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Iran volleyball knocked out of Tokyo Olympics *Page 3*

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Israel fails to fish in troubled waters

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Persepolis still hungry to win more

BY FARROKH HESABI
Persepolis have won Iran Professional League (IPL) title for a fifth consecutive season. It's an unprecedented record of league dominance for Iran's top flight, however the team are still hungry to win more titles.

In fact, Persepolis did what Persepolis do! This absolutely sounds perfect for the Reds as they have won seventh titles of IPL in total and fifth in a row.

The Iranian giants club clinched their record-extending fifth consecutive title on Friday after beating Peykan 2-0.

When considering some of the major factors that have helped Persepolis maintain their dominance in Iranian football, one name that immediately comes to mind is Branko Ivankovic.

The Croatian tactician created the basis of success for the Tehran-based club when he took over in 2015 and won three out of the five consecutive league trophies for the Reds.

Ivankovic raised the bar for next Persepolis' coaches. However, Yahya Golmohammadi, the current head coach, could handle the challenge in the best way possible and continued in the path that Branko had already started. Yahya now has forged a reputation as one of Iran's best new generation coaches.

Another name for the Persepolis club is Jalal Hosseini. The Titan of Iranian football is now at the age of 39 and still playing for the Reds at the highest level, with the unparalleled power of team leadership on the pitch. In a sense, the veteran has become Persepolis' figurehead. The defender was a piece of power, quality, and technique in all the five successive titles for Persepolis.

Solid defense was a key to Persepolis' winning factor. The team has a good goalkeeper, Hamed Lak. Still, the defenders such as Hossein Kananizadegan, Saeid Aghaei, Mehdi Shiri, Farshad Faraji, and even Vahid Amiri and Siamak Nemati, and the "team defense" in general, made a solid defending wall for the team this year. Persepolis was also one of the most attacking teams in the IPL, and with scoring 47 goals, they had the second top offensive line in the league.

Sepahan were a strong and hard-working opponent for Persepolis in the title race until the last week of the league, but Golmohammadi's side were fully deserved to win the title. They are quite clearly head and shoulders above their rivals, and after a tough start to the season, they hit the top and looked unstoppable till the end of the league.

Persepolis finished the 20th edition of the IPL with 67 points, two points above Sepahan. Esteghlal came third with 56 points.

Excavation sheds new light on ancient cemetery in northern Iran

TEHRAN – A team of Iranian archaeologists has recently finished the sixth archaeological season on the Liar-Sang-Bon, an archaeological site and cemetery in the Amlash region, northern Gilan province.

The recent surveys have shown that the type and size of graves in this cemetery may have indicated the social status or rank of the buried individuals, ISNA quoted Iranian archaeologist Vali Jahani as saying on Sunday.

In the cemetery section of the site, which covers an area of about two hectares, 19 graves (21 burials) of different types were identified during the recent excavation, he explained.

A large majority of graves do not have any special structural features, and the holes are oval, however, the size of these graves appears to vary depending on the social status of the deceased, he added.

He also noted that typological research generally suggests the tombs date from the middle of the Parthian period (247 BC – 224 CE) through

the Sassanid era (224–651).

Various types of pottery and everyday objects, as well as weapons made of iron, were also discovered, he mentioned.

Back in January, DNA samples have been extracted from some ancient skeletons unearthed in Liar-Sang-Bon revealed that they date back to the Parthian and Sassanid periods.

Liar-Sang-Bon was initially identified in the Iranian calendar year 1391 (March 2012–March 2013) while its related mapping and demarcating projects were completed in 1393 and its first season of excavation commenced in 1395.

The site has undergone several archaeological surveys since then and the result has been the discovery of about 100 ancient tombs, a considerable number of historical objects, and very important information about the style and custom of burial of the people of that period.

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Experts sound alarm of global consequences over vaccine inequality

The reluctance of rich countries to distribute their excess coronavirus vaccines to poorer nations has prompted warnings from global financial and health organizations of the dangers that lie ahead.

The World Trade Organization is among the latest to issue a warning that global disparities in Covid vaccine rates will have an international impact on economic recovery from the pandemic. WTO Chief Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala says "Failure to ensure global access to vaccines poses a serious threat to the global economy and to public health."

Okonjo-Iweala also says that "trade performance is diverging significantly across regions, with unequal access to COVID-19 vaccines a major factor in the disparities."

She added, "this is especially true for low-income countries, where barely over

1 percent of their populations has received even one dose."

A similar message has been echoed by the International Monetary Fund, which warned, "vaccine access has emerged as the principal fault line along which the global recovery splits into two blocs."

That's a dangerous message from the IMF. Global recovery will not be sustainable across the board!

IMF Critics would say the institution will be pleased with the idea. The Washington-based organization will be standing by the telephone eagerly waiting for requests to send out massive bailout loans.

Of course, history shows governments struggle to repay the loans, then impose austerity measures and make matters much worse for their populations.

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Capital market realizes over \$161b of financing in a year

TEHRAN - Iranian Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Farhad Dejpasand has said the capital market realized 6.8 quadrillion rials (over \$161.9 billion) of financing in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

Speaking to the press on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting on Sunday, Dejpasand said: "The Economy Ministry plays a major role in formulating the country's economic policy."

"This ministry should take measures to facilitate

business and remove barriers so that investors can enter the market, and as a result, new job opportunities will be created," he added.

Over the past few years and especially since the re-imposition of the U.S. sanctions, the Iranian government has been implementing new strategies to cut reliance on oil and promote domestic production using internal capacities. The capital market was one of the major areas in which these new strategies manifested. As part of the mentioned strategies, the government

defined a holistic program to encourage the country's production sector to enter the capital market and use its huge capacities for funding development projects and boost production.

Back in February, Dejpasand had said that the capital market provided five quadrillion rials (over \$119 billion) of financing in the first 10 months of the previous Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2020–January 19, 2021).

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Elyasi winner of J5 Isfahan Tennis Tournament

TEHRAN – Samyar Elyasi claimed the title of the J5 Isfahan 2021 Tennis Tournament on Saturday.

The J5 Isfahan Tournament 2021 took place from July 26 to 31 at the 22 Bahman Stadium.

The event brought 150 boys and girls tennis players in Isfahan.

China's economic rise presents an alternative to Western model: researcher

BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI

TEHRAN – A researcher on the China program at the Institute of Regional Studies in Islamabad says that the People's Republic of China could successfully present an alternative model for Western one.

"The Chinese development path and governance presents an alternative model to the Western democratic system," Nabila Jaffar tells the Tehran Times. "China's rise can be attributed to its socialist values and democratic ideals," Jaffar adds.

While Western countries blame China for being a one-party system, the Pakistani analyst notes that "China developed a system that is democracy at the bottom, experimentation in the middle, and meritocracy at the top." According to Jaffar, "China's development path is not only remarkable but is also very encouraging and inclusive for the region."

Following is the text of the interview:
How do China's neighbors see Beijing's economic rise? How could China reach such a level of development?

China's development path is not only remarkable but is also very encouraging and inclusive for the region. China's rise can be attributed to its socialist values and democratic ideals. People's Republic of China (PRC) became a socialist republic ruled by One Party "the Communist Party of China" after it was founded on 1 October 1949.

China developed a system that is democracy at the bottom, experimentation in the middle, and meritocracy at the top. This system produced leadership of the level which is unprecedented in history.

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Leader to endorse Raisi as president on Tuesday

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Ebrahim Raisi will be formally endorsed as president on Tuesday by Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei.

During the endorsement ceremony, Raisi will receive the presidential mandate from Ayatollah Khamenei.



The ceremony will be attended by a number of high-ranking and mid-ranking officials as well as foreign dignitaries.

Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli will first present a report on the June presidential election in which Raisi won by a landslide. Raisi and the Leader will also deliver speeches respectively.

Two days later, Raeisi will be sworn in as president in the Majlis (parliament).

Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh announced on Sunday that dozens of delegations at the level of president, prime minister, parliament speaker, foreign minister or special envoy will visit Tehran to take part in the swearing-in ceremony on Thursday.

Khatibzadeh said the attendance of foreign officials at the ceremony demonstrates Iran's status and legitimacy in the world.

"Dozens of delegations traveling to Iran is a further manifestation of Iran's acceptance and legitimacy in the international arena," the spokesman remarked, according to Press TV.

Among the dignitaries, Iraqi President Barham Salih will most likely visit Iran for the inauguration ceremony.

"The visit of the Iraqi president is on schedule and he will most likely come to Iran to attend the swearing-in ceremony," Khatibzadeh said.

He added Salih's trip will fall within bilateral visits. Khatibzadeh said he was not certain whether a Saudi delegation would also be present at the ceremony.

"On the list of delegations, I have not seen presence of a representative or a delegation from Saudi Arabia and presently I cannot confirm a report in this regard," the Foreign Ministry spokesman stated.

Resistance front exposed Israel's vulnerability in tanker attack: journalist

The recent retaliatory attack on an Israeli-managed oil tanker off the coast of Oman in the Arabian Sea shows that the resistance front is in possession of resources and the technology capable of exposing Israel's vulnerability, says a Palestinian-American journalist.

Ramzy Baroud, an internationally syndicated columnist and the founder of PalestineChronicle.com, made the remarks in an interview with Press TV on Saturday while commenting on the Liberian-flagged, Japanese-owned ship Mercer Street that recently came under attack northeast of the Omani port of Duqm.

"Most of the information available regarding this incident comes from Israeli and American sources; the confirmation that drones have been used to attack the ship came specifically from the U.S. Navy's Fifth Fleet," Baroud said.

"Since no independent and trustworthy sources have confirmed - or denied - the sequence of events that led to the attack on the Mercer Street, we cannot discuss the event with total trust and reliance on Israeli and U.S. sources," he added.

The journalist said that the possible use of drones in the attack against the tanker vessel was indicative of "advanced surveillance and intelligence."

Baroud underlined that regardless of the possibility of an Israeli response, it seems that the "rules of the game have indeed changed and not in favor of Israel."

'The attack was a game changer'

Informed sources have said the attack on the tanker was in response to an Israeli missile attack on Syria and that the resistance front was serious in its resolve to stop the occupying regime's crimes in the region.

The Palestinian-American journalist described the move as a "game-changer" as the attack shattered Israel's fantasy of gaining a regional geostrategic position.

"This is a game changer. Since Israel began its normalization with Arab countries in that region, the understanding was that Israel has gained a geostrategic position vis-a-vis its attempt at isolating and targeting Iran," Baroud said. "Indeed, the Israeli regime and media were buying into this fantasy that the rules of the game have changed in favor of Israel."

Baroud went on to say that if the resistance front proves to be responsible for the attack on the Mercer Street, it means that it is willing to take serious measures to remind Israel that it must not be comfortable with the supposed status quo and that the outcome of the geostrategic conflict is yet to be determined.

Baroud said the attack was a warning to Tel Aviv that it would be held accountable for its aggression against resisting forces in the region, and that "Israel's enemies have the resources and the technology that can expose Israel's vulnerability in the region."

The Mercer Street came under attack about 152 nautical miles (280 km) northeast of the Omani port of Duqm on Thursday, according to the United Kingdom Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO), which provides maritime security information.

In a statement on Friday, Zodiac Maritime, the Israeli-owned firm managing the oil tanker, claimed that two crewmen, a Briton and a Romanian, had been killed in the assault.

In recent months, several other Israeli ships have come under attack on various maritime routes across the world.

Earlier this month, a fire broke out on an Israeli-owned cargo ship after it was struck by an "unidentified weapon" in the northern Indian Ocean. Lebanon's al-Mayadeen television network said at the time that the Israeli vessel had been en route to the coast of the UAE when it was attacked.

The attacks come against a backdrop of the Israeli regime's various assaults on cargo ships across the Persian Gulf region and elsewhere.

Iran: JCPOA is not over

‘U.S. must host all countries in New York’



inauguration ceremony became known, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Iranian embassies abroad began their activities in this regard.

In response to the question that according to some news outlets a delegation of Saudi officials is also scheduled to attend the inauguration of Ebrahim Raisi, the spokesman said, "I did not see the presence of a representative and a delegation from Saudi Arabia in the list of delegations. I should check again. I cannot confirm a report on this at this time."

"Hostage taking"

"What is happening is a blatant and brutal hostage-taking by the United States," the spokesman said of a recent U.S. citizen accusing an Iranian living in Canada of trying to circumvent sanctions and holding a trial for the Iranian citizen in Washington.

He stressed that Iran's priority is the release and return of Iranians from American prisons.

"The more hostages they take, the longer the list of Iranians who must be released."

"Iran supports initiatives promoting peace"

In response to another question about the "New Levent" project with the participation of Iraq, Egypt and Jordan and Iran's view on this issue, Khatibzadeh said, "The Islamic Republic of Iran has all the facilities to develop the role of Iraq as a friend and brother in the region, and any initiative promoting peace and stability in the area is welcomed and supported."

He continued by saying that what is mentioned is decades old.

"Of course, I do not know the exact dimensions of its declaration, but we generally welcome any initiative that contributes to peace and stability in the region," he added.

He said that the peace and security of Iran's neighbors is same as Iran's peace and security; their progress and development is the progress and development of Iran.

"Foreign Ministry pursuing legal actions about citizens beaten abroad"

The diplomat also responded to another question related to the news about the beating of an Iranian citizen in a detention center in Sweden and the actions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in this regard, as well as the Foreign Ministry's follow-up on the beating an Iranian citizen in Britain during the presidential elections. "Of course, these two issues mentioned are different from each

other. What happened in the field of voting has been seriously pursued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. There was appeasement and legal and judicial follow-up, and talks have been held with local officials, both security and political, and this issue will be followed up to the end."

He also commented on the beating of an Iranian citizen in a detention center in Sweden, saying, "From the very first moment we were informed about this, a note was given to Swedish authorities, and the Iranian ambassador to Sweden met with Swedish authorities."

"Iran closely follows Tunisia developments"

In response to another question about Iran's view of the latest developments in Tunisia, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said, "We are closely following the developments in Tunisia and we are with the government and people of this country to pass this stage."

Khatibzadeh continued, "We think that the only solution is to hold comprehensive talks, and everyone should show their commitment in practice as soon as possible to a political solution to this crisis."

"Maintaining Afghanistan security is Iran's top priority"

In response to another question about Iran's view of the latest developments in Afghanistan and Iran's efforts to establish peace in the neighboring country, the diplomat said that the situation in Afghanistan is serious.

"For the Islamic Republic of Iran, security of the Afghan people has always been a top priority. We have declared to all parties and groups in Afghanistan that they must consider the protection of the Afghan people in all their actions and talks," he noted.

Iran has always been ready to do whatever is necessary to achieve peace in this country and maintain the security of the Afghan people, he insisted.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has facilitated the first round of talks between the Afghan parties in Tehran and is ready to facilitate the second round."

He added that Iran believes there is no military solution to Afghanistan crisis.

"As we have repeatedly stated, the key is to hold genuine inter-Afghan dialogue and form an inclusive government with all Afghan groups. The Taliban are part of the

present and future of Afghanistan," Khatibzadeh highlighted.

He reiterated that everyone should be aware that genuine inter-Afghan dialogue can be a lasting peace solution for Afghanistan.

"Iran considers the security of Afghanistan as its security," he said, adding that Iran is in contact with all parties in Afghanistan and will do whatever is necessary to build lasting peace in Afghanistan.

"Jordan must refrain from making provocative statements"

Commenting on the King of Jordan's recent remarks about Iran during a visit to Washington, Khatibzadeh said that Iran thinks all countries should know that resolving the differences is the right way to go, and they should refrain from making provocative and baseless statements.

The diplomat added, "We welcome to have talks and consultations with various countries, including Jordan, within the framework of well-known diplomatic principles."

"You are in the wrong path!"

Addressing U.S. officials, Khatibzadeh said, "You cannot reach the right destination by repeating the wrong path. You must distance yourself from the sanctions mentality and the extreme caution you have towards sanctions, and the treatment of the addition to sanctions is respect for the Iranian people and international law."

He emphasized that all these measures are an obstacle when the United States wants to return to the JCPOA, and Iran is closely following and monitoring these issues.

"PGCC chief's remarks doesn't reflect views of all members"

The spokesman referred to the recent claims of the secretary general of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council against Iran, saying that these remarks show his lack of accurate knowledge of developments in West Asia and incomplete understanding of these developments. He must pay attention to the facts and be aware of the developments in the region.

Khatibzadeh continued, "We have repeatedly been told bilaterally about what he says that his statements are the message of one or two members of this council and these words do not represent all members of the Persian Gulf Council. Unfortunately, his statements are related to the positions of one or two member countries of this council."

The senior diplomat warned one or two countries and the secretary general of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council to review their positions and their incomplete knowledge of the developments in the region.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman continued, "What is going on in the Vienna talks is about how the United States will return to its commitments, in return for which Iran will fulfill its obligations in full, and other issues have nothing to do with these talks."

In remarks on Thursday, Nayef Al-Hajraf asked that the Vienna nuclear talks address Iran's ballistic missiles.

"Qatari FM visit was related to bilateral relations"

Khatibzadeh also responded to questions regarding the Qatari foreign minister's visit to Tehran by saying that the visit took place within bilateral ties and regional cooperation.

"This visit was bilateral and had nothing to do with the existing issues between Iran and the United States," he said.

Naval power is result of jihadi management, says Army official

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — A senior Army official said on Sunday that development of Makran coasts and great increase in Iran's naval power are the result of a professional performance which he described as "jihadi management".

Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari, the deputy army commander for coordination affairs, made the remarks in a ceremony inaugurating the Yas Fatemi building at the nursing faculty of the Army Medical University.

Sayyari said jihadi management is associated with firm determination, seriousness, diligence, goal setting, accuracy, and serious efforts.

Citing examples of jihadi spirit, he said, "We succeeded



Iran vehemently rejects Bahraini claims, says judicial process is flawed

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — In a statement on Saturday afternoon Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh strongly condemned baseless accusations of a Bahraini court against the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), saying that the judicial process was flawed.

In response to the action of the Bahraini High Criminal Court against the CBI and several other banks of Iran and fining them on false charges, the Khatibzadeh stated that

Iran rejects claims by the Bahraini court.

The spokesman added, "The judicial process in the courts of Bahrain against the central bank and Iranian individuals and banks is so distorted that we do not have any official and reliable source to know the details of the cases, except for some media sources. Therefore, any announcement in this regard is based on the news published in the media."

Khatibzadeh emphasized that the general

purpose behind such baseless accusations and claims against the central bank, Saderat and Melli banks and some of the managers of these banks are based on political motives and have no legal value.

According to media reports, Bahrain's High Criminal Court has accused the CBI, along with a number of other Iranian banks and their officials, of being involved in "money laundering" activities.

The Bahraini public prosecutor has sen-

tenced the defendants to various terms of imprisonment as well as financial punishment.

The CBI and the other Iranian banks were handed fines of 1 million Bahraini dinars each, and that confiscation was ordered of laundered funds.

Bahrain's public prosecutor and state-owned news service claimed that the prosecution was "the largest money laundering case in the history of the kingdom."

‘Large number of Khuzestan protesters released’

Head of Judiciary Office in Khuzestan province Sadeq Moradi announced on Sunday that a large number of protesters arrested during the recent protests at water shortage in the southwestern province have been released.

"Upon an order by the Judiciary chief (Gholam Hossein Mohseni Ejei) to the Judiciary's Office in Khuzestan to immediately release those who have been detained during

the recent incidents solely for protests, the cases of the detainees were immediately investigated and the necessary orders were issued to free these protesters," Moradi told reporters in Ahvaz.

He also referred to his Sunday visit to Ahvaz prison for several hours to expedite the process of releasing the protesters, and said, "Over the past two days, a significant number

of those who had participated in the recent unrests only to protest were released, and a number of others will be freed in the coming days after completing the legal process."

Moradi said cases of a few individuals who had carried out armed attacks will be sent to the relevant courts as soon as possible.

(Source: Fars)

Israel fails to fish in troubled waters

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** – While Iran has strongly rejected allegations of involvement in a mysterious attack on an Israeli-operated oil tanker off the coast of Oman, Israeli officials seek to fish in the troubled waters of the region to create a united front against Iran.

The recent alleged drone attack on the Israeli ship has led to wild speculations ranging from an Israeli “retaliatory” strike inside Iran to derailment of the already faltering nuclear talks between Iran and the West in Vienna.

Israel seems eager to intensify these speculations by taking advantage of the attack and signaling out Iran as a threat to international security. This is while Iran strongly repudiated the allegations Israel leveled against it.

The Israeli-operated ship Mercer Street came under attack off the coast of Oman on Thursday while traveling from Dar es Salaam in Tanzania to the United Arab Emirates port of Fujairah. The oil tanker, managed by Israeli shipping magnate Eyal Ofer’s Zodiac Maritime, was reportedly attacked by suicide drones. Zodiac Maritime said two crewmen, a British and Romanian national, died in the attack.

“With profound sadness, we understand the incident onboard the M/T Mercer Street on 29 July, 2021 has resulted in the deaths of two crew members on board,” the UK-based Israeli company said in a statement on Friday afternoon, a day after the attack.

No country claimed responsibility for the attack but the Iranian news channel Al-Alam said the attack came in retaliation for an earlier Israeli strike against the al-Dhaba’a airport in the Syrian city of al-Qusayr which killed two men from the Resistance.

The Iranian broadcaster did not identify the Resistance groups behind the attack.

But Israeli and Western intelligence sources pointed the finger at Iran, accusing it of carrying out a drone attack on the Israeli ship.

Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett claimed that Tel Aviv knows with certainty Iran attacked the Mercer Street ship and will respond to it.

“I determine, with absolute certainty –



Iran carried out the attack against the ship,” Bennett stated, according to the Jerusalem Post. “The intelligence evidence for this exists and we expect the international community will make it clear to the Iranian regime that they have made a serious mistake.”

He noted, “In any case, we know how to send a message to Iran in our own way.”

Bennet’s remarks came after Iran denied any involvement in the Thursday attack. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh denounced the Israeli allegations against Iran, saying Iran had nothing to do with the attack.

“The illegitimate entity of the occupation regime in Jerusalem must stop leveling false accusation. This is not the first time the regime has made such accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Khatibzadeh said at his weekly press briefing which was held a day earlier this week. “Wherever this regime has gone, it has carried with it insecurity, terror and violence.”

“Those responsible for the current situation are those who opened the door for the occupation regime in Jerusalem to enter the region,” the spokesman continued.

Khatibzadeh also warned the Israeli regime about continuing its projections, saying, “He who sows winds, reaps storms.”

“The Islamic Republic of Iran does not hesitate for a moment to protect the supreme interests of the people and its own national security,” Khatibzadeh continued.

Despite this denial, Israel continued to threaten Iran with response while trying to use the attack as an excuse to undermine the Vienna nuclear talks which have been put on hold due to unresolved differences between Iran and the United States.

The former head of the Israeli Military Intelligence, Division Amos Yadlin, called on Israeli officials to use the attack to influence the final version of the agreement between Iran and the West.

In a Twitter thread on Sunday, Yadlin claimed that Iran shot itself in the foot by killing two European nationals on board Mercer Street. He tweeted that Israel must politically leverage what he called “the Iranian terrorist attack” by addressing the Security Council and friendly countries, even when the international community is afraid to confront Iran and gives priority to the issue of a

return to the nuclear deal, which is currently experiencing difficulties.

He added that it is important for Israel to continue its campaign while closely controlling the escalation, and to focus on the two critical issues for Israel’s security – stopping the nuclear program and thwarting the precision-guided missile project.

To this end, Israeli officials contacted their counterparts in the U.S. and the UK in a bid to push the two negotiating partners of Iran to adopt a hawkish stance on Tehran. Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid held phone calls with his foreign counterparts and instructed Israeli ambassadors in London, Washington and New York to send in meetings with relevant parties at the capitals and in the UN.

Israel began to push for a United Nations Security Council condemnation against Tehran for the attack.

The Jerusalem Post quoted a diplomatic source as saying that Israel is “working with other countries, especially Britain and the United States, and more to advance the Security Council’s discussion on” the latest attack.

Israeli media also pushed for exploiting the attack to influence the Vienna talks. The Israeli Army Radio said that both the political and military echelons in Tel Aviv are interested in exploiting the attack to give Israel political gains, and to push for accepting its positions regarding the conditions that must be met before returning to the nuclear agreement with Iran, according to an Al Araby Al Jadeed report.

The radio pointed out that Israel has embarked on a large-scale political and diplomatic campaign, in an attempt to mobilize the international community against Iran and justify Israel’s allegations about Iranian expansionism in the region among the issues that the future agreement between Iran and the great powers must address.

Israel has been isolated on Iran ever since the nuclear talks began in April. It opposed the talks but its opposition to the Iran nuclear deal failed to prevent Washington and its European allies from starting talks with Iran.

Iran to publish book on U.S. non-compliance with JCPOA: Zarif

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** – Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has announced that the recent letter he sent to the UN secretary-general about the United States’ non-adherence to its commitments under the 2015 Iran nuclear deal will soon be published as a book.

On July 20, 2021, Zarif wrote his last and long letter to UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres which was released for the first time by the Iranian Foreign Ministry on July 30.

On July 20, 2021, and on the sixth anniversary of the ratification of UN Security Council Resolution 2231, Foreign Minister Zarif, in a letter to the UN chief, documented a wrap-up of the Western parties’ non-implementation of their commitments as a document at the UN Secretariat.

The letter was published in both Persian and English with an introduction by Foreign Minister Zarif, along with the documents of six years of Western non-implementation of the JCPOA written by him on various occasions.

The collection written by Zarif has been prepared in four pages by the Institute for Political and International Studies, the digital version of which is now available to the public.

The printed version of the books will also be available in the publishing market next week, according to the Institute for Political and International Studies.

Zarif confirmed that the letter will be published soon. Speaking on the sidelines of the last session of Hassan Rouhani’s cabinet on Sunday, he said, “In a letter, I wrote to the secretary-general of the United Nations two weeks ago, we recorded the history of this non-compliance since September 2016. And these misdeeds became a book that will be published soon. This shows that we tried our best, but factors outside the government and factors outside the country prevented us from achieving the result we wanted.”

In what appeared to be his parting shot, Zarif elaborated on the Iranian Foreign Ministry’s achievements during his tenure as Iran’s top diplomat. He said the ministry made efforts to import Covid vaccines while focusing on domestic production of these vaccines.

“As the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we had a duty to help access foreign vaccines, which we did in the service of the Ministry of Health, and we are happy that more than 10 million foreign vaccines have entered the country so far, and we plan to import further 10 million more in the coming months. And this important shortcoming that is general vaccination will be addressed,” he stated.

Zarif noted, “Efforts have been made in the field of economic diplomacy and credibility abroad, and I think today



“They feel sad at the JCPOA, so they try to add regional and missile issues to it while we want to add nothing to it. We believe in the JCPOA in its original format.”

the world is looking at Iranians as a reasonable and reliable person and a person who stands by his word but does not bow to oppression.”

=====“World realized it is America that needs to change its behavior”

He went on to inveigh against the U.S. non-compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

“We defeated the Americans in the JCPOA despite the fact that the American economic power was able to put pressure on the people, but they failed three times in two months in the United Nations. These show that our people have proved to the world who creates the problem in the world and who must change his behavior. Today, the people of the world realized that it is America that needs to change its behavior. You remember that the United States was announcing that Iran should change its behavior, and this achievement is a gift to these great people,” the Iranian foreign minister pointed out.

Responding to a question on what was the most important thing that he did in the last eight years, Zarif said, “The most important thing we did was the JCPOA.”

“JCPOA was a temporary development to exclude Iran from Chapter Seven of the UN Charter. If the JCPOA was

not in our favor, they [the West] would not have made a condition for it to continue today. They feel sad at the JCPOA, so they try to add regional and missile issues to it while we want to add nothing to it. We believe in the JCPOA in its original format. We are not saying to add other issues to the JCPOA. Who says to add issues to the JCPOA? The United States and Europe. Why do they say? Because it shows that they could not do this in the JCPOA.”

“By the end of the week, the Etela’at Institute will publish a six-volume history of the JCPOA negotiations, and people will see what their servants and devotees have done at the Foreign Ministry,” Zarif said, noting, “The fact that the United States and Europe are non-compliant countries and failed to live up to their promise does not mean that we trusted them, it does not mean that we negotiated badly, but it does indicate that there are a number of countries in the world that do not adhere to international rules. They are not committed.”

In response to the question about what was the best thing that he wanted to do in these eight years but could not, he said, “I wanted us to be able to attract more capital to the country. \$85 billion was an investment proposal. I wanted to attract these funds to serve the Iranian people. If we had had the opportunity to attract these funds, the sanctions on Iran would have been much lower.”

He added, “We can be vaccinated against sanctions in two ways. One is by making the world dependent on ourselves, whether in the global value cycle or in foreign investment, in a way that imposing sanctions on us affects others, and the second is to reduce the effects of sanctions on Iran. The same thing as what the Leader called Resistance Economy. These two points can prevent sanctions, part of which is not in the hands of the Foreign Ministry. We did what we could do.”

Zarif stated, “We do not trust anyone except God and our people, which is the way of life in the world. We do not trust any strangers, but not trusting does not mean not interacting.”

Zarif asserted, “We, as the Islamic Republic, have a duty to interact with the world, to interact with open eyes, we must not trust anyone. International relations are not a place of trust, even the closest ally in international relations cannot be trusted, but we do not have an ally.”

“I testify that none of the negotiators ever trusted the United States. If we wanted to trust, the result would be the same two-page document that Trump signed with some. If you see, we ended up with 160 pages of the document because of distrust. It was because we wanted to express all issues.”

Iran issues travel warning to Afghanistan

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** – The Iranian embassy in Kabul issued a statement urging Iranian citizens to refrain from traveling to Afghanistan until further notice due to escalating security risks.

The Iranian embassy stressed that if citizens urgently need an emergency trip to Afghanistan, they can travel to Kabul only for a limited time and with the assurance of a return flight, with prior coordination with the embassy.

The statement noted that citizens of the Islamic Republic of Iran who live and work

in the cities and regions of Afghanistan, with the exception of Kabul, are advised to leave Afghanistan as soon as possible.

Clashes between the Afghan government and the Taliban have intensified in recent weeks as the United States started withdrawing its troops from the war-torn country after 20 years of occupation.

Iran, as a neighboring country, stepped in to de-escalate the tensions and help bring peace to Afghanistan by establishing contacts with both sides of the conflict. To this end, Iranian diplomats traveled to Kabul to meet

Afghan leaders. They also hosted in Tehran meetings between the Taliban and the other Afghan stakeholders.

In late July, Mohammad Ebrahim Taherian, the special representative of the Iranian Foreign Ministry for Afghanistan, and his accompanying delegation met with Afghan Foreign Minister Mohammad Hanif Atmar in Kabul, discussing the latest developments surrounding Afghanistan.

Taherian assured the Afghan foreign minister of Tehran’s support for the peace process in Afghanistan while maintaining

the achievements the Afghans have made over the past two decades.

The special envoy also called for further cooperation between Kabul and Tehran in various areas, including border cooperation and coordination between different sectors.

According to the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Atmar said he appreciates the reasonable stances of Iran in supporting peace efforts, ending violence, putting an end to arbitrary killings and torture of civilians, and human rights violations in the territories captured by the Taliban.

S P O R T S

Iran volleyball knocked out of Tokyo Olympics

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** – Iran national volleyball team lost to Japan 3-2 (25-21, 20-25, 29-31, 25-22, 15-13) on Sunday and bade farewell to the 2020 Olympic Games.



Nishida Yuji led the Japanese team with 30 points, while Meysam Salehi scored 26 points for Iran.

Iran finished in fifth place in the six-team table in Group A and failed to book a place in the quarterfinals.

Vladimir Alekno’s men started the campaign with an epic 3-2 victory over archrivals Poland and eased past Venezuela in their second match.

Iran could have qualified for the next stage with a win over Canada but were defeated 3-0 against the team. Iran also lost to Italy and Japan and came fifth in the table with just six points.

Poland finished first with 13 points, followed by Italy who earned 11 points.

Japan and Canada qualified for the quarterfinals with eight and seven points, respectively.

Dick Advocaat named Iraq head coach

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** – Dick Advocaat has been officially confirmed as the new head coach of the Iraq national team.

Advocaat left Feyenoord at the end of the season and was expected to retire, but the 73-year old has instead decided to take on a new challenge.

Advocaat has been named as the new head coach of Iraq and will be charged with leading the country to the World Cup next year, football-oranje.com reported.

The experienced coach is now heading for his seventh national team position after the Netherlands, the United Arab Emirates, South Korea, Belgium, Russia, and Serbia.

Iraq are in Group A of the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification Round 3 along with Iran, the UAE, South Korea, Lebanon and Syria.

Isfahan chosen to host Iran’s Hazfi Cup final

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** – The final match of Iran’s Hazfi Cup will be held in Isfahan’s Naghsh-e Jahan Stadium.

The final match is slated for Aug. 8.

Esteghlal will play Gol Gohar in semifinals while Foolad host Malavan on Aug. 4.

The Iran’s Hazfi Cup was founded in 1975 and Esteghlal are the most successful club with seven titles, followed by Persepolis who have won six titles.

Tractor are Hazfi Cup defending champions. Esteghlal are the most decorated team in the competition, winning the title seven times, followed by Persepolis with six titles.

The competition was founded in 1975.

Korean shooter expresses apology to Javad Foroughi

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** – Shooter Jin Jong-oh has apologized for his “inappropriate comments” on Iranian 10-meter air pistol gold medalist, Javad Foroughi.

Last week, Jin criticized of the International Olympic Committee (IOC) for “allowing the Iranian shooter to win the top spot at the Olympics.”

But the remark has drawn criticism from the public, as the comment did not show any respect for his competitor.

“I express my apology to Foroughi,” Jin said on his social network platform, Saturday. “I respect the Olympic champion.”

The message came a day after the Iranian Embassy in Korea urged people here to stop criticizing Foroughi, koreatimes.co.kr reported.

“I was not careful enough to check out the facts over some reports (on Foroughi), and I should also have been more considerate,” Jin said.

Jin, 42, has so far clinched a total of four gold and two silver medals at the Olympics, but failed to continue his winning streak in Tokyo.

Ehsan Hajsafi to join AEK Athens

S P O R T S d e s k **TEHRAN** – Ehsan Hadjisafi is expected to join Greek team AEK.

According to the Iranian press, the 31-year-old left-back is traveling to Greece to complete his transfer to AEK.

The championship in Iran is now over and Ehsan Hajsafi has completed his obligations with Sepahan, who finished in second place in the Iranian championship.

Once confirmed, this move will see the return of the 31-year-old Iranian to Greece, with the Iranian website “varzesh3” stating that Hajsafi flew to Greece to complete his transfer to AEK.

The experienced Iranian has previously featured for Greek clubs Panionios and Olympiacos, and will reunite with national team striker, Karim Ansarifard.

Capital market realizes over \$161b of financing in a year

➔ 1 The official had stressed that in order to realize the government programs for the capital market, it is necessary to plan in such a way that the currency market and the capital market go forward side by side and act in harmony.



“Today, Iran is free from absolute dependence on oil, and the volume of non-oil exports is more than the oil exports. The share of non-oil exports in total exports has increased significantly and this trend is expected to continue after the sanctions are removed,” the minister said..

Dejpasand also stressed the role of the private sector in realizing the goals of the stock market, adding: “We have achieved good results in this field, which is undeniable.”

“The government cannot achieve economic development without the private sector,” he said.

IME’s value of weekly trade increases 150%

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — The value of trades at Iran d e s k Mercantile Exchange (IME) increased 150 percent during the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

As reported by the IME’s Public Relations and International Affairs Department, 895,813 tons of various types of commodities with a total value of more than \$290 million were traded at the exchange, showing also 122 percent growth in the weight of goods.

The exchange sold 611,807 tons of commodities worth more than \$124 million on its metals and minerals trading floor.

Commodities traded on this floor included 59,677 tons of steel, 6,030 tons of copper, 5,450 tons of aluminum, 120 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 30 tons of precious metals concentrate, 540 tons of zinc ingots, 506,960 tons of cement, 30,000 tons of iron ore, 1 kg of gold bars and 3,000 tons of sponge iron (DRI).

Furthermore, the IME saw trade of 282,690 tons of commodities valued at more than \$165 million on the domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor.

On this floor, customers purchased 58,150 tons of vacuum bottom, 56,687 tons of bitumen, 74,730 tons of polymeric products, 36,229 tons of chemicals, 47,000 tons of lube cut, 4,981 tons of base oil, 20 tons of argon, 2,000 tons of slops wax, 210 tons of insulation and 2,225 tons of sulfur.

Also, 1,551 tons of commodities changed hands on the IME’s side market within the same week.



As previously reported, during the past Iranian calendar month (June 22-July 22), 4.21 million tons of commodities worth \$1.56 billion were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange.

The volume of traded commodities shows an 11-percent growth on a monthly basis.

The exchange played host to trading 2.555 million tons of commodities on its metals and minerals trading floor, valued at more than \$830 million.

On this floor, the exchange saw trades of 821,176 tons of steel, 1,252,000 tons of cement, 15,785 tons of copper, 490 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 63 tons of precious metals concentrate, 21,495 tons of aluminum, 280,500 tons of iron ore, 107,785 tons of zinc, 400 tons of coke, 16,000 tons of cast iron, 47,500 tons of sponge iron and 34 kg of gold bars.

Furthermore, there were 1,449,000 tons of commodities sold on both domestic and export pits of the IME’s oil and petrochemical trading floor with a total trading value of more than \$717 million.

The IME’s customers purchased on this floor 349,831 tons of bitumen, 320,321 tons of polymeric products, 125,773 tons of chemicals, 15,908 tons of base oil, 100 tons of slops wax, 492,350 tons of vacuum bottom, 27,025 tons of sulfur, 450 tons of argon, 1,030 tons of insulation and 113,000 tons of lube cut.

It’s worth noting that there was 16,605 tons of various types of commodities traded on the IME’s side market.

The value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) rose 108 percent compared to the preceding year.

During the past year, about 3.5 quadrillion rials (about \$83.5 billion) worth of commodities were traded at the mentioned market.

In the past year, several new records were achieved in terms of the volume and value of transactions in the mentioned market’s various floors including the industrial, petroleum, and petrochemical floors.

IME is one of the four major stock markets of Iran, the other three markets are Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran’s over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

Nearly \$15b supplied for import of basic goods in 4 months

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Central d e s k Bank of Iran (CBI) has supplied about \$15 billion for importing basic and essential commodities as well as medicine in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), IRIB reported.

As reported, the figure has increased 27 percent compared to the same period in the previous Iranian calendar year.

Some \$4.6 billion of the mentioned figure was allocated for the imports of essential goods and medicine, which was 70 percent more than the allocation in the previous year’s same time span.

Of the above-mentioned figure, \$1.546 billion was provided for importing corn, barley and wheat, \$1.124 billion for oilseeds and edible oil, \$1.171 billion for medicine and medical equipment, and \$348 million for soybean meal.

Also, \$10.4 billion in foreign exchange was provided for other basic commodities, registering an increase of 15 percent over



the same period last year.

Back in July, Iranian President Hassan

Rouhani had said that enough basic and strategic goods were imported into the

Transit of goods via Iran’s land borders rises 95%

➔ 1 According to Ruhollah Latifi, transit of goods via Iran declined only 67 tons or 0.8 percent compared to the preceding year 1398 (March 2019-March 2020).

The mentioned volume of transit was achieved despite the fact that the figure was expected to fall significantly in the said year.

Iran is one of the countries that has a special status in trade and transit relations due to its strategic location and special geography, as the country is the passage of several important international corridors.

In the south of Iran is the Persian Gulf, which is home to the world’s major oil-producing countries. This region is considered as the energy bottleneck of the world.

In the north of Iran is the Caspian Sea, which is the best bridge between Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan and can play an important role in trade between these countries.

The country, on the other hand, borders Iraq, Turkey, Pakistan and Afghanistan to the west and east.

In other words, it can be said that Iran communicates with 15 countries through land and water borders, and at

the same time it can act as a bridge between these countries (with each other and other parts of the world).

These countries have a large population and high income which can be effective as a factor in the development of transit and trade in the region.

The connection of Central Asian countries with the Persian Gulf, as well as the establishment of trade relations between East Asia and European countries through Iran, is very cost-effective, so that many of these countries seek to establish such relations through Iran.

This status has provided the country with many opportunities that making optimal use of them through the expansion of the transportation network and reliable and efficient communication, Iran can achieve foreign currency earnings and economic growth, and make transit revenue a suitable alternative to oil export, while improving its strategic position in the region.

Considering its geographical location, Iran can play a significant role in the transit of goods in the region and benefit a lot from its status in this due. To take full advantage of its location for transit, the country has many plans underway



and, on the agenda, to boost its transit capacity.

Some of these plans include developing Shahid Rajaei Port, Iran’s largest and most-equipped container port in the south, and also Chabahar Port in the southeast of the country, connecting the ports to the railway network, development of transit via railway, and also some customs measures such as improving transit procedures in the customs offices.

Preparation made for building 1.3m affordable housing units across Iran

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran’s d e s k deputy transport and urban development minister announced that planning has been made and preparations have been done to start constructing 1.3 million affordable housing units across the country.

Mahmoud Mahmoudzadeh said the required regulations have been prepared and facilities have been created to provide land for the mentioned housing units by the next government, ILNA reported on Sunday.

“With the measures taken, the conditions

are more favorable for the new government to begin the work,” Mahmoudzadeh noted.

He went on to say that currently, over 534,000 housing units are in various stages of construction and implementation under the framework of the National Housing Action Plan, of which more than 40,000 units have been handed over to the owners.

The official noted that the National Housing Action Plan is not getting any funding from the government and no credit line has been allocated to the project.

The National Housing Action Plan initially

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

The first phase of the plan which started in August 2019, was completed in May 2020 and several housing units were handed over to the owners in Southern Kerman Province.

At the second stage, 20,000 units were handed over to the applicants in the previous Iranian calendar month (ended on July 22).

Back in March Transport Minister

Mohammad Eslami had announced that 510,000 residential units will be provided for the applicants under the framework of the National Housing Action Plan.

Earlier that month Mahmoudzadeh had said that the construction costs for the National Housing Action Plan are set based on the current year’s construction material price list and haven’t changed.

The official made the remarks in response to some rumors about the rise in the prices of such housing units as a result of the increase in construction costs.

‘Bidboland gas refinery plays a significant role in Iranian energy industry’

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Managing Director of Iran’s d e s k Persian Gulf Bid Boland Gas Refinery has said the refinery is playing a significant role in providing feed to the country’s petrochemical plants and completing their output basket.

“The position of this refinery is very important in supplying feed to petrochemical units and completing the country’s energy basket,” Mahmoud Aminnejad said on Sunday in a ceremony for celebrating the achievements of the country’s petrochemical industry in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

Underlining that the refinery was constructed in a condition when the country was under significant pressure due to the U.S. sanctions, the official said: “the project is important because it has made us able to process and refine the associated gases collected from the country’s oil fields.”

“With the construction of Bidboland Persian Gulf gas refinery, the oil industry’s 110-year-old dream of collecting and processing oil’s associated gases has been fulfilled,” he said.

He called Bidboland Persian Gulf Gas Refinery one of the most important projects among all South Pars projects



and said: “After sour gas entered this refinery, we reached product in less than seven days.”

Persian Gulf Bid Boland Gas Refinery, in which \$3.4 billion has been invested, was officially inaugurated by President Hassan Rouhani in southwestern Khouzestan Province in late January.

The refinery was put into operation with the aim of increasing the production of sweet gas, reducing the con-

sumption of petroleum products, production of propane, butane, and gas condensate, the export of by-products, the supply of natural gas to urban areas, and supplying ethane required by petrochemical units in the region.

The refinery, which took 36 months to complete, has a daily processing capacity of more than 56 million cubic meters of associated gas and is expected to generate \$700 million of revenue every year.

This complex receives about 13,500 tons of sour gas per year from NGL 900 and 1000 Plants while receiving 2.25 million tons of sweet gas from NGL 1200 and 1300 Plants.

As the largest gas refinery project in West Asia, Bid Boland will have an annual production capacity of 10.4 million tons of methane, 1.5 million tons of ethane, one million tons of propane, 600,000 tons of gas condensates, and 500,000 tons of butane.

In 2020, Bid Bolad Refinery project was nominated for the International Project Management Association (IPMA)’s Global Project Excellence Award at the energy sector; it was also awarded as Iran’s top mega project by the Ninth National Project Management Award.

TEDPIX gains 8,700 points on Sunday

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, d e s k the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), increased 8,786 points to 1.36 million on Sunday.

As reported, over 6.993 billion securities worth 55,209 trillion rials (about \$1.314 billion) were traded at the TSE on Sunday.

The first market’s index rose 4,906 points, and the second market’s index increased 22,475 points.

TEDPIX had risen 5,000 points in the past Iranian calendar week.

The index closed at 1.316 million points on Wednesday (the last working day of the week).

During the past week, the indices of Civil Servants Pension Fund (CSPF), Social Security Investment Company, and Barekat Pharmaceutical Group were the most widely followed indices

Market Analyst Mehdi Bayat-Manesh has

said that TEDPIX is going to improve in the second half of the current Iranian calendar month (ends on August 22).

Bayat-Manesh said on Saturday that considering the current trend of capital inflow into the market TEDPIX is expected to rise in the current month.

“It is expected that the upward trend of the market in the last one month, when the stock index rose from 1.4 million points to 1.8 million points, will continue, and it is also likely that according to the forecasts, the stock index will once again enter the 1.4 million-point channel by the end of the current month,” he said.

According to Bayat-Manesh, the government policies for supporting the upward trend of the market should continue in the coming months in order to ensure this upward trend.

“It is also better for the managers of Iran’s

Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) to also take the necessary measures for supporting the market so that the stock market index can once again reach more than two million points, which takes at least a few months to happen.”

He pointed to the continuous increase in inflation rate in recent months and its effect on capital market transactions and added: “Shareholders’ fears and worries about investing in the market will be eliminated by increasing government support and will increase their willingness to invest in this market.”

Following the supportive measures taken by the government, the Iranian stock market has been gradually getting back on track and experts believe that the market is regaining people’s trust.

In early July, Market Expert Reza Alavi

said that the inflow of liquidity into the market and the increase in the value of transactions indicate that people are once again trusting the capital market.

“At present, other markets such as gold, foreign currency, and cars are not attractive enough for investors, and the stock market is still a good place for people’s investments,” Alavi said.

“After the election debates, people have come to the conclusion that the stock market is one of the priorities of the new government, and for this reason, they have re-trusted this market, and as a result, the inflow of new capital into the market has increased,” he noted.

The analyst further mentioned the rise in the global oil prices and the stability of the foreign currency exchange market as factors that resulted in the stability of the stock market.

China's economic rise presents an alternative to Western model: researcher

➔ History has reckoned China as a major contributor to global GDP for centuries but in 1950 China's GDP stood at 5 percent share in the world. After Opium Wars in the 18th century, China's economy was severely affected and it turned out to be a poor country. But the Chinese are resolute people. Through resilience, hard work, consistency, pragmatic approach and reforms the CPC leadership put the country on the continued development course. According to a veteran expert on China in Pakistan Ambassador Syed Hassan Javed, China was facing many challenges when Deng Xiaoping was contemplating economic reforms but China knew how to convert challenges to opportunities.

China experienced unprecedented growth in its economy after premier Deng Xiaoping opened up to foreign trade and investment by implementing free-market reforms in 1979. China also turned the opportunity of membership in WTO to its advantage. China learned from the best practices of other economies and also embarked on technological upgradation. China won the title of the second-largest economy in 2014 with GDP growth averaged nearly 10 percent over the span of more than a decade. The fast and sustained development of China shows the advantages of the consistent policies of the one-party system.

The success of these models is manifested in China's capability to bring out millions of its people from poverty. The development in all fields including economy, science and technology has landed China in a powerful position. China has become the global engine of growth. Its expanding economic partnership in the world has also given it political leverage in global affairs.

The Chinese development path and governance presents an alternative model to the Western democratic system. The Chinese model of governance unlike the Western democratic process follows merit in the selection of the leader. It shows that there could be another system with successful outcomes other than the Western democracy. The world can learn from the democracy at the grass-root level and socialist formula for the equal development of all regions in China. China's central government focuses more on the least developed provinces. The surplus resources of the developed provinces are diverted to the development of the poor provinces. China considers this economic rise as the revival of its past.

What opportunities can China provide for Asian countries?

China's economic rise offered tremendous opportunities to the neighboring countries. China's vision for the community of a shared future for mankind and shared destiny is a driving force behind inclusive development in the region.

China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) covers the entire Asian continent through its six corridors focused on connectivity networks, infrastructure, energy and industrial zones which will also lift the economies of the partner countries. China is not only the biggest trading partner of many countries in the region especially the ASEAN region, but the BRI initiative is giving the opportunities to host both manufacture activities in addition to trade and transit through the corridors connecting land routes with the sea routes.

China Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) is considered a game-changer project for Pakistan's economic development. The first phase of CPEC has yielded beneficial results for the country by investing in energy and infrastructure projects. Pakistan was facing acute electricity shortages.

But now our national grid is catering to the electricity needs through the addition of new power plants with the help of China's investment under CPEC. Similarly, China also decreased the reliance of small neighbors in South Asia on India. All the small South Asian countries have become partners in China's infrastructural development projects. Besides that, China's \$400 billion deal with Iran also includes Iran in the BRI drive for regional development through trade and energy connectivity. Such kinds of opportunities are also bringing major geopolitical shifts in the region.

How do you evaluate the U.S.-China trade row? Is the U.S. capable of containing China?



Despite waging a trade war with China, the U.S. trade deficit with China is still high. Even after the Phase One deal in January 2020 to address the trade deficit, the implementation process remained slow because of the Covid pandemic. China could not achieve the target of purchasing \$200 billion of goods from the U.S. The new administration of the U.S. is also determined to address the trade deficit problem while maintaining high tariffs on imports from China. The U.S. will maintain pressure through increasing tariffs and also banning China's high-tech but it cannot decouple the economy from China in near future.

China is also a leader in the production of rare-earth metals which are not abundant in the world. The U.S. had stopped production of rare earth metals in 2002 because it could not catch up with China and also due to environmental degradation. Since then, the U.S. has been dependent on importing rare earth metals and semiconductors for its electronics. China was responsible for 80 percent of rare earth export to the U.S. in 2019 which decreased due to Covid in 2020. When the trade war escalated between the two countries, China also threatened to block the rare earth export to the U.S. China can cause consumer costs in the U.S. if it weaponizes the metals.

The U.S. has accelerated efforts to revive its indigenous production of rare earth minerals to decrease its dependence on China. In 2019, when the trade war escalated, the U.S. inflicted a 25 percent increase in tariffs on \$ 250 billion on China's exports to the U.S., in retaliation China could only increase 25 percent tariffs on 110 billion imports from the U.S. because of the trade deficit between the two countries.

Despite this huge difference in the tariffs increase on China's goods given its larger volume in trade with the U.S., the trade war has not hurt China's economy. Compared to the year 2019, pandemic affected the U.S. foreign trade of goods by shrinking it to 8.8 percent in 2020 with total trade of \$3.84 trillion. On the other hand, despite the pandemic, China's foreign trade volume increased to \$4.65 trillion which makes it the number 1 trader in the world.

China's economy has reached maturity. China had become the biggest manufacture in the world in 2010. China adopted new economic measures in 2015 to avoid the middle-income trap in 2015. It introduced innovations in its economy to increase domestic consumptions and decreasing its dependence on fixed market investments. The U.S. attempts could not hurt China much because China is also doing great in trade with other global partners. For instance, the ASEAN countries the trade volumes with China were 4.74 trillion yuan (\$731.9 billion) in 2020 by making it the number one trading bloc of China with a 7 percent growth every year.

Do you think China can lead the global economy in the near future? Don't you expect emerging Asian powers, like India and Turkey, to form a coalition

with China?

With the U.S. protectionist policies under the Trump presidency, China's economic influence further expanded. China has become the leader of the new phase of globalization and a firm supporter of the open market system. China is expanding its soft power by promoting new norms against the zero-sum politics of the U.S.

This changing scenario has created opportunities for China to adopt a leadership role with its distinct ideology and norms, especially in the Asian continent. Although the U.S. is warning other countries against the debt trap China's win-win cooperation strategy has an increasing potential to attract more partners. China, apart from its governance and economic model, is also introducing new norms in the Western led global order. By globalizing its economic policies, China is also reaching out to the world politically which opens new avenues for cooperation on international security. China can use its increasing influence to the advantage of the global community. China is also advocating for reforms in international systems to adhere to the democratic rules-based world. China is against unilateralism in the international system and it wants to promote a new type of international relations with its vision of development and prosperity for the shared future of mankind.

Given the present scenario in which India is economically entangled with China but in the military, political and strategic terms, it has embraced the U.S., it cannot be determined that in near future India can make a coalition with China. The relations between China and India are complex. Economically they will not be able to decouple soon. India cannot catch up with China economically in near future but it will continue feeling threatened by China due to China's economic encirclement in the entire South Asian and East Asia region. In terms of cost-benefit analysis, India can gain more for its domestic economic growth if it becomes a partner to China's BRI drive in the region. But it depends on the strategic course India maintains as an ally in the U.S.-led Quad and the U.S. Indo-Pacific Strategy against China.

Turkey is also emerging as a relevant and great power. Its role in the Middle East (West Asia) and global affairs is visible. China and Turkey might find common grounds for greater cooperation against unilateralism and democratic global order. Both countries also have the potential of increasing economic and strategic relations. China's rise is facilitating a paradigm shift in the political preferences of many countries. Greater relations with China will neutralize Turkey's only aspiration of becoming part of the European Union. Turkey's alignment with China will strengthen both countries. China's rise is also providing an opportunity for Muslim countries to redefine their role and status in the world.

How do you assess the 25-year Iran-China partnership? Can it curb the U.S. sanctions?

China through its BRI not only expanded and diverted trade channels but China also wants an unhindered energy supply to its growing economy. The 25-year Iran-China partnership is a win-win for both countries. The \$ 400 billion investment in oil purchase from Iran will ease Iran's international isolation and redefine its global status. It is a positive development that is the manifestation of China's vision for a new type of international relations. This accord is the result of the shared bilateral and multilateral interests of China and Iran.

The U.S. is easing trade restrictions on Iran to get it on board once again on JCPOA. The U.S. changing behavior to Iran is the outcome of the U.S. new administration's belief in receiving assurances on Iran's nuclear program through upholding the JCPOA. However, the ease in sanctions is also aimed to keep Iran engaged on the Middle Eastern (West Asian) issues. Although the U.S. administration showed concerns over the accord between China and Iran and it also announced to impose costs on Chinese companies. But despite the U.S. ability to impose costs on China's business with Iran, China has the potential to defy the U.S. pressures to go ahead with the agreed partnership with Iran.

Iran's Non-Existent Nuclear Weapons Program

For another, as detailed in Gareth Porter and Jon Kiriakou's book *The CIA Insider's Guide to the Iran Crisis*, the CIA themselves concluded in the mid-2000s that Iran has no nuclear weapons program and wasn't seeking to develop one.

Despite this assessment, an endless string of both neoliberal and neoconservative politicians, pundits and think tank commentators have insisted that Iran is plotting to nuke Tel Aviv, Washington DC and Riyadh, even though that's perhaps the most suicidal thing the Iranian government could possibly do.

The Operative plays into this false, fear-mongering narrative by reiterating how Iran got back on track following Trump's abandonment of the nuclear deal, and is seeking under-the-table components to help assemble nuclear bombs. The parallels between the storyline in *The Operative* and some of the recent attempts to 'expose' Iran's non-existent nuclear weapons program are quite startling.

For example, the supposed cache of 'secret Iranian government documents' being touted around by the Israeli government in 2018, which have since been shown to most likely be a forgery by Mossad themselves – includes details of the first five bombs Iran allegedly plan to build. In *The Operative* one of our protagonist's missions involves driving a van over the border into Iran carrying – you've guessed it – five nuclear bombs. While in the movie the bombs are deliberately faulty, this reiteration of details lends *The Operative* an authentic feel and reinforces the desired narrative of the Israeli government (and many of their Western supporters and counterparts).

(Source: Press TV)

Experts sound alarm of global consequences over vaccine inequality

➔ Prime example: Greece and the disaster that followed

As some wealthy western countries consider vaccinating their population several times others, the more vulnerable, mostly in Africa, are left to die.

In mid-July this year, the World Health Organization said Africa recorded a 43% jump in COVID-19 deaths as infections and hospital admissions have risen. This is while countries in the continent face shortages of oxygen and intensive-care beds.

In the entire African continent, less than one percent of the population has been fully vaccinated.

And the west, which colonized Africa for decades, stole its treasures and as many observers say, prevented the continent from developing for decades also; has a moral duty to assist Africans.

Nevertheless, while poorer countries wait until G7 pledges of assistance come to the rescue, which by many accounts will not even materialize; governments need to reflect elsewhere.

This major challenge facing the world today can be resolved in two ways.

The first is countries start producing their own vaccines, instead of relying on outside help.

Under sanctions and economic siege; Cuba and the Islamic Republic of Iran have managed to manufacture a number of different covid-19 vaccines. Here, analysts note the main problem is too many countries are too dependent on the West for scientific research.

China and Russia have done well to supply other nations with their own vaccines but even their own production line, like elsewhere, has a limit. And both of these superpowers have a large population themselves who need shots.

The second option is that richer countries who have manufactured vaccines and inoculated their populations send experts to poorer nations and advise them on how to manufacture the substance that produces antibodies.

But this is where greed comes into play.

The big pharmaceutical companies, topping the list, America's Pfizer is making so much profit from its vaccines that it won't spill the beans to places like Africa, even on humanitarian grounds. That's out of the question. In late July, Pfizer raised its 2021 sales forecast for its Covid vaccine by 29% to the tune of \$33.5 billion.

That forecast is expected to be even higher as it only accounts for 2.1 billion doses that Pfizer has committed to countries out of 3 billion it plans to manufacture this year.

The company says it strongly suggests people get a third booster dose; something that has drawn criticism from health regulators, who say there isn't enough evidence yet to show booster shots are needed. This is while billions are waiting for a first shot.

Nevertheless, whether evidence is later found, by health regulators not pharmaceutical companies, that a third shot is need is; Pfizer is strongly pushing the case now because, at the end of the day, it just adds to the company and its shareholders' profit.

So, the question is, do these pharmaceutical companies even want the pandemic to end?

If so, the quicker method would be to open factories in the poorer country that don't have access to water let alone vaccines. Send experts to those countries and let the experts work on developing a supply line. Western pharmaceutical companies backed by their governments refuse to do this saying; they have spent a lot of resources, money and effort to manufacture their own vaccines.

This is not a race to the moon or a secret recipe for the best pizza in the world competition. This is a much-needed global humanitarian mission.

It all strongly backs up the argument that profit is being put ahead of human lives.

But the same companies and the governments where they operate are taking a risky gamble.

This could backfire in a devastating way as experts have been warning; if the majority of the global population is not inoculated, more dangerous and much faster transmissible variants of the virus will emerge that not even Pfizer can handle. These will rip through the economies of wealthier nations' once again; just as they are starting the road to economic recovery.

At the same time, the world will face a much longer time with respiratory disease than had been anticipated. According to studies, since January this year, more people have died of the virus than in the whole of last year. Because of vaccine inequality and new rising variants, the WHO says the Pandemic is not just far from over, but at a critical stage where everyone, around the world, is under threat.

Some countries are going through third, fourth waves despite experts saying there has always been only one wave with just stronger and weaker tides. One thing is for certain, the latest Delta variant is seeing global deaths, cases and transmission rates at alarming levels.

To date, around 4 million 400 thousand people are reported to have died from the disease worldwide. This is while the number of people globally reported to have been infected by a pandemic is inching closer to 200 million.

The UK (which recently celebrated the lifting of all coronavirus restrictions in England dubbed "Freedom Day") the British government's own scientific advisory group believes it is "almost certain" that a new covid variant will emerge "that leads to current vaccine failure".

While this early research is theoretical and does not provide any evidence that such a variant is in circulation. It does send out a strong message that even richer nations, which think they are now safe and in heaven actually need to keep on their toes. More so the news has dampened the mood of celebration in the United Kingdom, with not much difference in activity pre and post "Freedom Day".

Meanwhile, the U.S. state of Florida has broken a record for the highest one-day number of cases since the Pandemic began. This has been blamed on the delta variant.

So, by the same margin, even the richer countries, who believe they are safe by going it alone; actually, they are not.

The more reliable option would be for governments to put their thinking hats on before it's too late and entire communities get wiped out, and start their own scientific research. No matter how long it takes, better late than never to achieve mass vaccination.

And it needs a genuine global effort to tackle a global problem of such magnitude.

How and why Israel helped make the nuclear thriller *The Operative*

By Tom Secker

Israel's Ministry of Culture runs a film and TV support program through both its Film Commission and the Israel Film Fund, the latter offering production support to help develop Israel's film industry.

While hardly unique in this regard, Israel's film subsidy system is rather different from its peers, particularly in respect of the conditions they attach to sponsorship. The 'New Cinema Law' passed in 2001 specifies that government financing can only be provided to movies where, "no less than 50% of the 'below the line' must be spent in Israel," or "no less than 70% of the budget allocated for salaries must be paid to Israeli crew and cast," and "either the Director or the Script-writer must be Israeli citizens or permanent residents in Israel."

While some of these conditions can be waived for international co-productions, these criteria all but ensure a positive depiction of Israel, and especially the Israeli government, in resulting films.

Israeli government influence on movie scripts

The Fund also reviews and vets scripts for films seeking money and help with distribution, its website noting that, "every year, about 140 new scripts are being submitted, out of which 12-15 Films are selected and granted the support of the Fund." As such, flattering the preconceptions of organization's Board of Directors and their "professional consultants" is key to ensuring that your film is one of the small number of applicants that end up winning support from the Israeli government.

Script review and development is a key part of this process, but the Fund's influence

on scripts extends beyond the films that they financially assist, as it "supports the development of about 30 scripts a year."

The Fund tries to present this intervention as mere good-intentioned assistance to improve movie scripts, rather than any form of censorship or propaganda, but among their commitments to "safeguarding the free spirit of Israeli cinema," their site admits they do so while "keeping an open eye and mind on policy and action." A diagram outlining the process scripts go through before being approved or rejected includes the stipulation, "The Director of the Fund reserves the right to ask for additional work on the script... as a condition to signing the investment contract."

This subsidy program has been enormously successful, with numerous Israel Film Fund-supported movies being nominated for or winning major awards. In 2008-2010 three Fund-assisted films were nominated for the Oscar for Best Foreign Film, and in 2009 Samuel Maoz's *Lebanon*, about a tank crew in the First Lebanon War, became the first Israeli film to win the Golden Lion at the Venice Film Festival.

The Operative

2019's *The Operative*, a taut transnational spy thriller based on a novel by a former Israeli intelligence officer, not only won support from the Fund but also from Israel's Film Commission, as well as funding from multiple branches of the German government.

The Operative tells the story of a British woman recruited by the Mossad, initially just as a cover identity so that Israeli black ops teams can rent apartments in Leipzig under her name. Over time she becomes a fully-fledged spy running months-long undercover missions. As a voiceover by her handler tells us, this



is all part of an effort to infiltrate and sabotage Iran's nuclear weapons program. The Iranians, he informs us, like to buy illegal and restricted technologies through open, legitimate companies, so our protagonist is sent into Tehran to infiltrate one such technology company.

This plotline, which no doubt appealed to the Fund's Board of Directors as well as their paymasters within the Israeli government, is highly misleading. For one thing, this is how Israel developed their own nuclear program – by obtaining restricted technical components via front companies run by movie producer Arnon Milchan.

According to Milchan's biography, he and his company were recruited by LAKAM, the Israeli technical intelligence agency that was deeply involved in stealing secrets and material for Israel's nuclear program. FBI files detail how between 1979 and 1983 Milchan used a front company to acquire hundreds of krytrons – high-pressure gas tubes that can be used as nuclear triggers.

After the smuggling operation was busted, Milchan went on to produce *Pretty Woman*, *Under Siege*, *L.A. Confidential*, *Fight Club* and the Oscar-winning *The Revenant*. It wasn't until years later that he confirmed the long-swirling rumors about his past as a spy for Israel.

Museum of archaeology to come on stream in Meshkinshahr

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – An archaeological museum will be inaugurated in the near future in the ancient city of Meshkinshahr, Ardebil province.

Some 20 billion rials (\$476,000 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been invested in the project so far, the provincial tourism Nader Fallahi said on Sunday.



Covering an area of 1,650 square meters, the museum is still under construction, the official added.

Numerous ancient relics, which have so far been excavated in the city and its outskirts, will go on show at the museum, the official added.

In December, the official announced that the provincial cultural heritage department plans to establish more museums in addition to those that are already operating across the province to meet the motto, "Ardebil the City of Museums", chosen for the current Iranian calendar year 1400.

Meshkinshahr embraces several historical sites including Qale Khohneh ("Old Castle"), the ancient site of Shahr-e Yeri, and Qahqaheh castle.

Being near the high Mount Sabalan, Meshkinshahr enjoys a moderate mountainous climate and the Sabalan summit can be seen in the south of the city with eye-catching scenery.

The antiquity of the city dates back to the early centuries of Islam but in the Safavid era, it was thriving even more. The city is well known for its rugs and its mineral springs.

Meshkinshahr suspension bridge with 345 meters long, 3 meters wide, and 80 meters high, which was inaugurated in 2015 and is said to be the largest of its kind in West Asia, is also one of the top tourist destinations of the city.

Prehistorical objects donated to cultural heritage directorate

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – A total of 16 relics, estimated to date from prehistorical times, have recently been donated to the tourism and cultural heritage directorate of Kerman province.

"16 ancient objects have been donated to Kerman province's General Directorate of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts," ILNA quoted a provincial police commander as saying on Sunday.



"Based on technical examination of the relic conducted by experts of the general directorate, the authenticity of all the [donated] objects were confirmed and their antiquity was estimated to be prehistoric," the official added.

The police official, however, did not provide further detail on the objects and the donator(s).

The big and sprawling province has been a cultural melting pot since antiquity, blending Persians with subcontinental tribe dwellers. It is home to myriad historical sites and scenic landscapes such as Bazaar-e Sartasari, Jabalieh Dome, Ganjali Khan Bathhouse, Malek Jameh Mosque, and Shahdad Desert to name a few.

Kerman is bounded by the provinces of Fars on the west, Yazd on the north, South Khorasan on the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan on the east, and Hormozgan on the south. It includes the southern part of the central Iranian desert, the Dasht-e Lut.

Iranian police seize ancient relics from smuggler

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – Three historical objects have recently been confiscated from an antique dealer in west-central Iran.

The accused was traced and finally arrested in his place after police received reports from cultural heritage aficionados about his misdeeds, a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage said on Sunday, CHTN reported.



Recovered relics include two statues and a plate, Hossein-Ali Fazli added.

The official, however, did not refer to the exact age of the relics recovered in the city of Abhar, Zanjan province.

The culprit was detained and surrendered to the judicial system for further investigation, he noted.

Zanjan is one of the cities founded by Sassanid King Ardashir I (180-242 CE). The province makes a base for wider explorations with the architectural wonder of Soltaniyeh, the subterranean delights of the Katala-Khor caves, colorful mountains, and the UNESCO-registered Takht-e Soleiman ruins are nearby.

Excavation sheds new light on ancient cemetery in northern Iran

→1 However, the site was partly looted by antique seekers during a two-year gap in archaeological seasons.

Amlash, now a county in Gilan province, was a small village in southeastern Gilan in 1959. The name originates from the nearby Alborz valleys where archaeological artifacts were discovered during excavations. The artifacts range in date from the late second millennium BC through the Partho-Sasanian

period, but most of the objects are dated to the 9th-8th century BC.

Dating and meaning of the known objects (bronze weapons and animal figurines, human statuettes of terra cotta and bronze, pottery animal effigy vases, and burnished black, gray, or orange pottery vessels) are complicated by insufficient archaeological contexts.

Bounded by the Caspian Sea and the



Republic of Azerbaijan on the north, Gilan, in the far past, was within the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenid, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE.

Sophisticated Rasht, capital of Gilan province, has long been a weekend escape

for residents of Tehran who are looking to sample the famous local cuisine and hoping for some pluvial action – it's the largest, and wettest town in the northern region. Gilan is divided into a coastal plain including the large delta of Sefid Rud and adjacent parts of the Alborz mountain range.

'The Persian Gulf, an Archaeological Perspective' comes to bookstores

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – "The Persian Gulf, an Archaeological Perspective", which turns the spotlight on various societies and cultures that emerged neighboring the body of water throughout prehistoric, ancient, and Islamic eras, have been published.

Iran National Museum Publications in close collaborations with the Afshar Foundation published the book that includes 15 chapters in Persian and two chapters in English, a curator of the museum told the Tehran Times on Sunday.

"A glance at archaeological investigations in Iran, shows that although shorelines and islands of Persian Gulf have always played a significant role in shaping societies and cultures throughout prehistoric, historical, and Islamic eras, not enough attention has been paid to carry out archaeological studies on these areas," said Jebrael Nokandeh, the director-general of the National Museum.

"Since late prehistoric period until today, the Persian Gulf and its islands have been a center for commercial, cultural, political and military trades."

He added, "Many Iranian dynasties, including Elam,



Achaemenid, Sassanian and those of Islamic era, have always taken the importance of Persian Gulf into account, and signs of their dominance over this sea can be seen not only in the northern shorelines but also in the south of the

Persian Gulf."

In conclusion, he said that the publication of this volume is a continuation of earlier efforts to make the results of new archaeological research in the Persian Gulf available to the public.

Earlier, the National Museum of Iran published another edited volume entitled "Human and the Sea", and the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage & Tourism (RICHT) published two new books: "Persian Gulf Cultural Heritage" and "Persian Gulf Archaeological Research: The Ancient Port of Siraf".

According to Umm Al-Banin Ghafouri, in charge of the publications of the museum, the articles published in this edited volume are undoubtedly a reflection of the efforts of researchers in clarifying the archaeological past of the Persian Gulf, which can help the archaeology community in planning and to continue archaeological studies in this important region.

"The Persian Gulf, an Archaeological Perspective" is edited by J. Nokandeh, A. Dashtizadeh, and A. Ghafouri.

Roofing covers almost complete over 'city of the mouthless'

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – The project of installing a series of custom-made roofing covers has become almost complete to help protect Shahr-e Yeri, a unique archaeological site in north-west Iran, from further erosion.

The installation of shielding structures is part of an extensive project aimed to protect the 400-hectare archaeological site, which is sometimes referred to as the "city of the mouthless", against harsh natural conditions.

Shahr-e Yeri is one of the earliest settlements in the country, which is situated near Pirazman village of Meshkin Shahr



in northwestern Ardebil province. The archaeological site was inscribed on the list of national heritage sites in 1931.

"More than a decade has passed since

the (latest) archaeological exploration conducted on Shahr-e Yeri, and unfortunately this reminiscent of an 8,000-year-old civilization has been exposed to snow and rain... however, this project of [installing] roofing covers, as well as its associated studies, were conducted in less than two years," CHTN quoted the provincial tourism chief Nader Fallahi as saying on Saturday.

The site embraces an Iron-Age fortress, three prehistorical temples, and tens of stones on which bizarre-shaped mouthless faces have been carved. During its heyday bodies of the dead were buried with special ceremonies and rituals

in compliance with religious beliefs... however, the majority of the tombs were found empty of skeletons due to illegal excavations, according to the Circle of Ancient Iranian Studies.

More than 10,000 ancient petroglyphs and rock-carved arts have been discovered in and near Meshkin Shahr over the past couple of years. Some of the objects bear depictions of human beings in archery, cavalry in rhythmic and magical themes. There are also petroglyphs depicting mountain goats, boat anchors, shooting and scenes of war, and scenes of deer hunting in individual and collective forms.

17 hotels, apartment hotels under construction in Qom

TOURISM **TEHRAN** – A total of 17 hotels and apartment hotels are being constructed across the central province of Qom, adding 2894 beds to the province's hospitality sector.

Over 16 trillion rials (about \$381 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been invested in the hotel projects, the provincial tourism chief has said.

Upon their completion in the near future, these hotels are expected to generate 936 job opportunities, Alireza Arjmandi announced on Saturday.

In parallel with the growth of tourism, related industries, such as transportation, souvenir, and handicraft supply centers, will also expand, which could lead to



economic prosperity, the official added.

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

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

The antiquity of Qom goes back to the Sassanid era (224 CE–651) and several historical mosques, mansions, and natural sceneries have been scattered across the city as well as towns and villages nearby.

Webinar to explore relevance of genetics in archaeological studies

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – The Research Institute for the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural and Historical Monuments is scheduled to explore the role and importance of genetics in archaeological studies during a two-day webinar, which begins in Tehran on August 7.

A series of discussions will take place at the international event regarding applied life sciences in cultural heritage protection, DNA molecule structure studies, ways of extracting and analyzing genetic data, and

manifestations of genetic disorders, CHTN reported on Sunday.

The webinar, which will be accompanied by scholars with expertise in the fields of cellular-developmental and molecular genetics, is open to students, specialists, and archaeologists involved in the restoration of historical-cultural monuments, biology, and genetics, report added.

Earlier in July, the head of the Biodegradation Laboratory of Research Institute for the Preservation and Restoration of Cultural and Historical Monuments Parastu

Erfanmanesh said that biotechnology has accelerated the development process in the scientific and research areas including archaeological surveys in some countries.

She also noted that conserving cultural values as well as recognizing the historical identity of each nation should be considered in every country and should be among the top priorities of relevant institutions.

Biological sciences can therefore answer many questions in ancient studies because their use is very practical in many fields, she mentioned.



Six archaeological sites approved as national heritage in Iran

HERITAGE **TEHRAN** – On Sunday, a selection of six archaeological hills and historical sites scattered across Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province were added to Iran's national heritage list.

Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan declared the inscriptions on Sunday in a letter to the governor-general of the southwestern province, IRNA reported.

Tepe Dizdasht, Tepe Chaghat Houshang, Tepe Qezqalesi, Tepe Narrehkhounik are among the properties added to the prestigious list, the re-



port said.

Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari is the birthplace of various unique traditions and rituals relative to the 'tribal' lifestyles. Special forms of music, dance, and clothing are noteworthy. It has considerable potential to become a vibrant tourist attraction because of its changing natural landscape.

The province is also a hub for making wool felt products, majorly of which exported abroad. It is home to some 500 crafters, in over 250 workshops, making handmade felt products.

More 200,000 doses of COVIRAN vaccine delivered

SOCIETY TEHRAN – Some 200,000 doses of COVIRAN BAREKAT vaccine have been recently delivered to the Ministry of Health for public vaccination, Hassan Jalili, the vaccine's production manager, said on Sunday.

After the Ministry of Health issued an emergency use license for COVIRAN vaccine, we increased the production speed, and so far about five million doses have been produced and sent to the quality testing department, which will be delivered to the Ministry of Health after quality approval, he explained.

In recent weeks, 1.3 million doses had been handed over to the Ministry of Health, reaching the whole doses to 1.5 million, he added, IRNA reported.

COVIRAN vaccine is currently being administered by the Ministry of Health in most of the provinces of the country and has been well received by the people, he concluded.

1.5 million doses to be produced by next week

By the end of this week (August 6), a total of 1.5 million doses of vaccine will be provided to the Ministry of Health, and with the launch of the second and third lines, the production capacity of the vaccine will increase, Mohammad Mokhber, head of Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, said.



COVIRAN BAREKAT was unveiled on December 29, 2020, and received the license for public use on June 14. It proved effective against Indian strain.

Currently, one million doses of vaccine are produced in line one every week, and

with the launch of lines two and three by early September, this capacity will increase

two to three folds, he explained.

Homegrown COVIRAN vaccine

Made by researchers at the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, COVIRAN BAREKAT was unveiled on December 29, 2020, and received the license for public use on June 14.

It proved effective against Indian strain, according to Hojjat Niki-Maleki, head of the information center of Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam.

Eleven countries from Asia and South America, and a European country have asked for importing COVIRAN vaccine, Hassan Jalili, the vaccine's production manager, has said in June.

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, 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.

Charity event frees 260 inmates of unintentional crimes

SOCIETY TEHRAN – A national campaign for the release of prisoners of unintentional crimes freed 260 financial convicts and debtors, according to the Blood Money Organization.

The campaign, called Eid al-Adha to Eid al-Ghadir, was held from July 21 to 29.

Charities from Alborz, Kordestan, and East Azarbaijan provinces have each contributed the most to this humanitarian event with the release of 18 involuntary prisoners.

A total of 100 billion rials (nearly \$2.3 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been donated to pay the debt of the inmates.

9,398 inmates freed nationwide

Iranian benefactors helped release a total of 9,398 inmates of unintentional crimes across the country over the past Iranian calendar year (March 2020-March 2021), according to the Blood Money Organization.

Freeing prisoners of involuntary crimes is done in three ways; the first way is granting prisoners leave and the second way is providing a number of them with loans to be paid inside the prison.

The third way of assistance is the release of unintentional convicts by paying their debt; last year, a total of 35 trillion rials (nearly \$833 million) has been donated to pay the debt of the released prisoners.

Last year, Isfahan province topped the list for releasing the highest number of



prisoners amounting to 677 involuntary crime doers, while Sistan-Baluchestan was at the bottom of the list.

As an annual tradition, benefactors come together in a ceremony to raise funds for releasing prisoners of unintentional crimes during the holy month of Ramadan (which started on April 13 this year), through which, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has donated 5 billion rials (about \$120,000).

Last year, heads of the three branches of the government and the private sector donated 6.5 billion rials (nearly \$150,000) to release prisoners who had committed involuntary crimes.

President Hassan Rouhani, former Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani, and Former Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi made a total of 3.9 billion rials (around \$92,000) in contributions to free prisoners of unintentional crimes.

Rare Diseases Document goes into effect

→ 1 The main vision of this document is to prevent the birth of infants with rare diseases and to solve the medical and therapeutic problems of rare patients in the country.

After the approval of the Document, all related bodies will be obliged to take measures in this regard, and the programs will be monitored nationally.

Yann Le Cam, the chief executive officer of the European Organization for Rare Diseases (EURORDIS), has praised Iran for preparing a national document on rare diseases, saying that it will change the lives of one million rare disease patients in the country.

Rare diseases prevalence

According to the statistics published in 2019, the number of rare diseases identified in Iran has reached 332 types of diseases and about 4,750 people are covered by the Rare Diseases Foundation of Iran.

Out of a thousand population, 2 people get a rare disease, while the prevalence can be curbed by changing people's culture, screening, identifying, preventing the births, and raising awareness.

According to WHO, rare diseases are often serious, chronic, and life-threatening. The European Union (EU)



definition of a rare disease is one that affects fewer than 5 in 10,000 people. At present, more than 6000 rare diseases are known; around 80 percent of them are genetic disorders and half of them occur during childhood.

Grouped together, rare diseases affect 6–8 percent (or about 30 million people) out of the 508 million population of EU countries. This roughly equals the estimated prevalence of diabetes in the World Health Organization European Region, which in 2013 was 6.8 percent of 658.7 million adults in the 20 to 79-year age group.

Rare diseases are associated with a high psychological burden for the patient but they can also have a major impact on a patient's family. In addition to the health burden on patients, few of these diseases have effective drug treatment available.

Hamedan, Bukhara to develop sister city partnership

SOCIETY TEHRAN – The Iranian city of Hamedan and the Uzbek city of Bukhara will soon sign a sister city agreement in order to develop cultural exchanges and tourism, Hossein Qarabaghi, Member of Hamadan City Council has stated.

A sister city or twin town relationship is a form of legal or social agreement between two geographically and politically distinct localities for the purpose of promoting cultural and commercial ties.

While there are early examples of international links between municipalities akin to what we call today sister cities or twin towns dating back to the 9th Century, the modern concept was first established and adopted worldwide during the Second World War.

By signing the twinning agreement, a platform for

cultural cooperation and tourism activities will be provided for Iran and Uzbekistan, Qarabaghi noted, IRNA reported on Sunday.

So far, Hamedan has signed sister city agreements with four cities around the world.

Bukhara is the birthplace of Bu-Ali Sina (Avicenna), a famous Iranian scientist and physician of the 4th and 5th centuries AH, and is the fifth-largest city in Uzbekistan and the capital of Bukhara province.

Known in classical times as Ecbatana, Hamedan was one of the ancient world's greatest cities. Avicenna mausoleum is located in Hamedan.

The people of Bukhara still speak Persian with the special dialect of Central Asia, which is now known as Tajik Persian.



ENGLISH IN USE

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A ← → ع

Miankaleh peninsula faces serious risk of disappearing

Hossein Ali Ebrahimi, head of Mazandaran province department of department, has said that almost 20 percent of the peninsula's wetlands have dried up.

Drought spell and climate change are two of the key factors contributing to the Miankaleh peninsula dryness, YJC quoted Ebrahimi as saying on Wednesday.

Unfortunately, the province of Mazandaran has also been negatively affected by climate change and less precipitation has increased the peninsula water deficits, Ebrahimi said, stating that additionally mismanagement, unsustainable agricultural practices, and severe depletion of the wells and groundwater resources have exacerbated Miankaleh peninsula's condition.

تالاب میانکاله در معرض خشکی کامل

حسین علی ابراهیمی مدیر کل محیط زیست استان مازندران گفت: ۲۰ درصد از تالاب میانکاله کاملاً خشک شده است.

به گزارش روز چهارشنبه باشگاه خبرنگاران جوان ابراهیمی ادامه داد: تغییرات اقلیم و خشکسالی نیز بر این تالاب تأثیر گذار شده است.

مدیر کل محیط زیست استان مازندران گفت: متأسفانه استان مازندران نیز مانند سایر استان‌های کشور درگیر تغییرات اقلیم شده و خشکسالی نیز بر این استان تأثیر گذار بوده است به همین دلیل قسمتی تالاب میانکاله کاملاً خشک شده است. وی در ادامه افزود: علاوه بر تغییرات اقلیمی و کمبود نزولات آسمانی، نبود مدیریت صحیح منابع آبی برداشت غیرمجاز از چاه‌ها و و منابع آب زیرزمینی و کشاورزی ناپایدار در منطقه، وضعیت این تالاب بحرانی است.

COVID-19 UPDATES

The statistics are related to 24 hours started 2:00 p.m. July 31

New cases	32,511
New deaths	366
Total cases	3,903,519
Total deaths	90,996
New hospitalized patients	3,483
Patients in critical condition	5,539
Total recovered patients	3,285,195
Diagnostic tests conducted	25,978,632
Doses of vaccine injected	12,667,582

Agriculture in Iran

(Part 4)

Field patterns are still subject to rapid changes; there may also be cases of annual redistribution of the land. In situations of agricultural colonization and of large-scale irrigation, however, regular block patterns are adopted.

Traditional social and economic structure. Land use, rural settlement, and field patterns are the surface expression of the ecological and socio-economic foundations of agriculture; they reflect certain characteristics of the agricultural forms and potential of the region but do not indicate the social and economic background and the conditions under which agriculture and animal husbandry are being practiced.

It is therefore important to consider rural land tenure and property rights. The traditional basic situation of rural Iran is that of inequality in the distribution of land. Due to the lack of reliable statistics, it is difficult to give accurate data about the forms of rural property; but a survey by the Iranian Ministry of Agriculture for 1960 (quoted from Planek 1962) may serve to show the general trend.



The separation between ownership and land use is a basic obstacle for the development of rural Iran. Moreover, there is no doubt that the land reforms from 1962 onwards have been uncoordinated and without thorough planning; the present problems of Iranian agriculture are also to be seen as an outcome of the recent changes of traditional social structure.

Rural land tenure. The traditional forms of land tenure in the rural sector reveal typical aspects of the rent-capitalistic character of the agricultural production and rural income distribution.

The organization of agricultural production may be seen under two aspects: first, the traditional property rights in soil and water and other factors of agricultural productivity and, second, the traditional relationships between owner and worker of the land.

These two aspects have to be subordinated to the four essential factors for agricultural production: soil, seed, draft animals and tools, and human labor. (Irrigation is at times a fifth equal factor). Each of these four or five production factors can further be analyzed into sub-units.

For example, plowing, tilling, harvesting, threshing, and winnowing may pertain to different persons, who will be compensated in corresponding portions of the 20 percent harvest share allotted to the production factor "human labor."

Thus according to Bobek (1961, p. 235) "the concept of the enterprise or operating unit begins to dissolve, under such a system, into a series of individual titles, or rather tasks, and corresponding claims on income."

Property rights. Property rights in land are predominantly of two kinds: They are either attached to certain parcels of land, or they are "ideal titles," i.e., imaginary shares or allotments from the total agriculturally used lands, waters, or whatever. In the first case, the relationships between the owner and worker of the land are clear.

Where owner and worker of the land are one and the same person (?orda-malek), all benefits of work and management fall to him alone. This case, however, has been the exception in traditional rural Iran, because landlordism and large landed properties have always prevailed.

In cases where only one landlord owned a village and its land, organizational problems hardly arose. Agricultural production was performed by individual sharecroppers or, more often, by groups of sharecroppers, who received income shares according to the proportion of the production factors which they contributed to the production process.

But in the second case, the situation is much more complicated, since several families and their members, as well as individuals, shared in the land titles.

(Source: Encyclopaedia Iranica)



Without water, everything withers

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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING



If someone’s deeds lower his position, his pedigree cannot elevate it.

Imam Ali (AS)

History of Achaemenid art, architecture

Part 2

Only W. Nagel explains the style by assuming two sculptor’s schools, one at Bisotun and another, working first at Pasargadae, much ahead of its time, and then at Persepolis. It is beyond doubt, however, that the inscriptions correctly identify the owner of this palace as Cyrus, to be venerated on occasion of the royal investiture by all his successors.

The southernmost “palace” R, with the famous winged genius, can be compared with the monumental gates at Persepolis and Susa. That is also the case with the reliefs in the main doorways: winged bulls in the southeast—facing the outer world—and probably bulls with human faces facing the palaces.

The only extant relief, the four winged genius, combines Elamite garments and a Syrian/Egyptian crown; it faces inwards, and must, together with its counterparts in the other side doors, have protected the king or his statue within the building.

Palace S is the most difficult building to understand. There is no trace of a podium of a throne, and it is hard to imagine one in the midst of a hall open to all sides.

On the other hand, the sculptures suggest a highly representational function: The main door, leading to the northeastern main facade, again in the form of a wide portico, was guarded by human figures and the side doors by mythical creatures, facing outwards as usual; the back door shows feet of bulls and men, as if going from the main hall into the southwestern (smaller) porch.

The columns were crowned by protomai of lion dragons and perhaps horses. All these sculptures are definitely pre-Persepolitan in style and Babylonian/Assyrian in iconography. In this building, on the way between gate and throne portico, gifts to the king may have been solemnly deposited.

The architecture and the sculpture of this period have been shown to be highly eclectic: The use of different kinds of stone, the false windows, and the quadrangular tower came from Urartu; the multicolumn halls from Urartu via Media; the porticos attached to these halls in many variations (perhaps better called “stoai”), the bases and shafts of the columns from Greece; and the form of the “altars” from Media.

Oriental types are perhaps seen in the monumental gates (without stoai) and tents. In iconography Elamite, Syrian, and Babylonian/Assyrian prototypes have been cited; workmanship and style of the reliefs are (with the exception of those of palace P) more Neo Babylonian than anything else.

Aside from Pasargadae it is only at Borazjan, 50 km from Bandar Bushehr, that relics of a palace or pavilion in Cyrus’ style have been found. From the “cylinder inscription” we know that Cyrus “brought back the gods ... to their places and made them enter their eternal abodes,” i.e., among other places, to Susa and the land Gutium. Of this building activity nothing has been found yet.

The time of Cambyases and Bardiya

In the plain between Persepolis and Naqsh-e Rostam there is an unfinished structure known as “Takht-e Rostam” or “Takht-e Gohar”. E. Herzfeld interpreted it as the tomb of Cambyases II/III, a nearly exact copy of that of Cyrus. Inside, two secondary, small burials were excavated. It was restored recently by G. Tilia, and close to it the remains of an unfinished palace of Pasargadae type were found.

The two structures have exactly the same orientation. Cambyases, however, seems to have been buried correctly after his corpse had been “brought to Persia”: presumably to Pasargadae where a tomb for him must have been prepared. Are the remains at “Dasht-e Gohar” those of the capital of Bardiya?

Darius I: Phase A (Bisotun)

The rock relief at Bisotun (Diodorus: Bagistana) is the most minutely dated and most thoroughly interpreted Achaemenid monument. Eleven of its fourteen figures are identified by captions: Darius himself, Gaumata, eight gentile kings who rebelled during Darius’ first year and a ruler of the “Scythians with pointed hats” whom Darius captured in his third year; this last event is recorded in an additional paragraph of the inscription, so the other events must have taken place earlier.

The order in which figures, captions, and the four versions of the Bisotun inscription were carved has been clarified by Luschey and Trumpelmann. W. Nagel has argued that the second last figure, named Frada by the caption, because of his Elamite garment, must originally have been intended to represent Attamaita and have been added to the original eight kings after the second year.

However, Frada is one of the Nine Pretenders (the number nine may have a magical significance and there was no rock left to carve the rope connecting Araka with Frada. The two figures behind Darius, without captions, have been interpreted as Hystaspes and Arsames, wearing royal diadems.

Similarly ornamented crowns, however, are worn by attendants and guards in the Tachara. The eclectic nature of the relief has been stressed by Root; it contains elements known from Sar-e Pol and Assyrian reliefs as well as from Late Elamite Weapon bearers and the Urartian divine figure in the winged disc. Near the palace in Babylon there stood a copy of the relief (or part of it) in smaller size with the long text (or part of it) on its back.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued

Iranian mythologist Jalal Sattari dies at 90

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — Iranian scholar Jalal Sattari whose studies most centered on and mythology and dramatic literature died following a massive stroke at his home in Tehran on Saturday. He was 90.

Persian media announced his death quoting his widow Laleh Taqian, who is also an author and researcher on dramatic arts.

Born in the northern Iranian city of Rasht, Sattari left Iran in his youth for Switzerland and earned a Ph.D. in psychology. He was a student of the top Swiss psychologist Jean Piaget, who was known for his work on child development.

However, Sattari shifted his focus to collective psychology and the study of positive and negative impacts of ancient patterns, myths and fables on the collective unconscious. He spent over 60 years of his life studying, writing and translating, the outcomes of which appeared in over 100 books.

Sattari was decorated with the French Legion of Honor in 2005 for his dedication to the cause of culture during his career as a cultural activist.

He rendered books by Gaston Bachelard, Antonin Artaud, Georges Dumézil and several other French scholars



Iranian mythologist Jalal Sattari in an undated photo.

into Persian. Books by Soviet folklorist Vladimir Propp were also translated by Sattari for Persian readers.

The organizers of the Traditional and Ritual Theater Festival established the Jalal

Sattari Awards in 2011 to honor scholars of different nationalities for their efforts in the promotion of ritual and folk artistic performances.

Iranian sociologist Nasser Fakuhi

conducted a massive interview with Sattari as part of a cultural project at Markaz Publications, which was published in a book titled “A Dialogue with Jalal Sattari”.

“The aim in this project was to encourage those scholars who have influenced the culture of the country over a long period of time in the past century to return to their past, recounting their own stories,” the publisher had earlier said.

In a message of condolences published on Sunday, Fakuhi of the University of Tehran wrote, “Iran’s culture lost one of its greatest, purest, and the most beautiful creative thoughts.”

“I learned again that regardless of how knowledgeable you are, there is no escape from death; it arrives sooner or later; no matter how much education you have, death is a part of life,” he added.

Deputy Culture Minister for Artistic Affairs Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini also offered a message of condolences.

“By his research on culture, legends and myths, Dr. Sattari provided valuable treasures from the history and culture of Iran for today and tomorrow,” he wrote.

“His studies on the past cleared the path for Iranian society to continue on its cultural way,” he noted.



Iranian stuntman Arsha Aqdasi.

A R T **TEHRAN** — Renowned Iranian stuntman Arsha Aqdasi was severely injured in a crash last Wednesday while shooting a project in Beirut.

“He was in Lebanon, working for a foreign project and was seriously injured when a car he was in turned over,” Aqdasi’s colleague Mehnush Moradi told the Persian

“Skyfall” stuntman Arsha Aqdasi injured during Lebanese shoot

service of ISNA on Sunday.

He was quickly transferred to a hospital in Beirut, she said and added he was placed in an induced coma by doctors.

She said that he will undergo surgery in the upcoming days and asked people to pray for him.

No details were published about the film project.

Aqdasi, who has collaborated in a number of international projects including the James Bond 2012 adventure “Skyfall”, is the founder of Stunt 13, a major studio for Iranian stuntmen.

Speaking to the Persian service of MNA on Sunday, Iman Karamian, the director of the Iranian Stuntmen Association, said that Aqdasi has injured his neck in the crash and gone into a coma.

He added that Aqdasi’s sister is in Beirut, preparing arrangements for his surgery.

In January 2019, he and a group of his Iranian colleagues came together in a meeting in Tehran to ask the organizers of Iranian film festivals and events to recognize them as a group active in the film industry.

He came on stage during the meeting held at the Shafaq Cultural Center while his head was burning and announced his plan to organize a festival for Iranian stuntmen.

The first festival for Iranian stuntmen was scheduled to open on May 7, 2019, however, the plan was never implemented.

Aqdasi had said that the festival had the potential to be held internationally.

He said that stuntmen have so far been ignored at the Oscars, and only three festivals in Russia, America and Hong Kong are held for stuntmen.

“We want to be the fourth,” he noted.

Works by Iranian artists on view at cyanotype exhibit in Belgium

A R T **TEHRAN** — A group exhibition of cyanotypes underway at Ingrid Deuss Gallery in Antwerp, Belgium is showcasing works by Iranian artists Gohar Dashti and Arash Fakhim.

The exhibit named “Blues” is also hanging works by five other pioneering artists from the United States, Belgium, Japan, Sweden and the United Kingdom who each explore in their original and uncompromising way the historic photographic process of cyanotypes, the gallery has announced.

The showcase that opened on July 9 is curated by Dutch artist Joost Vandebrug and will run until September 4.

Dashti’s experience of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war weighs on her artistic work.

Her cyanotypes in this exhibition are of organic material that she destroyed and fractured before photographing it, thereby commenting on the beauty of the natural world while also acknowledging the damaging effects humans can have on it.

The Netherlands-based Fakhim uses

cyanotypes to create installations that live in their own world, far from the conventional assumptions with which this technique is often associated.

His works show echoes and traces that were left by objects while exposing cyanotypes in the sun.

Cyanotypes were first discovered by Sir John Herschel in 1842 as a simple and low-cost process to produce copies of notes and drawings. Engineers and architects used this process well into the 20th century and the prints were referred to as blueprints.

Soon after its discovery, it was adopted by artists who were captivated by the rich blue shades of the technique, most notably, the photographer Anna Atkins. Her book with cyanotypes was the first to be photographically printed and illustrated. Anna Atkins (1799–1871) was also considered the first female photographer.

Her book “Photographs of British Algae: Cyanotype Impressions” will be re-printed by Steidl as a limited edition clamshell box and is expected to be on sale from the summer of

2021. A copy of the book will be presented as part of the exhibition.

Mika Horie from Japan is another artist participating in the art show. Horie’s delicate and intimate cyanotypes are exposed by the sun on paper that she makes herself from the bark of the locally sourced Gampi tree in her native village in Japan.

The exhibition also displays works by Ivan Forde from the United States.

Through his work, Ivan retells stories from epic poetry, casting himself as every character to reflect on migration, memory and homeland.

Works by Erika Rodin from Sweden have also been selected for the event. Reconstructing her own identity and heritage by the use of cyanotypes, Rodin’s photographic objects consist of meticulously selected pieces of blue Heartwood from her family forest in Sweden.

Timo Lieber from the United Kingdom is also attending the exhibit with several works. Lieber is using the cyanotype process to chart the metamorphosis of melting ice. The physicality



A cyanotype by Iranian artist Gohar Dashti on view at an exhibition at Ingrid Deuss Gallery in Antwerp, Belgium.

of the ice crystals melting on the surface of the paper leaves traces of its presence.

Julie van der Vaart from Belgium is another artist at the exhibition. Julie’s work is strongly rooted in experimental and historic photographic techniques. Her photographs show intimate encounters with human forms, presented like precious relics. Her cyanotypes in this exhibition are printed on fabric.

International fiction festival on pandemic announces winners



A poster for an international competition for short story writing on COVID-19 launched by the Iran Book and Literature House.

CULTURE **TEHRAN** – Iran’s international fiction festival on the coronavirus pandemic announced winners on Sunday.

The competition for short story writing on COVID-19, which is dedicated to all people writing in Persian across the world, was launched by the Iran Book and Literature House in May.

“The Story of Corona and Us” was the theme of the festival.

Among the winners are “I Wished I Saw Your Smile” by Zeinab Firuznia, “Ritual of Quicklime Powdering” by Mahbubeh Hajimortezai, “Eating Phobia” by Abbas Azimi, “The Rest of Me” by Mahin Sarani-Rad and “Jam-Packed Morgue” by Mojtaba Bani-Asadi.

Also included are “Slickness” by Esmaeil Elahdadi, “Call Him Aziz” by Emad Ebadi, “A Song for a Mermaid” by Najmeh Molavi, “A Symphony for Life” by Hassan Mokhtarzadeh, “I Revolved Around You” by Armaghan Behdarvand, “Memories of the Last Warrior” by Setayesh Salavatian, “Twenty Years and Fourteen Days with Corona” by Zeinab Rezaei, “For Whom the Tears Stream” by Zahra Qolizadeh, “Corona and Me” by Farahnaz Sheikh-Bahaeddinzadeh, “Chababhar Mullah” by Mehdi Chegini and “My Adventures and Corona” by Taha Mollazadeh.

The Iran Book and Literature House plans to publish

the finalists in a collection.

Coronavirus has become the subject of several cultural contests in Iran since February 2020, when the first cases of the disease were detected in the country.

The Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults launched the International Clean Hands, Save Lives Painting Contest in March 2020.

In addition, a number of Iranian authors began writing stories on the virus to teach children and others how to take care of themselves during the pandemic.

One of the writers is Ali-Asghar Seidabad, who wrote “Hannah, Our Hero”.

It is about several children including Hannah that go to visit their uncle, Bahman, who doesn’t know that he is infected with COVID-19. All the children are infected, but Hannah escapes uninfected due to her care about the tips for dealing with coronavirus.

The book was also translated into Croatian, Turkish, English, Italian, French and German.

“The Corrections” appears in Persian

CULTURE **TEHRAN** — American author Jonathan Franzen’s 2001 novel “The Corrections” has been published in Persian.

Cheshmeh is the publisher of the book rendered into Persian by Payman Khaksar.

It revolves around the troubles of an elderly Midwestern couple and their three adult children, tracing their lives from the mid-20th century to “one last Christmas” together near the turn of the millennium.

This immense work of 21st-century American social criticism has been variously hailed as “the Bleak House of the digital age” and “hysterical realism,” a sub-genre of postmodern fiction, defined by “chronic length, frenzied action, manic characters and a tendency to digress into other topics not central to the story.”

The novel does exhibit these characteristics—exploring the dark corners of numerous issues, from globalization, the

pharmaceutical industry, and economic colonization to the state of Central Europe and 21st-century university life—but its appealing, intellectual style brings warmth and humanity to its epic tale of the dysfunctional Lambert family and their attempt to meet for one last family Christmas.

The novel was awarded the National Book Award in 2001 and the James Tait Black Memorial Prize in 2002.

“The Corrections” was published to wide acclaim from literary critics for its characterization and prose.

While the novel’s release preceded the September 11 terrorist attacks by ten days, many have interpreted “The Corrections” as having prescient insight into the major concerns and general mood of post-9/11 American life, and it has been listed in multiple publications as one of the greatest novels of the 21st century.