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Report



### Israel changes tactics to pressure Biden on Iran

TEHRAN - In his first visit to the United States as Israel's prime minister, Naftali Bennet pledged to "block" the Iranian nuclear program in a new spirit of cooperation with the administration of U.S President Joe Biden.

But this spirit, widely believed to be a modified version of former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's strategy, could drag Biden into a quagmire that would cost the U.S. so dearly.

The Israeli prime minister left Israel on Tuesday for Washington on his first diplomatic visit to Washington. His schedule includes meetings with Biden, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, and Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin. Bennet said he is bringing with himself from Israel "a new spirit of cooperation" to deal, together with the Biden administration, with many challenges including Iran.

"We will deal with many fronts, especially the Iranian front, and especially the jump in the Iranian nuclear program over the past two or three years. In particular, we will discuss the plan to block this program," he said, according to a statement by Israel's premiership. Page 3

Op-ed



### What about our way of life?

### **Bv Abir Bassam**

When French citizens were attacked and stabbed in Nice by terrorists, the European community was in enormous fear. Great concerns were raised about the spread of radical group's attacks on newspapers and churches. At that time, I wrote: "France Playing the New Victim of 9/11". Back then, I explained that France is killing the terrorists and has no intentions to capture any of them alive. French concerns revolved around investigations results, which might expose France and Belgium's role in training these terrorists and in sending them to Iraq and Syria.

My Dutch friend, who read the article, was not pleased. One of the reasons was because I said, but not in the same exact words, "this is your merchandise and it has returned to you!" He was annoyed. He said: "terrorist attacks are an attack on our way of life": "they want to destroy our democracy and freedom." A sentence that I have heard thousands of times in American action movies in which the heroes strive to beat the terrorists.

It is amazing how stereotyped is the West about their way of life. It is amazing how much the West is convinced that they have the best way of life. They may! They have order. They have regulations and laws. They have a wonderful education system. They have an important social and medical system. But. we do too! We had our own way, and we love it.

My friend worked with UNIFEL in the 1980s as an interpreter. He spent years in South Lebanon and witnessed the Israelis' violations and crimes against humanity in the South and their way of life. He also worked as an interpreter during the UN investigation into a horrifying Israeli crime. It was of great concern back then; governments were involved. I fully investigated the crime, but unfortunately, I was not able to publish it. Hence, he is a man of knowledge; he is fully aware of the American and European destructive policies in our part of the world and of our way of life. Page 5

Straight Truth

# HRANTI























Esmaeil Khatib



Iran launches

aviation industry

research institute

TEHRAN - Iran's first research institute of avi-

ation industry has been officially launched, the

Iranian Atmospheric Science and Meteorological

Research Center (ASMERC)'s office of public re-

The institute has been established by the

Transport and Urban Development Ministry in

collaboration with the Ministry of Science, Re-

search and Technology, Iran Meteorological Or-

ganization, and the Road, Housing and Urban

As a subsidiary of the ASMERC, the country's

aviation industry research institute will operate

in the form of three research groups including

management of knowledge development and

technology for designing and construction of

commercial aircrafts, management of knowledge

development and technology for aircraft Mainte-

nance, Repair, and Overhaul (MRO), and manage-

ment of knowledge and technology for aviation

TOKYO - Iran wheelchair basketball team will

The Persians are pitted against reign-

ing world champions Great Britain, 2016

Paralympic champions US, world bronze

medalists Australia, Germany and Algeria in

Group A consists of hosts Japan, Rio 2016 sil-

ver medalists Spain, Paralympic bronze medalists

Turkey, Canada, South Korea and Colombia.

meet powerhouse Australia in Group B of the

and airport transportation. ▶ Page 4

2020 Paralympic Games on Thursday.

Development Research Center, IRNA reported.

Javad Oji



**VP: Part of Iran's** 

be released soon

frozen funds would be released soon.

foreign exchange market."

frozen funds abroad.

frozen assets would

TEHRAN — First Vice President Mohammad

Mokhber announced on Wednesday that Iranian

President Ebrahim Raisi has discussed the pos-

sibility of unfreezing Iran's assets in some coun-

tries over the phone, predicting that part of Iran's

with the current heads of state, opportunities

were created (to unfreeze Iran's blocked funds)

and these opportunities will definitely affect the

Regarding the foreign exchange market, the

first vice president said that with the establish-

ment of the cabinet "we will also see positive

Iran has taken serious measures to release its

At a meeting between Iran's parliament

speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and Japanese

Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi on Sunday,

Iran to start 2020 Paralympics with wheelchair

basketball match against Australia

All the Tokyo Paralympics wheelchair bas-

ketball matches will take place at either the

Musashino Forest Sport Plaza or the Ariake

The U.S. men's side remain among the favor-

ites after claiming silver at the sport's most

recent major event, the 2018 World Champion-

Iran wheelchair basketball coach Abbas

Aghakouchaki is hopeful to qualify for the 2020

Qalibaf said it is necessary that ▶ Page 2

He said, "During the talks that Mr. Raisi had





# National festival on Iranian traditional

TEHRAN - The second national festival on Iranian traditional medicine will be held on November 10, concurrent with World Science Day for Peace and Development.

medicine to be held

The main topics of this festival, like the first edition, include education, research, and treatment, and in this edition, two new topics are added, including the COVID-19 crisis and the field of culture and art, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

In the field of culture and art, the winners will be announced for selected works in applications, short films, posters and infographics, short stories for children, motion graphics and photography, focusing on lifestyle modification.

Iranian traditional medicine is one of the most ancient forms of traditional medicine. It is grounded in the concept of four senses of humor: phlegm (Balgham), blood (Dam), yellow bile (Safra'), and black bile (Sauda'). The concept of four senses of humor is based on the teachings of Rhazes and Avicenna into an elaborate medical system. ▶ Page **7** 

"We know that how difficult is our group but

we want to show a better performance than what

we did in Rio. I have to say our team are complete-

ly ready for the Paralympic Games," Aghakouchaki

Iran partake at Tokyo 2020 with 62 athletes in

It will be the nation's smallest team since

Since then, Iran sent 89 athletes to Athens

2004, 72 to Beijing 2008, 79 to London 2012 and

sending 40 to Sydney 2000.

### Majlis okays 18 out of 19 proposed ministers

TEHRAN — The Iranian Parliament on Wednesday evening voted for 18 ministers proposed by President Ebrahim Raisi after four days of deliberations.

However, as it was expected, the parliamentarians rejected Hossein Baghgoli, the nominee for the post of education minister. Only 76 MPs voted for him.

286 MPs were present in the 290-seat parliament

According to law, each nominee had to receive half of the parliamentary representatives' votes plus one to be confirmed as

The proposed justice minister, Amir Hossein Rahimi, garnered the highest number of votes, with 277. However, the proposed sports and youth minister, Hamid Sajjad, received the least number of votes. He got

During four days of discussions, legislators talked in favor or against the proposed

Following is the number of votes each proposed minister received:

Agriculture Minister Javad Sadatinejad:

Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Mohammad Mehdi Esmaeili: 181 votes

Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Minister Ezatollah Zargami: 262 votes

Communications and Information Technology Minister Issa Zarepour: 256 votes

Defense Minister Mohammadreza Ashtiani: 274 votes

Economy and Finance Minister Ehsan Khandouzi: 254 votes

Education Minister Hossein Baghgoli: 76

Energy Minister Ali Akbar Mehrabian: 220 votes

Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian: 270 votes

Health Minister Bahram Einollahi: 214

Justice Minister Amin Hossein Rahimi: 277 votes

Industry, Commerce and Mining Minister Reza Fatemi: 205 votes

Intelligence Minister Esmaeil Khatib: 222

#### The top four in each group will qualify for the Paralympic Gamed quarterfinals. 110 to Rio 2016. A daring journey inside one of deepest caves on Earth

TEHRAN – With a staggering depth of 750 meters stacked on top of each other underground!

Situated high in the Zagros Mountain range in Kermanshah province, Ghar-e Parau is possibly the bestknown Iranian cave outside the country. It was first discovered and explored by the British Speleological

The British team consisted of good and experi-

explored such deep caves as Gouffre Berger and Gouffre Pierre St Martin (France), Antro del Corchia (Italy). At that time they already had the world depth record in mind and, searching various karst areas of the Pyrenees, Italian and Austrian Alps, explored caves in Greece, Yugoslavia, Canadian Rocky Mountains, Mexico, Peru, and Himalaya.

According to Caving in Iran, during that expedition, the British Team descended 22 pitches to reach a depth of -750m with the cave still wide open. The follow-up expedition in the summer of 1972 led by David Judson that was backed by the Royal Geographical

Society and the British Cave Research Group sought to extend the cave to a new world depth record.

Despite the best efforts of the 16 strong British Team on that occasion this was not to be the case and Ghar-e Parau continued for another 50m in length to terminate at a muddy sump at a depth of -751m. This event in itself coined a caving term that has stuck ever since. Namely that if a wide-open and promising cave suddenly terminates it is often said to have

In 1975, a Polish team visited the cave, reaching the

had indeed finished. Over the following year's team from Iranian Mountaineering and Caving Clubs began visiting the cave, often reaching the terminal sump and often exploring new sections of the passage. A second entrance to Ghar-e Parau has been found, avens in the lower part of the cave have been climbed to try and find a way over the terminal sump and in 2004 a team cavers from the Kermanshah Mountaineering Club put a diver in the sump. On this occasion, the sump was found to descend to a depth of -3m and apparently close. In recent years there have been anything from two to eight or nine trips to ▶ Page 6

Ghar-e Parau, which is situated in western Iran, is one of the deepest known caves in the world. To put that in perspective, imagine almost two Eiffel Tower(s)

Expedition led by John Middleton in 1971.

enced cavers and good organizers. In the past, they

terminal sump being able to re-confirm that the cave

# **POLITICS**

AUGUST 26, 2021
Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

### Raisi hails Yemeni resistance



Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi praised the Yemeni nation's perseverance against foreign military attacks over the past seven years, reaffirming the Islamic Republic's support for the Yemeni people in their struggle against aggression.

Al-Masirah reported on Wednesday that President of the Supreme Political Council of Yemen Mahdi al-Mashat has received a letter from Raisi in response to a recent message in which the Yemeni official had congratulated the new Iranian president on his election.

In the letter, the Iranian president has lauded the Yemeni nation for their struggle against the aggressors during the past seven years, expressing the Islamic Republic's solidarity with the people of Yemen in their battle against the brutal blockade and acts of aggression, Tasnim reported.

Raisi has also voiced his administration's willingness to boost cooperation with Yemen in all fields in such a way that the common interests of the two brotherly nations are fulfilled

Saudi Arabia launched a devastating military aggression against Yemen in March 2015 in collaboration with a number of its allied states, and with arms and logistics support from the US and several Western countries.

The aim was to return to power the former Riyadh-backed regime and crush the Houthi movement which has been running state affairs in the absence of an effective government in Yemen.

The war has stopped well shy of all of its goals, de-

spite killing tens of thousands of Yemenis and turning entire Yemen into the scene of the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

The war has killed tens of thousands of people, mostly civilians, and resulted in what the UN has described as the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

Some 3.3 million people have been displaced from their homes and 24 million, or more than 80 percent of the population, are in need of aid, according to the UN.

# VP: Part of Iran's frozen assets would be released soon `

From page 1 > Japan take serious steps to unfreeze Iran's assets blocked in the country's banks, especially under the present circumstances that Iran is grappling with the deadly coronavirus pandemic

Criticizing Japan's measure in freezing Iranian assets in the country under U.S. pressure, Qalibaf

said, "We expect the government of Japan to act seriously to unfreeze Iran's assets, especially in order to ease the fight against the coronavirus pandemic."

In a meeting with the Japanese foreign minister earlier on Sunday, President Ebrahim Raeisi sharply criticized Japan for refusing to release the frozen TEHRAN – Veteran Iranian politician Ali Akbar Velayati has said he has been in contact with 11 senior Afghan figures from different ethnic and religious groups in recent days and they unanimously seek an "inclusive" government.

"I have been in contact with some senior Afghan figures in the last three-four days. It talked to 11 senior Pashtun, Tajik, Hazara, Sunni and Shia figures in Afghanistan who had a role in the struggles against the Soviet Union," said Velayati, the former foreign minister who now acts as senior foreign policy advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

He added Iran supported the Afghan people during the Soviet occupation of the Central Asian country.

"During the occupation of Afghanistan by the Soviets Iran had an important role in helping the people of Afghanistan in their struggle against occupation," Velayati told the Tasnim news agency published on Wednesday.

Iran backed the Afghan mujahideen against the Soviet occupiers despite the fact that Iran itself was in war against the invading Saddam Army. At the time, Velayati was Iran's foreign minister

When the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan, hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees also fled to Iran.

The former Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in late December 1979. The Soviet Union intervened in support of the Afghan communist government in its conflict with anti-communist mujahideen and remained in Afghanistan until mid-February 1989.

The senior advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution went on to say that Iran will "respect" whatever decisions the Afghans take about their own

He said in his conversations with the most influential figures in Afghanistan he realized that "it seems they believe the future government of Afghanistan should be a combination of all."

The Afghan groups unanimously believe that all those who had a role in the armed campaigns against the Soviets and the Americans during the occupation of the country should have a say in the future government, Velayati stated.

### "Keeping the Afghan constitution is important"

Velayati also said the top Afghan leaders insist on keeping the country's constitution which is the result of thousands of Afghan martyrs and the people's long struggle against the invaders



# Senior Afghan figures seek inclusive government: Velayati

### Former FM says he has been in contact with 11 top Afghan leaders in recent days

The senior

advisor says

Iran will

"respect"

whatever

decisions the

Afghans take

The veteran politician said the Americans launched a campaign to change the Afghan constitution but this has not been gained easily that be influenced by others.

"I am quite confident that the efforts by the Americans to change the constitution of that country will

not bear results due to the firm determination and national unity of the people of Afghanistan," he pointed out.

### "No interference in Afghan affairs"

Elsewhere in his remarks, Velayati said Iran does not interfere in the internal affairs of countries including Afghanistan.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has never meddled with internal affairs of Afghanistan and will not meddle (in the future)," he remarked

"It is upon the people of Afghanistan what they want to decide about the future of their country," Velayati noted.

As two neighbors which share many affinities, he said, Iran "believes that

the era of tension and crisis, which has been created by foreigners, must brought to an end and the people of Afghanistan have a proper life."

#### Afghans are resistant against foreigners

The former foreign minister referred to invasion of Afghanistan in the

19th century by the British, the Soviets in the late 20th century and now by the Americans in the early 21st century, saying the Afghan people have "suffered" because of these invasions.

Because of these invasions the Afghans have learnt not to tolerate bullying, he remarked, adding, "They will counter against anything that is im-

posed on them."

Velayati, who is also considered a historian, says, "If we want to summarize the contemporary history of Afghanistan, we should say that the people of Afghanistan are resistant."

He said when the U.S. ordered an invasion of Afghanistan on the pretext

of attacks on twin towers in New York on September 11, 2001, George W. Bush said the Crusade wars have started "because Bush was a Zionist Christian".

Velayati also said Afghanistan is part of Axis of Resistance which is led

The most important victory by the Afghans is that they forced out the Americans from their country.

Writing in the Tehran Times on August 17, Professor Mahmood Monshipouri from San Francisco State University said, "Long known as the 'Graveyard of Empires,' Afghanistan has been vehemently inhospitable to outside intervention. The lessons that should be learned from the legion of failed outside attempts to conquer Afghanistan are varied and many and yet none have been taken deeply to heart by U.S. military strategists in recent decades."

The professor added, "Anyone who believes in the success of the long-term occupation of Afghanistan or tilting the balance of power in its favor by military intervention of that country is either naïve, delusional, or downright irresponsible."

Andrew Korybko, a geopolitical analyst, tells the Tehran Times that the ill-fated U.S. invasion of Afghanistan is "the worst-ever military defeat in U.S. history."

A leading Indian academic, Ashok Swain, also calls the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan "terrible". Swain also tells the Tehran Times, "The Afghanistan failure might persuade the U.S. not to engage in military adventure in other countries in the future."

### "U.S. intended to turn Iraq into its base in Arab world"

Velayati also drew a parallel between the people of Iraq and Afghanistan in resisting the American invaders.

The U.S. invaded Iraq in March 2003 under a false pretext that Iraq had hidden weapons of mass destruction, a claim which ended in disgrace for the United States.

Velayati said the Americans wanted to bring Iraq under their own influence because Iraq is a wealthy state and it is geographically close to the occupied Palestinian lands.

He said Iraq is politically and strategically important for the Americans and they wanted Iraq to be their "base" in the Arab world, but the Iraqis resisted and proved that the Americans cannot stay in Iraq as "occupiers" and now the U.S. has withdrawn a large number of its troops from the country after suffering great financial and human losses.

# Iran condemns irresponsibility toward Syria

TEHRAN — Zahra Ershadi, Iran's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations, on Tuesday condemned indifference of the UN member states toward recent aggressions against Syria.

In her speech, she called on all member states to "honor their promises" to UN Security Council Resolution 2585 regarding Svria

The following is Ershadi's statement in the UN Security Council meeting:

"In the Name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful.

Mr. President,

We recall resolution 2585 through which the Security Council has called upon all Member States "to respond with practical steps to address the urgent needs of the Strian popula"

It is essential that the Council has also recognized "that humanitarian activities are broader than solely addressing the immediate needs of the affected population and should include support to essential services through water, sanitation, health, education, and shelter early recovery projects".

Given that the imposition of unlawful unilateral sanctions against Syria by certain countries is one of the major causes of the current humanitarian situation in that country, the Council, by using the term "practical steps", is literally calling, though implicitly, for the removal of such sanctions, at least in areas related to "early recovery projects".

Yet, this call must not be misconstrued as if sanctions imposed on other sectors are acceptable or assisting Syria in other areas particularly reconstruction efforts are less important.

As resolution 2585 is the result of a compromise, including by main countries imposing such sanctions, we urge them to honor their promises, take their obligations under that resolution seriously, and remove, immediately and fully, all unlaw-

ful sanctions against Syria.

In a situation that has been described by the Council as a "complex humanitarian emergency", removing unilateral sanctions are essential also due to the fact that sanctions seriously undermine the efficiency of humanitarian operations in Syria conducted by the United Nations and international non-governmental organizations.

As most of the humanitarian operations are carried out from inside Syria, in line with the call by resolution 2585, cross-line humanitarian assistance must be improved. This can be done including through a substantial increase in allocated assistance and ensuring that they are commensurate with the size of population living in areas covered by such operations.

Likewise, we positively note requesting the Secretary-General to provide a report containing detailed information on the cross-border operations, including the distribution mechanism.

operating partners, and the volume and nature of items delivered.

This must lead to addressing one of the missing points in cross-border humanitarian assistance, namely the lack of transparency.

In any case, cross-border mechanism must be used in full accordance with the United Nations guiding principles of humanitarian emergency assistance and it must be guaranteed that this mechanism is not used, directly or indirectly, for lending any support to terrorist groups inside Syria.

The full, effective and good-faith implementation of resolution 2585, beyond addressing the urgent humanitarian needs of the Syrian people, can have positive implications on other areas, leading to depoliticization of humanitarian assistance and creating certain level of



trust and confidence, which is required for further cooperation towards peaceful settlement of this crisis.

In this context, we reiterate our principled position that the Syrian crisis must be settled peacefully and in accordance with principles of international law, particularly respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of States, non-intervention and non-interference in their internal or external affairs and peaceful settlement of international disputes.

To create conducive

grounds for ending the

conflict in Syria, all unin-

vited foreign forces must

leave that country without

any precondition and delay,

Resolution 2585 is the result of a compromise

and terrorist groups must be confronted.

Equally important, the Council must compel the Israeli regime to put an immediate end to its aggressions against sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria. Such adventuristic practices constitute flagrant violations of international law, threatening regional and inter-

national peace and security.

Along with other members of the Astana format, we support the Constitutional Committee's work which must continue according to its rules of procedure and without foreign interference or externally imposed timelines. We hope the Committee's next meeting will commence soon.

Committed to the restoration of the unity and territorial integrity of Syria, we will continue our efforts in assisting the people and Government of Syria to overcome the enormous challenges they face.

Tthank you, Mr. President."

Lebanon complained to the United Nations after Israeli regime sent jets violating its airspace to carry out an airstrike on targets in Syria on August 19.

Zeina Akar, Beirut's Defense Minister said Israeli planes "blatantly violated Lebanon's airspace at low altitude, causing a state of panic among citizens," Reuters reported.

The complaint came hours after Damascus residents reported hearing loud explosions from airstrikes targeting sites in the Syrian capital and the Homs area north of the capital.

Syrian state television said its air defense systems managed to knock down most of Israeli missiles that had been fired from near Beirut.

There were no official reports of casualties as the Syrian air defense units had managed to down 22 of the 24 missiles launched by six Israeli warplanes.

The Syrian Foreign Ministry later renewed its call on the United Nations and the Security Council to assume responsibilities based on the UN Charter and act firmly to prevent the recurrence of the Israeli regime's attacks on Syria's territory.

The attacks started to grow significantly in scale and frequency after 2011, when Syria found itself in the grip of rampant foreign-backed militancy and terrorism.

Tel Aviv claims that its attacks target alleged supplies that are headed for the Lebanese resistance movement of Hezbollah. On countless occasions, though, the strikes have targeted the reinforcement belonging to Syria's military and its allies.

# Majlis okays 18 out of 19 proposed ministers

### MPs reject education minister nominee

From page 1 Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi: 266

Labor and Social Welfare Minister Hojat Abdolmaleki:

Oil Minister Javad Oji: 198 votes

Science, Research and Technology Minister Mohammad Ali Zolfigol: 210 votes

Sports and Youth Minister Hamidreza Sajadi: 165 rotes Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam

Qassemi: 267 votes

Prior to the voting, President Raisi defended his proposed cabinet team.

As a last word for defending his choices, Raisi said that the nomination of ministers was based on the cri-

teria he had promised the people during the presidential campaigns.

"I promised to select ministers based on the indica-

tors such as expertise, anti-corruption and popularity, he said.

He emphasized that the practical and scientific competence had a major impact on the nomination of min-

isters.

The president added his "absolute condition" for nom-

inating all ministers has been their anti-corruption spirit
Raisi said corruption will not be tolerated by any per-

son at any position in his government.

"It will not be tolerated when it becomes clear that the person who cooperates with the government will show the slightest unhealthiness, not in the position of a minister, but in any other position," he asserted.

### Afghan luminaries meet Iranian ambassador in Kabul

TEHRAN — Afghanistan's former president Hamid Karzai and former peace negotiator Abdullah Abdullah have met with Iran's ambassador in Kabul on Wednesday morning for talks on ways to restore stability to the war-torn country, following the collapse of the Afghan government and the Taliban takeover of Kabul.

According to reports, Iranian Ambassador Bahador Aminian and the senior Afghan figures discussed the need to end the power vacuum in Afghanistan and form a system based on the will of the Afghan people, which would enjoy national and international legitimacy.

The Taliban on Tuesday included Karzai and Abdullah in a 12-member council which will govern Afghanistan during the transition period, according to a source.

Out of the 12 members, seven candidates have been already agreed upon, Asian News International (ANI) quoted a source close to senior Taliban circles as saying, citing Sputnik.

"Afghanistan would be governed by a 12-member

Baradar, Mullah Yaqub, Khalil-ūr-Rehman Haqqani, Dr. Abdullah Abdullah, Hamid Karzai, Hanif Atmar and Gulbuddin Hekmatyar," the source said. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said on Monday that different Afghan groups should see the U.S. with-

council, with the exception of the president and the

emirate. So far, the council has agreed on Abdul Ghani

drawal as a turning point and work together to establish an inclusive government.

### Iran strongly condemns violence in Afghanistan

Iran's ambassador to the Geneva-based UN Human Rights Council has reaffirmed Tehran's stance on Afghanistan and emphasized the need to protect the lives of Afghan people as well as the rights of women amid the chaos that has engulfed the country in recent



weeks.

Esmaeil Baghaei Hamaneh said Tehran strongly condemns any kind of aggression, extremism, and violation of human rights in Afghanistan.

"Iran strongly condemns any violence and extremism, human rights violations and violations of humanitarian law in Afghanistan. No crime has to be left unpunished," Baghaei Hamaneh told a special session of the UN Human Rights Council on Afghanistan, media reported on Wednesday.

He said the Afghan people deserve to live in peace and have good relations with neighbors without illegal military interference, noting this can only be achieved through an inclusive government.

"The current situation in Afghanistan is the result of a long-term military intervention led by the United States, which has left the country in destruction, suffering, despair and instability and has spread insecurity and instability in the region," the Iranian envoy

He added the achievements of the Afghan people must not be threatened.  $\,$ 

Baghaei Hamaneh also called on the international community to live up to its commitments to provide adequate vaccines for Afghan refugees against COVID-19.

#### Khatibzadeh has sent a message on International Day of Remembrance and Tribute to the Victims of Terrorism, saying the Islamic Republic stands with victims of ter-

TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed

The following is an excerpt of the message:

"Today, as we come together to pay our respects to the victims of terrorism, we need to take heed to the heavy

who are indignant about this injustice.

responsibility of the survivors of terrorism. The survivors

of tersurvivors more than any other loss. The pain of survivors is much deeper.

As a country that has always been the target of various forms of political and economic torsoriem, the leaving Political and economics to the pain of survivors is much deeper.

As a country that has always been the target of various forms of political and economic terrorism, the Islamic Republic of Iran, with valuable experiences, stands invariably with all the conditions of terrorisms.

Iran stands with victims of terrorism

It is as necessary to stand with the survivors of terror-

ism as it is to stand against the terrorists, because the loss

of a loved one in a terrorist incident hurts the souls of the

with all the survivors of terrorism.

We have been able to prove that the twin dilemmas of

we have been able to prove that the twin dilemmas or

terrorism and extremism are a natural consequence of the inefficiency of the current international situation. These two issues are not limited to a specific region of the world.

Definitely, without any denial, the role of adventurous and

reckless politicians in creating such mayhem in West Asia is

palpable, politicians who easily ignite the fire of war in the region.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has always called for a world free of violence in which people determine their

own destiny.

# Israel changes tactics to pressure Biden on Iran

From Page 1 ▶ In an interview with the New York Times, Bennet further elaborated on what he wanted from Biden and what he would present in Washington

He said he would seek common ground with the Biden administration on Iran, and promised to arrive at the White House with a new and constructive approach to containing Iran's nuclear program.

"I call it the good-will government," he told the New York Times. "There's a new dimension here — coming up with new ways to address problems, being very realistic, very pragmatic, and being reasonable with friends."

According to the American paper, Bennett said he would present a new strategic vision on Iran, which he said would include strengthening ties with Arab countries opposed to Iran's regional influence and nuclear program, taking diplomatic and economic action against Iran, and continuing Israel's clandestine attacks on Iran, including what he called "the gray-area stuff."

"What we need to do, and what we are doing, is forming a regional coalition of reasonable Arab countries, together with us, that will fend off and block this expansion and this desire for domination" by Iran, Bennett claimed.

The Israeli premier came to power with one objective in mind: clean up the mess Netanyahu left him. Netanyahu launched into a diatribe against the Obama administration for hammering out a nuclear deal with Iran, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA); the very same deal that Netanyahu coaxed Trump into jettisoning it.

But Netanyahu's brazen opposition



to the JCPOA undermined U.S.-Israel relations after Trump was hounded out of the White House. With the former vice president, who helped negotiate the JCPOA, assuming office, Israel needed a new face, though not necessarily a more

Despite having a long history of hawkishness, Bennet succeeded in touting himself as the most suitable successor to Netanyahu. Thus began his efforts to patch up relations with an administration openly clamoring for a deal with Iran.

But there is a catch: When it comes to Iran, Bennet is no different from Netanyahu. And the Americans know full well that he is a chip off the old block.

"Mr. Bennett did not reveal the details of his new vision for Iran, but the policies he cited could just as easily have been articulated by Mr. Netanyahu, if perhaps more combatively," the New York Times said of Bennet's strategy against Iran.

Perhaps the only difference between Bennet and Netanyahu is that the former wants to quietly achieve what the latter failed to achieve vociferously.

But will Biden acquiesce in Bennet's whims? For the time being, Biden's position on the JCPOA seems to be diametrically opposed to that of Bennet. But one should never underestimate Israel's ability to muddy the waters.

Speaking days before his meeting with Biden, Bennet vowed to oppose American-led attempts to reinstate a lapsed nuclear agreement with Iran and continue Israel's covert attacks on Iran's nuclear program, according to the New York Times. This begs the question: What will Bennet do if the Biden administration proceeds with its stated goal of pursuing talks with Iran

until reaching a deal?

Whether Washington and Tel Aviv would find a middle ground on Iran remains an open question. This makes it all the more important for the Biden administration to be careful of what its Israeli "partners" contrive. At some point, Iran could find it difficult to continue negotiations if Israel proceeds with its "gray-area stuff."

Israel may even make a bigger mistake. While Bennet was busy meeting senior American officials in Washington on Wednesday, Israeli Defense Minister Benny Gantz issued a stark threat. Claiming that Iran is two months away from acquiring the ability to develop a nuclear weapon, Gantz said he does not rule out the possibility that Israel would have to take measures to prevent Iran from becoming a nuclear power.

### Russia reacts to reports of Iran enrichment acceleration

TEHRAN – Russia's Foreign Ministry has reacted to press reports that Iran allegedly accelerated its production of highly enriched uranium, underlining that this was because of the lack of progress on the restoration of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

The Russian reaction came a week after Reuters reported that Iran has accelerated its enrichment of uranium.

Citing a report by the International Atomic Energy Agency, Reuters said that "Iran increased the purity to which it is refining uranium to 60% from 20% in April in response to an explosion and power cut at its Natanz site that damaged output at the main underground enrichment plant there."

The Russian Foreign Ministry described the alleged acceleration of enriched uranium production as a "deviation" from the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), but said this deviation is because there were no practical results in the talks to restore the nuclear pact.

"This yet another JCPOA deviation is mostly due to the lack of practical results of Nuclear Deal restoration, while unilateral U.S. sanctions against Iran & other cooperating countries remain intact," the Russian Foreign Ministry said, according to a tweet by the Russian diplomatic mission in Vienna.

It added, "However, we're more concerned that this takes us further away from the initial goal, while the task to create conditions for sustainable implementation of comprehensive agreements gets

Earlier on August 19, the three European countries of France, Germany, and the UK that are party to the JCPOA issued a statement to express concern over Iran's nuclear activities.

"We, the governments of France, Germany and the United Kingdom, note with grave concern the latest reports by the IAEA confirming that Iran has produced

uranium metal enriched up to 20% for the first time, and has significantly increased its production capacity of uranium enriched up to 60%," the statement said.

The E3 once again accused Iran of violating the JCPOA and pursuing nuclear activities that are of no "credible civilian" use.

"Our concerns are deepened by the fact that Iran has significantly limited IAEA access through withdrawing from JCPOA-agreed monitoring arrangements and ceasing application of the Additional Protocol," the

E3 added. "Iran's activities are all the more troubling given the fact talks in Vienna have been interrupted upon Tehran's request for two months now and that Iran has not yet committed to a date for their resumption. While refusing to negotiate, Iran is instead establishing facts on the ground which make a return to the JCPOA more complicated."

They concluded, "Iran must halt all activities in violation of the JCPOA without delay. We urge Iran to return to the negotiations in Vienna as soon as possible with a view to bringing them to a swift, successful conclusion. We have repeatedly stre

conclusion. We have repeatedly stressed that time is on no-one's side."

Iran is yet to set a date for resuming the Vienna nuclear talks but it suggested that they may be resumed soon. "We strive to make the Vienna dialogue meaningful. Opposing parties should pay attention to the facts and come to Vienna based on the view that they should fulfill their obligations," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Monday.

Speaking at a weekly press briefing, the spokesman

also touched on the possible resumption date of the next round but he refused to set a certain date for the talks. He only said that a decision would be made on the resumption of talks.

"That a decision would be made on the date of holding a new round of negotiations is natural and this would happen," Khatibzadeh said.

The United States and its three European allies, known as E3, have been trying out many diplomatic tactics and stunts to force Iran into returning to

Vienna ever since the last round of talks, held in June, end up in a stalemate. After six rounds of talks, nuclear negotiators from Iran and the remaining parties to the JCPOA and the U.S. reached a critical juncture where they needed to make tough decisions.

The U.S. and France called on Iran to make "tough decisions" to break the deadlock over the deal. Iran responded by saying that if a party is to make tough decisions, it is the United States and its European allies, not Iran, because Iran had already made

tough decisions after the U.S. unilateral decision to withdraw from the JCPOA in May 2018.

In the meantime, Iran underwent a transition of power, which caused a hiatus in Iran's nuclear deliberations. But this didn't prevent the U.S. from brandishing a tightening of the noose on Iran's oil sales to China in a bid to force Iran to return to Vienna.

Iran said it would decide on the Vienna talks after completing the transitions period. It hinted that a return to Vienna is in the cards, but it did not set any date for that.

### Pakistan Navy stresses strengthening joint cooperation with Iran

Russia says

acceleration in

enrichment is

due to lack of

practical results

to restore

nuclear deal

TEHRAN - The visit of Pakistan's Navy Commander Admiral Muhammad Amjad Khan Niazi to Iran is considered a broad step in the path of strengthening cooperation with the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army, Pakistan's Navy has said.

The Public Relations of the Pakistan Naval Force on Tuesday issued a statement regarding the visit of the commander of the Pakistani Navy and his talks with his Iranian counterpart, Admiral Shahram Irani, and the commander of the Iranian Northern Fleet, Admiral Abdulwahab Taheri.

During the talks, senior commanders of the Iranian naval force explained the important role of the force in maintaining maritime security and its goals. They also discussed a wide range of related issues, mutual cooperation, including at sea and maintaining the security of the Indian Ocean, according to Al Alam.

The statement added, "Admiral Amjad Niazi emphasized the focused efforts of the Pakistani naval force in the field of maritime security, operations against sea pirates, and Pakistan's initiative on conducting regional maritime security patrols."

The statement added that the commander of the Iranian naval force

praised the role and participation of the Pakistani naval force in maintaining peace and stability at the naval level.

Admiral Khan Niazi visited Tehran on Saturday and was officially welcomed by his Iranian counterpart. He visited Iran at the official invitation of the Iranian Navy chief.

The two commanders discussed a range of issues including expanding military relations, deepening ties in the sea, protecting regional security, and using military experience in undertaking missions and safeguarding the two neighboring countries' national interests at the sea.

On the sideline of the meeting, Iranian and Pakistani navy commanders also paid tribute to the anonymous martyrs of the eight-year Sacred Defense buried in the National Museum of the Islamic Revolution and Holy Defense and then made a tour at the museum.

Iran refers to resistance against the invading Saddam Army in the 1980s as Sacred Defense.

Admiral Irani said that Iran and Pakistan could serve together as a powerful arm for ensuring regional security.

Referring to strategic relations

between the naval forces of Iran and Pakistan, the commander said that the two forces have staged different joint naval maneuvers over the past years.

He also called for efforts by the naval forces of both countries to establish security, particularly in the Northern Indian Ocean.

Iranian and Pakistani naval forces have in recent years promoted cooperation and staged several joint drills in the Indian Ocean and the Sea of Oman.

In April, a flotilla of the Pakistani Navy berthed at Iran's southern port city of Bandar Abbas and held a joint war game in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman with the Iranian units.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmoud Qureshi is also expected to pay a visit to Iran on Thursday to discuss developments in bilateral relations and Afghanistan, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said.

Speaking at a press briefing on Monday, Khatibzadeh said that the visit will take place at the request of the Pakistani foreign minister and will focus on bilateral issues and Afghanistan.

"Iran, as a country that has made efforts to bring peace to Afghanistan,

is consulting, and God willing, this trip will be in line with the continuation of friendly relations," the spokesman added

The Pakistani foreign minister, who is scheduled to embark on a regional tour that will include the Islamic Republic of Iran, stressed the importance of the position of players in regions such as Tehran for consensus aimed at helping to establish lasting peace in Afghanistan, according to Iran's state news agency, IRNA.

"Peace in Afghanistan is inevitable for its neighbors and neighboring countries," Shah Mahmoud Qureshi said on Monday, ahead of a trip to Central Asia and Iran.

He added, "Islamabad seeks a regional consensus for Afghanistan and emphasizes the role of its neighbors in contributing to peace and stability in Afghanistan."

Referring to his plans to visit Iran, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan, Qureshi said, "We want the participation of all domestic groups in Afghanistan to form a national and inclusive government."

He denied that he paid a visit to Kabul, suggesting that allegation of such a visit came from media outlets in the Indian subcontinent.



### SPORTS

IRAN IN FOCUS

# Powerlifter Pourmirzaei striving to win Paralympics gold

TEHRAN — Iran's Mansour Pourmirzaei is going to win a gold medal at the 2020 Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

The powerlifter will represent Iran at the +107kg in the Games.

He is the country's best hope to fill the void replaced by late powerlifting icon Siamand Rahman, who died at March 2020.



"Siamand was my idol and I want to replicate his achievements. Along with him, I achieved so many accolades." Pourmirzaei said.

"I have not participated in the Paralympic Games so far and will retire from the powerlifting after the Games. I want to win a gold medal in Tokyo and make the Iranian people happy," he added.

"We want to win five medals out of five weight categories in Tokyo and win the team title like what we did in London 2012," Pourmirzaei concluded.

The three-time World Championships medalist Pourmirzaei lifted 249kg in the 2021 World Para Powerlifting World Cup held in Bangkok, Thailand in May.

Powerlifting at the 2020 Summer Paralympics

in Tokyo, Japan, will be held at the Tokyo International Forum.

The 2020 Summer Olympic and Barahamaia

The 2020 Summer Olympic and Paralympic Games were postponed to 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Paralympic Games will be held from Aug. 24 to Sept. 5, 2021.

# Persepolis complete signing of Ali Nemati

TEHRAN — Persepolis football club completed the signing of Padideh center back Ali Nemati on Tuesday.

The 25-year-old player has joined Persepolis from Padideh on a three-year deal.

He is Persepolis' third signing in the summer.

Persepolis have already hired Nassaji winger

Persepolis have already hired Nassaji winger Alireza Dehghani and Gol Gohar defender Alireza Ebrahimi.

Nemati has reunited with his former coach Yahya Golmohammadi in Persepolis.

### Abdollah Veisi named Foolad coach

TEHRAN — Abdollah Veisi was named as Foolad head coach on Tuesday.

Veisi replaced Javad Nekounam in the Ahvaz based football club.

Under leadership of Nekounam, Foolad won Hazfi Cup title in 2020/21 season and qualified for the 2022 AFC Champions League for the second

successive year.

Veisi has most recently coached First Division team Kheybar Khorramabad.

The 50-year-old inspired Esteghlal Khuzestan to their first-ever title in Iran league ion 2015.

Veisi, a former player of Foolad, has also worked as assistant coach in the club in 2007.

He has also worked as head coach in Paykan, Saba and Sepahan.

### Mohammad Mohebi joins C.D. Santa Clara

TEHRAN — Iran and Sepahan winger Mohammad Mohebi joined Portuguese football team Santa Clara.

Santa Clara swapped Shariyar Moghanlou for Mohebi

Moghanlou was transferred to Persepolis on loan until the end of the season but Santa Clara didn't reach an agreement with Persepolis to release the forward.

The club exchanged the player with Sepahan's Mohebi.

"I am very happy to have arrived in European football. I will do my best to make my mark at Santa Clara", said Mohebi.

### Lyon submit 11€m bid for Sardar Azmoun

TEHRAN — L'Équipe report that Ligue 1 side Lyon made an opening €11m bid for Iranian international striker Sardar Azmoun, who is currently plying his trade at Zenit St Petersburg.

The Russian side had been seeking €20m for the 26-year-old at the beginning of this window and it is currently unclear whether or not their stance has since softened.

OL cannot really offer much more owing to their financial constraints and without making more sales – they are still hopeful of selling Houssem Aouar and Maxwel Cornet before next week's deadline.

Azmoum has just 12 months remaining on his existing contract.

### Nemati, Javanmardi among Asian Women to Watch at Paralympics 2020

TEHRAN – Iranian Para athletes Zahra Nemati and Sareh Javanmardi have been named among Asian women to watch out for the 2020 Paralympic Games.

\*Zahra Nemati – Para Archery

Arguably the most popular and successful female Paralympian to come from Iran, Nemati is aiming for a historic third Paralympic title in women's individual recurve open at Tokyo 2020, asianparalympic.org reported.

No archer has won three consecutive Paralympic titles. In fact, at London 2012, Nemati set a Paralympic record on her way to gold in the women's individual recurve W1/W2.

She also has Paralympic silver and bronze in women's team recurve open. Nemati, who will be one of Iran's flagbearers at Tokyo, is also the first from her country to have appeared in the Olympics and Paralympics at the same

\*Sareh Javanmardi – Shooting Para Sport

A two-time Paralympic and three-time world champion, Javanmardi will be the player to beat in the pistol events ((P2 women's 10 air pistol SH1 and P4 mixed 50m pistol SH1). She followed this up with another gold medal at the 2018 World Championships in Cheongju, South Korea, in May and at the Indonesia 2018 Asian

With her recent form at the Al Ain 2021 World Cup where she equaled the world record to win the P2 title, Javanmardi seems ready to defend her Paralympic titles in Tokyo.

Uzbekistan's Amilova Fotimakhon (Para Swimming), Indian Leani Ratri Oktila (Para Badminton) and Chinese Guo Lingling (Para Powerlifting) are three other athletes to watch out in the list.

# **ECONOMY**

Straight Truth DEHRAN TIMES



### Iran launches aviation industry research institute

From page 1 Prior to this, ASMERC had three research institutes namely Meteorology and Atmospheric Sciences institute in Tehran, Climatology and Climate Change institute in Mashhad, and Meteorology and Agriculture institute in Ilam.

ASMERC has been working in 14 different research groups to conduct studies and research related to pure meteorological knowledge and recognition, development and presentation of applied systems.

Having the oldest airline in West Asia and second oldest in Asia, Iran started developing its aviation industry nearly 80 years ago and this industry is still improving in the country.

Developing this industry would have major positive outcomes for the country's economy; in addition to creating new job opportunities for thousands of people; it will increase the air traffic while creating a capillary network across the country which would impact all other economic areas like industry, agriculture, tourism, trade and etc.

The Iranian Atmospheric Science and Meteorological Research Center was established in 1989 with the aim of meeting the scientific needs of the country in

### Mohsen Rezaei appointed vice president for economic affairs



TEHRAN – Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi has appointed Mohsen Rezaei as his vice president for economic affairs, the government's new portal announced on Wednesday.

also been appointed as the secretary of the Supreme Economic Coordination Council and the head of the government's Economic Headquarters.

Rezaei was the head of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps for 16 years and also held office as the

# Private sector puts 1st highefficiency power plant in operation

TEHRAN - The manager of Iranian Thermal Power Plants Holding (TP-PH)'s private power plants program announced the beginning of the commercial operation of the first private sector high-efficiency F-class power plant in the country.

According to Roohollah Espanani, this combined cycle power plant, called Caspian, is constructed with €260 million of investment and has the capacity of 460 megawatts (MW), the portal of the Energy Ministry known as Paven reported.

The efficiency of the power plant, which is located near Nowshahr city in northern Mazandaran province, is 58 percent in the combined cycle

It is the first single-axis power plant in the country that uses Class gas turbines and its commercial operation, while helping to meet the needs of the country's electricity network, will play an important role



in reducing blackouts in Mazandaran province during the peak consumption period in the upcoming years,

of real estate

stock exchange

to promote

the market

"High efficiency of the Caspian

power plant is considered an important step in the implementation of the country's general policies regarding the optimal use of fuel and preven-

high-efficiency power plant, in addition to saving billions of dollars in natural gas consumption, has a significant impact on reducing polluting emissions, especially in Mazandaran province," Espanani said.

The official noted that one of the unique features of this power plant is the installation of a water treatment system (WTP) using Electrodeion-ization (EDI) method and said: "The project of this power plant has been implemented by the private sector in the form of a guaranteed electricity purchase contract between Mahtab Caspian Power Generation Company and Thermal Power Plant Holding."

According to Espanani, TPPH will purchase the electricity generated by private power plants at a guaranteed price and supplies it to the electricity

The company is also responsible for fuel supply and operation of supply facilities, he added.

### Real estate stock exchange to be set up in IME in H2

TEHRAN - Real estate stock exchange to trade lands and houses will be set up in Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME) in the second half of the current Iranian calendar year (September 22, 2021-March 20, 2022), deputy transport and urban development minister

Mahmoud Mahmoudzadeh, the deputy minister for housing and construction affairs, said

that there has been cooperation in this due between the ministry and IME since some months ago and some positive results have been already achieved in this re-

The establishment of such exchange is in line with the government's policy of providing transparency in housing units for the underprivileged, and many efforts have been already made to prepare the required infrastructure in this due.

The head of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) had previously announced that the exchange was due to be established in the middle of the

previous Iranian calendar month (early July 2020).

When established, it will be the country's fifth major stock exchange. The four other ones are TSE, Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME).

Deputy Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) says the estab-Establishment lishment of the country's real

> to promote transparency in this According to Hossein Selahvarzi, establishing this stock exchange is going to be an opportunity for making the trans-

actions in the housing market more competitive and transparent, and will gain people's trust for participation in mass construction projects

Underlining the great capacities of this exchange, he said the capital market has the



ability to define practical tools for financing the real estate market and large construction projects, and it will make people more confident in participating in the implementation of such projects.

In late June 2020, the outgoing Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Farhad Dejpasand had announced the establishment of the country's real estate stock exchange.

The minister had stated that the Economy Ministry was finalizing the issue with the Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO).

### **TEDPIX climbs** 6,600 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN - TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 6,672 points to 1.55 million on Wednesday.

As reported, over 8,864 securities worth 110.264 trillion rials (about \$2.625 billion) were traded at the TSE on Wednesday.

The first market's index rose 8,864 points, and the second market's index gained 999 points.

Head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has said that the country's production units and companies can boost their employment and production by raising capital through the

"When people's resources are directed into the capital market, enterprises and companies listed on the stock exchange can have stronger financing from this market, and consequently have more investment and increases production and employment," Mohammad-Ali Dehgan Dehnavi told IRNA.

Referring to the government's performance in directing people's capital to the stock market, Dehnavi said: "SEO believes the government has a great role to play in the country's economy, the government is the macro policy-maker and the main regulator of the country's economy, therefore in countries like Iran where the government is directly involved in the economic decisions, it should also be present in the production sector. '

Dehgan Dehnavi further emphasized that the government's duty is to invite people into the capital market, adding: "The stock market is a platform that provides financing for production.

According to the official, his organization has considered several incentive programs for supporting the shareholders and for protecting the newly joined members.

According to a decree by the president, Rezaei has

secretary of the Expediency Discernment Council

### Export from North Khorasan increases 88% in 4 months on year

TEHRAN - The value of exports from North Khorasan province, in the northeast of Iran, rose 88 percent during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a provincial official announced.

Mohammad Badri, the director-general of the economic affairs office of North Khorasan governorate, said that 128,900 tons of commodities worth \$41.4 million was exported from the province in the four-month period, also indicating 38 percent rise in terms of weight.

The official named petrochemicals, steel products, aluminum ingots, and light concrete blocks as the main exported items, and stated that the products were exported to 18 Asian and European countries.

As announced by the head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil trade rose 47 percent during the first four months of the current year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi has said that Iran has traded 50.8 million tons of non-oil products worth nearly \$29 billion with other countries in the mentioned four-month period, which indicates also 21 percent growth in terms of weight on



an annual basis.

in weight.

The official put the four-month non-oil export at 38.3 million tons valued at \$14.3 billion, with a 65-percent rise in value and a Arab Emirates (UAE) with 4.3 27-percent growth

The IRICA head mentioned liquefied polyethylene, semi-finished products, methanol, gasoline, iron and steel ingots, steel products, iron rods, liquid propane, bitumen, and copper

products in the said time span. He said major export desti-

nations of the Iranian non-oil

cathode as the main exported

trade rose 47 percent in the first four

\$1.6 billion, Turkey Iran's non-oil with one million tons worth \$923 million, and Af-

ghanistan with 1.8 million tons worth \$728 million. months of The official further announced that current year Iran has imported

12.5 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$14.5 billion in the first four months of the present year, with 32 percent growth in value and five percent

goods were China with about

10 million tons worth \$4.3 bil-

lion, Iraq with 10.9 million tons

million tons worth

rise in weight year on year.

He said that the basic goods accounted for 9.4 million tons of the imported items.

Mir-Ashrafi named cellphones, livestock corn, sunflower oil, barley, meal, wheat, soybeans, sugar and rice as the main imported commodities.

The United Arab Emirates with four million tons of goods worth \$4.7 billion was the first largest exporter of goods to Iran in the four-month period, followed by China with one million tons of goods worth \$3.1 billion, Turkey with 1.3 million tons worth \$1.5 billion, Germany with 351,000 tons worth \$563 million, and Switzerland with 672,000 tons worth \$539 million, the official

As Mir-Ashrafi has previously announced, the value of Iran's non-oil trade stood at \$73 billion in the past Iranian calendar year.

He has put the weight of nonoil trade at 146.4 million tons, and said that the figure shows a 25-million-ton annual decline, which is the result of sanctions and coronavirus pandemic.

Iran's non-oil export was 112 million tons valued at \$34.5 billion, and that of import was 34.4 million tons worth \$38.5 billion in the past year, the official add-

# **Pakistan** seeks to boost electricity imports from

TEHRAN - Pakistan is looking to increase electricity imports from Iran to 70 megawatts (MW) to meet the power needs in its under-development Gwadar port, Pakistani news outlets reported

As reported by Pakistan Today, according to a decision made by the Cabinet Committee on China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC), a Pakistani company called Quetta Electric Supply Company (Qesco) is awarded the project to lay a transmission line for supplying the imported electricity to Gwadar port.

The transmission line is expected to be comleted by March 2023.

Pakistan is already importing some electricity from Iran but the U.S. sanctions against Tehran have created hurdles in making proper payments for the import, prompting Pakistan to opt for a barter agreement for the deal.

Back in April, Iran's outgoing Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said the country is capable of boosting its electricity exchange with the neighboring countries to 10,000 megawatts (10 gigawatts).

Referring to the positive measures taken by the Energy Ministry for expanding the possibility of energy exchange with neighboring countries, the minister said: "Now, we have the possibility to exchange electricity with all countries that share land borders with us.'

Currently, the Iranian power industry consists of one million kilometers of transmission, distribution, and super-distribution networks, about 500,000 mega-volt ampere capacity of high and low-pressure substations, and about 85,000 MW capacity of power plants, Ardaka-

As one of the major players in West Asia's energy market, Iran is now emerging as a major electricity hub in the region as the country is following a comprehensive plan for synchronizing its power grid with the neighboring countries.

Currently, Iran has electricity exchange with Armenia, Ázerbaijan, Iraq, Turkmenistan, and

Earlier this year, Energy Ministry's Spokesman for Electricity Industry Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi also announced that the country is pursuing a plan for exporting electricity to the southern Arab neighbor Oman through the sea.

Iran's total electricity exchanges depend on the hot and cold seasons of the year since, during the hot season which is the peak consumption period, the country's electricity exports decrease and the country even imports

## Tavanir to establish 3GW of renewable power plants for agricultural wells

TEHRAN - Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir), in collaboration with the Iranian Fuel Conservation Company (IFCC), is going to implement a program for installing 3,000 megawatts (three gigawatts) of renewable power plants for agricultural wells across the country, Mehr News Agency reported.

According to Tavanir's Operator for Rural Electricity Expansion Program Ali Chehel-Amirani, there are currently 100,000 agricultural wells in the country that use diesel fuel to pump water and construction of these renewable power plants will save huge amounts of fuel in addition to supporting the power grid.

The water pumps in each agricultural well consumes an average of 11,000 liters of fuel per year, and connecting these wells to renewable energy sources can be effective in preserving the environment, helping the electricity



grid, preventing fuel smuggling, and boosting renewable energy-related industries, Chehel-Amirani said.

The official noted that the power plants will be constructed by the private sector and will be paid for by the resources coming from fuel sav-

ings in accordance with the article 12 of the law on the elimination of barriers to production.

Following the increase in the electricity consumption by the agricultural sector in the current years due to the water shortage and drought, Tavanir and IFCC signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on June 13 to collaborate for installing PV stations for the agricultural wells.

Based on the mentioned MOU, which was signed by Tavanir Head Mohammad-Hassan Motevalizadeh and head of IFCC Ali Mobini Dehkordi, farmers are not going to pay any price for the mentioned stations and all the costs are covered by the mentioned entities.

Speaking at the signing ceremony of the MOU, Dehkordi noted that under the framework of this memorandum, PV stations will be installed for 60,000 agricultural wells over a three-year pe-

"In the first phase of this program, 11,000 wells are scheduled to be provided with renewable energy sources," the official said.

Following the signing of the mentioned MOU, Tavanir issued a call for identifying contractors interested in supplying equipment and installing and operating solar power plants in rural areas across the country with a total capacity of 3,000

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

In this regard, the Energy Ministry has been following new strategies in recent years to manage the power consumption in various sectors and lessen the electricity losses in the national

# Hezbollah chief is the main player in Lebanon and the region

AUGUST 26, 2021
Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

Hezbollah Secretary General Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah on Thursday said a tanker would set off from Iran to bring desperately needed fuel to Lebanon in defiance of U.S. sanctions.

Through such a declaration, Nasrallah proved that is the main player in the Lebanese politics.

In recent years, Hezbollah has showed that it can play a key role in geopolitical developments in the Arab world, especially after its fight against terrorists in Syria.

But these days Hezbollah and its allies in Lebanon are concerned about the U.S.-led sanction campaign against the Lebanese government that has hampered fuel import to the country.

Earlier this month, the Lebanese central bank declared it could no longer support fuel imports at a preferential exchange rate, in what many saw as a de facto end to subsidies.

After Hezbollah turned to its regional allies, Iran immediately responded to the call via sending tankers loaded with fuel.

Nasrallah had previously said that he would seek Tehran's help if Lebanese authorities fail to tackle the acute and growing fuel short-

Without firing a single bullet, Nasrallah put Washington and its allies inside Lebanon in a great embarrassment, if not a major defeat.

Americans as well as the resistance movement's foes have spared no effort to incite people against Hezbollah and its mighty missile capability, lighting the fuse of for a civil war to undermine its nationwide influence.

However, the Americans achieved none of their goals. It also proved counterproductive for the pro-West axis in Lebanon. Actually, it raised the popularity of Hezbollah and its secretary general among the Lebanese people and the Arabs as a man who could say a "big no" to the U.S.



It is still unknown how these fuel tankers will reach the Lebanese shores, and where they will unload their cargo, but the other important question is: will these Iranian tankers pass through the Suez Canal, or will use other ways to evade U.S.-Israeli pressure?

Nevertheless, there is no doubt that the three main parties in the resistance axis, namely Iran, Hezbollah and Syria, have plans for every possible scenario.

Apparently, the axis of resistance prefers to keep the details secret to confuse its foes. It is also ready to respond according to circumstances and developments.

It is clear that any Israeli-American reaction to Hezbollah's move, politically or militarily, will be very costly. Nasrallah has said that these Iranian ships will move under the Lebanese sovereignty, and

any attack on them is an attack on Lebanon and a violation of its sovereignty.

But if the American side preferred to swallow its pride and impose economic sanctions on Lebanon or Hezbollah, or even Iran on accusations of violating the siege, it should be asked that what would these sanctions do, and what would their impact be on a people who have been starved for months and facing shortage of water, electricity, medicine, and even bread?

Dorothy Shea, who leads the conspiracy coalition in Lebanon, suddenly remembered the extent of the political predicament her country is in, and announced U.S. readiness to provide gas and oil from Egypt and electricity from Jordan in an attempt to question the great victory of Hezbollah and the axis of resistance.

However, she forgot an important matter; the arrival of such a gas requires technical and logistical infrastructure that may take several months to prepare and to negotiate with Syria, the owner of the lands through which it should pass.

They need to take Syria's approval, and Syrian President Bashar al-Assad would have the final word

With a great shrewdness, the Hezbollah chief put America, Israel and their allies in Lebanon in a severe embarrassment as part of his efforts to rescue the Lebanese people from their stifling crises.

He worked based on a calculated plan that came after a smart management of the crisis, putting the ball in the court of his opponents. Now he is watching their confusion and waits to see their reaction.

## Booster COVID19- shots "should be delayed"

Booster COVID-19 shots "should be delayed"

WHO Director-General Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus says that COVID-19 booster shots should be delayed as priority should be given to raising vaccination rates in countries where only 1% or 2% of the population has been inoculated.

He says if vaccination rates are not raised globally, stronger variants of the coronavirus could develop and vaccines intended as booster shots should be donated to countries where people have not received their first or second doses, during a visit to Budapest.

Ghebreyesus added "In addition, there is a debate about whether booster shots are effective at all"

The WHO said last week current data does not indicate that COVID-19 booster shots are needed and that the most vulnerable people worldwide should be fully vaccinated before high-income countries deploy a top-up.

Last week, the United States announced that it plans to make COVID-19 vaccine booster shots widely available starting on September 20.

### U.S. should be held "accountable" for Afghan crimes

China's envoy to the UN Human Rights Council says the U.S. Army and the militaries of its coalition partners should be held accountable for potential rights violations committed in Afghanistan.

During a session on reports of alleged Taliban abuses, Chinese Ambassador Chen Xu told the council "The U.S., UK, Australia and other countries must be held accountable for the violation of human rights committed by their military in Afghanistan and the evolution of this current session should cover this issue."

The Chinese envoy says "under the banner of democracy and human rights the U.S. and other countries carry out military interventions in other sovereign states and impose their own model on countries with vastly different history and culture," Chen said, adding that this had inflicted "great suffering".

Rights groups such as Amnesty International have previously said that thousands of Afghans have been killed or injured by U.S. forces of which few have been brought to justice.

China, which has not fought in Afghanistan, is considering a working relationship with the Taliban and the group has also said that Beijing can contribute to the country's economic development.

Chen added in his speech that "Beijing will continue developing a good-neighborly, friendly and cooperative relationship with Afghanistan and continue our constructive role in its process of peace and reconstruction".

The Taliban says China has played a constructive role in promoting peace and reconciliation and is welcome to contribute to the reconstruction of the country.

Speaking to Chinese media, Taliban Spokesman, Suhail Shaheen, says "China is a big country with a huge economy and capacity - I think they can play a very big role in the rebuilding, rehabilitation, reconstruction of Afghanistan".

## Five million Yemenis one step away from famine

The United Nations has renewed the alarm over Yemen's humanitarian crisis calling for the opening of Hodeidah port and Sana'a airport; currently under blockade by Saudi Arabia.

Speaking during a UN Security Council session, Khaled Mohamed Khiari, assistant Secretary-General for the Middle East (West Asia), Asia and the Pacific, said "unfortunately, since the last Security Council session on Yemen there has been no further progress in the UN's ongoing efforts to reach an agreement based on the four-point plan presented to the parties, which is comprised of a nationwide cease-fire, the re-opening of Sana'a airport, the easing of restrictions on the flow of fuel and other commodities through Hodeidah port, and the resumption of face-to-face political negotiations between the Yemeni parties"

UN Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator, Martin Griffiths, said civilians, especially children, in Yemen bear the burden of war, which has caused an economic collapse.

The former UN special envoy to Yemen called for an increase in aid from donors to avert famine, adding that 5 million Yemenis are one step away from famine.

UNICEF Director, Henrietta Fore, also spoke at the UN Security Council meeting on Yemen.

"The war in Yemen, now in its seventh year, has created the largest humanitarian crisis in the world – one made worse by the public health and socioeconomic consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic

This year has seen growing displacement, with 1.6 million children now internally displaced.

The UNICEF Director delivered some shockingly grim facts and statistics.

"Basic services like healthcare, sanitation and education – all of which are vital for the humanitarian response – are incredibly fragile and on the brink of total collapse.

"Today in Yemen, almost 21 million people, including 11.3 million children, need humanitarian assistance to survive. 2.3 million children are acutely malnourished and nearly 400,000 children under five suffering from severe acute malnutrition are at imminent risk of death. More than 10 million children and close to 5 million women cannot properly access health services.

"In Yemen, one child dies every 10 minutes from preventable causes, including malnutrition and vaccine-preventable diseases".

"These are the numbers. But the numbers do not really tell us what it is like to be a child growing up today in Yemen.

"Being a child in Yemen means watching your parents struggle to provide enough food for your family to eat, without which you could starve. It means that if you are fortunate enough to have a school to go to, you could be killed by a bullet, an explosion, or by stepping on a mine walking along the road to get there

"Being a child in Yemen means you have probably either experienced or witnessed horrific violence to which no child should ever be exposed. It means that if you do survive the war, you might carry the physical and emotional scars with you for the rest of your life, undermining your development and happiness as an adult.

"Being a child in Yemen is the stuff of night-mares.

"Yemen imports nearly everything, including humanitarian supplies. We must reopen the port of Hudaydah to commercial imports and fuel. Millions of more people could be plunged into famine if vital imports remain restricted.

In March 2015, Saudi Arabia waged a war on Yemen with the aim of reinstating the former government there. Almost daily bombardments coupled with an all-out blockade have led to the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

# What about our way of life?

From page 1 ▶ Yet, after he had read the article, he said to me that I should be aware that these crimes will destroy their way of life! What about our way of life? No sagacious person in my region or country would agree to criminal and terrorist behavior around the world. A few years ago, we lived in peace and comfort. I still remember with grief those days, yet no one cared about our way of life. The Americans and the West were focused on changing our governments and destroying our countries because they had the power over the Dollar. They wanted to enhance their quality of life. They needed wars to sell weapons. They needed chaos to control our power resources. They needed to kill our dignity and resistance, so that "Israel" can continue to exist peacefully.

The Syrians, the Lebanese, and the Iraqis were subjected to all kinds of terror and destruction by ISIS and al-Nusra's terrorist groups. The three countries were occupied by the American troops. The three countries were subjected to the terror ot economic siege by the Western powers, and their way of life was destroyed. They are under pressure to accept the Zionist regime "Israel", by force, as part of the region. Their infrastructure was damaged, their electricity was shut off, their water system was destroyed, and their peace and security were stolen, just because they stood by the Palestinians. Palestine is the authentic part of the region, and the authentic part of the social and cultural life of Bilad al-Sham, Iraq, and the rest of the Arab world. Palestine is essential in our way of life.

As if we are not entitled to our way of life. We are not entitled to refuse colonialism and occupation in our region. We are not allowed to fight for our freedom. And we are not allowed to maintain living our own way of life.

I am a Lebanese citizen. I was raised and educated in Syrian schools during the Lebanese Civil War. Therefore, when I talk about the two states divided by Sykes-Picot Agreement in 1916, I talk about family relations and friends. I talk about my life that I have lived in the two countries, which I loved and I knew like the back of my hand. Our life was torn apart because of the Americans and their puppets, i.e. the Turks', the Europeans', and Saudis' meddling in our way of life.



"Our life was torn

apart because of

the Americans and

their puppets"

To talk like this may sound juvenile, but it is not! It is our daily little details that define us! When we want to talk about our way of life, we remember the way we used to live and how the war on Syria has changed our way of life in Lebanon and in the region. I used to drive my car from Beirut straight to Daraa in south Syria at any time, day or night. I and my family had no fear. Our countries were peaceful and safe. Our families were happy and cheerful. We had so much love that it made us forget the worries along the long road, and along the journey of life. All of this was stolen

from us. We lost our sense of security and peace. We lost our way of life.

The war has eliminated our ability to have constant access to electricity, water, fuel, food, entertainment, education, and cultural activities. These elements are part of our way of life. We live in the age of technology. Hence, they are essential of the maintain and the second out the sec

our way of life. Otherwise, I can't write and express myself. I can't drive or take the bus to see my mother and friends and buy my food. I cannot drive to work. People cannot send their children and youth to schools and universities. Isn't that our way of life too?

Our lives today revolve around essentials, once we were taking for granted. When the electricity will come? Is the water going to be off? How much time do I need to fill gasoline in the station? It is stressful! Our way of life is stressful, so that the Americans', the Westerners', and the Israelis' lives can live comfortably, so that they can continue to live in prosperity and in greediness.

In 1919, after the Great Arab Revolution, the area from the Arabian Peninsula to Bilad al-Sham and Iraq was freed from the Ottoman Oc-

cupation. The Arabs fought for their liberation. They declared the establishment of an Arab Parliamentary kingdom. It was a pioneer declaration. However, the Arab leader king Faisal of Syria and Iraq was invited to a conference in Paris. Once he was there the French broke the Arab State flag; he was imprisoned in his hotel room. Our region was once again

occupied and another 50 years of revolutions and resistance was tagged along. Since then, the same vicious circle is repeated, we need to get truly independent and strong, and ally with true friends; otherwise, we will never be able to live our way of life again.

## Indigenous Brazilians protest against President Bolsonaro

Thousands of indigenous demonstrators camped out in Brazil's capital to protest President Jair Bolsonaro's policies and an initiative that could take away their ancestral lands.

The protesters set up the "Fight for Life" camp outside the seat of power in Brasilia, near the trio of buildings housing the presidency, Congress and the Supreme Court.

The protest camp will hold a week of demos and other activities against what the organizers, the Association of Indigenous Peoples of Brazil, call Bolsonaro's "anti-indigenous agenda," seeking to exert pressure ahead of a crucial Supreme Court ruling on native lands.

Indigenous groups in Brazil accuse Bolsonaro of systematically attacking their rights and trying to open their lands to agribusiness and mining.

A similar protest in June erupted into clashes, with three indigenous demonstrators injured and three police wounded by

The latest camp opened peacefully. Organizers said there were 4,000 indigenous protesters from 117 ethnic groups are participating.

Tension has peaked with a Supreme Court case opening on the issue of how indigenous lands are protected.

The agribusiness lobby argues Brazil's constitutional protection of indigenous lands should only apply to those whose inhabitants were present in 1988 when the current constitution was adopted.

However, indigenous rights activists say native inhabitants were forced off their ancestral lands, including under Brazil's 1964-1985 military dictatorship, which wanted to develop the Amazon rainforest.

Their attorneys argue having now returned, they should have the right to benefit from the protected status of official reservations

Brazil is home to around 900,000 indigenous people. Their reservations cover some 13 percent of the country.

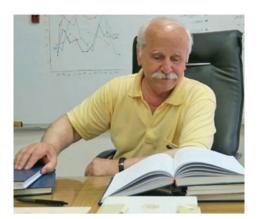
Environmentalists say protecting indigenous reservations is one of the best ways to stop the destruction of the Amazon, a critical resource in the race to challenge climate change.

According to official figures, deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon has surged since Bolsonaro took office in 2019. In the 12 months through July, a total of 8,712 square kilometers, an area nearly the size of Puerto Rico, of forest cover was destroyed.

# **TOURISM**

AUGUST 26, 2021 Straight Truth **TEHRAN TIMES** 

### **Prolific anthropologist Asghar Karimi** dies at 81



- Prolific Iranian anthropologist, researcher, and translator Asghar Karimi died at a Tehran hospital on Monday.

He conducted arrays of field research in different parts of Iran from 1959 to 1975. He collaborated with many Iranian and French and American anthropologists and ethnographers such as William Irons, Christian Bromberger, Jean - Pierre Digard, Tereza Batista in different corners of Iran.

Karimi is considered the designer of new

museums in the country. Over the past couple of years, he collaborated with the Islamic Encyclopedia Foundation and in the groups of geography and culture of the Iranian people of the Great Islamic Encyclopedia Center. He was also an associate member of the Iran branch of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS).

Born 1940 in Zanjan, he went to France to pursue higher studies after receiving his diploma from Marvi High School in Tehran in 1972. In 1975, he received a bachelor's degree in sociology and anthropology from the University of Marseille, and in 1978, he received a master's degree in anthropology from the same university.

He immediately entered the doctoral program in this field, but left his studies unfinished and returned to Iran. His unfinished doctoral dissertation entitled "On the system of land ownership in the Bakhtiari tribe based on existing old records".

Karimi left behind a rich cultural legacy including over 30 books, 50 articles and dozens of research projects and scientific reports. He also translated many archaeological reports written by Roman Ghirshman and some other Western archaeolo-

# A daring journey inside one of deepest caves on Earth

Parau each year and using basic SRT techniques many Iranian Teams have reached the bottom of the cave. As a result, some Iranian cavers have got to know the cave very well, with one such example being Yousef Sorninia from the Kermanshah Mountaineering Club who in 2006 claimed to have made 32 trips into Ghar-e Parau, reaching the terminal sump on at least nine of these trips.

In the winter of 2005/2006, Yuri Evdokimov leading a small team of Russian cavers visited Ghar-e Parau and reached a depth of -400m. Realizing the cave and the surrounding area still had good potential, ropes

plans were made to return with a bigger expedition in 2006.

> Discovery of a fellow cave nearby

In 2014, a team of Iranian cavers led by Sorninia discovered fellow nearby. Sometimes referred to as "the second deepest shaft" in the world, the cave was named Ghar-e-Ghala. It is located in the

Parau massif less than 6km north of Ghar-e Parau, and around 100km from the border The team began exploration in

summer 2015. They have described the entrance, at an altitude of 2794m, as being shaped like a "big banana", with snow and ice found for the first 60m collapsing the rock onto blockage 300m below, where a small hole can be

used for shelter or bivouac. For scale, if you look carefully at the photograph of the entrance you can see a

caver standing above it on the

Surveying was completed in September 2016, the surveyors are credited as S Mohamadi, M Nejat, H Forozandeh, Y Shariatmadari, and E Mosadegh assisted by S. Lotfizadeh.

The shaft was rigged with 700m of rope and includes three traverses, three deviations, and forty rebelays (a rebelay is created when you attach one rope to two anchors).

A single pitch descent, broken only by a traverse on a blockage at -358m, descends to a large chamber 71m x 37m where there is a sump which has yet to be dived. At 562m Ghar-e-Ghala is just nine metres deeper than the 553m pitch in Patkov Gust, in Croatia.

### Prestigious museum of handicrafts to reopen after 13 years of closure

TEHRAN - After almost 13 years of closure, the Museum of Contemporary Handicrafts of Iran is set to reopen its doors to the public, an official with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts has said.

Located in Tehran's Sa'dabad Cultural-Historical Complex, the museum was inaugurated in 2006, displaying exquisite and carefully selected collections of fine handcrafts

created by renowned masters and artisans, CHTN quoted Vida Tavahodi as saying on Wednesday.

after However, almost two years, for some reason, all the works were collected during the Qajar and stored in the museum repository. causing damage to many of them due poor storage conditions, the official added.

Last year, it was finally decided that the museum needs to be revived and reopen, and after specialized studies and consultations, a suitable space of the historical complex was finally assigned for the museum to be reopened as soon as possible, she explained.

Over a thousand pieces are represented in this collection, and 400 of them are regarded as magnificent, exquisite, and wellselected, the official said.

"Such a museum would enhance the credibility of contemporary handicrafts as well as provide

platform for educational research for students and enthusiasts," mentioned.

Sprawled about 110 hectares mountainside parkland in northern Tehran, the Sa'dabad Cultural-Historical Complex is used to be a royal residence during the Qajar and Pahlavi eras.

complex was initially established and inhabited by some Qajar monarchs in the 19th century. It has undergone further expansions from the 1920s until the 1979 Islamic Revolution. The site



embraces a variety of buildings, some of which turned to be house museums showcasing a wide range of royal families' memorabilia including lavishly-made furniture, dishware, automobiles, carpets, and miniature paintings.

With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next. In January 2020, the cities of Shiraz, Malayer, and Zanjan and the village

of Qassemabad were designated by the WCC- Asia Pacific Region, putting Iran's number of world crafts cities and villages from ten

Shiraz was named a "world city of [diverse] handicrafts". Malayer was made a global hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture. Zanjan gained the title of a "world city of filigree". And Qassemabad village, which is nationally known for its traditional costumes, was also promoted to a world hub of handicrafts. Chador Shab, a kind

of homemade outer garment for women, was, however, the main subject for the WCC assessment for the village.

To put that in

perspective,

imagine

almost two

Eiffel Tower(s)

stacked on top

of each other

underground!

The value of Iran's handicrafts exports stood at \$120 million during the first eleven months of the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (March 20, 2020 - February 18, 2021), Mehr reported. The country's handicrafts exports slumped during the mentioned months in comparison to the same period last a year earlier due to the damage the coronavirus pandemic has inflicted on global trade.

The Islamic Republic exported \$427 million worth of handicrafts during the first eleven months of the calendar year 1398. Of the figure, some \$190 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customsfree and tax-free transfer) through 20 provinces, according to data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

Ceramics, pottery handwoven cloths as well as personal ornamentations with precious semi-precious gemstones are traditionally exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the

### Historical sites unaffected by quake, South Khorasan tourism chief says

TEHRAN - A medium-sized 4.1 magnitude earthquake rattled parts of South Khorasan on Tuesday; however, it caused no damage to historical sites across the eastern province.

"No noticeable damage to historical structures and monuments has been reported so far based on field visits of the experts", the provincial tourism chief Hassan Ramezani said on Wednesday, CHTN reported.

In this region, the main concern of authorities is to prevent damage to the centuries-old Asbads (vertical-axis windmills), which are extremely vulnerable to natural disasters.

Made of natural clay, straw, and wood, an Asbad is typically comprised of eight chambers, with each chamber housing six blades. As the area's strong, steady wind enters the chambers it turns the blades, which then turn grindstones. The structures reach up to about 65 feet in

Once being a smart technique to grind grains, such wind mills bears testimony to the human being's adaption with nature by transforming environmental obstacles into opportunities. "Asbad is a smart technique to grind grains, a technique which goes back to ancient times when the people living in the eastern parts of Iran, in an attempt to adapt themselves with nature and transform environmental obstacles into opportunities, managed to invent it," according to UNESCO website.

"The earliest known references to windmills are to a Persian millwright in 644 CE and windmills in Seistan [Sistan], Iran, in 915 CE," the Encyclopedia Britannica says.

Avid visitors and researchers can examine the subtle yet simple mechanism in person as several windmills have been restored and brought back to life to testify how ancient Iranians harnessed the wind to make a living.

The Islamic Republic designated the Asbad as a national heritage site in 2002 and eyes to register them in the World Heritage list.

Located in eastern Iran, South Khorasan province is home to many historical and natural attractions such as Birjand Castle, Dragon Cave, Furg Citadel, and Polond

It is also known for its famous rugs as well as its saffron and barberry which are produced in almost all parts of the province.

### Bangladeshi ambassador tours 'Iran's Taj Mahal'

Sa'dabad

complex was

once a royal

residence

and Pahlavi

eras.

TEHRAN - On Tuesday, Dhaka's ambassador to Tehran, Gousal Azam Sarker paid a visit to the UNESCOdesignated Soltaniyeh Dome, which is a masterpiece of Islamic architecture sometimes referred to as 'Iran's Taj Mahal'.

It was for the second time that Sarker, who was accompanied by his wife, toured the 14th-century monument in northwestern Zanjan province, the provincial tourism chief said on Wednesday.

"Upon seeing this monument, the ambassador expressed his amazement at its extraordinary grandeur and architecture," CHTN quoted Amir Arimand as saying. Visits by foreign diplomats and

authorities to Zanjan province's attractions could motivate more international arrivals in the region, the official added.

Last August, Sarker traveled to Zanjan, praising the province for its extraordinarily beautiful tourist sites. He considered the tourist attractions as one of the most important capabilities and advantages of the tourism industry in the region.

Moreover, the envoy paid visits to Rakhtshooy Khaneh Edifice Museum and Zolfaqari Archaeological Museum and proposed joint ventures in the field of tourism and handicraft exports.

Locally known as Gonbad-e Soltaniyeh, ÚNESCO-registered Mausoleum of Oljaytu is highly recognized as an architectural masterpiece particularly due to its innovative double-shelled dome and elaborate interior decoration. The very imposing dome stands about 50 meters tall from its base. Covered with turquoiseblue faience tiles, the stunning structure dominates the skyline of Soltaniyeh, an ancient city in Zanjan province.

Meaning "Town of the Sultans",



Soltaniyeh was briefly the capital of Persia's Ilkhanid dynasty (a branch of the Mongol dynasty) during the 14th century.

The monument is, in fact, the mausoleum of Oljaitu, also known as Muhammad Khodabandeh, who was the eighth Ilkhanid dynasty ruler from 1304 to 1316.

According to UNESCO, the mausoleum's interior decoration is so outstanding that scholars like A.U. Pope described the building as "anticipating the Taj Mahal".

The UN cultural body has it that the Mausoleum of Oljaytu is an essential link and key monument in the development of Islamic architecture in central and western Asia. The fairly large dome is the earliest extant example of its type in the country and became an important reference for the later development of the Islamic dome.

### Tourist facilities, traditional restaurants to put into service in Qom

TEHRAN - A total of four tourism-related projects are scheduled to be inaugurated in Iran's central Qom province on the occasion of the Government Week (August 24-30), the provincial tourism chief has said.

A guest house, a tourist complex, and two vast traditional restaurants will come on stream across the province, Alireza Arjmandi announced on Wednesday.

A budget of 430 billion rials (\$10.2 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been channeled into the projects, the official added.

The projects are expected to generate 70 job opportunities directly upon their completion, he noted.

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

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

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

### Excavation delves into Sassanid fire temple in northern Iran

TEHRAN - Archaeologists have revealed more details of a previously-discovered ancient fire temple in northern Iran.

Situated in heart of the Alborz mountains, Savadkuh county, the fire temple is estimated to date from the Sassanid era (224 CE-651), according to Mehdi Abedini Aragi, who leads the archaeological survey.

Parts of the main hall of the sanctuary, its stairs, entrances, side rooms, and corridors have been excavated so far, Aragi said. "The excavation probed almost 100 square meters of the ancient building.

Architectural evidence and artifacts discovered at the site suggest the fire temple has been restored and renovated several times until the fourth century AH when it was finally abandoned and gradually destroyed, he explained.

The fire temple is located at a distance of about five kilometers from the historical Espahbod Khorshid Cave. It was constructed in the form of 'Chartaqi', which was a prominent element in Iranian architecture, having various functions and used in both secular and religious contexts for over 1,500 years.

Soaked in a vibrant history, Mazandaran (also known as Tabarestan) was a cradle of civilization since the beginning of the first millennium BC. According to Britannica Encyclopedia, it was almost overrun in about 720 CE by the Arab raiders.

Its insecure eastern and southeastern borders were crossed by Mongol invaders in the 13th and 14th centuries. Cossacks attacked the region in 1668 but were repulsed. It was ceded to the Russian Empire by a treaty in 1723, but the Russians were never secure in their occupation. The area was restored to Iran under the Qajar dynasty. The northern section of the region consists of a lowland alongside the Caspian and an upland along the northern slopes of the Alborz Mountains.

TEHRAN - The number of births registered in the country over the past [Iranian calendar] year (March 2020-March 2021) has decreased by 27 percent compared to four years

According to the statistics published by the Statistics Center of Iran, the total number of births registered last year accounted for 1,114,155, while, a year before, some 1,196,132 births have been registered across the country, showing a decrease of 6.8 percent.

In general, according to the statistics, the birth rate decreased by 2.6 percent in the [Iranian calendar] year 1396 (March 2017-March 2018) compared to a year before, 8 percent in 1397, 12 percent in 1398, and 6.8 percent in 1399.

The rate of decrease in the number of births registered last year compared to four years before, the year 1395, is estimated at 27 percent.

#### Iran's population on a downward trend: UN

Iran's population will be on an upward trend until 2040, then it begins to experience a downward trend based on three scenarios by the UN World Population Prospects report revised in 2017.

The results on fertility growth show that in all three scenarios (low, medium, and high) until 2040, Iran's fertility rate will not increase to the level of replacement and the population growth rate of Iran will decrease based on all three scenarios.

The lowest scenario predicts that in 2030, the population growth rate of Iran reaches zero and the me-

# Birth rate declines by 27% in 4 years



The total number of births registered last year across Iran accounted for

1,114,155.

nario is realized, the population of the country will decrease to about 93 million by 2050, then to about 72 million by 2100. Population

Moreover, if

the medium sce-

growth comes negative within 20 years Mohammad

Javad Mahmoudi, chairman of the population policies committee of the Secretariat of the Supreme Council of the Cultural Revolution

said that given that the fertility rate is now below the replacement limit, it is predicted that from 2036-2041, the population growth rate will reach zero and then becomes

#### Population growth policies

Some 14 policies to support childbearing and the family were announced by the Leader in [the Iranian calendar year] 1389 (March 2014-March 2015) when he stressed that social, cultural and economic development should be done in accordance with these general policies to support families.

The policies address the need to increase the population and the various dimensions of it, including childbearing, facilitating marriage and strengthening the family, reproductive health, promoting the Iranian-Islamic lifestyle, empowering young people, honoring the elderly, and the environment, which can lead to an increase in the quantity and quality of the population if it is timely and continuous imple-

The Majlis (Iranian Parliament) approved on March 16 to implement a population growth and family support plan for 7 years to change the declining trend of childbearing.

ance for infertile couples, providing services and facilities to working women, providing health and nutrition support packages to mothers and children, educational opportunities for student mothers, providing livelihood support to families. and ongoing medical services to pregnant women.

The plan stipulates health insur-

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### National festival on Iranian traditional medicine to be held

From page 1 > Globally, this medicine reached its peak in Iran, concurrent with polymaths such as Munammad ibn Zachariah al-Razi, Ibn Sina, and Esmaeil Jorjani. Ancient Iranian Medicine, the basic knowledge of four senses of humor as a healing system, was developed by Hakim ibn Sina in his medical encyclopedia The Canon of Medicine.

Iranian traditional medicine strongly focuses on prioritizing health maintenance and disease prevention over treatment.

#### 8,000 herbal species grow in Iran

So far, about 30,000 plant species are identified in the world, with Iran's share of about 8,000 species that its plant diversity is more than the whole of Europe.

Currently, about 2,300 species of medicinal plants have been identified in the country; while medicinal plants account for one-third of the medicines used in human societies, the share of world trade in these products is about \$124 billion and Iran's share is \$570



million, which is only 0.5 percent of the total.

The per capita consumption of medicinal plants in Iran is about one kilogram of dried plants, in other words, 83,000 tons of medicinal plants worth 1.2 trillion rials (around \$29 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) are consumed in the country, while in Europe this amount is 900 grams and in the United States is 2.5 kilograms.

### Flora of Iran

North of the

Alborz, where the

Caspian Sea has a

the winters are

very mild.

dium scenario

suggests that in

2050, the rate

becomes nega-

changes in the

population show

that if the cur-

rent trend of

fertility decline

continues, ac-

cording to the

the population

scenario,

of Iran will reach about 82 million by

2050, and about 77.6 million people

in 2060, and by 2100 it will be re-

duced to about 42 million people.

low

the

Also,



The coastal areas along the Persian Gulf and in Baluchistan and Sistan are also very dry, with annual precipitation of less than 200 mm. North of the Alborz, where the Caspian Sea has a moderating effect, the winters are very mild.

The temperature rarely drops below -5° C. Northwestern Persia, the Zagros chains, and the adjacent interior basins are characterized by harsh winters,

when temperatures frequently drop below -25° C. Although the barren areas in the south belong to the torrid subtropical deserts, there are frequent night frosts, occasionally even snowfalls.

During the summer months daily temperatures often rise above 50° C. Along the Gulf coast moderating effect, Persia is close to the boundary of the tropical zone; night frosts no longer occur and annual temperatures are more stable.

Plant Geography. Armen L. Takhtajan (1986) distinguished six

arctic Kingdom or Holarctis, the Paleotropical Kingdom or Paleotropis, the Neotropical Kingdom or Neotropis, the Cape Kingdom or Capensis, the Australian Kingdom or Australis, and the Antarctic Kingdom or Antarctis. The greater part of Persia is included in the Holarctic kingdom, but the Persian Gulf coast belongs to the Paleotropis. The boundary between the two floral kingdoms passes through the southernmost part of the country.

### CHARACTERISTICS OF HOLARCTIC FLORA

The Euro-Siberian floral region. The Hyrcanian subprovince, the eastern portion of the Euxino-Caucasian-Hyrcanian province, which is part of the larger Euro-Siberian floral region, extends into northern Persia. It encompasses the southern Caspian coastal plain and the northern foothills of the Alborz mountains.

Arak represents its western boundary; the eastern

boundary lies west of Bojnurd, and its upper limit lies on the northern slopes of the Alborz at an elevation of about 2,500 m. This subprovince is characterized by deciduous forests, and in peripheral areas by decidu-

Forest species are Parrotia persica, the characteristic tree of the southern Caspian lowland forest, as well as Acer velutinum, Alnus subcordata, Amygdalus spinosissima subsp. turcomanica. Acer monspessulanum subsp. turcomanicum, Quercus castaneifolia, Fraxinus excelsior subsp. coriariifolia, Lonicera floribunda, Malus orientalis, Pyrus boissieriana, Sorbus orientalis, Ilex spinigera, Ruscus hyrcanus, Gleditsia caspica, Buxus hyrcana, and Hedera pastuchovii.

The Hyrcanian subprovince includes remnants of former Arcto-Tertiary flora and an Indo-Malaysian flora, which was driven south by the advance of continental glaciation in the Pleistocene and survived the Ice Age in this region.

The Irano-Turanian floral region. This region, characterized by a continental climate with low precipitation, extends from Central Asia across the Near East to include the Mauritanian steppe province in North Africa (Zohary, 1973)

The Irano-Anatolian province encompasses central

and eastern Anatolia, large parts of Persia (about two thirds), Afghanistan, and Pakistani Baluchistan. Hot, dry summers and cold winters predominate; precipitation falls in the winter and early spring, reaching substantial levels only in the mountains. Characteristic vegetation consists of dwarf scrub and thorn cushion formations in the Persian highlands, halophytes in the interior basins, and sparse woodlands and scrub on the mountain ranges.

A large number of genera and species evolved and spread from

phytogeographical regions (floral kingdoms): the Hol- this province, such as the species-rich genera Amygdalus, Astragalus (supposedly with more than 600 species in Persia alone), Onobrychis, Haplophyllum, Pistacia, Ferula, Ferulago, Nepeta, Phlomis, Verbascum (originating in Anatolia), Acanthophyllum, Dionvsia, Acantholimon, Echinops, Cousinia, and Eremurus.

The Saharo-Arabian floral region. According to some authors, the Saharo-Arabian floral region stretches from the Sahara across Egypt, the Sinai, Arabia, and Mesopotamia into southern Persia and Sind, but in view of the present flora and its evolution, Zohary's argument (1973) that the southernmost regions of Persia, Pakistan, and western India belong to the Paleotropis seems more convincing. According to his classification only the areas of Ilam belong to the Saharo-Arabian floral region, with a noteworthy component of Irano-Turanian and Nubo-Sindian species.

(Source: Encyclopaedia Iranica)

# Iran to receive 3m doses of COVAX vaccine in coming days



WHO representative to Iran Jaffar Hussain injects a vaccine into a client in a visit to a COVID-19 vaccination center in Tehran on August 25.

TEHRAN - World Health Organization (WHO) representative to Iran Jaffar Hussain has announced that three million doses of vaccine will be delivered soon to the country under the COVAX facility.

The COVAX Facility is a partnership, co-led by Coalition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi-The Vaccine Alliance, and the WHO, alongside key delivery partner United Nations

Iran has purchased 16.8 million doses, while roughly 5.8 million doses have already been arrived in the country. and three million is expected to receive by the coming days, he

Children's Fund (UNICEF).

Other countries can also donate vaccines through the COVAX facility, like Japan that is going to provide close to 3 mil-

lion doses of vaccine to Iran, Hossein explained Hossein paid a visit to a COVID-19 vaccination center in Tehran on Wednesday and injected a vaccine into one of the clients.

Iran has

purchased 16.8

million doses of

vaccine under the

COVAX facility.

Iran has received the first shipment of vaccines from the COVAX, included over 700,000 doses of

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

Earlier in August, Hussain has issued a statement, saying that it is encouraging to see an acceleration in coronavirus vaccination in Iran that started early August.

WHO acknowledges greatly the increase in frequency of vaccination recently after deployment of

### Homegrown oral coronavirus vaccine to hit market next year

TEHRAN - An Iranian knowledge-based company is developing an oral vaccine against COVID-19, which will be produced by the next [Iranian calendar] year (starting March 2022), IRIB reported on Wednesday.

Next year, three vaccines, one of which is oral, will enter the clinical phase, Mostafa Ghanei, secretary of the biotechnology development office of the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology announced.

Currently, some 9 companies are developing vaccines; three are also working on developing oral, viral vector, and mRNA-based vaccines, he

A vaccine made from an inactivated virus causes the body to produce antibodies when facing the virus; there are other platforms for vaccine development, including using mRNA, DNA, or protein-based subunit vaccines.

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

While Iran continues efforts to mass-produce local candidates, over 18 million doses of foreign vaccines have already been imported and others are expected soon.

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



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

### Homegrown COVIRAN vaccine

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

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

Eleven countries from Asia and South America, and a European country have asked for importing COVIRAN vaccine, Hassan Jalili, the vaccine's

production manager, has said in June.

Razi Cov Pars, developed by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute, is the second Iranian-made vaccine that started the clinical trial on February 27.

Iran has also successfully completed the first phase of the human trial for Fakhra vaccine, the third domestically developed COVID-19 vaccine, named after nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrizadeh (he was assassinated in November 2020 near Tehran), that was unveiled and started the clinical trial on March 16.

### Some 9 companies are developing COVID-19 vaccines in Iran.

Pastu Covac coronavirus vaccine, developed by Cuba's Finlay Vaccine Institute and Pasteur Institute of Iran, is another homegrown vaccine, which has received the emergency use license, after COVIRAN.

### **ENGLISH IN USE**

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### Iran capable of manufacturing any medicine in two years

Iranian pharmaceutical industry and scientists are capable of producing any kind of medicine over a two-year period, Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz, head of Food and Drug Administration, has said. Some medicines are not currently manufactured domestically

as their production is not economically justifiable because of low

consumption, he added, IRNA reported. In some cases, medicines are new pharmaceutical molecules

that have recently been produced worldwide, he noted. "The U.S. has sanctioned medicine as far as possible, but we have been able to provide patients with the required medicine, and currently there is no shortages," he explained.

## ایران می تواند هر دارویی را ظرف دو سال تولید کند

رئیس سازمان غذا و دارو گفت هر دارویی را میتوانیم طی ۲ سال در داخل کشور به گزارش ایرنا، محمدرضا شانه ساز روز دوشنبه گفت این یک بلوف نیست و صنعت

داروسازی و دانشمندان کشور توان تولید همه داروها را دارند. به گفته شانه ساز، برخی اقلام دارویی که اکنون در داخل تولید نمی شود به علت کم مصرفی است زیرا توجیه اقتصادی ندارد یا مولکول های دارویی جدیدی هستند که به تازگی در دنیا تولید شده اند. او ادامه داد: آمریکا هر دارویی را که توانسته تحریم کرده اما ما توانسته ایم از راههایی که می دانیم داروهای مورد نیاز بیماران را تامین کنیم و اکنون دارو به میزان کافی

در سراسر کشور وجود دارد.

### **COVID-19 UPDATES ON AUGUST 25**

New cases	39,983
New deaths	665
Total cases	4,796,377
Total deaths	104,022
New hospitalized patients	4,871
Patients in critical condition	7,755
Total recovered patients	4,020,844
Diagnostic tests conducted	28,213,229
Doses of vaccine injected	24,474,619

# DERANGU



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**AUGUST 26, 2021** 

#### **GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING**

The mind of a wise man is the safest custody of secrets; cheerfulness is the key to friendship; patience and forbearance will conceal many defects.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:13:06 Evening: 19:59 Dawn: 5:04 (tomorrow)

Sunrise: 6:32 (tomorrow)

### History of art in Iran: Sassanid period



Three Sassanid stone stamp seal beads.

A small group of

Christian seals can

also be identified

on the basis of the

subject matter in

the Sassanid art.

Part 6

A few objects made of silver are unique. A spectacular, almost lifesize head of a Sassanid king, perhaps Shapur II, is in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. Although images of rulers and emperors executed in stone and metal are familiar in the West, most large scale representations of Sassanid royalty are in relief sculpture.

The original provenance of the silver head of a king in the Metropolitan Museum is allegedly Iran, but the circumstances of discovery and therefore the function of this work of art are unknown.

Other sculptures in the round made of silver also survive from the Sassanid era, but they represent animals rather than humans. Vessels in the shape of complete animals and heads of animals as well as rhyta terminating in animal heads were probably originally the property of members of the royal family and nobility. Nothing in the design or decoration of these objects refers specifically to the king.

The Middle Persian inscriptions appearing on both the Sassanid and the provincial vessels give

their weight and sometimes the name of the owner. This practice appears to have been customary from the the period.

### Stucco

The absence of stone architectural decoration in the Sassanid Near East is, to some extent, compensated for by the use of gypsum plaster-stucco-molded into designs and applied to the walls and ceilings of court and noble buildings.

Originally brightly painted, particularly in red and blue, the stucco reliefs include a variety of subjects: hunts, banquets, royal figures, and, in great quantity, plant, animal, and geometric designs.

The stucco is usually fragmentary, and the reconstruction of the overall scenes is difficult since the pieces uncovered in excavations are usually scattered over a large area.

Sites that have produced a considerable quantity of this material are Kish and Ctesiphon in Iraq and Tepe Hesar and Chal Tarkhan Eshqabad in Iran.

The last named site is, strictly speaking, not Sassanid since it has recently been convincingly dated to the late 7th or 8th century, but the designs remain close to Sassanid forms. A small amount of Sassanid stucco, consisting solely of plant designs, was discovered by the French expedition at Bishapur in southern Iran.

The conservatism apparent in the style and form of works produced in stucco makes it impossible to establish an absolute chronology in the absence of precise archeological data.

The same motifs continue to be repeated in essentially the same form for centuries. In part, this is due to the method of manufacture: the use of molds undoubtedly encouraged the repetition

Roger Moorey and Jens Kroger have argued that the stucco from Kish belongs to the 5th century,

that from Ctesiphon and Hesar to the 6th or early 7th. These opinions are based on the archeological evidence as well as on small variations in the plant and geometric patterns.

Until further works in this material are unearthed in controlled archeological excavations, the dating of stucco found in Mesopotamia and Iran will remain unclear.

This large category is one of the most fruitful for the study of the art and iconography of the Sassanid period. Although the surface of the stamp seals is small, the carved images are more varied than those that have survived in any other medium.

In recent years, moreover, specialists in the Middle Persian language have provided a means of establishing a relative chronology based on the changing forms of the Middle Persian letters in the inscriptions, which can then be applied on a comparative basis for those seals without

Motifs are generally represented in a standard

fashion. Single animals stride or are recumbent; animals attack each other; heads of animals radiate out from a central point; pairs of rams are antithetically placed on either side of a plant

Single flowers or bunches of three flowers are common, as is the human hand holding a plant or simply making a gesture in which the forefinger and the thumb are touching.

Only a small number of represent specific Zoroastrian divinities or cult practices. The most common religious scene is the fire altar with or without attendants

Perhaps associated with a cult are single nude or draped females holding plants or fruit. Royal subjects are rare although a few examples of royal busts and full length figures have survived.

Human representations vary from simple "portraits," in the form of a bust facing right in the impression, to elaborate images of high officials and priests dressed in the full regalia of their office. They wear tall caps decorated with floral motifs and devices or signs denoting family or rank.

A star and crescent frequently appear in the field on the face of Sassanid seals, and the inscriptions are customarily carved around the

In recent years many of the designs have been convincingly interpreted in terms of astrological and religious significance. A small group of Christian seals can also be identified on the basis of

The most common shapes of Sassanid seals are pierced hemispheroids and oval bezels, the latter designed to be set in finger rings, worn on armbands, or mounted as pendants. Stones are varied, chalcedony being one of the most popular.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued



Director Reza Mirkarimi poses with the Golden George awards for his film "Daughter" at the closing of the 38th Moscow International Film Festival on June 30, 2016. (TASS/Vyacheslav Prokofyev)

TEHRAN — Reza Mirkarimi, the director of the acclaimed Iranian dramas "Castle of Dreams" and "A Cube of Sugar", has been selected as the president of the Kim Jiseok Award Jury at the 26th Busan International Film Festival (BIFF), the organizers announced on Tuesday.

His latest film "Castle of Dreams" won three main honors of the 22nd Shanghai International Film Festival, including the Golden Goblet Award for the best film.

The film also brought Mirkarimi the best director award and Hamed Behdad the award for best actor at the Chinese festival.

The 2011 Busan also screened his "A Cube of Sugar" in A Window on Asian Cinema.

# **Director Reza** Mirkarimi to preside over **Busan Kim Jiseok Award Jury**

He has joined various international film festivals as a jury member, serving as jury president at the Moscow International Film Festival

Kazakh film scholar Gulnara Abikeyeva, who is also the author of several books about cinema, and Korean critic Kim Haery, a founding member of the weekly film magazine CINE21, are other the member of the Kim Jiseok Award Jury.

The Kim Jiseok Award Jury is looking for promising directors to lead the future of Asian cinema. The award was established in memory of Kim Jiseok, the deputy director and executive programmer of the Busan festival who died of a heart attack in May 2017. This prize worth \$10,000 is awarded to two films.

The 26th edition of the Busan International Film Festival will take place in the South Korean city of Busan from October 6 to 15.

As an Asian prestigious film event, the Busan festival is supported by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism, Metropolitan City of Busan, and the Korean Film Council.

Iranian directors have been frequent visitors to the Busan festival. However, the Busan 2021 has not announced the official lineup as yet.

Iranian films "Drowning in Holy Water" directed by Navid Mahmudi, and "The Slaughterhouse" by Abbas Amini won the Kim Jiseok Award at the 25th Busan International Film Festival.

In addition, director Mina Keshavarz's "The Art of Living in Danger", a co-production between Iran and Germany, received the BIFF Mecenat Award.

"Rona, Azim's Mother", a coproduction between Afghanistan and Iran directed by Jamshid Mahmudi, also won the Kim Jiseok Award in 2018.

### FILMAR gets Iran green light for project "The Merchant of Venice"

TEHRAN - FILMAR, a production and distribution company based in Milan, has gotten Iranian cultural authority's green light for making a screen adaptation of William Shakespeare's comedy masterpiece "The Merchant of Venice".

The film, which will be directed by Saleh Deldam, the director of comedy movies "Mat Special Secretary", "Narmak" and "Goose Kebab", Persian media reported on Wednesday.

Alireza Sajjadpur, former director of the Culture Ministry's Supervision and Evaluation Office, will be the producer of the project.

The film will be the first co-production between "The Merchant of Venice" believed to have been

written between 1596 and 1599 is about Antonio, a merchant in Venice who defaults on a large loan provided by a Jewish moneylender, Shylock.

Although classified as a comedy in the First Folio and sharing certain aspects with Shakespeare's other romantic comedies, the play is most remembered for its dramatic scenes, and it is best known for Shylock and his famous "Hath not a Jew eyes?" speech on humanity.

Dozens of screen, TV and radio adaptations of the play have been made.

The screen version directed by Michael Radford in 2004 was the first big-screen adaption of the play. The cast included Al Pacino as Shylock, Jeremy Irons as Antonio, Joseph Fiennes as Bassanio, Lynn Collins as Portia, and Zuleikha Robinson as Jessica.

Over the past few years, a number of Iranian cineastes have begun joint productions with several overseas companies after they acknowledged the need for collaboration in the international arena.

"Beyond the Clouds" by Majid Majidi, "Yeva" by Anahid Abad and "1st Born" by Ali Atshani are the latest examples of films Iranian filmmakers have made along with foreign partners.

"Beyond the Clouds" is Majidi's first India-set movie whose story is set in Mumbai's impoverished

He made the movie in 2017 in collaboration with the Indian companies, Zee Studios and Namah

"Yeva", a co-production between Iran's Farabi Cinema Foundation and the National Cinema Center of Armenia, was shot in Armenia.

The film, which was Armenia's submission to the 90th Academy Awards in the best foreignlanguage film category, narrates a melodrama set



A poster for William Shakespeare's play "The Merchant of Venice".

As the first co-production between Iran and America, "1st Born" lays out its comic plot on the difficult relations between Iran and the U.S.

The story of the comedy is also entirely set in the U.S. with an all-American cast.

Iran also pursues film projects with companies in Serbia, China, Malaysia, Japan and several other

### Iran's "Fish" praised at Uruguay Film Schools Festival

TEHRAN — Iranian short animation "Fish" has won a special mention at the 21st International Film Schools Festival (Festival Internacional de Escuelas de Cine – FIEC) in Uruguay.

Written and directed by Parisa Jafari, the movie is about a man who decides to allay his fear. The film was screened in the student film category.

It is a co-production of the Tehran University of Art and Documentary and Experimental Film Center.

In a statement published on the closing day of the festival on August 21, the jury called the movie "a short that manages to connect through the sensory, whose animation uses its impurities and freedoms to generate a raw and overwhelming experience."

First prize in this section was given to "Cucaracha" directed by Agustin Tourino from the National University of Córdoba in Argentina.

"She uses her story as a trigger to mold captivating textures and



A poster for the Iranian animation "Fish" by Parisa Jafari.

images into her industrial aesthetic to her advantage," the jury said about

In the Non-Fiction Category of the student film section, "Attention All Passengers" directed by Marek Moucka of the Academy of Performing Arts in Bratislava, Slovakia, won the best film award.

The jury said, "Using a quirky approach, he explores his anecdote, letting the viewer connect all the

"Lumbalu: Agonia" directed by Jorge Aldair Perez of Magdalena University in Santa Marta, Colombia, received the award for best film in the Fiction Category.

"It takes us on a journey between the mystical and the earthly. Its chapter structure raises the coexistence between the two, generating a very intense experience," the jury mentioned.

In the professional section of the festival, "Bye Little Block!" directed by Eva Darabos of the Moholy-Nagy University of Art and Design in Hungary was selected as best

animated film. The director won the award "for his lysergic and carefree freedom," the

The award for best non-fiction film went to "Never Never" directed by Violena Ampudia of the International Film and TV School (EICTV) in Cuba.

The film won the award "for subtly

and powerfully immersing ourselves in the uncertainty of two new parents," the jury stated. "Tropicana" by Francesco Romano from the Centro Sperimentale di

Cinematografia in Italy was named It received the award "because

of the warmth and strength of the portrait of a family where adulthood and childhood are blurred." Organized annually by the

Uruguayan Film School (ECU) and Cinemateca Uruguaya, the festival took place in the Uruguayan capital of Montevideo from August 18 to 21.

### "Socrates in Love" introduced to Persian readers



Front cover of the Persian translation of Armand D'Angour's book "Socrates in Love"

TEHRAN — A Persian translation of British classical scholar Armand D'Angour's book "Socrates in Love: The Making of a Philosopher" has recently been published in Tehran.

Published by Khazeh, the book has been translated into Persian by Sirus

This book is an innovative and insightful exploration of the passionate early life of Socrates and the influences that led him to become the first and greatest of philosophers.

Socrates's questioning birth to the foundations of Western thought and his execution marked the end of the Athenian Golden Age.

Yet despite his pre-eminence

among the great thinkers of history, little of his life story is known. What we know tends to begin in his middle age and end with his trial and death. Our conception of Socrates has relied upon Plato and Xenophon--men who met him when he was in his fifties, a well-known figure in war-torn

There is a mystery at the heart of Socrates's story: what turned the young Socrates into a philosopher? What drove him to pursue with such persistence, at the cost of social acceptance and ultimately his life, a whole new way of thinking about the meaning of existence?

classicist Armand D'Angour draws on neglected sources to explore the passions and motivations of young Socrates, showing how love transformed him into the philosopher he was to become. What emerges is the figure

of Socrates as never previously portrayed: a heroic warrior, an athletic wrestler and dancer, and a passionate lover.

"Socrates in Love" sheds new light on the formative journey of the philosopher, finally revealing the identity of the woman who Socrates claimed inspired him to develop ideas that have captivated thinkers for 2,500 years.

In this revisionist biography,