon
Situated in the southern Fars province, Raqaz Canyon embraces countless waterfalls and natural pools. Visitors of the canyon could go on a breathtaking 2.5 km-long journey that begins easily with short jumps down into crystal clear pools.

Trekking deeper into the canyon with its higher waterfalls, however, especially the highest at 65 meters, requires some technical equipment and a bit of experience. But whether you climb down or stay to plunge a few times in the easier parts, this canyon won't disappoint.

Rudkhan Castle
Hidden in the lush green forests of northern Gilan province is Rudkhan Castle, a medieval military fortress whose origins predate the rise of Islam in the country.

All in all, few foreign tourists have visited the site, which is a popular attraction among Iranians.

Work started on the castle during the Sassanid era, between 224 CE and 651. Followers of the Ismaili sect (known as "Assassins") are believed to have renovated and completed the fortress during the late 11th to 12th centuries.



An exterior view of Laleh Kandovan Rocky Hotel

The hike up to the castle, which is situated along two peaks of a verdant mountain, takes more than an hour, prompting many locals to call Rudkhan the "Castle of a Thousand Steps."

Laleh Kandovan Rocky Hotel
Some 50 kilometers outside the northwestern city of Tabriz lies the troglodyte village of Kandovan. People here live in cone-shaped caves cut out of the volcanic rock at the foot of Mount Sahand, a dormant volcano.

Nestled within the 800-year-old village, the Laleh Kandovan Rocky Hotel has been hand-carved into the rocky landscape, with each of the luxury hotel's 16 modernized rooms encompassing a cave!

Kal-e Jenni Canyon
Jinni Canyon, or as local people say, Kal-e Jenni, is one of the most mysterious and stunning valleys in the country situated in South Khorasan province.

Located some 30 kilometers north of the city of Tabas, a bunch of palm trees and marches in a wide valley, mark the scenic start of the journey, however, romance mixes with horror as the trip continues.

This name consists of two parts: Kal + Jinn. 'Kal' is referred to any valley which has been formed by a water stream in the long run. And according to the Oxford Dictionary, 'Jinn' is "an intelligent spirit of lower rank than the angels, able to appear in human and animal forms and to possess humans."

There are many reasons to attribute this 16-kilometer-long valley to jinns. Firstly, many mysterious-looking arcs, columns, and walls in the canyon are made by erosion but local people could not find a better constructor than jinn for them.

The next reason is related to wind. When the wind sweeps through the valley, it makes strange sounds due to the

structure of walls which can make you think that supernatural entities are living around. Also, pebbles will hit your face as you walk in the valley in windy weather; locals believed that jinns are throwing the pebbles to defend their territory.

Bekhradi House
Bekhradi House is a 400-year-old inn that features four tastefully decorated multi-roomed guest suites and is the oldest house to be restored in the country.

Its renovation and artistic restoration took local interior designer and restoration specialist Morteza Bekhradi five years to engineer and complete.

Peppered with stained-glass windows and original artwork from the Safavid and subsequent Qajar eras, the house sits between two gardens replete with fruits and wildflowers.

The house's furniture was designed by Bekhradi using wood from the chenar (plane) trees that line the streets and historic gardens of Isfahan.

The designer says he sought to stay true to the setup of the original home, which he says is believed to have belonged to a Safavid-era aristocrat.

Even the traditional heavy Iranian wooden doors lining the entryways of the upstairs suites belonged to the original house and were restored using chenar wood. Doors throughout the rest of the historical residence, which boasts an intricately decorated traditional "hojreh" room for cooling and relaxation, are chenar-wood replicas of Safavid originals.

Soltaniyeh Dome
A World Heritage site in the northwestern province of Zanjan, the mausoleum of Oljaytu at Soltaniyeh is topped by one of the world's largest domes.

Built between 1302 and 1312 in Soltaniyeh, the capital city of the Mon-

gols' Ilkhanid Dynasty, the monument is a mausoleum for Il-khan Oljeitu, the Ilkhanid's eighth ruler. Though much of the structure's exterior coloring and tiles have faded through the centuries, the intricate brickwork, tilework, and vibrant designs inside the mausoleum have remained largely unscathed.

The unique double-shelled structure of the Soltaniyeh Dome is also believed to have influenced the design of India's Taj Mahal mausoleum.

Rainbow Valley
Located in Hormuz Island of the Persian Gulf, Rainbow Valley is a geologist's dream and an inspiration for artists and nature enthusiasts. Imagine a narrow valley with multi-hued earth and sand and colorful mountains in shades of red, purple, yellow, ochre, and blue – the result of the uneven cooling of molten rock. On all sides, patches of color form geometric patterns. This awesomely photogenic natural site is at its best in the late afternoon.

The entire southernmost island is made of Rainbow Mountains and you can freely walk through most of the middle of it. But this spot is a good place to stop and check out all the colors. In close vicinity of Silence Valley, lies the mesmerizing valley of more than 70 shades of minerals, rendering the valley a perfect subject of Geology studies.

Mamraz Lake
Mamraz Lake features breathtaking sceneries with thousands of dried trees inside, which may seem scary at first glance.

Situated some 12 kilometers away from Noshahr city in Mazandaran province, the lake is 700 meters long and 300 meters wide and is listed as one of Iran's National Heritage sites.

Because of its horrific landscape and strange silence of the lake, it is known as "The Ghosts' Lake".

Next to the lake, a lush forest is located and there are many dry tree trunks in the water, known as dead trees. The water of this lake is very clear and the reflection of the trees' images on the lake adds to the beauty of the site. It is a pristine area and a spectacular natural attraction that is less known to tourists and adventurers.

Filband
Located in the northern Mazandaran province, the village of Filband is known for its untouched nature and the sense of being lost above the clouds.

Full of hillside meadows dotted with grazing sheep and cottages peeking out from behind the trees, a weekend in the tranquil village promises to quiet your mind and sweep away your troubles from big city life.

Furthermore, visitors may cherish every second in this rural idyll where chickens and hens roam freely and carefree locals tend to their daily chores, while enveloped in puffy white clouds.

Ancient caravanserai undergoes restoration in central Iran

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – Work has commenced restoring the ruins of Anjireh caravanserai, which is estimated to date from the Ilkhanid era (1256–1353).

Located in Ardakan county, the traditional stone inn has an irregular octagonal plan and it is the "oldest caravanserai" within Yazd province, Ardakan's tourism chief said on Monday, CHTN reported.

Roof tops, waterproofing, downpipes, and traditional plaster of clay and straw were subjects of the restoration work, the official noted.

Caravanserai is a compound word combining "caravan" with "serai". The first stands for a group of travelers and seari (or sara) stands for building. They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest

rooms were constructed around the courtyard and stables behind them with doors in the corners of the yard.

Iran's earliest caravanserais were built during the Achaemenid era (550 -330 BC). Centuries later, when Shah Abbas I assumed power from 1588 – to 1629, he ordered the construction of network caravanserais across the country.

Such roadside inns were originally built in various epochs along ancient caravan routes in the Muslim world to shelter people, their goods, and animals. The former Silk Roads may be the most famous example dotted by caravanserais.

For many travelers to Iran, staying in or even visiting a centuries-old caravanserai, can be a wide experience; they have an opportunity to feel the past, a time travel back into a forgotten age!



Work begins to demarcate Sheikh Shahab al-Din Ahari ensemble

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN** – A team of archaeologists and cultural heritage experts have launched a demarcation project to propose legal boundaries of Sheikh Shahab al-Din Ahari ensemble, which is located near Ahar, East Azarbaijan province.

"Following rounds of field research and initial studies, 20 trenches have so far been dug to help experts propose and determine legal boundaries of Sheikh Shahab al-Din Ahari ensemble," Mehdi Kazempour, who leads the project, said on Monday, ILNA reported.

Named after the seventh and eighth-century mystic and poet, the complex includes a mosque, a Khanqah and mausoleum, and a few pavilions originally date back to the late Ilkhanid era (1256–1353).

The mausoleum was built on the poet's grave long after his death. In existing sources, the construction of the mausoleum is attributed to the Safavid monarch Shah Abbas I, and the construction of the raw brick enclosure around it to Amir-Taymur Gurkan, according to Visit Iran.

The building was restored near the end of the twelfth century by Mostafa Qoil Khan, the governor of the



region. The author of Asar-e-Bastani-e Azarbaijan introduced Sheikh Shahab al-Din Ahari as a descendant of Sheikh Shahab al-Din Sohrevardi, whose ancestry traces back to Abu Bakr.

The main iwan of the mausoleum is flanked by a pair of massive minarets not taller than the iwan itself. It is possible that the construction of the minarets was left

unfinished, or that their top ends were demolished at a later date. The mosque is located east of the mausoleum and is decorated with stucco work and paintings and all the walls are covered with handwriting.

Soaked in history and culture for millennia, Tabriz, which is the capital of East Azarbaijan, embraces several historical and religious sites, including the Jameh Mosque of Tabriz and Arg of Tabriz, and UNESCO-registered Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex to name a few. The city became the capital of the Mongol Il-Khan Mahmud Gazan (1295–1304) and his successor. Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, took it in 1392. Some decades later the Kara Koyunlu Turkmen made it their capital, it was when the famous Blue Mosque was built in Tabriz.

Tabriz retained its administrative status under the Safavid dynasty until 1548 when Shah Tahmasp I relocated his capital westward to Qazvin. During the next two centuries, Tabriz changed hands several times between Persia and Ottoman Empire. During World War I, the city was temporarily occupied by Turkish and then Soviet troops.

Environmental projects worth \$220m inaugurated

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** – Environmental projects worth 9.2 trillion rials (nearly \$220 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) were inaugurated on Monday.

In an online ceremony attended by President Hassan Rouhani, 13 construction projects, a comprehensive environmental system, and the Lake Urmia futurology center were also inaugurated, IRNA reported.

A comprehensive environmental system observes citizenship rights in order to organize environmental databases to identify and control polluting sources, biological resources, establishment and evaluation of industries, waste management, monitoring the activities of other stakeholders affecting the environment in order to optimally implement the existing laws.

Accordingly, 13 construction projects, including environmental water demand studies for 21 wetlands and rivers in the country, came on stream.

In this regard, with the aim of further monitoring water bodies, quantitative and qualitative monitoring systems have been launched for the protection of wetlands and rivers, studies also began to determine the water needs of 21 wetlands and it soon will be started for 17 other wetlands and rivers.

On the other hand, wetland ecosystem management programs will be unveiled as the main document, which provides the purpose of wetland management for the transition from the current situation to the desired conditions in the future, in addition to a framework for managerial decisions and executive actions.

In this regard, 17 management programs have been developed, which try to establish a balance between protection and development and the sustainable use of the wetlands,



considering the active role and responsibility of those involved in wetland management.

Firefighting stations in protected areas, environmental protection and monitoring center for measuring environmental pollutants, air pollution measuring, and analysis station are among the other projects opened.

Environmental projects

Environmental projects worth 9.2 trillion rials (nearly \$220 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) were also launched, which include granting financial facilities to polluting industries in order to control irreparable damages, reduce environmental pollution and prevent environmental degradation.

In this regard, 20 major projects have been defined for implementation by top universities in the country, of which 12 projects have been concluded so far.

Lake Urmia futurology center

Lake Urmia futurology center opened

with the aim of using scientific and technical capacities at the local, national, and international levels, facilitation, and coordination between departments, presenting and expanding successful models of coexistence with Lake Urmia and sustainable use of its resources with public participation, raising awareness of all stakeholders about their environmental rights and responsibilities and increasing public sensitivity and participation.

Dealing with environmental issues

Urban development, expansion of agricultural lands, large scale tree cutting, and destruction of forests under the pretext of road and dam construction, which led to subsequent drying of wetlands and rivers, extinction of plant and animal species, sand and dust storms, and the occurrence of various sea and land environmental problems.

According to estimates, 16.4 tons of soil

erodes in Iran per hectare, which is more than three times the global average. A total of 2 billion tons of soil erosion occurs in Iran annually, and the volume has been on the rise in recent years due to heavy floods.

Each ton of soil is valued at \$28 in terms of metal ores, so the loss of two billion tons of soil annually means the annual loss of \$56 billion, which is more than revenues from the sale of oil and agricultural products, gardens, livestock, poultry, and fisheries.

Meanwhile, according to the Standardized Precipitation Evapotranspiration Index (SPEI), 11 percent of the Iranians are affected by mild drought, 21.5 percent of whom also are under pressure of moderate drought; while severe drought is exerting pressure on 32.5 percent of the people.

The country has been repeatedly exposed to sand and dust storms due to its presence in the arid and semi-arid part of the world, so that in 2006-2007, the dust storms originating in Iraq and Syria affected Iran, haunting a wide area of the country so that it reached the central areas and southern slopes of Alborz and also included Tehran.

Air pollution is responsible for around 40,000 premature deaths in Iran annually, Mohammad- Sadeq Hassanvand, head of the air pollution research center at Tehran University of Medical Sciences, has said.

Between 4,000 and 5,000 people residing in the capital city of Tehran lose their lives per year due to air pollution, according to statistics published by the ministry of health in 2019.

Abdolreza Daneshvar Amoli, an official with Iranian Biological Resource Center affiliated to the Academic Center for Education, Culture, and Research (ACECR) said in 2019 that 150 species of animals in Iran are on the verge of extinction.

Gandos to help flourish tourism in villages of Sistan-Baluchestan

ENVIRONMENT **TEHRAN** – Gando-hosting villages of Sistan-Baluchestan are going to become the host to tourists with the perspective of promoting the culture of the native species protection, Vahid Pour-Mardan, head of the provincial department of environment (DOE) has stated.

The mugger crocodile, also called Gando in Iran, is a crocodilian native to freshwater habitats of the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan.

Under the plan, the villagers of Sistan-Baluchestan, with the aim of boosting tourism and earning money, will implement objectives such as crocodile care, informing and educating tourists, he explained, IRNA reported on Monday.

This multilateral program is implemented in cooperation with the DOE, the NGOs, and the Wetlands Conservation Program to raise public awareness and elicit the participation of local communities and tourists, he said.

In this project, the mugger crocodiles are taken care of by the natives, who attract tourists in the form of educational and information programs and promote environmental culture in the community, he concluded.

The only crocodile native to Iran

Gando, one of the tourist attractions in the Chabahar Free Zone, is the only crocodile native to Iran and the largest reptile in the country.

It is interesting to know that the species is one of the rarest in the world and has a shorter snout than other similar species, which can be a valuable potential for attracting tourists and preserving wildlife in Iran.



"Wherever Gando is, there is plenty of water" is a common belief in southern regions of Sistan-Baluchestan, as they consider the animal as a symbol of blessing and prosperity and believe that with the migration and death of this animal, drought and famine will overshadow their lives.

Bahu Kalat and Sarbaz villages in Sistan-Baluchestan province have turned into a tourist attraction for their rare species of crocodiles found in Iran.

On the Iranian Makran coast near Chabahar lives a population of around 200 mugger crocodiles. Due to human activity and a long drought in the late 1990s and early 2000s, it had been pushed to the brink of extinction. Following several tropical cyclones in 2007 and 2010, much of the habitat of the mugger crocodiles has been restored as formerly dry

lakes and hamouns were flooded again.

Although the crocodile is a very intelligent and shy species, it is, therefore, difficult to observe directly, so given the high probability of not being observed by census teams, the estimated number of this species in the region is twice the number observed about 400 crocodiles.

Threats to the rare crocodile

Asghar Mobaraki, a member of the crocodile group of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) said that climate change is a major threat to mugger crocodiles, as the animal gender is related to nest temperature, not genetics. So, the increase in temperature makes this species unisexual.

In fact, the population proportion is unequal and this situation is a disaster in terms of population growth, he lamented.

Pointing to the decrease in rainfall in recent years and water shortages in some habitats and ponds, he said that therefore, the protection of crocodiles requires more attention to natural habitats and the implementation of special management programs.

Habitat destruction for agricultural purposes, improper water withdrawal by pumping and digging canals, various chemical contaminants such as pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, motor oils, and detergents can be catastrophic and directly or indirectly endanger their offspring, he also said.

Some crocodiles are also threatened on the routes due to car accidents.

Cov Pars to produce 1m doses of vaccine monthly

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** – One million doses of "Razi Cov Pars" vaccine will be produced each month as of the sixth calendar month Shahrivar (starting August 23), Mohammad-Hassan Fallah Mehrabadi, deputy head of the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute has announced.

Razi Cov Pars is the second Iranian-made vaccine that started the clinical trial on February 27.

Developed by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute, the vaccine is pro-

tein-based, which employs recombinant versions of the spike protein and tutors the immune system against the virus by producing antibodies.

The vaccine is developed in 3 doses, the first two doses are injectable and the third dose is intranasal. The second dose of the vaccine will be injected into the volunteers 21 days later and the third dose will be inhaled 51 days later.

The first phase of the vaccine was performed on 133 people, the second phase also started on

May 28 by being administrated to 500 people.

By the end of next week, with the completion of the second dose injection to all volunteers, this phase of the clinical trial will come to an end, Fallah Mehrabadi added.

The third phase of the vaccine is expected to begin by mid-August, being administrated to at least 20,000 people, he explained.

The mass production will start with a capacity of 1 million doses per month, he concluded.

Mass vaccination against COVID-19 started on Iranian citizens with the Russian-made

Sputnik V vaccine on February 9.

While Iran continues efforts to mass-produce local candidates, over 13 million doses of foreign vaccines have already been imported and others are expected soon.

Iran is also producing vaccines jointly with two countries Russia, and Australia, which may also be released by September.

According to the Food and Drug Administration, 14 vaccines are being domestically developed in the country which are in different study phases.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

A ← → €

\$4m budget allocated to promote non-motorized transport

A total budget of 170 billion rials (around \$4 million) has been allocated to promote bike lanes across the capital city of Tehran, encouraging the residents to ride bicycles, Sakineh Ashrafi, deputy mayor of Tehran for planning, urban development and council affairs has said.

One of the main issues taken into consideration through the next year's budget bill, was development of non-motorized transportation, which focuses on active transportation and human powered transportation including walking and bicycling, she explained.

According to Tehran third development plan, biking as a green transport has been taken into consideration in order to mitigate traffic congestion and air pollution, she further noted, ISNA reported on Sunday.

تصویب اعتبار ۱۷ میلیاردی برای توسعه دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی در پایتخت

سکینه اشرفی معاون برنامه‌ریزی، توسعه شهری و امور شورای شهردار تهران از تصویب حدود ۱۷۰ میلیارد ریال اعتبار برای توسعه دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی در پایتخت خبر داد.

وی اظهار کرد: یکی از موضوعاتی که در بودجه سنواتی سال آینده شهرداری تهران به آن توجه شده، موضوع توسعه حمل و نقل عمومی غیرموتوری از جمله دوچرخه‌سواری همگانی است.

به گزارش روز یکشنبه برگزاری ایسنا وی ادامه داد: در برنامه سوم توسعه شهر تهران، موضوع توجه به دوچرخه‌سواری به عنوان یک حمل و نقل پاک برای کاهش ترافیک و آلودگی هوا مورد توجه و تاکید قرار گرفته است.

COVID-19 UPDATES

The statistics are related to 24 hours started 2:00 p.m. July 25

New cases	31,814
New deaths	322
Total cases	3,723,246
Total deaths	88,122
New hospitalized patients	3,566
Patients in critical condition	4,982
Total recovered patients	3,274,346
Diagnostic tests conducted	25,601,224
Doses of vaccine injected	10,568,549

Nanotechnology development in Iranian agricultural sector

→ 1 Effective presence of nano in agriculture and food

In agriculture, in particular, innovation is important given the global challenges, including population growth, climate change, and limited access to important plant nutrients such as phosphorus and potassium. Nanotechnology used to produce agricultural products can play a key role in solving these problems.

One of the special applications of nanomaterials in agriculture is to reduce the use of plant protection products, minimize the nutrient loss in fertilizers and increase yields through optimal nutrient management.

Nanotechnology tools such as nanocapsules, nanoparticles, and even viral capsids, are examples of nanotechnology use to detect and treat diseases, increase nutrient uptake by plants, deliver active ingredients to specific locations and water treatment processes.

The use of specific and targeted nanoparticles can reduce damage to beneficial plant tissues and the number of chemicals released into the environment. Nanotechnology-derived devices are also used in plant breeding and genetic evolution.

Nanoparticles derived from biopolymers, such as proteins and carbohydrates with little impact on human health and the environment, are becoming increasingly common and their use has increased.

Production of nanocomposites from agricultural waste

In recent years, agricultural waste has been considered as a source of renewables to replace fossil fuels for the production of various petroleum-based products.

Biomass-based nanocomposites have remarkable properties compared to traditional micro-composite and macro-composite materials, and in addition, their production is more stable. Today, many production processes are underway to extract useful nanocomposites from agricultural waste materials.

Nano companies in agriculture

On a global scale, large chemical companies are changing course and exploring the potential of nanotechnologies to increase the efficiency or greater penetration of their products.

Some agricultural-specific nano-products have been marketed by smaller technology companies, such as soil-strengthening products that provide even better distribution, storage, and thus water savings. However, due to the high cost of producing these products, the commercial market has so far only been achieved on a small scale.

These costs are typically offset by higher returns in the medical or pharmaceutical sectors. But so far, no such return has been achieved in the agricultural sector. But research in commercial agriculture and chemicals continues to achieve lower costs and mass production.

Large capacity for commercial purposes

The potential of nanotechnology in agriculture is high, but there are still a few things to consider, such as increasing the scale of production processes and reducing costs, as well as assessing production risk. Nanotechnology use in consumer products has also raised some ethical and social concerns in some countries, from environmental health and safety to consumer perceptions and intellectual property rights.

Although the general approach to the penetration of nanotechnology into agriculture is positive, the long-term use of these materials in the agricultural sector, including pesticides, needs to be further studied.

According to the announcement of the Nanotechnology Innovation Council on Sunday, at the international level, various activities have been carried out in the field of risk analysis of nanomaterials in the food and agricultural sectors.

Research on the usage of nanotechnology in the agriculture sector and food industry has been going on for almost a decade.

In this regard, the Nanotechnology Innovation Council of the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology has supported knowledge-based companies active in the field of nanotechnology products as well as applied research in this field, so that, over 50 widely used nanotechnology products in agriculture have so far been marketed.

Nanotech increasing pace of development

Nanotechnology's trend of development is growing in Iran, as the number of nanoproducts and equipment developed in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended March 20) increased to 750, compared with 647 a year before.

Some 223 product manufacturing companies and 59 equipment manufacturing companies are active in the field of nanotechnology and by the end of last year, which developed a total of 750 products and equipment. Of the 750 products and equipment registered in the nanotechnology product database, 535 were related to nano-products and 215 were related to nano-equipment, both of which have experienced a growing trend over the past few years, although nano-products have grown more significantly.

The field of "civil engineering and construction" with 20 percent had the largest share among nano products and equipment, followed by "medicine, health" and "industrial services and supplies" each with 13 percent.

Iran among five pioneers of nanotechnology

Iran has been introduced as the 4th leading country in the world in the field of nanotechnology, publishing 11,546 scientific articles in 2020. The country held a 6 percent share of the world's total nanotechnology articles, according to StatNano's monthly evaluation accomplished in WoS databases.

Iran ranked 43rd among the 100 most vibrant clusters of science and technology (S&T) worldwide for the third consecutive year, according to the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020 report.

The country experienced a three-level improvement compared to 2019. Sourena Sattari, vice president for science and technology, has said that Iran is playing the leading role in the region in the fields of fintech, ICT, stem cell, aerospace, and is unrivaled in artificial intelligence.

Iranian nanotechnology companies have increased sales by 100 percent over the Iranian calendar year 1398 (March 2019-March 2020), and it is predicted that their revenue will reach up to 80 trillion rials (nearly \$1.9 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials), Sattari announced.

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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Hearts of people are like wild beasts. They attach themselves to those who love and train them.
Imam Ali (AS)

History of Qajar painting

Part 3

The back cover of the same volume, also portraying the king on a hunting expedition, is signed by Mohammad-Baqer, who may be associated with a group of royal painted enamels on gold bearing the signature Baqer, since the first element of such a name might often be omitted and, with allowances made for the different medium, the styles are very similar.

Several of Baqer's finest enamels are in the Persian crown jewels collection, and an extremely fine gold bowl, cover, saucer and spoon, enameled with astrological subjects, and bearing his signature, together with a poetical dedication to Fath-Ali Shah, are in a private collection.

Ali was another notable painter in enamel, close to Baqer in both style and date, who has signed what is perhaps the finest of all the painted enamels in the Persian crown jewels collection, a magnificent oval hand-mirror with handle of carved jade and the back enameled with a portrait of the king seated within a rich floral frame.

He was also responsible for another portrait, dated 1817-18, enameled on the gold center of a nephrite dish presented to the emperor Franz I and now in the Kunsthistorisches Museum, Vienna.

The only other enamel painter from this period who calls for special mention is Mohammad Jafar, who seems to have been much employed on objects intended for official presentation.

His signature is to be found on the two massive gold enamel dishes presented by his royal master to Sir Gore Ouseley (dated 1813) and the East India Company (dated 1822-23), the latter now in the Victoria and Albert Museum, London.

He also executed insignia of the Order of the Lion and Sun, instituted in honor of Sir John Malcolm, as well as lesser objects such as qalyan-bowls and snuffboxes.

In general, Persian painted enamels of the Qajar period are often the most attractive manifestations of the painter's skill; even so severe a critic as the Comte de Rochechouart was enchanted by them, and compared them favorably with imported Swiss enamels that he saw at the same time.

Lacquer painting, fully described by the Comte de Rochechouart, consisted in coating papier-mâché (or, less frequently, wood) with a fine gesso or plaster, upon whose surface the design was painted in water-colors, the whole being finally covered with a transparent lacquer or varnish, usually of a pale golden hue, which warmed and enriched the whole effect.

One family may be regarded as the foremost specialists in painted lacquer during the early Qajar period. The first of them was Najaf-Ali, whose dated work spans the period 1815-56, and who always signed with the punning invocation ya shah-e Najaf. He was followed by his sons and a younger brother, and between them they were responsible for much of the finest lacquer produced in Persia down to about 1890.

In lacquer, as in other branches of painting, the taste for European mannerisms and subjects continued unabated, but unfortunately the only models normally available to the Persian painters seem to have been French and other prints of poor quality and often execrable taste, from which are derived the dissipated young men in dressing gowns and smoking caps and the young women of dubious reputation simpering coquettishly under their poke-bonnets, which constitute such a popular element in the Persian lacquer painter's repertory.

Sometimes religious (Christian) subjects were incongruously attempted, and the Holy Family in various garbled forms had been a popular theme for mirror cases since the eighteenth century. But the most frequently encountered designs on lacquer work of all periods are variations on the rose and nightingale (gol o bolbol) theme.

Najaf's younger brother Mohammad-Esmaeil, and his three sons Mohammad-Kazem, Jafar, and Ahmad, all excelled in lacquer painting; Esmaeil attained the title of naqqash-bashi.

His masterpiece is a box or casket in the Bern Historical Museum covered with scenes from Mohammad Shah's siege of Herat and containing literally hundreds of tiny figures; it is dated 1865-66.

Kazem's painted enamels are almost finer than his lacquer, and examples may be seen in the crown jewels collection. It is, in fact, largely owing to the work of this talented family that the third quarter of the 19th century is the most brilliant period in the history of Persian lacquer and enamel painting.

Another outstanding lacquer-painter is Aqa Bozorg Shirazi whose finest piece is a pen-box in the Museum of Decorative Arts, Tehran, dated 1852-53.

Not only is it painted with penetrating portraits of all the ministers of the governor, Farhad Mirza, but also—an almost unique feature—with a self-portrait of the artist, modestly relegated to the butt-end and showing him in the act of painting a qalamdan.

Abul-Hassan Khan Ghaffari Sani ul-Molk (fl. 1814-66) is by far the most important painter during the reign of Mohammad Shah and the early years of Nasser ad-din Shah, though some fine work was produced by his contemporaries, notably Mohammad-Hassan Afshar.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued

100 Works, 100 Artists Exhibition to go online again as coronavirus cases rise

A R T **TEHRAN** — The 29th edition of the 100 Works, 100 Artists Exhibition will go online this year again as Covid-19 cases hit record highs in Iran, the organizer of the annual event said on Sunday.

A total of 495 artworks by 489 artists will be showcased during an online exhibition, which will be organized by Golestan Gallery in Tehran from August 6 to September 8, Lili Golestan announced in a press release.

"I have missed my gallery badly, especially for its Friday openings," said Golestan, who has organized all the gallery's exhibitions over the past year online due to the pandemic.

"But what should we do? We have to avoid any gatherings so that conditions will improve," she added.

Most of the artworks submitted to the

exhibition are from young artists from Tehran, Isfahan, Mashhad and Shiraz, she said.

Golestan noted that she has been very selective about choosing the artworks for the exhibition, and added, "Very beautiful and really good artworks for all tastes have been selected for the exhibition as there was no size limit for the artworks this year."

She said that the works are on sale at reasonable prices, some works were excluded from the exhibit as their artists did not agree to lower their prices.

Earlier in April, Golestan said that her gallery quickly adapted to survive over the one-year-plus pandemic despite her preconception about virtual art showcases.

"Online exhibitions caused an increase in the number of Golestan Gallery's customers," she added.



Iranian director Shahram Mokri.

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian director Shahram Mokri, whose drama "Careless Crime" won an award at the 2020 Venice International Film Festival, has been selected for the Orizzonti jury of the 78th edition of the Italian prestigious event.

Director and screenwriter Jasmila Zbanic from Bosnia and Herzegovina will preside over the jury, which also has

“Careless Crime” director Shahram Mokri selected for Venice festival jury

Norwegian director Mona Fastvold, MoMA curator Josh Siegel and Italian writer Nadia Terranova.

The Orizzonti section is dedicated to films that represent the latest aesthetic and expressive trends in international cinema.

The Orizzonti jury will award the following prizes, with no joint awards permitted: Orizzonti Award for Best Film, Orizzonti Award for Best Director, Special Orizzonti Jury Prize, Orizzonti Award for Best Actress, Orizzonti Award for Best Actor, Orizzonti Award for Best Screenplay and Orizzonti Award for Best Short Film.

Mokri, who is also a screenwriter and film critic, made his first feature-length film "Ashkan, the Charmed Ring and Other Stories" in 2008. The film was presented at the Busan Film Festival.

In 2013, his next film "Fish/Cat" won the Orizzonti Special Prize for innovative content at Venice. In 2018, he premiered "Invasion" in Berlin. In 2020, he returned

Iranian photographer Mehdi Kazemi wins Silver Medal at Danube Digital Circuit

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian photographer Mehdi Kazemi Bumeh has won Salon Silver Medal at the 1st Danube Digital Circuit in Russia.

He garnered the honor in the C Open Color category of the exhibition for his photo "Man with a White Beard".

Mehdi Parsaian, another Iranian photographer, also won an honorable mention for his photo "Peak of Light" in this section.

Parsaian's "Blossoming Season" has also won an honorable mention in the C Open Color category of the 6th Danube Digital Circuit in Serbia at the same time.

Photography centers in Serbia, Russia,

South Africa, and Norway are the organizers of the exhibition.

The Golden Badge of the Master of Light Photographic Association (MoL PA) at the 1st Danube Digital Circuit was awarded to Australian photographer Brenda Jones for her photo "On the Brink".

Sergey Majorov and Sergey Borisov from Russia and Pantelis Kranos from Cyprus were the jury members of the competition.

Kazemi Bumeh has previously been honored with various prizes at international photography contests.

Previously in April, he won the FIAP Gold Medal at the 2nd Naryn International Exhibition of Photography in Bishkek,



Art aficionados visit the 100 Works, 100 Artists Exhibition at Tehran's Golestan Gallery on August 3, 2018. (Honaronline/Maryam Ramezanlu)

Following the detection of the first cases of the COVID-19 infection in the country in February 2020, Golestan canceled all its exhibits for about four months.

"The online exhibitions really went well and were quite successful," Golestan stated and added, "We even had customers from among Iranian expatriates living in Ireland, England, Germany, Japan, the U.S., France and Denmark, and it was amazing for me that those people who could not visit our exhibitions before were able to purchase artworks from our showcases."

Nearly 95 percent of the customers were first-time artwork buyers of Golestan Gallery, which sent the purchased artworks to buyers free of charge.

She said that some artists were in doubt about putting their artworks on display on an online exhibition. However, the results were entirely satisfactory for them.

She said while the pandemic has caused enormous problems for many artists and ordinary people, she has experienced her most successful year of her career over the 32-year history of her gallery.

“Nahid”, “The Chick” honored at Fribourg Intl. Film Festival



“The Chick” by Bijan Aarabi.

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian shorts “Nahid” and “The Chick” were honored at the Fribourg International Film Festival in Switzerland, the organizers announced on Sunday.

Directed by Bijan Aarabi, “The Chick” won the CH Cinema Network Award, consisting of CHF 3000, while “Nahid” by Samad Alizadeh received an honorable mention.

In “The Chick”, a cook at a rest stop in the middle of the desert is looking for a solution to rescue her friend who recently emigrated illegally from Afghanistan. Absurd, gripping and full of love, the film was directed by Bijan Aarabi.

“Nahid” features aspects of the patriarchal and traditionalist Iranian society when a woman dies. Although she accepts the wrath of her family, Nahid protests against it.

“Nahid” is an intense and intimate look at an archaic society,” the jury of the festival said in a statement.

“Filmed in two continuous shots, it traces the efforts of the eponymous protagonist to shake up conventions and ensure that when a woman dies, her time on earth is not consigned to oblivion,” the statement added.

“Monsters Never Know” by Chinese director Yang Ming was named best short film in the international section.

Ludwig von Mises’s “Liberalism” published in Persian

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — Austrian economist and historian Ludwig von Mises's book "Liberalism: The Classical Tradition" has been published in Persian.

The book released by Saleess Publications in Tehran has been rendered into Persian by Mehdi Tadayoni, whose translation of Hannah Arendt's "The Origins of Totalitarianism" was published in April.

The term "liberalism" comes from the Latin word liber meaning "free". Mises defines liberalism as "the liberal doctrine of the harmony of the rightly understood interests of all members of a free society founded on the principle of private ownership of the means of production."

This book presents the theoretical and practical arguments for liberalism in the

classical tradition.

The foundation of liberalism, Mises says, rests on an understanding and appreciation of private property, social cooperation, the freedom idea, ethics and morality, democracy, and the legitimate role of government.

Liberalism is not a political party; it is a system of social organization. The liberal program aims at securing equality under law and freedom of opportunity for everyone to make their own choices and decisions, so long as they do not interfere with the equal rights of others; it offers no special privileges to anyone.

Under liberalism, the role of government would be limited to protecting the lives, property and freedom of its citizens to pursue their own ends and goals.

Mises is more specific here than elsewhere

in applying the liberal program to economic policy, domestic and foreign. Also in this book, Mises contrasts liberalism with other conceivable systems of social organization such as socialism, communism and fascism.

Mises (1881–1973) was the leading spokesman of the Austrian School of Economics throughout most of the twentieth century.

He earned his doctorate in law and economics from the University of Vienna in 1906. In 1926, Mises founded the Austrian Institute for Business Cycle Research.

From 1909 to 1934, he was an economist for the Vienna Chamber of Commerce. Before the Anschluss, in 1934 Mises left for Geneva, where he was a professor at the Graduate Institute of International Studies until 1940, when he emigrated to New York City. From



“Peak of Light” by Iranian photographer Mehdi Parsaian won an honorable mention at the 1st Danube Digital Circuit in Russia.

The film is about an uptight man who drives for hours through the great wide open spaces, and beside him is his son, all bundled up. A family road trip with a difference and the feel of an oddball western, the two men are on the verge of a nervous breakdown.

The Grand Prix of the festival went to “La Nuit des Rois” by Philippe Lacote.

As a co-production of France, Canada and Senegal, the film tells the story of MACA, the famous Cote d'Ivoire prison, where the prisoners set the rules. Blackbeard, the ageing and ailing leader, is losing his grip on his fellow inmates. He chooses a young pickpocket to help him re-affirm his power. He designates the newcomer as “Roman”, a status that traditionally requires him to tell a story until sunrise. This is not a simple prison drama; it is a political fable of Shakespearean beauty.

“Bad Christmas”, a co-production between Argentina and Uruguay directed by Gaston Portal, received the special jury award.



Front cover of the Persian translation of Ludwig von Mises's book "Liberalism: The Classical Tradition".

1948 to 1969, he was a visiting professor at New York University.