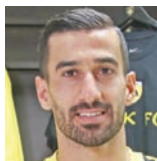




Officials from 73 countries to partake in Raisi Inauguration *Page 2*



AEK complete signing of Iran captain Hajisafi *Page 3*



TSE, CASE ink cooperation MOU *Page 4*



Cheshmeh-Ali's ancient hill to be preserved *Page 6*



Part of the problem, out of the solution

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National Housing Action Plan to provide affordable houses for variable groups

BY MAHNAZ ABDI
It was in the winter of 2018 when Iranian Transport and Urban Development Ministry launched the National Housing Action Plan, which includes the construction of 400,000 small and medium-sized apartments (70-100 square meters in size) across the country and particularly in Tehran, where housing prices have risen most sharply.

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

Of the mentioned 400,000 units, 200,000 are planned to be built in new towns with the participation of the private sector, 100,000 units in worn-out areas and by the Urban Reconstruction Company, and 100,000 units by the Islamic Revolution Housing Foundation.

In early September 2019, the registration of the National Housing Action Plan was started from Kerman Province. The second round of registration began in ten other provinces in November that year.

Applicants in Sistan-Baluchestan, Qom, North Khorasan and South Khorasan provinces registered first and those from Kordestan, Kohgiluyeh-Boyerahmad, and Golestan came in the second stage, while from Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, Hamedan, and Yazd provinces came in the third stage.

Then the turn came to the applicants of Tehran province.

The first group of the plan's housing units were handed over to the applicants in late November last year, and the second group in mid-July this year.

The ceremonies for both stages were attended by President Hassan Rouhani and the Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami.

The minister has stated that in order to facilitate the access of the target community to affordable housing units, 55 percent of the price of the mentioned units will be lent to the applicants in the form of bank facilities.

According to Eslami, in the process of the registration for the National Housing Plan, over 2.5 million people applied, among which 530,000 were eligible to receive housing units, however, some did not complete the registration.

Continued on page 4

Salt mummies' leather belongings restored, reorganized

TEHRAN – Remains of leather belongings of the ancient salt men, found in Iran's Chehrabad Salt Mine in Zanjan province, have recently been restored and reorganized.

The project, which was carried out by Iran's Research Center for Conservation of Cultural Relics, aimed to protect and preserve the properties, considered the oldest leather objects ever discovered in the country, the head of the project has announced.

In this project, it was important to identify and transform objects that were used mainly for research and study into museum objects. CHTN quoted Narges Afzalipur as saying on Monday.

Project also include documentation and traumatology, preparing an identity card, conducting wet and dry chemical tests, using a digital microscope, mechanical cleaning, labeling, softening, and dehumidification of parts, assembly and gluing of parts, reinforcement, packaging and photography, she added.

Back in January, the center implemented a project for documenting and reorganizing ancient salt men and their belongings in Zolfaghari Museum in the northwestern city of Zanjan.

The collections of salt men and their belongings were purified, cleansed, and restored during the project, which was carried out in collaboration with the Archaeological Museum Frankfurt, the Ruhr-Universität Bochum, and Zanjan's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department.

The project also aimed at desalinating, strengthening, and reconstructing the salt men and their properties as well as preventing further damage to them.

In 1993, miners in the Douzklakh Salt Mine, near Hamzehli and Chehrabad villages in Zanjan Province, accidentally came across a mummified head, dated to 300 CE.

Continued on page 6

Lebanese mourners come under deadly attack in "major aggression"

A crowd of mourners taking part in a commemoration ceremony for a slain Hezbollah member has come under attack in the southern Lebanese town of Khaldah. The incident, which Hezbollah called a planned ambush has killed at least three people and left several others wounded. Footage has emerged showing the attackers shooting at the mourners.

The armed men began attacking the mourners as they were arriving at the mourning ceremony for Ali Shebli, a member of the Hezbollah resistance movement, who was died on Saturday.

A Hezbollah affiliated member of parliament has confirmed the nature of the incident describing the attack as a "major aggression" that will have "major repercussions". Hassan Fadlallah says the attack was indeed a shooting by outlawed armed gangs who must be apprehended to prevent any further escalation.

Fadlallah, reflecting the stance of a Hezbollah statement, offered condolences to the families of the martyrs who perished in the ambush. The parliament member says Hezbollah will not abandon this issue, saying it will serve as a starting point that will put an end to these gangs.

The Lebanese MP also praised Hezbollah's position towards domestic issues, calling on the authorities to live up to their responsibilities. Fadlallah says "Hezbollah's position today is one of the major national positions, the party acted with the highest levels of national responsibility, along with its supporters as a whole"

He added that "Hezbollah is capable of eradicating these criminal gangs" recalling that when the Lebanese regions were targeted by Daesh car bombs and attacks by other terrorist groups, Hezbollah ended the presence and activists of the terrorists on Lebanese soil.

Continued on page 5

Iran official warns against Western action over Israeli ship

TEHRAN – An Iranian official has warned against any move by Western countries and Israel against Iran, saying such a move would be met with a "tough response" from Iran.

"Although the Islamic Republic of Iran considers threats of Western officials and those of the Zionist regime as propaganda, any move against the interests and national security of Iran will be met with a tough and firm response, and Washington and London will directly be held

accountable for the consequences," the official told Nour News on Monday as UK and U.S. top diplomats, as well as Israel, pointed the finger at Iran after an Israeli-operated ship came under attack in the Gulf of Oman last week.

The Israeli-operated ship Mercer Street was attacked 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.

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Rangers at forefront of nature conservation

BY FARANAK BAKHTIARI

TEHRAN – Environmental defenders and rangers are at the forefront of protecting wildlife, natural resources, and ecosystems, while sometimes sacrificing their lives to protect nature.

July 31 is designated as World Ranger Day, which celebrates the work rangers do to protect the planet's natural treasures and cultural heritage and commemorates the guardians of nature killed or injured in the line of duty.

In Iran, some rangers have lost their lives to protect the environment and natural resources, although laws have been passed to protect them. Nevertheless, we are still witnessing the martyrdom of the guardians of nature.

The bill for the protection of rangers' rights was approved by the parliament in July 2019. Also, the law for the protection of rangers was approved in June 2020, however, a number of unfortunate incidents, from mutilation and martyrdom to armed attacks had happened to these devoted defenders.

In September 2019, a ranger, Mohammad Hassannejad, was shot dead by poachers in the Armark area of Hormozgan province, ISNA reported.

Ebrahim Ghotb, a ranger in Bamoo National Park, was shot in the chin by his own weapon and lost his life.

Other unfortunate incidents in the field of environmental protection in the country over the last year (March 2020-March 2021) include the attack of illegal hunters on the Gatvand environmental checkpoint when Amin Hadipour was shot and lost a leg.

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Iranian wrestler Geraei scores with an amazing technique

TEHRAN – Iranian Greco-Roman wrestler Mohammadali Geraei defeated his Croatian rival Bozo Starcevic with an amazing technique.

He vaulted over his opponent and defeated him in the 77kg category of the 2020 Olympic Games underway in Tokyo.

Geraei lost to Hungarian wrestler Tamas Lorincz in the semifinals.

Guardian Council signs Raisi credentials

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — The Guardian Council, which oversees elections, delivered credentials of President-elect Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi to the Office of the Leader. The Guardian Council signed the presidential certificate and sent it to Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.



Article 2 of the presidential election law stipulates that the president's credentials be signed by the Guardian Council and sent to the Leader.

In addition, clause 83 of the same law requires that a copy of the certificate be delivered to the Ministry of the Interior.

Raisi, the former chief justice who won the June 18 presidential election, will be authorized by the Leader on Tuesday.

Also on Thursday, Raisi will be sworn in as president in Majlis (Parliament). Officials from 73 countries will take part in the inauguration ceremony.

Iran summons Romania ambassador

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Continuing its busy day, the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs summoned the Romanian ambassador to Tehran on Monday afternoon.

Following the baseless accusations against Iran by the Romanian government with regard to an attack on an Israeli operated tanker in the Sea of Oman, the ambassador of Romania in Tehran was summoned to the General Directorate of Mediterranean and Eastern Europe of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

During the summoning of the ambassador, the Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister and Director General of the Mediterranean and Eastern Europe, referring to the statement of the Romanian Foreign Ministry, considered the false accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran to be illegal and unacceptable. It was requested to express the level of dissatisfaction and strong protest of Iran in this regard to the officials of his respective country.

Referring to the goal of some countries to create insecurity and turmoil in the international environment by organizing such actions and the need to be aware of the conspiracy of these countries, Iran's principled policy on the importance of providing maritime security in the Persian Gulf region, the Sea of Oman and international waters were emphasized.

During the summoning, the Romanian ambassador emphasized that the points raised in the meeting and the level of Iran's protests will be immediately reflected in Bucharest.

In the attack on the tanker on Thursday, a Romanian citizen was killed. Iran has denied any involvement in the incident.

Enrique Mora to attend Raisi inauguration ceremony

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — The EU is sending senior official and Iran talks coordinator Enrique Mora to attend President-elect Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi's inauguration on Thursday.

The visit comes amid a halting point in Iran talks with talks halted for the past two months, currently with no date to reconvene. An EU spokeswoman confirms that's part of the point of the trip.

"It is crucial to engage diplomatically with the new administration and pass directly important messages. As coordinator of the JCPOA," Wall Street Journal quoted Josep Borrell as saying.

"Key priority is to resume negotiations in Vienna and facilitate the way back to full JCPOA implementation," Borrell said.

Moderation, constructive interaction remedies for Iran's woes: Rouhani

In his last speech as the 7th president of Iran, President Hassan Rouhani described moderation and productive interaction as the only suitable approaches for addressing problems.

In an address on his last day in office, Rouhani said on Monday that his prescription for the country's problems is the same thing that he had thought of eight years ago.



"I reiterate that the way to save the country is moderation at home and abroad as well as constructive interaction at home and abroad," he said.

The outgoing president stated that everybody should conclude that the era of extremism is over and that the road to moderation is the right path.

He also highlighted his administration's success in lifting seven dangerous sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council on Iran, saying his team has always been hopeful about the results of constructive interaction and dialogue.

Rouhani pointed to the extensive economic benefits provided by the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), saying that it would have been much more difficult to achieve success under the sanctions and the economic war without the nuclear deal.

In a ceremony slated for tomorrow, President-elect Ebrahim Raisi will officially become the 8th president of the Islamic Republic.

Ayatollah Khamenei will deliver a speech in the ceremony after comments from the outgoing interior minister and the new president.

(Source: Tasnim)

Iran did not collapse after heavy sanctions, says government

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Speaking at his last press briefing as government spokesman on Monday, Ali Rabiei said goodbye to reporters and discussed the latest developments in the country.

He began the briefing by saying that the goals of the planners of the economic war did not succeed and "Iran remained Iran".

"This, naturally, put a heavy strain on people's lives. Inflation and the devaluation of the national currency were the result of unprecedented and horrific sanctions," Rabiei said.

The government spokesman said many predicted a worse situation and the collapse of Iran, but not only Iran's economy did not collapse, but also grew in 2020. However, he said, the lives of the people were greatly affected by the sanctions and this was a serious concern for the government.

"For these reasons, the government's supportive policies were pursued, including the equalization of salaries of the retired, the provision of support packages to stakeholders, and increase in salaries of workers," he explained.

The spokesman added sanctions and lack of access to resources coupled with excessive dependence on foreign revenues made the job difficult for the people and the government, he pointed out.

The people are still suffering from sanctions, he lamented.

Rabiei said, "Today, at the end of the government, I want to say that the sanctions upset the price balance of many goods in



the market."

He added, "The path we took was not wrong; we still say that moderation is the only way to succeed and overcome obstacles."

Elsewhere in his remarks, the spokesman said that he prays for the success of the next government.

"The future government has a difficult path ahead. We should all have reasonable expectations of the future government. The next government is also under sanctions. Sanctions are an undeniable fact. The future government will face the three challenges

of the outgoing government today. Climate change and drought are real and serious. Undoubtedly, we cannot continue with the normal habits," he stated.

Rabiei called climate change and coronavirus as "man-made extremism of nature" and challenges that the future government will face.

The psychological effects of Coronavirus and sanctions will always remain in the minds of the people, the spokesman remarked.

In addition, our experience over the past eight years suggests that the only effective

Iran summons British chargé d'affaires

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — The British chargé d'affaires in Tehran was summoned to the Foreign Ministry in the absence of the British ambassador to protest the accusations of the British foreign secretary against Iran on Monday.

Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab claimed that his government believed an attack on an Israeli-operated oil tanker off the coast of Oman was "deliberate, targeted, and a clear violation of international law by Iran."

During the summoning, the head of the Third Western European Office at the Foreign Ministry, while regretting the baseless accusations of the British foreign secretary, stressed that these hasty, contradictory, and unsubstantiated statements were rejected and strongly condemned.

The head of the ministry's Third Western Europe Office added, "This is not the first hasty accusation against the Islamic Republic of Iran without any evidence, but the UK has accused Iran of actions that have never been proven in the past and never any documents have been presented in such allegations.

The head of the Third Western European Office continued, "Iran has always considered the Persian Gulf as a safe waterway for the safe passage of ships and has tried to establish and strengthen security in it."

He added that the source of instability in the Persian Gulf is not Iran but the presence of ships and military forces of foreign countries in the region.

The Foreign Ministry official, while warning about any adventure by the Zionist regime or others, said the definite policy of the Islamic Republic is based on self-defense and

decisive response, timely and appropriate to any adventurism.

The chargé d'affaires promised to report to London as soon as possible.

In a statement on Monday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh also said the statements issued by U.S. and UK foreign ministers contain "contradictory" claims and "provocative and false accusations."

He condemned these statements and called them "deeply regrettable."

"Such coordinated statements (from Britain and the U.S.) include contradictory phrases per se, in a way that they first level accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran without providing any evidence and document and then talk about the 'possibility' of this," Khatibzadeh said.

The spokesman described Iran as an advocate and supporter of the safe navigation of ships in the Persian Gulf and international waters, and said as a country that has the longest sea borders in the Persian Gulf, Iran is always prepared for cooperation with regional countries to ensure maritime security.

He also noted that Iran considers the presence and interference of the extra-regional forces in the Persian Gulf waters and its littoral states to be harmful to the region's stability and security.

He also warned against any move by the UK and the U.S. against Iran in the wake of the mysterious attack on the Israeli-operated oil tanker off the coast of Oman.

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 mag-



nate 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 on-board 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.

Israel, the U.S. and the UK all blamed Iran for the attack without presenting any evidence to support their accusations.

On Monday afternoon, Khatibzadeh tweeted, "As guarantor of Persian Gulf security, Iran strongly condemns provocative & orchestrated UK/US statements."

Having kept silent abt REPEATED terrorist attacks on IRANIAN ships, they now baselessly accuse IRAN.

Any anti-Iran adventurism will receive IMMEDIATE & DECISIVE response."

Officials from 73 countries to partake in Raisi inauguration ceremony

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — 115 officials from 73 countries will take part in the swearing-in ceremony of Ebrahim Raisi as new Iranian president, the Majlis presiding board spokesman announced on Monday.

10 heads of state, 20 parliament speakers, 11 foreign ministers, 10 ministers, special envoys, deputy parliament speakers, heads of parliamentary committees, and parlia-

mentary delegations will participate in the ceremony which will be held on Thursday, Seyyed Nezamodin Mousavi explained.

Before the president takes the oath of office in the parliament, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei will confirm him on Tuesday.

The spokesman also said leading cultural and social figures from Muslim countries will participate in the oath of office ceremony.

On possible presence of a representative from Saudi Arabia in the ceremony, he said, "The details about foreign guests are not still clear." He added the Majlis will provide more details in this regard the next few days.

Mousavi said according to Article 121 of the constitution the swearing-in ceremony must be held in parliament before the cameras with participation of Judiciary chief and members of the Guardian Council.

The spokesman for the Majlis presiding board also said due to the Coronavirus pandemic, all health protocol will be strictly observed during ceremony.

Mousavi also said after the president is sworn in, he is tasked to present a list of his proposed ministers to the parliament and provide an explanation about their plans, and educational and executive experiences.

Salehi: Rouhani government faced vast problems

POLITICAL d e s k **TEHRAN** — Ali Akbar Salehi, chief of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, participated in a meeting with the president and senior officials of the outgoing administration, saying that he would like to thank the tireless efforts of President Rouhani's first and second administrations.

Salehi referred to the activities of the outgoing government, saying, "I would like to mention the 11th and 12th governments and the tireless efforts of President Rouhani and his entourage in the government."

He stated that he is obliged to say that during Rouhani's presidency, it is fair to say that the president himself, above others in the government, used his prudence and hope as a shield against conspiracies hatched against the country and the revolution.

The nuclear chief emphasized, "It can be boldly said that no government in the Islamic Republic of Iran has faced such a volume of problems and difficulties."

Salehi stated that natural disasters such as floods, earthquakes, and droughts on the one hand and the implementation of the policy of maximum and oppressive pressure and the spread of the infamous Coronavirus, on the other hand, created a bitter and poisonous concoction.

The "maximum pressure" refers to Trump's strategy against Iran.

"Hostility and enmity from foreign foes and the emergence of some political immoralities in the domestic arena added to the existing conditions," the nuclear chief said.

He highlighted that despite all shortcomings and restric-

tions created on the path of the government, thanks to the grace of God and the widespread support of the government, the necessary conditions were provided to achieve two significant victories.

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization added, "First, the advancement of nuclear talks in the 11th government, which was made possible through the guidance and support of the Leader and the activities of Rouhani, provided an opportunity to thwart the conspiracy of Iran's ill-wishers, and our stubborn enemies failed to achieve their goals."

Salehi added, "Secondly, after the defeat of the previous U.S. administration (in the elections) and the withdrawal of this country from the Barjam agreement (JCPOA), many international observers were waiting for the balance of the government to be upset and our government officials to be caught in a whirlpool of incurable systems."

He said that everyone must testify that this government, despite enduring the wounds caused by the relentless onslaught of "poisonous arrows" on the battlefield, did not give up and continued its path with determination through trust, perseverance, and popular support.

The nuclear chief said that as one of the oldest people involved in the peaceful nuclear program of Iran, he could testify that in the light of the measures taken by the Islamic Republic and due to the smart moves of the government in the field of nuclear diplomacy, the current situation is very different to 2013.

He emphasized, "Today, the country's nuclear industry is stepping on the path of growth and excellence with increasing

authority and strength, while our enemies were constantly using propaganda tools to insist on their baseless claim that in this government, the power and capacity of the program of Iran's nuclear program is on the verge of degeneration and destruction."

After adopting the strategic law to lift sanctions and protect the interests of the Iranian people in the parliament, this fact became apparent to everyone that the foundations and pillars of this national industry were safe from any harm, said Salehi, a nuclear physicist.

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization said, "In addition, I would like to point out that friends did not understand the difficult situation of this government and contrary to the repeated recommendations of the Leader of the Revolution on the need for Islamic unity and national solidarity, they crossed the boundaries of compassionate criticism and fair criticism."

"If we all followed the rules of political game and preferred national interests over the group and factional interests, Iran would have achieved more," he said.

He pointed out that in the end he considers it necessary to thank the president for his efforts to protect the interests of the great nation of Iran.

"Since the beginning of the 1380s (2001s), I played the role of the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the International Atomic Energy Agency, and I have increasingly encountered Mr. Rouhani's abilities and characteristics. A deep understanding of political developments on the world stage attracted my attention," he said of the outgoing president.

SPORTS

AEK complete signing of Iran captain Hajisafi

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Greek football team AEK Athens have completed the signing of Iran and Sepahan winger Ehsan Hajisafi.



The 31-year-old player has joined AEK from Sepahan as a free agent player on a two-year deal for an undisclosed fee. Hajisafi will wear No. 26 in AEK Athens.

He has already played for Greek teams Panionios and Olympiacos.

Hajisafi has joined his countryman Karim Ansarifard at AEK. He is a member of Iran national football team since 2008. AEK Athens Football Club are a Greek professional football club based in Nea Filadelfeia, a suburb of Athens, Greece.

Mohammad Mohebi on Santa Clara's radar: Report

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Primeira Liga side Santa Clara have reportedly shown an interest in signing Iranian winger Mohammad Mohebi.

The 23-year-old Iranian international player currently plays for Sepahan, A Bola reported.

Sepahan coaching staff member Miguel Teixeira had previously said that Mohebi could leave the club to sign with a foreign team after the completion of the Iranian championship. Mohebi had been also linked with SC Braga, Boavista, and Portimonense.

This move comes after Iranian striker Shahriar Moghanlou, who was with Santa Clara last season, was loaned to Persepolis by the Azoreans.

Persepolis winger Shojaei undergoes successful surgery

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Persepolis football team winger Ali Shojaei underwent successful shoulder surgery on Monday.

The Persepolis winger needs three months to recover from the injury.

He will miss the early weeks of 2021-22 season of Iran Professional League.

Shojaei will also be absent in the match against Tajikistan's FC Istiklol in Round of 16 of AFC Champions League.

Azmoun not to join Leverkusen: Kicker

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — According to a report by Kicker, Bayer 04 Leverkusen have abandoned efforts for signing Iranian striker Sardar Azmoun due to financial issues.

The report says the transfer would cost 30 million euros and this has pushed back the German club's officials, Kicker wrote.

On the other hand, Leverkusen will reportedly extend Lucas Alario's contract to solve their problem in the attacking line in a more economical solution. The team are now looking to hire a new winger. This means Azmoun will not leave for Germany at least this summer.

FC Zenit head coach Sergei Semak had earlier said that Azmoun has no special offer and will remain in the Russian club.

If the report is confirmed, one should not expect to see the Iranian Messi in a team outside Russia this season.

The 26-year-old striker had also been put on the radar of several teams including AS Rome.

Persepolis defender Kanaanizadegan joins Qatar's Al Ahli

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iran and Persepolis defender Hossein Kanaanizadegan joined Qatari top flight football club Al Ahli.

The 27-year-old player has joined Al Ahli on a two-year deal for an undisclosed fee.

He joined Persepolis in 2019 and won Iran Professional League two times with the Iranian giants.

Kanaanizadegan is a member of Iran national football team since 2015.

Al-Ahli, also known as Al-Ahli Doha are a Qatari multi-sport club based in Doha. Their home ground is the Hamad bin Khalifa Stadium. They are the oldest sports club in Qatar, having been established in 1950.

Hazfi Cup: semifinals referees appointed

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — The referees of semifinal round of Iran's Hazfi Cup were announced.

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

Vahid Kazemi will officiate Esteghlal v Gol Gohar match in Tehran and Kupal Nazemi referee Foolad v Malavan match in Ahvaz.

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.

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.

Iran rejects U.S., UK accusations over Israeli ship

→1 The spokesman described Iran as an advocate and supporter of the safe navigation of ships in the Persian Gulf and international waters, and said as a country that has the longest sea borders in the Persian Gulf, Iran is always prepared for cooperation with regional countries to ensure maritime security.

He also noted that Iran considers the presence and interference of the extra-regional forces in the Persian Gulf waters and its littoral states to be harmful to the region's stability and security.

"It is a pity that these countries (the U.S. and Britain) have remained supportively silent about the terrorist attacks and acts of sabotage against Iranian trade vessels in the Red Sea and international waters, but have raised bogus allegations against Iran with political bias in a brazen manner. If these countries have any evidence for their bogus claims, they should present them," he added.

He also warned against any move by the UK and the U.S. against Iran in the wake of a mysterious attack on an Israeli-operated oil tanker off the coast of Oman.

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.

Israel, the U.S. and the UK blamed Iran for the attack without presenting any evidence to support their accusations.

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."

The UK also followed suit. "We believe this attack was deliberate, targeted, and a clear violation of international law by Iran. UK assessments have concluded that it is highly likely that Iran attacked the MV Mercer Street in international waters off Oman on 29 July using one or more unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs)," said a UK statement on Sunday. "The UK is working with our international partners on a concerted response to this unacceptable attack."

London went so far as to summon

the Iranian ambassador to the UK. "The Iranian Ambassador to the UK, Mohsen Baharvand, was summoned today to the Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office by the Minister for the Middle East, James Cleverly, in response to the unlawful attack committed on MV Mercer Street on 29 July," the UK Foreign Office said in a statement.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken also echoed the same allegations. "Upon review of the available information, we are confident that Iran conducted this attack, which killed two innocent people, using one-way explosive UAVs, a lethal capability it is increasingly employing throughout the region," he said in a statement on Sunday.

In a thinly-veiled threat, Blinken said the U.S. was working with its allies to coordinate a response to Iran. "We are working with our partners to consider our next steps and consulting with governments inside the region and beyond on an appropriate

response, which will be forthcoming," Blinken said.

Khatibzadeh warned that Iran has no hesitation in protecting its security and national interests and will respond promptly and strongly to any possible adventure.

In a tweet on Monday, the spokesman warned, "As guarantor of Persian Gulf security, Iran strongly condemns provocative & orchestrated UK/US statements. Having kept silent abt REPEATED terrorist attacks on IRANIAN ships, they now baselessly accuse IRAN. Any anti-Iran adventurism will receive IMMEDIATE & DECISIVE response."

Also, Iran summoned the UK chargé d'affaires given the fact that the UK ambassador to Iran is not in the country. The Iranian Foreign Ministry said the head of the Third Bureau of Western Europe at the ministry summoned the UK chargé d'affaires to express regret over the UK foreign secretary's "baseless" accusation against Iran.

"These rash contradictory and unfounded remarks are rejected and strongly condemned," the head of the Third Bureau told the British diplomat.

He added, "This is not the first rash and unfounded accusation by the UK against the Islamic Republic of Iran. This country has in the past leveled some accusations against Iran that were never proved and has not presented any evidence so far to support them."

The Iranian diplomat noted, "Iran has always considered the Persian Gulf as a safe waterway for the safe passage of ships and has tried to establish and strengthen security in it. The source of instability in the Persian Gulf is not Iran but the presence of ships and military forces of extra-regional countries."

While warning about any adventure on the part of Israel, he said the definite policy of the Islamic Republic is based on self-defense and decisively, timely, and proportionately responding to any adventure.

Iran official warns against Western action over Israeli ship

→1 No country claimed responsibility for the attack but the United States, Israel and the UK blamed Iran for the attack.

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."

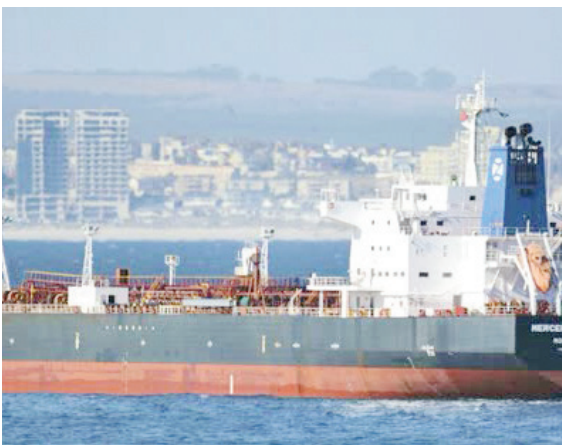
He noted, "In any case, we know how to send a message to Iran in our own way."

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.

The UK government issued a statement on Sunday accusing Iran of conducting the attack on the Israeli ship. "UK assessments concluded that it is highly likely that Iran attacked the merchant vessel MV Mercer Street in international waters off Oman using unmanned aerial vehicles," the statement said. Iran rejected the UK allegation.

India's chief diplomat to attend Raisi inauguration

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Indian

External Affairs Minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar will pay a visit to Iran to represent India in the inauguration ceremony of new Iranian president Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi.

The inauguration ceremony is slated to be held on August 5 with the participation of several heads of government, parliament speakers, foreign ministers, etc. Jaishankar will visit Iran this week to represent India at the oath-taking ceremony, according to India broadcaster WION.

This will be Jaishankar's second visit to Iran in a matter of a month. Last month, he had visited Iran while going to Moscow. During the stopover, he called on President-elect Ebrahim Raisi. During his meeting with the Iranian president-elect, he handed over a personal message from Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

In a tweet after his meeting with Ayatollah Raisi, Jaishankar hailed the president-elect's commitment to strengthening ties between Iran and India.

"Thank President-elect Ebrahim Raisi for his gracious welcome. Handed over a personal message from PM @narendramodi. Appreciate his warm sentiments for India. Deeply value his strong com-

mitment to strengthen our bilateral ties and expand cooperation on regional and global issues," the chief Indian diplomat said on Twitter.

He also held talks with Iran's outgoing Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif during which Afghanistan was the key focus. The Iranian Foreign Ministry in a statement said, "The two sides also stressed the need to strengthen intra-Afghan dialogue in Afghanistan, which leads to a comprehensive political solution."

In addition to the situation in Afghanistan, issues of mutual interest, the latest developments in the region, the prospects for the Vienna talks on the JCPOA, transport and communications cooperation, including cooperation in Chabahar port to promote convergence in the region were on the agenda of talks.

The two sides also stressed the need to strengthen intra-Afghan dialogue in order to find a comprehensive political solution to the decades-long conflict in the country.

Iran hosted intra-Afghan talks on July 7-8. The meeting was headed by key figures from the Taliban and the Afghan government.

The Indian foreign minister thanked Iran for its efforts to bring the two sides



closer to a comprehensive political solution. Zarif and Jaishankar discussed the latest developments in bilateral relations in a phone conversation in July.

During the phone call, the two sides also exchanged views on important regional issues, especially the situation in Afghanistan.

Iran-Oman online exhibit to be held in late August

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce will hold the first online exhibit of the two countries on August 29, Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) published on its website.

As reported, the traders and businessmen of the two sides will discuss possible fields of cooperation in the B2B meetings which will be held on the sidelines of the exhibit.

Expansion of trade with the neighboring countries, especially increasing non-oil exports to them, is one of the major plans that the Iranian government is now pursuing, and among the neighbors, Oman is one that the Islamic Republic has attached priority in this due, as the two neighbors enjoy an old history of good political and economic relations as well as many religious and cultural commonalities.

In a meeting with Iran's new ambassador to Muscat in last November, Sultan of Oman Haitham bin Tariq Al Said expressed his country's determination to enhance relations with Iran.

The Sultan said his country is resolved to promote and strengthen relations with the Islamic Republic.

As stated, several times by the officials of the two countries, the ground is completely prepared for the expansion of trade relations between Iran and Oman.

Emphasizing that the basic infrastructure is prepared for the development of trade relations between Iran and Oman, Mohsen Zarrabi, the head of Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce, has said that with the beginning of sanctions and the severance of some countries' relations with Iran, the government of Oman not only did not cut its trade relations with Iran, but also they are trying to increase economic relations with the Islamic Republic in the framework of international relations and with a win-win approach.

"This approach of Oman was maintained even during the outbreak of the coronavirus, and we saw an increase in the shipping lines of this country to Iran in the first month of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 21-April 21) and the following months", he stated.

Oman not only did not close its borders during the pandemic, when most countries closed their borders to Iranian goods, but also increased shipping lines to Iran, Zarrabi further emphasized.

According to the official, currently, port relations between the two countries are relatively good and Iranian ships are moving between the ports of Iran and Oman.

He also mentioned Oman as a base for re-exporting Iranian goods noting that the sultanate has free trade agreement with 16 Arab-African countries, the United States, Singapore and four European countries, and noted that Iran should take advantage of this golden opportunity.

Agricultural products, construction materials, building stones, minerals, metals, bitumen, and cement are the major products Iran exports to Oman.

Given the favorable conditions for increasing the diversity of Iranian exports and the existing infrastructure for re-export in Oman, there is a capacity to increase the value of trade between the two sides to \$5 billion.

Iran has currently an increasing trend in re-exporting its goods from Oman. In fact, Oman is the only Arab country in the Persian Gulf that accepts Iranian companies through which Iran can reach the markets of other countries.

It is worth mentioning that in January 2020, Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) held the first meeting of its Commodity-Country Desk on trade with Oman presided by Farzad Piltan, the director-general of TPO's Office of Arabian and African Countries.

Despite the U.S. re-imposition of sanctions against Iran, Oman is getting closer to the Islamic Republic both politically and economically. There is also the same approach adopted by Iran, as Iranian companies now prefer to conduct trade with Oman rather than the United Arab Emirates, given that the UAE is highly complying with the sanctions.

Iran is somehow replacing some of its previous strategic trade partners such as UAE with Oman, considering the Sultanate as an economic-trade hub.

TEDPIX drops 2,300 points on Monday

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 2,347 points to 1.357 million on Monday

As reported, over 6.748 billion securities worth 44.623 trillion rials (about \$1.062 billion) were traded at the TSE on Monday.



The first market's index dropped 3,679 points, while the second market's index rose 1,391 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

A capital market analyst says that TEDPIX is going to improve in the second half of the current Iranian calendar month (ends on August 22).

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

Major projects inaugurated in South Pars

→ 1 Maintaining SP production level should be next government's priority

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony, Zanganeh pointed to the significance of the work that has been done on the South Pars gas field in recent years and noted that maintaining the current production level of the field should be the priority of the next government.

The official noted that preventing the decline in production and maintaining the current output level requires \$25-\$30 billion of investment.

"The most important thing that needs to be done in South Pars from now on, and we prepared its outline in the form of a document and submitted it to the future government, is to prevent the pressure drop and to maintain the current production levels; in this regard, we need 25 to 30 billion dollars of investment, part of which has already been attracted, for example, a contract has been signed with OTC [Oil Turbo Compressor Construction Company] to build suitable compressors to increase pressure at sea and on land."

He mentioned South Pars as the most important national development plan of Iran in the last 100 years and said: "The first contract for the development of the South Pars gas field was signed in September 1997 and by mid-2005, 10 phases of South Pars had been put into operation."



Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh

Zanganeh further underlined the significant increase in the production from the giant gas field, saying: "With the increase of gas production from the South Pars joint field and other gas fields, we reached the daily production record of one billion cubic meters."

The minister also referred to the measures

taken for the future development of South Pars and stated that this year 40 million cubic meters of new capacity will be added to the field's total output.

Over \$25b invested for SP development in 8 years

Elsewhere in the inauguration ceremony, POGC head Mohammad Meshkinfam pointed

TSE, CASE ink cooperation MOU

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Tehran Stock Exchange and Tajikistan's Central Asian Stock Exchange (CASE) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to develop joint activities.

The MOU was signed by the managing directors of the two countries' stock exchanges in a conference on Iran-Tajikistan trade relations which was held virtually on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

Based on the signed MOU, the stock exchanges of the two countries will exchange experiences and develop cooperation in line with the regulations of the two sides' capital markets. This will facilitate investment opportunities and the participation of shareholders and traders of the two countries.

Organized by the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, In-

dustries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), the Iran-Tajikistan business conference was aimed at acquainting the businessmen and private sectors of the two countries with mutual capacities and opportunities for joint cooperation.

The event was attended by the ambassadors of Iran and Tajikistan, along with economic representatives and private sector activists of the two countries.

Hesameddin Hallaj, TCCIMA deputy head for international affairs, Seyedeh Fatemeh Moghimi, TCCIMA board member, Tajikistan Ambassador to Tehran Zohidi Nizomiddin Shamsiddinzoda, Mohammad Taghi Saberi, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Tajikistan, and Jamshid Juma Khanzadeh, chairman of the Tajik Chamber of Commerce and Industry, were also among the attendees of the conference.

National Housing Action Plan to provide affordable houses for variable groups

→ 1 As announced by Deputy Transport and Urban Development Minister Mahmoud Mahmoudzadeh in the ceremony to hand over the second group of units, so far in the two stages of the national housing program hand overs, over 40,000 units have been handed over to the applicants around the country.

In early July the official 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.

While the National Housing Action Plan

aims to provide affordable residential units for the people, it covers variable groups of the society.

In a recent measure in this due, the Transport and Urban Development Ministry has signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance for constructing 10,000 affordable housing units for the country's journalists and artists, under the framework of the National Housing Action Plan.

The MOU was signed on Saturday in a ceremony attended by the transport minister. Speaking in the signing ceremony, Eslami



TSE had previously inked cooperation MOUs with the stock exchanges of other Asian countries including Seoul Stock Exchange and Shanghai Stock Exchange (SSE).

Iran, Denmark discuss ways of expanding trade ties

ECONOMY **TEHRAN** — Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafeie met with Danish Ambassador to Tehran Jesper Vahr to discuss ways of expanding trade ties between the two countries.

As reported by the ICCIMA portal, in the meeting the officials made several proposals for the expansion of economic exchanges between the two countries, including the establishment of an Iran-Denmark Joint Chamber of Commerce, and also holding online meetings between the members of the ICCIMA and the Confederation of Danish Industry (DI).

Speaking in the meeting, Shafeie pointed to the long history of Denmark's relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and said: "More than 90 years have passed since the first treaty between the two countries; therefore, historically, the relationship between the two sides is a long one."

He also mentioned Denmark's contribution to Iran's dairy industry and noted that Iran's first dairy factory was established using the machinery imported from Denmark and

and Ardebil.

According to Salempour, over 30 trillion rials of facilities (about \$714 million) was paid for the construction of greenhouses across the country in the previous Iranian calendar year.

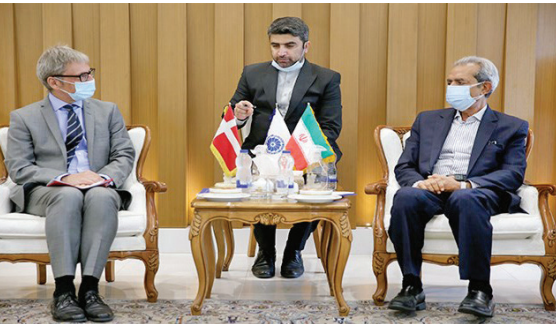
He stated that last year 45 percent of the greenhouses constructed in the country were funded by private sector investors, adding that this year the National Development Fund (NDF) and the country's banking system will provide low-interest facilities to applicants in low-income regions for the construction of greenhouses.

The official also mentioned the ministry's plans for the modernization and renovation of the country's traditional and old greenhouses,

saying: "Our plan in the 10-year horizon is to improve and renovate more than 5,000 traditional, wooden and worn-out greenhouses across the country."

"We have planned to renovate about 650 to 700 hectares of traditional and worn-out greenhouses each year," he added.

The Agriculture Ministry's Greenhouse Development Program is one of the priority projects of the mentioned ministry which aims at increasing productivity, efficiency, and water consumption management in the agriculture sector; the program was approved in the Iranian calendar year 1395 (ended on March 21, 2017) under the framework of the National Resilient Economy Plan.



ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie (R) meets with Danish Ambassador to Tehran Jesper Vahr in Tehran on Monday.

the two sides have had successful cooperation in this sector.

Shafeie further mentioned Denmark's achievements in renewable energies especially in developing wind farms, saying that the country accounts for more than 40 percent

of the world's wind power.

The ICCIMA head noted that the mentioned areas have significant potential for the two countries to cooperate.

According to the official, Iran and Denmark also have a long history of cooperation in the pharmaceutical, medical, cement, and shipping industries.

Vahr for his part expressed Danish companies' eagerness to work in Iran and noted that several Danish companies including Novo Nordisk Company are already active in Iran.

Novo Nordisk has invested over 70 million Euros in Iran, he added.

The Danish ambassador further referred to his country's developments in the field of renewable energies and said: "In Denmark, the use of renewable energy is at the top of the agenda. Many Danish companies specialize in renewable energy, and Denmark somehow had to move in that direction. Our economy suffered huge losses in the 1973 and 1979 oil crises, and one way to reduce that damage was to look for alternative energy sources."

"Prior to the sanctions, one of our major companies was cooperating with Iran in the field of wind energy," he noted.



The development of the country's agricultural parks and greenhouses not only is going to create new job opportunities but also increases the country's non-oil exports and helps to preserve the environment and the national water and soil resources.

Part of the problem, out of the solution

International intervention will not solve Lebanon's problems: Lebanese professor

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN - Head of the Center for Political Studies at the University of Lebanon says international intervention will not heal Lebanon's wounds.

"The international intervention will not solve Lebanon's problems," Talal Atrissi tells the Tehran Times.

"Part of the crisis in Lebanon has to do with the Western-American blockade on Lebanon, and this started two years ago," Atrissi adds.

The United States under the Trump administration imposed a bunch of economic sanctions on prominent Lebanese politicians and key allies of Hezbollah on charges of corruption.

The action was the latest in the Trump administration's efforts to put pressure against Lebanon. It also intensified that pressure under the guise of fighting systemic corruption in Lebanon, which is on the brink of political and economic collapse.

"Sanctions were imposed on banks, as some banks were closed by U.S. direction, and thus the external role had a significant impact in this regard," Atrissi remarks.

The economic deterioration caused by U.S. sanctions is coupled with a complicated network of corruption.

Although the protests triggered on the 17th October 2019 sent a strong message for a major reshuffle in the country's political figures, people witness the return of the same names who institutionalized corruption in the country.

"The return of the figures that are linked to the corrupt system, is because of sectarian features of a system that allows them to return.

"Reassigning the prime minister who was in charge of the government during popular demonstrations, has to do with the sectarian system that requires a prime minister from a certain sect; a prime minister who had resigned during the protests," the Lebanese academic notes.

Following is the text of the interview:

How do you read the recent events in Lebanon?

What is going on in Lebanon is a sign of political crisis caused by the nature of the country's sectarian system, which is based on the distribution of political positions and chairs based on sectarian attribution.

This sectarian power-sharing is reflected in the Council of Ministers, Parliament and in various administrative bodies. This political system has lasted for decades, but today it is facing a crisis. There is no longer room for consensus among the leaders of the sects, and thus the country has gotten entangled in this crisis.

So, we are facing a woe in the political system and a crisis of consensus between the political parties while there is no side that can play the role of mediator, as the country used to.

Thus, this situation was accompanied by an economic and social collapse and deterioration in national currency, which has made the crises more complex and inextricably intertwined and turned them into economic and social woes.

This is the reality Lebanon is encountering today, and worse than that, it is not known how long these conditions will continue.



The various sects and parties in Lebanon accuse one another of being involved in corruption? What are the features of the corrupt class that rules the country?

Corruption in Lebanon is not limited to a particular sect, religion, party, or person. Current corruption in Lebanon has turned to a system that contains a network of relations that transcends sects, meaning that corruption is a consensus point between sects where there are common interests for people and companies established by the participation of different sects that share the spoils and gains are distributed among them.

Therefore, it cannot be said that only one sect is involved in corruption or is the cause of the exacerbation of corruption. In Lebanon, the matter is not understood in this way, and it is not possible to accuse a specific party of corruption. On the contrary, there is an intertwined and unified system of corruption that has concluded contracts over years. For this reason, the supposed reforms were not successful, as the money allocated for them was stolen by a group of people belonging to different sects.

So corruption is trans-sectarian. The second point, which is more serious, is that the judiciary is no longer impartial in Lebanon at all, and therefore it does not play its role in prosecuting the corrupt people, arresting them and putting them in jail in a way that convinces the people. The judiciary is not committed to its missions and functions where it is under pressure from politicians, sects.

This is what makes corruption strong while enjoying political and sectarian protection.

Since the past two years, the Lebanese people have been expressing their opinion, demanding dismissal of figures that have stuck to the current political system. But after all the demonstrations, we see that the same figures and personalities return to the fore. What is the solution?

The demonstrations that swept Lebanon last year failed to set priorities. It raised the slogan of fighting all political classes and voices without making any distinction between politicians who were not involved in corruption.

The demonstrators neither set priorities for the required reform programs nor agree to dialogue with some political parties; they did

not set an agenda for their priorities.

The second point is that these demonstrations were attended by supporters of the political parties in the same system. Those who contributed to the government have also been engaged in corruption.

Groups linked to political parties and figures came to redirect the demonstrations. Consequently, this popular movement lost its credibility and influence.

In a word, in the first week, Lebanon faced a strong movement, but in the following weeks it receded and divided into political groups that were supporting opposing approaches; for this reason, this movement failed to achieve its goals in fighting corruption or changing the ruling political class.

As for the return of the figures that are linked to the corrupt system to the political scene, that is because of sectarian features of a system that allows them to return.

The return of the same names to the fore, such as re-assigning the prime minister who was in charge of the government during popular demonstrations, has to do with the sectarian system that requires a prime minister from a certain sect, a prime minister who had resigned during the protests.

We need a change in the articles and foundations of the Lebanese constitution, starting from the election law to other laws that concern the Council of Ministers and how to nominate the prime minister and the like.

How do you see the impact of international intervention on Lebanon's economy? There are people who call for deepening Western intervention in the Lebanese economy.

International intervention will not solve Lebanon's problems.

Part of the crisis in Lebanon has to do with the Western-American blockade on Lebanon, and this started two years ago.

Sanctions were imposed on banks, as some banks were closed by U.S. direction, and thus the external role had a significant impact in this regard.

When the money was taken out from Lebanon (including the money of banks and depositors), this was done with the knowledge of the Western powers.

The money that goes out from Lebanon to Switzerland, Britain or the United States of America is known; Western states know

well who the owner of this money is, how it was shipped out, and where is its destination.

If there was no international plot to take out these funds to deepen the crisis and achieve the goals sought by the United States of America, then the authorities turned a blind eye to the transfer of this money, to say the least.

Washington spared no effort to encircle Hezbollah in a bid to weaken the influence of the resistance axis and its allies, including the Free Patriotic Movement and the Lebanese president.

That is why one of the aims of the Western embargo on Lebanon is to weaken the influence of the resistance, and therefore today talk of international intervention to save Lebanon's economy is a statement that carries big question marks.

First, the International Monetary Fund does not intervene to save countries when they reach the point of bankruptcy. Rather, it gives them loans and mortgages the repayment of these loans on political terms, constitutional amendments, changes in laws and the imposition of certain policies.

In the case of Lebanon, for example, this fund requires the presence of international forces on the borders between Lebanon and Syria in the south, or other areas in the port and at the airport.

Therefore, it cannot be accepted that the solution lies in Western intervention. Nobody refuses cooperation with the West and the East and ties with Europe, Russia and China in the reconstruction of large sectors such as electricity, the port and others. This is something acceptable and required, but that the West be considered the only solution to the economic crisis is a wrong attitude and will put the Lebanese economy and Lebanese sovereignty at risk.

Don't you expect a return to civil war in Lebanon in light of the current policies?

Fears for a return to civil war are not realistic and no one wants this war at the level of domestic issues.

Even the foreign powers are not interested in triggering a civil war in Lebanon, although wars are always fueled by external decisions, whether at the regional level or at the international level.

The war will not change anything on the ground, but it will end in settlements and understandings, as happened in the previous civil war (1975-1990).

The real concerns are about chaos. I mean, there will be a security vacuum that may trigger attacks in certain areas.

The fears are that the security forces evade their duty in controlling the situation. This is the most likely possibility, but I rule out the occurrence of a civil war between sects or regions, or between Muslims and Christians as well as between Sunnis and Shias.

I do not think that this is on the table at the present time. Perhaps some parties are thinking that sedition may be the most appropriate solution to weaken Hezbollah or implicate the resistance, but such projects are old and not new.

Lebanon is not on the brink of civil war despite the economic and social crises that engulfed it.

Ismail Haniyeh wins second term as Hamas party leader

Officials in Gaza say Haniyeh has been re-elected as the overall leader of the Palestinian group's political wing. This followed elections among the group's members and means the long-time Hamas member will now serve a second four-year term.

A senior Palestinian official confirmed to media outlets that "brother Ismail Haniyeh has been re-elected as the head of the movement's political office for a second time".

Haniyeh will be in charge of the resistance movement's political wing in the besieged Gaza Strip and the occupied West Bank. The resistance leader has been living in exile over the past two years. The 58-year-old was one of several former key aides to Hamas's founder Sheikh Ahmed Yaseen in Gaza before the cleric was assassinated in 2004 by an Israeli regime airstrike at his home.

Haniyeh led Hamas' entry into politics in 2006 when they were surprised victors in Palestinian parliamentary elections; defeating the occupied West Bank-based Fatah party led by President Mahmoud Abbas.

Haniyeh has led the Palestinian resistance against multiple wars waged by Israel on the besieged Gaza Strip. The latest being the eleven-day war in May this year. During the battle, Haniyeh oversaw the resistance groups victory over Israel. Haniyeh's own electoral victory caps elections this year that also saw the group's Gaza-based chief, Yahya al-Sinwar, win a second term in March.

Lebanese mourners come under deadly attack in "major aggression"

→ 1 Lebanese President, Michel Aoun, has called on the Lebanese army to take immediate steps to ensure calm in the area, arrest the attackers and dismantle any armed cells in the region.

Following the incident, the Lebanese army has deployed more forces to Khaldeh.

Hezbollah is usually reluctant to interfere in the domestic security issues of Lebanon. However, where the Lebanese army has showed weakness in preserving security, the group has acted to preserve the country's territorial integrity.

North Korea urges South to drop joint U.S. military drills

Kim Yo Jong, the sister of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, says if Seoul goes ahead with the planned joint military exercise with Washington, it will hurt efforts by the two Koreas to rebuild relations.

In a statement, Kim Yo Jong said "I surely see the military drill, which takes place at an important turning point like this, will become an unpleasant prelude to seriously hurting the will of the leaders of the North and South seeking to take the step toward rebuilding trust again and further clouding the path lying ahead for inter-Korean relations"

The remarks come at a time when Pyongyang and Seoul are engaged in talks to pave the way for an inter-Korean meeting as part of efforts to restore relations.

Washington and Seoul are expected to hold a joint military drill later in August.

However, last week, South Korea's defense ministry said the timing and scale of the summertime military drills with the U.S. have not been finalized.

Last week, the two sides, reconnected hotlines that North Korea severed in June last year.

In letters recently exchanged between North Korean leader, Kim Jong Un, and South Korean President, Moon Jae-in, an agreement was made at efforts towards the restoration of ties.

The move has been viewed as a good will gesture by both sides at improving the prospects for a breakthrough in an extended stalemate in nuclear talks.

The two countries released what appeared to be coordinated statements last week calling for reconciliation on the peninsula, with state media in the North saying they agreed "to make a big stride in recovering the mutual trust."

Analysts say negotiations between the two sides are the only way forward. During the era of Donald Trump, two summits were held between the former U.S. President and Kim Jong Un. But those talks were seen as more of a photo opportunity for Trump that led to no solutions and failing to lift any sanctions imposed on Pyongyang.

Syrian army battles terrorists in country's southwest

Syrian government troops have stepped up the shelling of a terrorist enclave in the southern city of Dera'a in a bid to liberate the entire region.

The army is focusing on the old quarter of Dera'a sending in hundreds of elite troops, dozens of tanks and armored vehicles to restore control of the enclave.

The terrorists have disrupted traffic along the Damascus-Dera'a highway leading to the border with Jordan. This led to the closure of the critical trade crossing point dealing a slight blow to the government's attempts at recovering the economy following 10 years of foreign-backed militancy wreaking havoc in the country.

In 2018, the Syrian army retook control of almost all the provinces, also called Dera'a, that borders Jordan and the Israeli-occupied Golan Heights.

At the time, Russian-brokered deals forced terrorists to hand over heavy weapons but kept the army from entering several towns including the old quarter of the provincial capital known as Dera'a al Balaad. The army says the terrorists have repeatedly refused to surrender under the agreement.

Damascus has also blamed the terrorists for the failure of negotiations that have been held with opposition figures since last week. The talks seek to allow the army to set up checkpoints in the enclave, but terrorists staged an attack on the Syrian army, prompting the army to react.

Syria has liberated the majority of the country that had once been occupied by different foreign-backed terrorist groups. Government forces have managed to liberate all provinces with the exception of Idlib.

The North-Western Idlib province is the last stronghold of terror groups, where Saudi-backed terrorists and al-Qaeda-linked groups continue to operate.

Damascus accuses the U.S., Saudi Arabia and others of funding and arming the terrorists.

Some parts of the oil-rich eastern region of the country are also under illegal occupation by the United States.

Will Israel stop playing and breaking its teeth in the "Axis of the Resistance" playground?

By Elijah J. Magnier

A Romanian Captain and a British security officer were killed by a suicide drone attack on the M/T Mercer Street oil tanker – a Liberian-flagged, Japanese-owned ship that is part of the Zodiac Group of Israeli billionaire Eyal Ofer- sailing from Tanzania towards the United Arab Emirates. The first attack on the tanker caused only material damage but was followed by a second attack where the command-and-control tower was hit to cause human casualties. Al-Alam TV said the attack responded to an Israeli attack on al-Dab'aa airport in Syria where Iranian and Lebanese Hezbollah were killed and wounded. Therefore, the Israeli attack represents a change of the Rule of Engagement (ROE), violating the limit of acceptance in the ongoing conflict and pushing Iran to start a "campaign between wars," expected to increase in intensity in the future. What is shocking to Israel is that, for the first time, Iran showed how linked all theaters are and how an Israeli hit is met with an unexpected response in the Oman Sea.

Israel had carried out over a thousand strikes against targets in Syria during the decade of war against the Syrian army and targets belonging to the "Axis of the Resistance." However, Israel's only objective result was to enlarge the influence of the "Axis of the Resistance" in the Levant – that won the destructive war and defeated the Takfiri groups (ISIS and al-Qaeda) and the different Syrian groups supported by [Persian] Gulf and western countries. The "Axis of the Resistance" enlarged and consolidated its influence on Iraq and Yemen, forming a robust front against Israel and its allies.

Israel tried to operate in the Iraqi theater, sending suicide drones that destroyed seven warehouses belonging to the Iraqi security forces al-Hashd al-Sha'abi. Also, an Israeli drone operating from U.S. military bases in Syria and Iraq attacked and killed an Iraqi commander while he was traveling towards the Iraqi-Syrian borders.

Two years ago, Israel sent two suicide drones onto the Lebanese capital Beirut. One exploded close to Hezbollah's office and another crashed and was found intact, containing explosives. That raised the alarm among the "Axis of the Resistance" that Israel was now using this kind of kamikaze drones to reach its targets yet avoid accountability. The "Axis

of the Resistance" then adopted this Israeli use of suicide drones for many theaters.

In the last two and a half years, Israel claims to have carried out several dozen attacks against Iranian targets. The "war of sabotage" between Iran and Israel is no longer a secret, both sides admit their respective responsibility for the attacks inflicted on one another in the traditional manner, through media leaks. The former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu explicitly broke the Israeli practice of deniability and revealed the responsibility of Israel in many sabotage attacks and unlawful assassinations against Iranian scientists and institutions.

However, it is safe to acknowledge that Israel is playing with fire since it is operating outside its comfort zone and competing in Iran's playground. Furthermore, Israel is clearly facing a severe challenge to its authority and reputation in West Asia. The question is, how long it can sustain this tit-for-tat game that it has itself initiated?

Iran officially denied its involvement in the attack. However, analysts in the region believe that Israel is under shock because it is possible that Iran has responded in the Sea of Oman against an Israeli attack in Syria, introducing a new ROE and choosing the theater directly and not through its allies or in the same operational theater in the Levant. This Iranian choice – claim analysts – indicates that Tehran has deliberately avoided any further implication of the Syrian government, clearly unwilling to start an open war against Israel. It is also saying that Iran will no longer be contained by the Syrian frame for retaliation or containment, and will choose where to hit back at Israel for its continuous attacks on Iranian targets in the Levant.

According to a high-ranking official in the "Axis of the Resistance," Iran is aware that "90% of Israel's goods pass through the sea, which falls into Iran's operational theater and within a comfortable range of its military reach. Israel is indisputably an intelligent enemy. However, the idea to expand its operational theater within Iran's controlled area is arrogant, provocative and counterproductive. Israel is offering Iran unlimited targets in the sea to select from when it initiates this game, which will undoubtedly break its teeth. Israel has much more to lose if it decides to respond to the attack because the retaliation from the Iranian side will not take very long. The last response was significant and balanced,

imposing deterrence and a new Rule of Engagement that still causes confusion and pain to Israel."

This is not the first time that Israel has bombed the al-Dab'aa airport situated in the al-Quseir area. Israel considers the zone as a base for the "Axis of the Resistance," a storage zone for its precision and strategic missiles and an area implicated in the next war against Israel. However, this is the first time that Israel targets a dormitory at the airport with the apparent intention of causing human casualties, killing and wounding three people. Israel was, therefore, aware that retaliation could be on its way. However, it ignored how, when and where. The Mercer Street oil tanker was initially attacked by a drone that damaged only the tanker. The second attack with a suicide drone against this Israeli-operated tanker appears to intentionally aim to cause human casualties (two people were killed), seemingly bringing the account with al-Dab'aa losses to evens.

"If Israel raises the tension and the attacks, it will be met with similar acts unless the traditional ROE is re-established where Israel bombs insignificant targets, destroying replaceable warehouses or a kitchen or a runway. Otherwise, Israel should expect retaliation against its interests anywhere, with or without a US naval escort. Iran's bank of objectives is abundant, and Israel is clearly much more vulnerable than it is able to imagine. This time, the attack took place against an empty tanker, but enough to increase the price of insurance and cause financial repercussions on Israel," revealed the source.

Israel has opened Pandora's box, and hiding under the U.S.'s skirt will not protect Israeli-owned ships if the attacks in Syria continue. Iran is carrying out a campaign "between wars" on Israel which contains limited choices. Any escalation will endanger Israeli navigation, and a lack of response means Israel has decided to bite on its wounds, under the world's watchful eyes. The Iranian deterrence has been imposed either way. The most worrying and crucial part for Israel to consider is whether Iran invokes a Rule Of Engagement every time Israel bombs targets in Syria or only when targeting an objective belonging to the "Axis of the Resistance?" The next moves will answer this question. Neither answer is good news for Israel, which has set in motion a new chain of events, which itself will suffer from. (Source: Press TV)

Historical caravanserai in Saveh undergoes partial restoration

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN**—A restoration project has recently been completed on parts of Shah Abbasi caravanserai in the village of Aveh, near Saveh, the central province of Markazi, Saveh’s tourism chief has announced.

It took almost a month to replace the worn-out bricks, repair some damaged rooms, and install new flooring, Reza Ayyaz said on Monday.



A budget of 200 million rials (\$4,700 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) was allocated to the project, the official added.

The caravanserai has a symmetrical plan with four iwans (porches) and consists of a central courtyard, entrance gate, rooms, and stable.

The structure is named after Shah Abbas the Great (r. 1588 – 1629), who ordered the construction of such roadside inns across the country.

The inn was very prosperous during the Safavid period (1501-1736) and many caravans from around the country used to stay here during this time.

The historical structure was inscribed on the national heritage list in 2000.

Caravanserai (or caravansary) is a compound word combining “caravan” with “sara”. The first stands for a group of travelers and “sara” means the building. They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed around the courtyard and stables behind them with doors in the corners of the yard.

Iran’s earliest caravanserais were built during the Achaemenid era (550 -330 BC). Centuries later, when Shah Abbas I assumed power from 1588 – to 1629, he ordered the construction of network caravanserais across the country. For many travelers to Iran, staying in or even visiting a centuries-old caravanserai, can be a wide experience; they have an opportunity to feel the past, a time travel back into a forgotten age!

Markazi province is considered the industrial capital of the country. It is rich in natural, historical, cultural, and religious attractions.

Hand-woven carpets and kilims, made in its cities including Farahan, Sarugh, Lilivan, Senejan, and Vafs are known internationally.

9 cultural heritage elements added to national list

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



The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts on Monday announced the inscriptions in an official document it submitted to the governor-general of the central province, CHTN reported.

The skills of weaving Boz Chelo carpet, Bildari Ritual, water distribution system, and the talent of Darvish-duzi, a kind of traditional embroidery were among the elements added to the significant list.

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Pottery of Zonouz

Zonouz is one of the counties of East Azerbaijan province, near the county of Marand. There is a Kaolin mine near this region that has provided the possibility of pottery making in Zonouz which has economic importance, too.

At the time when Kaolin pottery was rare and the technology of making these utensils was available only in China, the soil from Zonouz was used as an alternative. Potteries mostly have glaze. In that case, a piece of pottery has two parts, first is the body, and the other is the cover and gloss on the body that both decorates the objects and makes it resistant to water and is called glaze. The body of the potteries is made using different materials available in each region. In Zonouz the primary soil of the pottery is Kaolin that is excavated from “Bilolukh” mountains. These sources are pieces of clods that turn into white powder after a series of processes and then are mixed with water to be prepared for kneading.

When Zonouz potters make the desired objects, they expose them to free air for a while and then paint them with brushes. After they are painted and dried, they are soaked in a mixture of white glaze and the pottery remains white after it is fired. White glaze is the most common glaze and also a basis for other kinds of glaze that are made by a mixture of tin, lead, glass powder, and bicarbonate.

The painting of the potteries are done in Zonouz workshops by the hands of young girls and women. They decorate potteries made by the hand of masters with beautiful motifs and by brushes and pigments. The potteries are painted in colors such as blue, purple, yellow, ultramarine, gray, brown and black. In this region, beautiful sets of dishes, vases, lamp legs, candle holders, ashtrays, tea services, frames, saucers, bowls and sculpture of animals such as moulons, deers, horses, camels, chickens, panthers, dogs, pigeons and also small figurines of horse riders are made. These potteries are created in forms of both simple and painted. Two of the famous masters of pottery from these regions who had an important role in the revival of this craft are Abbas and Ahmad Ghabchi.

(Source: Visit Iran)

Salt mummies’ leather belongings restored, reorganized

→1 The head was very well preserved, to the extent that his pierced ear was still holding the gold earring. The hair, beard, and mustaches were reddish, and his impressive leather boot still contained parts of his leg and foot, according to the Ancient History Encyclopedia.

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

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

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

This particular “saltman” was originally dated based on the archaeological material found with him. Later,



the mummy was carbon dated, which placed him in 500 CE (1750 BP, that is, “before present” or 1750 years ago), the Sasanian Empire’s heir. The second

“Saltman” was carbon-dated to 1554 BP, which placed him in the same era as the first “saltman,” the Sasanian era.

The third, fourth, and fifth “saltmen”

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

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

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

Centuries-old public bathhouse in Yazd gains former glory

HERITAGE d e s k **TEHRAN**—Shazdeh, an Afsharid era (1736-1748) public bathhouse in the historical village of Tezerjan in the central province of Yazd, has been restored, a local tourism official has announced.

The project involved lightening and repairing the rooftop as well as strengthening the structure using cob materials, Hamidreza Abbasi said on Monday, CHTN reported.

The historical bathhouse, which was built on two floors with two entrances for men and women, was in use up until the early Pahlavi period (1925-1979), the official added.

The bathhouse was inscribed on the national heritage list in 2009.

Bathhouses or ‘hammams’ in Iran were not only places for bathing and cleaning up. They had a social concept for people who gathered at these places weekly.

It was a place where people talked with each other about their daily life and shared humor and news. There are still bathhouses in Iranian cities but they do not have their social function anymore since most people have bathrooms in their homes due to the modern lifestyle.

Some cities had separate bathhouses for men and

women. They were usually built next to each other. However, there were some bathhouses, which were used by men and women at different times of the day.

There were also male and female public bathhouses; at daybreak, a longhorn (booq-e javaz) was blown to announce that the bath was ready. Men came to the baths from daybreak till the afternoon. Women could use the bathhouses from then to sunset. In some cases, five days were allocated to men and two days to women.

Persian literature is full of proverbs, narrations, and folk stories about bathhouses, which indicate the importance of the place in the past time.

In July 2017, the historical structure of the city of Yazd was named a UNESCO World Heritage. Wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and the southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain, the oasis city enjoys a very harmonious public-religious architecture that dates from different eras.

Yazd is usually referred to as a delightful place to stay, or a “don’t miss” destination by almost all of its visitors. The city is full of mudbrick houses that are equipped with innovative badgirs (wind catchers), atmospheric alleyways, and many Islamic and Iranian monuments that shape its eye-catching city landscape.



It is a living testimony to the intelligent use of limited available resources in the desert for survival. Water is brought to the city by the qanat system. Each district of the city is built on a qanat and has a communal center.

The use of earth in buildings includes walls and roofs by the construction of vaults and domes. Houses are built with courtyards below ground level, serving underground areas. Wind-catchers, courtyards, and thick earthen walls create a pleasant microclimate.

Cheshmeh-Ali’s ancient hill to be preserved

TOURISM d e s k **TEHRAN**—The ancient hill of the historical, cultural, and recreational site of Cheshmeh-Ali, which is situated south of the Iranian capital, is planned to be preserved and reorganized, Tehran’s deputy tourism chief has announced.

A budget of two billion rials (about \$47,000 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been allocated to the project, which will be carried out under the supervision of the cultural heritage experts, Morteza Adibzadeh said on Monday.

During the project, aerial photography will be carried out as well as a three-dimensional documenting of the Cheshmeh-Ali to identify and prepare the site plans for the complex, he noted.

A team of restorers will organize and strengthen the hill walls and repair the damaged walls with earthen mortar and thatch, as well as clean the hill surfaces in accordance with hill protection principles, the official added.



Back in March, Cheshmeh-Ali was added to the natural heritage list of the country.

Cultural and natural heritage advocates believe the inscription would help the site to receive better care and maintenance to preserve that for future generations.

A couple of years ago, the water flow shrunk dramatically, prompting voices of dissatisfaction over the fate of the ancient site. Officials and cultural heritage enthusiasts repeatedly warned about the vanishing spring with some blaming the

Tehran Urban & Suburban Railway Operation Co., saying the problem arises from tunnel construction. Narratives say that the locals used to clean their rugs in the pool, believing that the properties of the mineral water make the rugs brighter in color.

Cheshmeh-Ali, literally meaning Spring of Ali, embraces an underground mineral stream that pours into an open-air pool that has long been a destination for sightseers and a recreational center for the locals. During the summertime, the site is occupied by hundreds of locals who came for swimming and having fun.

Cheshmeh-Ali is in the neighborhood of the ancient Ebn-e Babveyh cemetery, the 12th-century Tughrul Tower, the historical Rashkan Castle, and next to the aged Rey Castle. Another attraction of the site is a 19th-century rock-carved relief that overlooks the pool. The artwork was commissioned by the Qajar king Fath Ali Shah who reigned from 1797 to 1834. Cheshmeh Ali also contains an archae-

ological site estimated to date from the 4 millennium BC.

Rey was one of the capital cities of the Parthian empire (3rd century BC–3rd century CE) and it was captured by the Muslim Arabs in 641 CE. During the reign of the Muslim caliph al-Mahdi in the 8th century, the city grew in importance until it was rivaled in western Asia only by Damascus and Baghdad.

According to Britannica, Islamic writers described it as a city of extraordinary beauty, built largely of fired brick and brilliantly ornamented with blue faience (glazed earthenware). It continued to be an important city and was briefly a capital under the rule of the Seljuqs, but in the 12th century, it was weakened by the fierce quarrels of rival religious sects. In 1220 the city was almost destroyed by the Mongols, and its inhabitants were massacred. Most of the survivors of the massacre moved to nearby Tehran, and the deserted remnants of Rey soon fell into complete ruin.

Jameh Atiq Mosque: One of the very old mosques in Iran

TEHRAN (Tasnim)—The ancient Jameh Atiq Mosque of Shiraz is one of the oldest mosques in Iran and a relic of the days of the Saffarid Amr bin Leys’s reign. It is a structure referred to many times in the writings of travelers such as the Bin Battuta and Madame Dieulafoy.

The Saffarids were a people of Iranian stock who were originally from the province of Sistan.

During the course of their sovereignty, that is, from 867 to 903 AD, they did not neglect the construction of public buildings, of which the Jameh Mosque, is a prime example despite the many conflicts they had with the Baghdad Caliphs and local rivals.

The construction of the mosque started in 894 as an act of thanksgiving following the victory of Amr Leys forces over the armies of the Abbasid Caliph al-Movaffaq.

Through the years, the mosque has witnessed numerous catastrophes, as a result of which it has been rebuilt and restored many times, for example in the 12th and 13th century AD, during the reign of the Atabak rulers of Fars, and in the 16th through 18th century AD, during the Safavid epoch. The restoration of the mosque has continued during the reign of Pahlavi



dynasty, with the cooperation of the Department of Archeology and the charitable people of Fars province.

The Jameh Mosque used to have six portals in different directions and numerous magnificent Shabestans or prayer halls and chambers, some of which gradually fell into ruin and are no longer standing.

Formerly the Sahn or the courtyard of the mosque was carpeted with marble, and there were stone basins

in the vestibules wherein those entering the mosque would wash their feet before proceeding barefoot onto the courtyard. The most important portal of the mosque lies on the north side, and is known as the twelve Imams.

Its piers and borders are of stone, and the rest is brickwork. Both sides of the portal are decorated with glazed mosaic tiles.

The decoration consists of beautifully written verses from the Qur’an and arabesque designs with flower-and-bird motifs.

Between this portal and the entrance of the mosque, there is a vestibule, around which a number of blind arches can be seen.

The ceiling of this section has been decorated with stalactites in a very interesting and appealing way, and is ornamented with Quranic verses on all four sides.

There is also an inscription from the Safavid period, which is the work of the famous calligrapher, Ali Johari.

The terms “Jameh Mosque”, “Masjed-e Jameh” and “Friday Mosque” are used in Iran for a grand communal mosque where mandatory Friday prayers are/were performed: the phrase is used in other Muslim countries but only in Iran does it designate this purpose.

Iraqi travelers with negative PCR test can enter Iran

SOCIETY **TEHRAN** – PCR test has been canceled for Iraqi passengers at Iranian airports, and they will be able to enter the country with a negative PCR test card.

Iraj Masjedi, Iran's ambassador to Baghdad, made the remarks during a meeting on Monday with Hani al-Oqabi, Iraq's Minister of Health and Environment.

The two officials discussed the documents signed on health issues between the two countries and the cancellation of coronavirus PCR tests at Baghdad and Najaf airports, ISNA reported.

Referring to the additional protocol to a memorandum of understanding signed on health cooperation during coronavirus crisis, Masjedi stressed the need for mutual respect to adhere to the document and omit mandatory PCR tests at Iraqi airports.

"With the efforts of the embassy, mandatory PCR test at Iranian airports has been



Iraj Masjedi, Iran's ambassador to Baghdad (L), and Hani al-Oqabi, Iraq's Minister of Health and Environment.

canceled, so that Iraqi passengers will be able to enter the Islamic Republic with a negative PCR test card," he concluded.

Earlier in May, Health Minister Saeed Namaki emphasized the need for retesting all the passengers at land, sea, and air borders, considering fake negative COVID-19 test certificates of Iraqi passengers.

As some Iraqi passengers have violated travel checks by showing fake test certificates, and after retesting, they tested positive, so that all should be tested at the borders despite having a certificate, Namaki explained.

In February, Khuzestan province's governor general said Iraqi nationals visiting Iran have worsened the coronavirus pandemic in the southwestern province.

More than 300 Iraqi nationals cross Chazzebah and Shalamchah borders per day, Qassem Soleimani-Dashtaki said, adding that the issue has contributed to a rise in the number of coronavirus cases.

Rangers at forefront of nature conservation

→ In April, two rangers from Zanjan province, Mehdi Mojallal, and Mikael Hashemi, were shot dead in a clash with poachers in the Fileh Khaseh protected area.

Many experts believe that contradictory hunting laws in the field of protection and illegal distribution of hunting weapons are the cause of such incidents. Clashes between rangers and poachers have been frequent in recent years, and some have even threatened to kill the rangers.

In recent years, more than 15 members of the country's forestry forces have lost their lives and a number of others have been injured in clashes with wood smugglers or while extinguishing fires in forests and pastures.

Saeed Mahmoudi, head of the Tehran department of environment (DOE), criticized the limited facilities of environmental protection and said that unfortunately, we do not have access to the latest equipment to protect nature, so more efforts should be made to improve the rangers' condition.

However, Jamshid Mohabbat-Khani, commander of the protection unit of the DOE, announced on June 22 that 72 billion pieces of equipment had been provided to the rangers. On July 26, some 1,200 motorcycles were handed over to the environmental defenders.

The other challenges the rangers are dealing with are the low wages.

Currently, 3,600 rangers are in charge of defending the protected areas, which should reach at least up to 8,000, he said, adding, there are over 600 stations in the country, 100 of which are inactive due to lack of manpower.

According to the international standard, there should be one ranger per thousand hectares, but in Iran, there is one ranger per 12,000 hectares, which means that the number of rangers in Iran is one-twelfth of the world standard, while the rangers protect 11 percent of the country's natural areas, Mohabbat-Khani stated.



According to the international standard, there should be one ranger per thousand hectares, but in Iran, there is one ranger per 12,000 hectares, which means that the number of rangers in Iran is one-twelfth of the world standard, while the rangers protect 11 percent of the country's natural areas.

To compensate for part of this shortage, we obtained a license to hire rangers for 10 consecutive years, through

which 250 ranchers were employed each year, he said, adding, this year, 300 rangers are to be recruited, 50 of whom are sea rangers.

Challenges facing rangers

A long-awaited bill to protect the rights of rangers including rules on carrying and use of firearms was approved by Majlis [Iranian parliament] in June 2020.

The bill was drafted in July 2016 by the Department of Environment following the death of two rangers, Mohammad Dehqani and Parviz Hormozi who were killed in June 2016 during an armed conflict with poachers in Hormozgan province. It has been approved by the judiciary committee of Majlis in September 2019.

As per the proposed bill the rangers would not face charges in case of involuntary manslaughter while on duty and would be compensated for the losses they suffer while trying to protect the environment and biodiversity, the government is required to allocate budget to help those rangers who might be obliged to pay out blood money or other sorts of money-penalty compensation for murder or any injuries trespassers may suffer in armed conflicts with them, and the rangers will be provided with regular insurance coverage and are entitled to compensation for the losses they suffer while doing their job.

Before, the rangers hold weapons only to survive, but now the environmental defenders are allowed to use weapons. However, the use of weapons is the last resort, and only when the lives of defenders are in danger and it must be proven that there has been no other way to save the life of the ranger.

If two rangers encounter offenders and one does not have a weapon and his life is in danger, the other ranger who has a weapon can defend his colleague.

Some 123 rangers have been killed while protecting the environment since 1979 in Iran.

80 technological projects implemented for water management

→ Moreover, technologies related to water purification and desalination, technologies related to water and energy optimization, construction of greenhouses, operation of agricultural drains and industrial effluents in the development of salinization operations, exploitation of new water resources for various industrial, agricultural, and drinking purposes, are other projects.

Other water projects include the implementation of small-scale technological projects with the aim of creating employment through the cultivation of drought-resistant plant species with the aim of desertification and creating added value by producing processed products.

Water resources shrinking

Renewable water resources have de-

creased by 30 percent over the last four decades, while Iran's population has increased by about 2.5 times, Qasem Taqizadeh, deputy minister of energy, has stated in June.

The current water year (started on September 23, 2020) has received the lowest rain in the past 52 years, so climate change and Iran's arid region should become a common belief at all levels, he lamented.

A recent report by Nature Scientific Journal on Iran's water crisis indicates that from 2002 to 2015, over 74 billion cubic meters have been extracted from aquifers, which is unprecedented and its revival takes thousands of years along with urgent action.

Three Iranian scientists studied 30 basins in the country and realized that the rate of aquifer depletion over a 14-year

period has been about 74 billion cubic meters, which is recently published in Nature Scientific Journal.

Also, over-harvesting in 77 percent of Iran has led to more land subsidence and soil salinity. Research and statistics show that the average overdraft from the country's aquifers was about 5.2 billion cubic meters per year.

Mohammad Darvish, head of the environment group in the UNESCO Chair on Social Health that the situation of ground-water resources is worrisome.

More drought, water crisis

In March, Ahad Vazifeh, head of the national center for drought and crisis management, forecasted that the country will not receive much rain until the end of summer (September 23). A month later, he



announced that an unprecedented drought had occurred in some parts of the country.

This is while in the following weeks, statistics showed that precipitation has declined by 60 percent in Iran over the first two months of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 21-May 21) compared to the same period last year.

And, it dropped by 41 percent compared to the long-term average.

COVID-19 UPDATES

The statistics are related to 24 hours started 2:00 p.m. August 1

New cases	37,189
New deaths	411
Total cases	3,940,708
Total deaths	91,407
New hospitalized patients	4,317
Patients in critical condition	5,607
Total recovered patients	3,404,533
Diagnostic tests conducted	26,039,450
Doses of vaccine injected	13,081,174

Agriculture in Iran

(Part 5)

Village land became further divided in case of the death of one of the proprietors; all heirs received parts of the property of the deceased, according to the Islamic laws of inheritance.

The result was, in most cases, that property rights in a village, in certain parts of a village, or even in single fields or gardens were almost atomized among a great number of proprietors who only knew the share, not the hectare of the land which they owned within the village and its boundaries.

This tendency to possess not certain, regionally fixed parts of the land but shares of the total, is made possible by the custom of splitting each property or any part of it into "ideal" or "imaginary" shares or allotments. Thus, a village or a certain field could be divided, e.g., in Khuzestan, as follows:

village or part of it = 24 "peas"

1 pea = 24 "barleycorns"

1 barleycorn = 24 "sesame seeds"

I.e., each village or any part of it could be divided into 24 x 24 x 24 parts, implying 13,824 property titles. Under such circumstances locational fixed land allotments are hardly possible, so that the "ideal" or "imaginary" land title has become common in many parts of the country.



Organization of production on this level of "imaginary" land holding was characterized by consideration of the whole village or the whole agricultural production process as an entity, out of which the different landowners were compensated according to their share in the whole property after deduction of the shares for the sharecroppers.

Such a system demands a high amount of cooperation with subordination to the principle of collective land ownership. However, this system with its ideal property titles means that no landlord has ever been interested in reinvesting any of his profits into the improvement of the land or other agricultural production factors. Thus robber farming and wasteful exploitation of the soil have been permanent consequences of rural land use in Iran for centuries or even millennia (cf. Lambton 1977).

Sharecropping practices. Most agricultural lands in Iran have traditionally been worked on a sharecropping basis. The strict separation of land ownership and land cultivation must therefore be considered as the organizational prototype of agricultural production with far-reaching effects both on payment and employment.

The basis of all sharecropping arrangements is the division of the agricultural production process into the four or five production factors, each of which is considered to be responsible for 25 or 20 percent of the final harvest.

Utilizing fundamental work by A. K. S. Lambton (Landlord and Peasant in Persia), Planck (1962) has summarized a few of the most common sharecropping practices in different parts of the country. Proportional sharing ranges from 20:80 up to 80:20.

The details of the sharecropping arrangement are little known. However, the two or three detailed examples which have been published (cf., e.g., Gharachedaghi 1967; Lambton 1953; Planck 1962) reveal that the above-mentioned surveys are rather crude generalizations and that the actual claims to parts of the harvest are much more complicated.

In line with Bobek's assumption that "the ideal of rent capitalism is attained when the sharecropping farmer does not touch more than a meager share of the work of his hands" (op. cit., p. 235), Planck (1962) could demonstrate for a village in Fars that out of a total of 77.5 quintals only about 63 percent was available for distribution between the landlord and his two sharecroppers.

The other 37 percent was deducted for claims in connection with minor production factors such as tilling and disking, for the water surveyor, and for the village headman.

The investigations of Ehlers and Safi-nejad (1979) point in the same direction. The distribution of the winter grain in the village of Goldasta near Tehran is done in two steps.

First 7.6 percent of the harvest is deducted for various claims, such as shares for the blacksmith, joiner, village headman, and others. The rest is divided among the five traditional production factors, each one counting for 18.48 percent of the final productivity.

These are attached to landlord and sharecroppers according to their contributions to the production process.

(Source: Encyclopaedia Iranica)

ENGLISH IN USE

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A ← → ج

Kish to host World Health Summit Regional Meeting 2019

The 7th World Health Summit Regional Meeting will be held on April 29-30 in the Persian Gulf island of Kish, IRNA reported on Monday.

Ali Jafarian, international president of World Health Summit 2019, said that it is the first regional meeting in West Asia and North Africa to host 700 participants, including 150 foreign guests.

Pointing out that playing host to the event is an important opportunity for the country, he added that over 100 health experts from different countries have expressed readiness to attend the meeting.

نشست منطقه‌ای مجمع جهانی سلامت در کیش برگزار می شود

به گزارش روز دوشنبه ایرنا هفتمین نشست منطقه ای مجمع جهانی سلامت در روزهای ۹ و ۱۰ اردیبهشت ۹۸ در جزیره کیش برگزار می شود.

علی جعفریان نماینده دانشگاه علوم پزشکی تهران در مجمع جهانی سلامت گفت: این نخستین نشست منطقه‌ای در غرب آسیا و شمال آفریقا است که قرار است ۷۰۰ شرکت کننده از جمله ۱۵۰ مهمان خارجی در آن حضور یابند. جعفریان، میزبانی از این نشست منطقه‌ای را برای جمهوری اسلامی ایران فرصتی مهم دانست و گفت: حدود ۱۰۰ نفر از افراد سرشناس حوزه سلامت کشورهای مختلف جهان به عنوان سخنران برای شرکت در این نشست اعلام آمادگی کرده اند.

INTERNATIONAL DAILY
www.tehrantimes.com

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» Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603

» Printed at: Jame Jam Barta Borna - 44197737

Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79

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GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

When you get ill do not get nervous about it and try as much as possible to be hopeful.

Imam Ali (AS)

History of Achaemenid art, architecture

Part 3
Darius I: Phase B
Probably the work at the Persepolis terrace had already started in Darius' first years; the earliest dateable monument, however, is the inscription on the southern terrace wall: in the Elamite version of it, Darius tells that he built “this fortress where none had been built before;” in the Old Persian version, he calls it a “house”; the enumeration of peoples is similar to that of Bisotun and definitely predates the Saka campaign.

The earliest entrance was probably close to the inscriptions, another one further to the east; they were closed later. On the way to the palaces there is a second terrace wall with reliefs of Median guardsmen, unfinished and partly destroyed by the building of Xerxes’ “Harem”, apparently the oldest reliefs at Persepolis.

In the area of the palaces, the Tachara (“Darius’ Palace”) must have been the first building to be constructed. Three reliefs of the “royal hero” from the private rooms are more archaic than the others and related to the Bisotun style.

The date of the beginning of the work at Susa is not known; the oldest inscription is probably DSm, written on bricks, i.e., on walls, long after the foundation of the terrace.

The same technique, employing glazed bricks, was used for the reliefs adorning the wall of the residence and the Apadana, decorated with ornaments, plants, lions, griffons, and human headed lions; among these reliefs, only the famous guardsmen can be shown to belong to the earliest stage: the vertical folds of the dresses are not hanging down in the central axis of the figure, but nearer to the left leg, which is put forward; this feature becomes somewhat accentuated if the figure is seen from its left or right side.

This is never a feature on later reliefs of standing Persians, and it is found only once more, namely on the Palace P reliefs at Pasargadae, which by the criterion belong to the same phase.

At Susa, at least the western courtyard of the palace of Elamite type must have been completed at this time.

Darius I: Phase C
The foundation tablets under the Apadana of Persepolis and from Hamadan both mention the “Sakas beyond Sogdia” and Lydia as the confines of the empire, which suggests a date after the Saka campaign (ca. 513 BC) and perhaps at the beginning of the Ionian revolt.

In the Apadana foundation deposits, coins only of a Lydian type (“Croeseids”) were found: The darics were issued later. The building itself was finished only in the time of Xerxes (on the walls of the Apadana towers).

The statue from Susa with the people’s representatives in Egyptian style has also been dated to the beginning of the Ionian revolt.

Darius’ tomb in the rock of Naqsh-e Rostam (between the Saka campaign and the Ionian revolt is not much older). According to Ctesias, the king’s parents were killed when visiting the tomb, so probably the work started earlier in his reign; however, the elegant style of the slim figures in the relief is different from the stiff, half archaic movement in phase B.

The only other monuments completed by Darius himself were the Treasury and the Tachara, his private palace as shown by numerous small inscriptions. Two of the monuments, in the main doorway, depict Xerxes as crown prince: His outfit is exactly like that of his father.

It is with good reason that these reliefs can be classified as “Classic Achaemenid” art: They served, stylistically as well as iconographically, as prototypes for the court art of Darius’ successors.

Xerxes I
The son and former co-regent of Darius carefully explains in his inscriptions that he completed his father’s work at Van, added the southern staircase to the Tachara, the towers to the Apadana and the monumental gate (the last two after their plans had been changed); in the Hadish, his private palace, he devoted one of the reliefs and an inscription to his father.

At a later stage, he apparently did not feel obliged to mention his father’s buildings any more: on the foundation tablets of the Harem and on the staircases of the Apadana.

A pattern emerges in which the staircase with its reliefs and inscriptions is always the last part to be completed; this is also true for the staircase of the main entrance where the clamps used, according to C. Nylander’s findings, are of a definitely late type.

The style of the reliefs continues that of Darius’ last, “classic,” phase; especially in Xerxes’ later works, there is a tendency towards larger and heavier proportions and more volume of the figures.

Iconographically, there are also some changes: Xerxes has given up the guardsmen in the doorways and has introduced the topic of Persian and Median servants with gifts or food climbing the staircases.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
To be continued

Lago Film Fest praises Iran’s “Crab”

A R T **TEHRAN** — Iranian animated short “The Crab” was praised with an honorable mention at the Lago Film Fest in Italy, the organizers announced on Sunday.

Directed by Shiva Sadeq-Asadi, the acclaimed movie has been produced at the Institute for the Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults.

It is about a shy schoolboy who is interested in performing in a play with his school’s theater troupe. But the only part offered to him is to play the role of a crab.

The movie has been screened at many international festivals and has won several awards, including the Golden Horseman of the Audience in the International Competition and the Special Mention of the International Competition Youth Jury at the 33rd Dresden International Short Film Festival in Germany.

The Lago Film Fest was physically organized in Revine Lago from July 23 to August 1. An online edition of the event will be running until August 10.

“Sun Dog”, a co-production between Belgium and Russia by Dorian Jespers, was named best film in the international competition.

The film is about Fedor, a young



“The Crab” by Iranian director Shiva Sadeq-Asadi.

locksmith in Murmansk, a frozen city in the obscurity of the Russian Arctic. Client after client, he roams through the alleys of concrete animated by a fantasy that isolates him from the city and its population. His

dreams corrode his relation to reality and open the door to a phantasmagoric universe; a second sun is rising above the Russian Arctic.

Barbara Wagner, Florence Mialhe and

“Ballad of a White Cow”, “Radiograph of a Family” to compete in Edinburgh filmfest

the festival, which will take place in the capital of Scotland from August 18 to 25.

The film is about Mina, a young woman who lives alone with her deaf child as her husband was executed for a murder charge a year ago. She tries to get her life together, take good care of her child and make both ends meet. However, her life gets more sorrowful when she finds out that her husband was innocent.

The film won third place in the 2021 Berlinale Competition Audience Award this year.

Directed by Firuzeh Khosrovani, “Radiograph of a Family”, which is a co-production of Iran, Switzerland and Norway, has been selected for the documentary competition.

Khosrovani investigates her parents’ unusual marriage in this documentary steeped in bittersweet history. Hossein, a radiologist, is secular and sophisticated, while his

young bride Tayi is a devout Muslim, shocked by her new husband’s Western tastes.

Khosrovani creates a poetic portrait of a fraught but loving relationship set against 1960s Switzerland and revolutionary-era Iran using family photos, other archival materials, recreated and imagined dialogue, and the geographical dimensions of her childhood home.

“Radiograph of a Family” took fourth place among the top ten favorite films selected by the audience at ZagrebDox in the Croatian capital in June.

The Edinburgh festival will open with director Michael Sarnoski’s revenge thriller “Pig” starring Nicolas Cage.

“Here Today”, a comedy about intergenerational friendship and aging by Billy Crystal will be the closing movie of the event. Crystal writes, directs and stars in this film.

Fike-Évora festival picks movies from Iran

A R T **TEHRAN** — The Fike-Évora International Short Film Festival has selected three movies by Iranian filmmakers to screen in its official competition.

“I Am a Tree” by Omid Seifi, “The Visit” by Azadeh Musavi and “Cellmate” by Behzad Khodaveisi will be screened in various sections of the festival, which will take place in Évora, Portugal, from September 20 to 25.

“I Am a Tree” will be competing in the animation category of the festival.

It tells the story of the struggle of a young boy among his peers. This animation is about the environment and conservation of trees. A few kids are playing inside the classroom

when an idea comes to a boy, so he goes to the blackboard and begins to draw a tree. Then suddenly, another boy gets mad, goes to the blackboard, and erases his friend’s drawing.

The acclaimed movie “The Visit” has been selected to be screened in the fiction section.

In this film, after waiting six months, Elah-heh is finally allowed to visit her husband, who is a political prisoner. She and her little daughter Tara have one single day to prepare for this important meeting.

It won the Golden Cyrus Cylinder for best short at the 7th Iranian Film Festival in Zurich, Switzerland.

Starring Saba Mohammadi and Qorban Najafi, “Cellmate” is about Rana, a girl

around the age of 10, who spends her day in a courtyard playing with a little bird in a cage, hanging out laundry, or reading books.

The film has previously screened at several festivals and won awards, including the award for its screenplay written by Solmaz Etemad at the Japan Media Arts Festival in Tokyo in 2020.

It also won an honorable mention in the social film category of the Tracce Cinematografiche Film Fest in Italy.

The film received one of the four Excellence Awards in the Entertainment Division of the annual festival, which has been organized since 1997 by Japan’s Agency for Cultural Affairs.



“I Am a Tree” by Iranian director Omid Seifi will be competing in the Fike-Évora International Short Film Festival in Portugal.

Ukraine festival Melpomene of Tavria invites Segane to perform

“Holodomor”, “Women’s Auschwitz”

from September 3 to 11.

Since 2006, the Holodomor has been recognized by Ukraine and 15 other countries as a genocide of the Ukrainian people carried out by the Soviet government.

Some scholars believe that the famine was planned by Joseph Stalin to eliminate a Ukrainian independence movement.

The word Holodomor literally translated from Ukrainian means “killing by starvation”. The term Holodomor emphasizes the famine’s man-made and intentional aspects such as rejection of outside aid, confiscation of all household foodstuffs and restriction of population movement.

As part of the wider Soviet famine of 1932–33, which affected the major grain-producing areas of the country, millions of inhabitants of Ukraine, the majority of whom were ethnic Ukrainians, died of starvation in a peacetime catastrophe unprecedented in the history of Ukraine.

Written by Ali Safari, “Holodomor” was directed by Raha Hajizeinal at Tehran’s Neauphle-le-Chateau Theater in February.

Ukraine’s ambassador to Iran, Serhii Burdyliak, and a number of his colleagues attended a performance of “Holodomor”, inviting the troupe to perform the play in Kiev.

Accordingly, Seganeh is scheduled to perform “Holodomor” and “Women’s Auschwitz” at the Theatre On Pechersk in Kiev from October 4 to 6.

The two plays are parts of a trilogy, which has been produced by Safari and Hajizeinal about World War II. “Berlin 10:10” is another part of the trio.

“Women’s Auschwitz” is about women in the Auschwitz concentration camp operated by Nazi Germany in occupied Poland during World War II and the Holocaust.

“Women’s Auschwitz” and “Berlin 10:10” were other parts of the set, which were performed by the group in 2019 and 2020.

Hajizeinal and Safari are also members of the casts for the plays. The casts also include Amir Shams, Mehdi Abuhamzeh, Nazanin Mihan, Mohammad Pasandideh, Sarina Azad Milani, Hassan Mohammadian, Mahdi Abbasi and Vesta Jafarnia.

“The Ashtray” published in Persian

A R T **TEHRAN** — American director and writer Errol Morris’s book “The Ashtray (Or the Man Who Denied Reality)” that criticizes the philosophy of Thomas Kuhn has been published in Persian in Tehran.

Qoqnus is the publisher of the book translated into Persian by Reza Sadeqi. The book was first published in May 2018 by the University of Chicago Press.

In 1972, philosopher of science Thomas Kuhn threw an ashtray at Errol Morris. This book is the result.

At the time, Morris was a graduate student. Now we know him as one of the most celebrated and restlessly probing filmmakers of our time, the creator of such classics of documentary investigation as “The Thin Blue Line” and “The Fog of War”.

Kuhn, meanwhile, was — and,

posthumously, remains — a star in his field, the author of “The Structure of Scientific Revolutions”, a landmark book that has sold well over a million copies and introduced the concept of “paradigm shifts” to the larger culture. And Morris thought the idea was bunk.

“The Ashtray” tells why — and in doing so, it makes a powerful case for Morris’s way of viewing the world, and the centrality to that view of a fundamental conception of the necessity of truth.

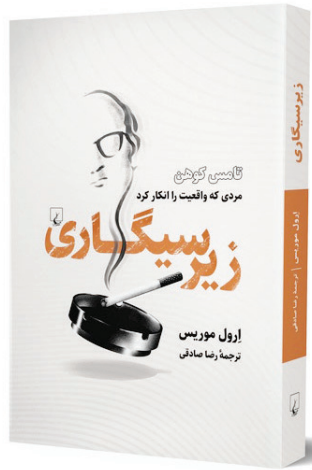
“For me,” Morris writes, “truth is about the relationship between language and the world: a correspondence idea of truth.”

He has no patience for philosophical systems that aim for internal coherence and disdain the world itself. Morris is after a bigger game: he wants to establish as

clearly as possible what we know and can say about the world, reality, history, our actions and interactions.

It’s the fundamental desire that animates his filmmaking, whether he’s probing Robert McNamara about Vietnam or the oddball owner of a pet cemetery. The truth may be slippery, but that doesn’t mean we have to grease its path of escape through philosophical evasions. Rather, Morris argues powerfully, it is our duty to do everything we can to establish and support it.

In a time when truth feels ever more embattled, under siege from political lies and virtual lives alike, The Ashtray is a bracing reminder of its value, delivered by a figure who has, over decades, uniquely earned our trust through his commitment to truth. No Morris fan should miss it.



A poster for the Persian translation of Errol Morris’s book “The Ashtray”.