

# TEHRAN TIMES

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## Another Atomic Bomb Hits Japan, This Time with a Different Atom

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STAY UPDATED #ModernaAtomicBomb

**Iran's foreign minister: Special headquarters to be set up to expedite coronavirus vaccine imports**

Iran's foreign minister says his ministry is planning to set up a special headquarters in order to speed up the provision of coronavirus vaccines from any country whose standards are approved by Iran's Health Ministry.

Hossein Amir-Abdollahian made the remarks on Thursday on the sidelines of a cabinet session in Tehran, saying that he will put the issue of coronavirus pandemic on top of his agenda at the ministry.

Noting that a special headquarters will be set up at the Foreign Ministry to facilitate vaccine imports, Amir-Abdollahian said, "We will do our best to import vaccines without any limitation from any country whose vaccines can be transferred into the country and whose scientific standards are confirmed by [Iran's] Health Ministry."

He explained that the headquarters' goal is to activate the potential of all Iranian embassies and the country's capacities abroad, both in the public and private sectors, to expedite the imports.

Amir-Abdollahian also pointed to the Pakistani foreign minister's trip to Tehran, saying that one of the issues that would be discussed during his meeting with Shah Mahmood Qureshi is the latest developments in neighboring Afghanistan and the region.

"Plans have been made in line with [our] neighbor-and-Asia-oriented policy, which will be announced gradually in the coming days," the Iranian foreign minister added.

Amir-Abdollahian received the approval of the Iranian lawmakers on Wednesday to replace Mohammad Javad Zarif as Iran's chief diplomat. He received 270 votes in favor, 10 against and 6 abstentions. ► Page 2

Interview T

**Geography and history defeated America in Afghanistan: Egyptian professor**

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – A professor of political science at Beni Suef University says the Taliban succeeded to force the U.S. to pull out of Afghanistan because of the strategic location of the country and the tribal nature of the society.

"The strategic location and the mountainous and tribal nature had a significant impact on the survival of the Taliban and their recent victory after nearly twenty years of war with Western powers," Nadia Helmy tells the Tehran Times.

Helmy describes composition of the Afghanistan society as "highly private," but the U.S. has completely ignored this reality.

Following is the text of the interview:

**What can the world learn from the U.S. exit from Afghanistan?**

The U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan will transform the conflict from an international to a regional one. After reading the current scenes in Afghanistan, I believe that the complete withdrawal of international military forces will lead to an even more intense Afghan civil war than it is now.

The United States during this period was fighting on behalf of others; the Russians, the Chinese and the Iranians entered for Al-Qaeda and took revenge, now these countries should fight this threat on their borders.

The American withdrawal from Afghanistan is real, according to the statements of the Washington Post newspaper itself, as the war on Afghanistan has cost the USA more than 3 trillion dollars that is a visible loss, and there are invisible losses, as well as questioning its international reputation, by withdrawing in front of a small movement not supported by any country, in exchange for a country that led an alliance from 38 countries.

I expect an agreement with the Taliban movement in Doha without the presence of the government resigned. ► Page 5

It involves repairing the damaged parts such as walls,

wooden doors, and flooring as well as strengthening the historical inn, she noted.

Unlike most caravanserais in Iran, which have rectangular-shaped designs, Taj-Abad has a circular plan, which is extremely rare among Iranian caravanserais, and it makes it one of the most interesting historical monuments in the province.

"The experts are slated to evaluate the caravanserai and its premises for possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list," the official said.

A budget of 2.2 billion rials (\$53,500 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been allocated to the rehabilitation project, she added.

Known in classical times as Ecbatana, Hamadan was one of the ancient world's greatest cities. Pitifully little remains from antiquity, but significant parts of the

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## COVID-19 vaccine Razi Cov Pars starts third clinical trial phase

TEHRAN - The second Iranian-made coronavirus vaccine, named Razi Cov Pars, started the third phase of the human trial on August 24.

Developed by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute, the vaccine is protein-based, which employs recombinant versions of the spike protein and tutors the immune system against the virus by producing antibodies, started the first clinical trial on February 27.

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

One million doses of "Razi Cov Pars" vaccine will be produced each month as of September.

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.

"Osvid-19", the fourth domestic vaccine produced by Osvah Pharmaceutical Company is also undergoing human trials, which will also be available in early September.

On May 24, the first coronavirus vaccine made by the private sector in Iran succeeded in receiving the code of ethics and entered the phase of clinical studies.

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. ► Page 7

STAY UPDATED #KabulAirport

## 20 years of looting ends in fiasco



Reuters

TEHRAN — 170 people were killed in four massive explosions in Kabul on Thursday. By who? ISIS!

170 people were killed, including at least 13 U.S. service members, at the Kabul airport on Thursday afternoon when two blasts ripped through masses trying to enter a facility controlled by the Americans, disturbing the final push of the U.S.-led evacuation effort.

A suicide bomb attack at the airport's Abbey Gate was followed by an assault by gunmen, officials said. Another bomb attack took place nearby, at a hotel outside the airport, officials said. Eighteen U.S. service

members were injured, the Pentagon said on Thursday.

The attack marked the deadliest day for the U.S. military in Afghanistan since 2011, and came just five days before the Biden administration's deadline for the complete military withdrawal from the country. The military expects more attacks, Marine Corps Gen. Frank McKenzie told reporters.

Biden on Thursday evening said he was heartbroken by the violence and vowed to retaliate for the attacks, while promising to continue evacuation efforts.

"We will hunt you down and make you pay," Biden said in remarks at the White House. He said he had

instructed his national security advisers to develop response plans to the attack.

Biden said that the frantic evacuation of U.S. citizens and allies from Afghanistan will continue even as he pledged to hunt down those responsible for the attacks.

He spoke after the U.S. military sustained one of its highest single-day American tolls during its 20-year Afghanistan campaign.

"To those who carried out this attack, as well as anyone who wishes America harm, know this: We will not forgive," the American president said. ► Page 2

## Fatemi Amin sets short term priorities for Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry

TEHRAN - The newly approved Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Seyyed Reza Fatemi Amin has set his short-term priorities for the ministry on the first day of his office on Thursday.

Emphasizing the role of the private sector in production, employment and investment, attention to market regulation, exports and the removal of barriers

to domestic production were among the short-term plans and the main priorities of the minister, ISNA reported.

Talking to the press on the sidelines of a meeting with the former Minister Alireza Razm Hosseini, Fatemi Amin noted that 36 new improvement programs have also been defined to be implemented along with the ministry would pursue. ► Page 4



## Archer Rahimi breaks Paralympic record

TOKYO — Iranian archer Gholamreza Rahimi broke the Paralympic record in the men's individual recurve on Friday in Tokyo 2020.

Rahimi bettered the previous record with 644 points set by his countryman Ebrahim Ranjbar (637) at Rio 2016. Chinese archer Lixue Zhao ranked second with 639 points and Kirill Smirnov from Russian Paralympic Committee finished third with 632 points.

## UNESCO assessors to examine centuries-old Iranian caravanserais

TEHRAN — A team of UNESCO assessors and cultural heritage experts will be examining the centuries-old Taj-Abad Caravanserai, which is located in Iran's Hamedan province.

"A rehabilitation work has been commenced on the historical caravanserai to make it ready for the inspection," the deputy provincial tourism chief said on Thursday.

"The experts are slated to evaluate the caravanserai and its premises for possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list," the official said.

A budget of 2.2 billion rials (\$53,500 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been allocated to the rehabilitation project, she added.

Known in classical times as Ecbatana, Hamadan was one of the ancient world's greatest cities. Pitifully little remains from antiquity, but significant parts of the

wooden doors, and flooring as well as strengthening the historical inn, she noted.

Unlike most caravanserais in Iran, which have rectangular-shaped designs, Taj-Abad has a circular plan, which is extremely rare among Iranian caravanserais, and it makes it one of the most interesting historical monuments in the province.

The Safavid-era (1501–1736) structure, which is located in Bahar county of the west-central province, is inscribed on the national heritage list.

Known in classical times as Ecbatana, Hamadan was one of the ancient world's greatest cities. Pitifully little remains from antiquity, but significant parts of the

city center are given over to excavations, and there's a scattering of historical curiosities.

Hamedan never falls short of offering cultural heritage sites to its visitors. Scenic natural landscapes, traditional restaurants, public gardens, and colorful outdoor markets, and more importantly, its hospitable people make for an unexpected slice of the city.

Iranian caravanserais being ready for collective UNESCO tag

An all-inclusive dossier of a select of Iranian caravanserais is being prepared to be evaluated during the next session of the World Heritage Committee, which will be held in 2022. ► Page 6

## Dealing with effects of pandemic on artists' lives top priority for new culture minister

TEHRAN – Iran's new culture minister has said that dealing with the repercussion of the pandemic on the lives of artists is a top priority for his organization.

Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili made the remarks in a meeting with former culture minister Seyyed Abbas Salehi on Thursday just one day after winning a vote of confidence from the Iranian Parliament, the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance announced in a press release.

"Due to the pandemic, artists and people working in cultural fields have been facing hard days over the pandemic and this popular government is seeking to pass the current condition to support them," he said.

He added that the culture ministry will pursue the endeavors made by the former minister to vaccinate artists and cultural figures so that to help the cultural and art center resume their regular activities.

"We will try to make use Mr. Salahi's vast cultural and scientific experience as the president has emphasized the need to interact with former managers so that to do our best in our mission," he added.

Salahi also wished Esmaeili good luck in his mission and said, "I will serve as a soldier wherever there will be a need for my help."

"In each new management, new activities and works will absolutely form, ► Page 8

## Iran's foreign minister: Special headquarters to be set up to expedite coronavirus vaccine imports

From page 1 ► Foreign Ministry hosts session with Health Ministry

Later on Thursday, the Foreign Ministry hosted the first joint session with the Health Ministry to coordinate efforts on the provision of coronavirus vaccines.

The session was attended by Amir-Abdollahian and Health Minister Bahram Einollahi in addition to other relevant authorities from the Health Ministry, the Management and Planning Organization, and the Central Bank of Iran, as well as managers from different economic and regional departments of the Foreign Ministry.

During the session, Amir-Abdollahian expounded on the COVID-19-related measures taken by the Foreign Ministry and thanked his predecessor, Zarif, for his efforts.

Einollahi also appreciated the measures taken by the Foreign Ministry to provide vaccines and underscored the necessity of expanding cooperation between relevant bodies at such a critical juncture.

Iran has been fighting back against one of the deadliest COVID-19 outbreaks in the world, with the crippling sanctions slapped on the country by the US significantly hampering the country's efforts to contain the spread of the virus and provide vaccines from other countries.

The sanctions were imposed by the administration of former President Donald Trump under a "maximum pressure" campaign and have been maintained by the current administration of Joe Biden, which has refused to soften the bans to ease pandemic-related hardship on Iranians.

Iranian officials have described the sanctions as "economic terrorism" and "medical terrorism" over their deadly impact on ordinary people.

So far, 104,716 people have lost their lives in Iran due to the coronavirus, with 694 deaths registered in the last 24 hours.

According to the latest Health Ministry statistics, Iran, with a population of about 85 million, has administered nearly 25 million vaccine doses.

## Borrell congratulates Amir-Abdollahian, asks Iran to set date for Vienna talks

TEHRAN — Joseph Borrell, the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, on Friday telephoned Hossein Amir Abdollahian to congratulate him as the new Iranian foreign minister.

Borrell also announced that the EU is ready to expand cooperation with Iran, saying the participation of his deputy Enrique Mora in the inauguration ceremony of Ebrahim Raisi as the new Iranian president was a sign of that the bloc is firm to strengthen ties with Iran.

Referring to the EU's role as the coordinator of the JCPOA, Borrell reiterated the bloc's hope for the announcement of a date by Tehran for the next round of nuclear talks now that Raisi has taken over the presidency in Iran.

He also considered the developments in Afghanistan as a new challenge for the region and the world at large and stressed the need for serious cooperation in dealing with the flood of Afghan refugees.

For his part, Amir Abdollahian emphasized Tehran's commitment to dialogue and constructive interaction within the framework of a balanced diplomacy, and said negotiations is a



tool for diplomacy.

The foreign minister further emphasized, "For Iran, a negotiation that has tangible and practical results and is accompanied by securing the rights and interests of the people, is acceptable."

The sixth round of nuclear talks to possibly restore the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, the common name for the JCPOA, ended on June 20.

Amir Abdollahian said the law passed by the Iranian parliament on

nuclear program is legally binding, adding, "In any negotiation, the real action of the negotiating parties must be proven in accordance with their obligations."

The Iranian foreign minister also said an inclusive government that represents the ethnic and demographic composition of Afghanistan is a solution to the Afghanistan problem, adding it is the people of Afghanistan who must decide the fate of their country.

Amir-Abdollahian also stressed that Iran has been hosting more than three and a half million Afghan refugees, but the new wave of Afghan refugees is a serious issue that requires other countries and international organizations to provide the necessary assistance.

In a message on Friday, the Chinese foreign minister also congratulated Amir-Abdollahian as Iran's new foreign minister, calling for expansion of ties between the two countries.

Wang Yi, while referring to the traditional and long-standing friendship as well as the 50th anniversary of the political relations between the two countries, pointed to the deepening and continuation of the relations between the two sides based on strategic partnership.

Referring to the recent telephone conversation between the presidents of the two countries and the agreement reached on advancing the relations between both sides, Yi announced his readiness to work with the Iranian foreign minister to coordinate, cooperate and expand the comprehensive strategic partnership between Beijing and Tehran.

## 20 years of looting ends in fiasco

### *It's possible that the U.S. is giving rise to Daesh in Afghanistan*



"These American service members who gave their lives," he said, were "heroes who have been engaged in a dangerous, selfless mission to save the lives of others."

The U.S. invaded Afghanistan in 2001, and withdrew in 2021. Seemingly, 20 years of looting was not enough for the Americans. Possibly, they now have decided to put ISIS in charge in Afghanistan, a strategic move, but not too smart.

On August 10, 2016 Donald Trump said, "Hillary Clinton created ISIS with Obama." In 2015, ISIS was estimated to have an annual budget of more than \$1 billion. A declassified secret U.S. intelligence report, written in August 2012, uncannily predicts and effectively welcomes the prospect of a "Salafist principality" in eastern

Syria and an al-Qaeda-controlled Islamic state in Syria and Iraq. In stark contrast to Western claims at the time, the Defense Intelligence Agency document identifies al-Qaeda in Iraq (which became ISIS) and fellow Salafists as the "major forces driving the insurgency in Syria" and states that "Western countries, the (Persian) Gulf states and Turkey" were supporting the opposition's efforts to take control of eastern Syria.

Raising the "possibility of establishing a declared or undeclared Salafist principality", the Pentagon report goes on to say "this is exactly what the supporting powers to the opposition want, in order to isolate the Syrian regime, which is considered the strategic depth of the Shia movement (Iraq and Iran)."

A year into the Syrian rebellion, the U.S. and its allies weren't only supporting and arming an opposition they knew to be dominated by extreme sectarian groups; they were prepared to countenance the

creation of some sort of "Islamic state," despite the grave danger to Iraq's unity.

The embarrassing evacuation process led by Biden administration has drastically affected Biden's popularity. According to a poll conducted by USA Today, Biden's approval rating has fallen to the lowest point in his young presidency, sliding below 50% for the first time a new NBC poll found, as COVID-19 cases rise and he battles fallout from a chaotic military withdrawal from Afghanistan.

The poll, conducted from Aug. 14-17 and released on August 22, found 49% approve of Biden's job performance while 48% disapprove. Other polls this week also found Biden's approval rating slipping: CBS (50%), Ipsos (46%) and YouGov (44%).

An NBC poll in April found 53% of Americans approved of Biden's job performance.

Only 25% of respondents said they approved of Biden's handling of the withdrawal from Afghanistan, which was taken over in a lightning way by the Taliban. Yet the majority of Americans still support getting out of the country. Sixty-one percent said the war was not worth it.

American warmongering is nothing new. Americans entered Afghanistan to implement a three-stage plan. To overthrow the Taliban, rebuild the central institutions, shift to the classical doctrine of counterinsurgency. After two

decades none of the goals were realized.

But after 20 years, not only they have not been able to topple Taliban. They are leaving Afghanistan in utter humiliation, a Saigon 2.0, as experts call it. The Biden administration has not been able to fool anyone this time, as the polls suggest.

The U.S. is withdrawing from Afghanistan, sure. But what are they doing now? Are they really putting ISIS as their puppet in Afghanistan to take the matters into their own hands? The neighboring countries to Afghanistan must be wary of this threat and respond to Iran's call regarding the formation of an inclusive government in Afghanistan.

The Iranian foreign minister embraced his Pakistani counterpart's proposal to hold a foreign ministerial meeting of six neighboring countries, announcing Tehran's readiness to host that meeting in the coming days.

Following his meeting with Shah Mahmood Qureshi on Thursday, Amir-Abdollahian underlined that the Afghan issue was high on his agenda of talks with the Pakistani foreign minister.

Iran has time and again tried to broker peace between all sides in Afghanistan, supporting intra-Afghan talks. After the Taliban takeover, Iran called for the formation of an inclusive government, with the presence of all Afghan ethnicities. It is high time neighbors join Iran.

## Iran FM to attend Baghdad Summit



TEHRAN — Iran will send a delegation headed by the newly-appointed foreign minister, Hossein Amir-Abdollahian, to a summit in Baghdad that will be held in the coming days.

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has said that an Iranian delegation led by Amir-Abdollahian is to be dispatched to take part in a meeting on supporting Iraq, according to a statement by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

The Iraqi foreign minister, Fuad Hussein, delivered a letter of invitation from the Iraqi prime minister on August 10 during a visit to Tehran where he met with a number of high-ranking Iranian officials, including President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi.

During his meeting with Ayatollah Raisi, Hussein said, "The Iraqi Neighboring Countries Conference" is being held in the context of arrangements aimed at supporting the political process and economic growth of Iraq."

Until Monday, the level of Iran's representation in the Baghdad summit wasn't clear. There were speculations that the Iranian president might attend the summit. But on Monday, Khatibzadeh said it was unclear whether President Raisi would attend the Baghdad meeting.

In his Friday statement, Khatibzadeh announced that Abdollahian would represent Iran in the Baghdad summit.

## Kam Air planes permitted to land in Iranian airports due to security threats

TEHRAN — The spokesman for the Iranian Civil Aviation Organization (CAO) announced on Thursday that Iran has accepted a request that a number of planes from the private Afghan company, Kam Air, to land in Iranian airports.

"Following the escalation of clashes and tensions at Kabul airport, the owner of the private airline Kam Air Afghanistan, demanded the transfer of a number of the company's planes to Iranian airports," Mohammad Hassan Zibakhsheh stated, according to Nour News.

He added that Iran, in line with international interactions with neighboring countries, has issued a landing permit for these flights.

"It should be mentioned that these flights did not have any passengers," the spokesman said.

13 U.S. service members and at least 85 Afghans have been killed in two bombing attacks outside Kabul's airport, according to the Pentagon and Afghanistan's Ministry of Public Health. The deadly blasts came as the United States and other Western countries raced to complete a massive evacuation of their citizens and Afghan allies following the Taliban takeover of the country.

In a report on Thursday, Press TV also reported that Iran has allowed three jets owned by Kam Air to

land in an airport in the northeastern city of Mashhad.

Zibakhsheh did not elaborate on the location of airports hosting the planes neither did he mention the exact number of the planes seeking refuge.

That comes as aviation sources said in social media posts that two Airbus A340 jets and one Boeing 737 belonging to Kam Air had landed in Mashhad's Hashemi Nejad Airport.

The news about planes transfer across the border came hours after an explosion hit areas just outside the airport in Kabul, leaving multiple people injured. That came after reports suggested and Italian plane taking off from the airport had come under fire although authorities said shots had been fired to disperse the crowd near the airport.

Kabul airport has been the scene of chaos since last week when foreign military forces led by the United States started an evacuation process to comply with a deal with the ruling Taliban which obliges Western forces to leave the country by August 31.

Thousands of people have crowded the gates of the airport seeking to leave Afghanistan onboard evacuation flights amid concerns that they might face prosecution by the Taliban.

## Iranian fuel to reach Beirut soon

TEHRAN — The first tanker carrying fuel for Lebanon has left Iranian waters.

The Lebanese Hezbollah vowed last week that Iran was sending fuel to Lebanon which is facing economic collapse and serious shortages of fuel for essential services. The first tanker has left now and must sail to the Suez Canal before reaching the Mediterranean.

Hezbollah leader Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah has threatened retaliation if anyone tries to interfere with the shipment and has said the tankers bringing fuel are considered Lebanon territory.

Nasrallah dropped a bombshell when he announced that an oil tanker carrying Iranian fuel oil was bound for Lebanon. Addressing a commemorative ceremony marking the Day of Ashura, Hezbollah's chief announced that the first of several ships loaded with fuel would sail from Iran to Lebanon within hours, warning the United States and Israel against any sabotage.

"Our first ship has completed all arrangements and will sail within hours from Iran to Lebanon with the blessing of Imam Hussein (peace be upon him)," he said, noting, "This ship will be followed by other ships, but we give priority to diesel oil on the first ship because it is a top priority and is linked to people's lives."

In a stark warning to Washington and Tel Aviv, which oppose any fuel trade between Tehran and Beirut, Nasrallah declared that the ship will be considered as a Leba-



nese property the moment it leaves Iran and that any aggression against it would be seen as an aggression against Lebanon. "God willing, this ship and others will arrive safely; we don't want confrontation with anyone. We are only after helping our people... We reject to be humiliated in any military, political or economic war. We refuse the humiliation of our people, let no one dare to challenge us," he asserted.

The announcement made the U.S. ambassador to Lebanon to scramble to find a way to prevent Lebanon from importing fuel from Iran. The ambassador, Dorothy Shea, rushed to speak with Lebanese President Michel Aoun hours after Nasrallah's announcement.

"President Aoun received a phone call from the U.S. Ambassador to Lebanon, Dorothy Shea, informing him of the U.S. administration's decision to help Lebanon import electricity from Jordan through Syria through Egyptian gas," the Lebanese presidency said on Twitter. It also

quoted Shea as saying that "transfer of Egyptian gas will be facilitated through Jordan and Syria to northern Lebanon."

Shea also told Aoun that negotiations are underway with the World Bank to secure financing for the cost of Egyptian gas, the repair and strengthening of electricity transmission lines, and the required maintenance of gas pipelines.

The U.S. ambassador's conversation marked the return of her anti-Hezbollah media activism. During the Trump administration, Shea had launched a propaganda campaign against Hezbollah in parallel with the Trump White House, tightening the noose on Hezbollah.

If Lebanon is now in an economic tailspin, it's largely because of the U.S. continued efforts to prevent any economic cooperation with Beirut under the pretext of combating Hezbollah's influence. US Arab allies in the region, who once helped Lebanon financially, have refrained from providing any aid to the religiously diverse Arab country.

Then there was the Iranian helping hand. Iran has always offered to help the Lebanese people. But political factionalism and malign foreign influence in Beirut have stood in the way of Iranian help.

Nasrallah announced the import of Iranian fuel only after the fuel crisis in Lebanon reached new heights with almost all Western countries and their Arab allies refusing to alleviate the crisis.

## Iran strongly condemns deadly terrorist attacks at Kabul airport

TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh on Friday morning censured the deadly terrorist attacks at the Kabul Airport on Thursday and expressed deepest condolences over the heinous acts.

Condemning attacks targeting defenseless Afghan people and any terrorist operations directed at men, women, youth and children, Khatibzadeh

expressed hope that an inclusive government would be formed immediately in Kabul and relevant bodies discharge their responsibilities to protect people's lives and property.

Thursday's attack was claimed by ISIL (ISIS) in Afghanistan, which said its suicide bombers singled out "translators and collaborators with the American army."

More than 100 people were killed, including at least 13 U.S. service members and 90 Afghans, at the Kabul airport when two blasts ripped through crowds trying to enter the

American-controlled facility, disrupting the final push of the U.S.-led evacuation effort, the Wall Street Journal reported.

A suicide bomb attack at the airport's Abbey Gate was followed by an assault by gunmen, officials said. Another bomb attack took place nearby, at a hotel outside the airport, officials said. Eighteen U.S. service members

were injured, the Pentagon said.

The attack marked the deadliest day for the U.S. military in Afghanistan since 2011, and came just five days before the Biden administration's deadline for the complete military withdrawal from the country. The military expects more attacks, Marine Corps Gen. Frank McKenzie told reporters.

President Biden on Thursday evening said he was heartbroken by the violence and vowed to retaliate for the attacks, while promising to continue evacuation efforts.

"We will hunt you down and make you pay," Biden said in remarks at the White House. He said he had instructed his national security advisers to develop response plans to the attack.

# Another atomic bomb hits Japan, this time with a different atom

TEHRAN – In a blow to the U.S.-made Covid-19 vaccines, Japan has suspended the use of about 163 million doses of the Moderna Covid-19 vaccine over contamination fears, further reinforcing the soundness of arguments that foreign vaccines cannot be fully trusted.

The suspension came after Japan's Health Ministry announced "foreign materials" were found in some doses of a batch of roughly 560,000 vials.

Nearly a week ago, some vaccination centers in Japan sent reports of contaminants in some vials. The domestic distributor of Moderna Covid-19 vaccine in Japan, Takeda Pharmaceutical, announced that it received these reports. A week after receiving reports of contamination, the distributor announced the suspension of the use of the American vaccine.

No details have so far been publicized about the "foreign material," but Takeda described it as particulate matter.

According to the Japan Times, the Japanese Health Ministry said that the

foreign substance had been identified in 39 vials, all of which had the lot number 3004667, at eight workplace and large-scale inoculation sites in five prefectures — Aichi, Ibaraki, Gifu, Saitama and Tokyo — since Aug. 16. The ministry has decided to no longer use the around 570,000 doses with the lot number.

Moderna confirmed that it was aware of the scandal. "Moderna confirms having been notified of cases of particulate matter being seen in drug product vials of its COVID-19 vaccine," the American firm said in a statement.

"The company is investigating the reports and remains committed to working expeditiously with its partner, Takeda, and regulators to address this," it added, referring to Japan's Takeda Pharmaceutical.

A blame game started soon after the Japan suspension went viral. Moderna said the contamination could be due to a manufacturing issue in one of the production lines at its contract manufacturing site in Spain.

A spokesperson for the company added



that the affected production batch, plus two more batches held back out of caution because they were processed before and after the affected batches, were meant for distribution only in Japan, according to ABC.

The Spanish manufacturer for the U.S. biotechnology company, Rovi, said in a statement on Thursday that it is conducting an investigation into the matter. It also said that the contaminated vaccine doses had only been shipped to Japan. "The detection of this particulate matter refers to certain vials of one product lot distributed exclusively in Japan," the Spanish pharma company said.

The episode once again put the focus on the need for countries to develop their own, safe Covid-19 vaccines, which are now produced by very few countries, including Iran.

Iran was among the few countries to warn about the safety of American, British, and French vaccines. In a speech delivered in January 2021, Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei announced that

importing American and English vaccines is forbidden over fears that the Americans and British would seek to test their unsafe vaccines on Iranians.

"Importing American and English vaccines into the country is forbidden. I have said this to officials and I am saying it publicly now. If the Americans had managed to produce a vaccine, this corona disaster would not have occurred in their own country. A few days ago, they registered 4,000 deaths in the course of 24 hours. If they know how to produce a vaccine and if their Pfizer company can produce a vaccine, why would they give it to us? Well, they can use it for themselves so that they will not have so many deaths and so many victims. The same is true of England. Therefore, they are not trustworthy. I do not really trust them," the Leader said at the time, according to the khamenei.ir.

He warned that "perhaps they sometimes want to test their vaccines on other nations to see if it works or not. Therefore, we should not obtain a vaccine from the U.S. and England."

## Pakistani FM holds Afghanistan talks in Tehran

TEHRAN – Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi met on Thursday with high-ranking Iranian officials to mainly discuss the mayhem in Afghanistan after the Taliban took over Kabul on August 16.

Qureshi arrived in Tehran on Thursday after visiting Turkmenistan. In Tehran, the top Pakistani diplomat met with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi.

Speaking in a meeting with Qureshi, Ayatollah Raisi called the relations between Tehran and Islamabad long-standing, based on common beliefs and people-centered.

The president also said, "Economic and trade relations between the two countries are not satisfactory and we must increase the level of such relations in the interests of our nations with proper planning," according to a statement by the Iranian presidency.

"Strengthening bilateral relations can pave the way for the development and strengthening of regional and international cooperation between Iran and Pakistan," the president pointed out.

He called the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan a turning point for the interaction of all Afghan groups for peace, security and stability in Afghanistan and said, "Certainly, the U.S. presence in Afghanistan and the region does not provide security, and countries should help different groups in Afghanistan to form an inclusive and participatory government."

Rejecting any approach based on guardianship of Afghanistan, Ayatollah Raisi said, "Guardianship of Afghanistan is a failed model for the United States and does not have the capacity to create lasting peace and stability in Afghanistan."

He stressed, "The role of other countries, including neighbors, should only be a facilitator to the establishment of an inclusive and participatory government with the presence of all Afghan groups."

Emphasizing that the Islamic Republic of Iran wants regional cooperation without foreign interference, Ayatollah Raisi said, "The presence of the United States and foreigners in the region does not contribute to security, but it is also making problems, and countries in the region, especially Iran and Pakistan, can work together to provide the ground for ethnic and active groups in Afghanistan to create security and peace in the country so that they can decide for their own destiny."

Pointing out that the policy of Iran has been to support the people of Afghanistan for the past four decades, the president said, "Iran hosts about 4 million people of Afghanistan and has always been, and will continue to support the Afghan people."

Shah Mahmood Qureshi, for his part, described the Iran-Pakistan relations as historic and deep, and referred to the common positions of the two countries on many regional and international issues, saying, "Pakistan seeks to deepen and strengthen relations between the two countries in various economic, political and regional fields, and we are determined to further improve the level of our relations."

The Pakistani foreign minister further stressed the importance of cooperation and coordination between

Countries, including neighbors, should only facilitate formation of an inclusive government in Afghanistan, Raisi suggests.

## Congratulations pour in on Amir-Abdollahian as he takes over as Iran's top diplomat

TEHRAN – Foreign diplomats have sent congratulatory messages or have congratulated Hossein Amir-Abdollahian by phone as the Iranian parliament confirmed him as Iran's foreign minister on Wednesday.

Foreign ministers of Russia, Uzbekistan, Sri Lanka, Kuwait, Oman, Kazakhstan, and Lebanon, among other countries, have congratulated Amir-Abdollahian on becoming the new foreign minister of Iran.

Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov spoke over the phone with Amir-Abdollahian to congratulate him on his new job. In their phone conversation,

the two top diplomats stressed the importance of boosting Tehran-Moscow cooperation in all bilateral areas as well as pressing on with consultations on regional and international issues. They also exchanged views on the situation in Afghanistan, according to a statement by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Uzbek Foreign Minister Abdulaziz Kamilov has extended congratulations to Amir-Abdollahian on having received a vote of confidence from Parliament and assuming office as Iran's foreign minister.

In a message, the top Uzbek diplomat also gave assurances that he and his

Iranian counterpart will make every effort to enhance long-term, all-out and fruitful cooperation between the two countries, which, as he added, will promote the welfare of people of both countries.

Mukhtar Tileuberdi, Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister, has also sent a congratulatory message to his Iranian counterpart. Tileuberdi also expressed confidence that the friendly relations between Iran and Kazakhstan will hold for the benefit of both nations.

Sri Lankan Foreign Minister Gamini Lakshman Peiris sent a similar

message of congratulation. The top Sri Lankan diplomat underlined that Amir-Abdollahian's appointment as the head of the diplomacy apparatus indicates senior Iranian officials' trust in him and shows Amir-Abdollahian's deep knowledge, negotiation skills and wealth of experience in the domain of diplomacy and international relations.

Lebanese caretaker Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Zeina Akar also congratulated Amir-Abdollahian on his appointment as the Islamic Republic's chief diplomat.

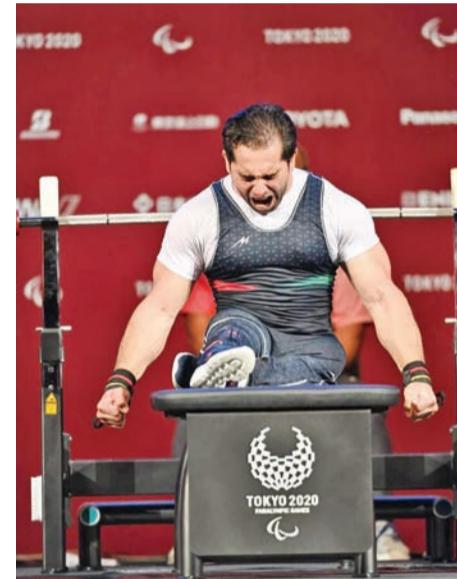
Other foreign ministers and officials sent similar messages.

## SPORTS

### Powerlifter Jafari wins Iran's first medal at Tokyo 2020

TEHRAN – Powerlifter Amir Jafari claimed a silver medal at the 2020 Paralympic Games on Friday.

He lifted 195kg in the men's -65kg at the Tokyo International Forum.



Chinese powerlifter Lei Liu won the gold medal by lifting 198kg. He won his fourth consecutive Paralympic gold medal in Powerlifting.

The bronze medal went to Algerian Hocine Bettir with 192kg.

### Tokyo 2020: Iran wheelchair basketball lose to the U.S.

TEHRAN – Iran wheelchair basketball lost to the U.S. 65-41 in Group B of the 2020 Paralympic Games on Friday.

In the match held at the Ariake Arena, Mohsen Saeid scored 17 points for Iran while Steve Serio led the U.S. with 12 points.

Iran, who were defeated against Australia 81-39 on Thursday, will meet Algeria on Saturday.

The top four of the six teams in each group will qualify for the next stage.

### Zahra Nemati predicts an intensified rivalry in Tokyo 2020

TEHRAN – Iranian archer Zahra Nemati, who is aiming for a third straight gold medal at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics, predicts an intensified rivalry in the Games.

Nemati was Iran's flagbearer in the opening ceremony held at the Olympic Stadium.

"I am here to do my best and will move forward step by step," Nemati said after competing in the women's individual recurve open on Friday.

Nemati has renewed her rivalry with China's Wu Chunyan in Tokyo. At Rio 2016, Nemati won the gold ahead of Wu, while Poland's Milena Olszewska won bronze.

All three will be among the favorites for the title this year.

"I know I will have a difficult task in this edition because my Italian and my Chinese opponents are well-prepared but I am ready too," she told Tehran Times.

She won two golds at both London 2012 and Rio 2016. Nemati is also the first female Iranian Paralympic champion, International Paralympic Committee (IPC) wrote.

Nemati has been ticking off historical milestones in archery and breaking boundaries for female athletes since she won gold at the 2015 Asian Para Championships.

In London, she became the first Iranian female Paralympic champion and in Rio competed at both the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

"The best archers across the world have come here at the Paralympic Games and it means how difficult is to win a medal but I am here to do my best," Nemati concluded.

### Iran sitting volleyball renew rivalry with Bosnia at Paralympic Games

TEHRAN – Iran and Bosnia & Herzegovina have faced off in the last five men's sitting volleyball at the Paralympics and come as the favorites to play the final in Tokyo.

With an overall score of 3-2 and pumped with the Rio 2016 title, the Iranian squad is ready to conquer another gold medal in the 2020 Games, International Paralympic Committee (IPC) reported.

And one of their star players is Morteza Mehrzad, the tallest athlete at the Paralympic Games and the joint second tallest man in the world, with a height of 2.46m. Even seated, he can spike the ball reaching 2.30m and overshadows all the other players. He scored 28 points in the gold medal game in Rio against the Bosnians.

Besides the win in Rio, Iran claimed the title at the Sydney 2000 and Beijing 2008 games, while Bosnia & Herzegovina prevailed in the Athens 2004 and London 2012 editions. The Iranian team is the World No.1 and is the biggest winner in Paralympic Games history, with three golds and two silver medals.

Competition goes from August 27th to September 5th, the last day of the Games, at Hall A of the Makuhari Messe convention center.

### Sajad Shahbazzadeh extends deal with Sepahan

TEHRAN – Sepahan football team target Sajad Shahbazzadeh penned a one-year extension with the team.

The 31-year-old forward had been linked with a move to Persepolis but opted to stay in Isfahan.

Sepahan also hired Santa Clara forward Shahriyar Moghanlou on Wednesday.

Shahbazzadeh was named the top goalscorer of the 2020-21 Iran professional League with 20 goals.

### Ayanda Patosi to return to Foolad next season

TEHRAN – Ayanda Patosi is back in South Africa after helping his overseas club to a victory in the cup competition.

Patosi, who has been impressive with his performances for Iranian club Foolad Khuzestan, guided the team to a historic first-ever Hazfi Cup title earlier this month.

The 28-year-old has been influential in creating and scoring goals for Foolad, and despite attracting interest from a number of clubs in Europe, the midfielder will be returning to the Iranian football outfit for the last year of his contract with the club.

"Ayanda Patosi is an important member of Foolad and he is respected at the club and in Iran in general. He is one of the top performers for his club and they don't want to lose him" said the source.

"When he joined the club last year, he signed a two-year contract. So, he is left with one year on the deal. He is currently back in South Africa as the club is on a break after winning the cup," the source added.

### Azoun scores winner as Zenit defeat CSKA

TEHRAN – Zenit St. Petersburg beat CSKA Moscow 1-0 in the sixth round of the Russian Premier League.

The only goal in the match was scored by Iranian striker Sardar Azmoun.

Azmoun, who has recently been linked with a move to Lyon, scored the only goal of the match in the 82nd minute after linking up with Artyom Dzyuba.

Zenit have not lost in 15 consecutive matches against their rivals from the capital.

The victory allowed Sergei Semak's team to remain in first place in the standings with 14 points.

## Fatemi Amin sets short-term priorities for Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry



bodies related to the industry, mining and trade fields and stated: "Considering the importance of the interaction between the two ministries of industry and agriculture in resolving issues related to market regulation, a meeting with the Agriculture Minister is on the agenda and I hope that with the strong cooperation of these two ministries, many issues in the field of market regulation will be resolved."

In another part of his remarks, the minister pointed out the significant role of the private sector in the country's production, trade and export and noted that the private sector, businesses and non-governmental enterprises play a major role in the field of production and trade.

"If we are concerned about production, employment, and investment in the country, these sectors should be considered. The government should try to provide the necessary conditions and requirements for their activities," he stressed.

By identifying priorities, the government tries to urge the private sector to plan in accordance with these priorities, and in the next stage, it supports them in achieving these goals, the official said.

**From page 1 ►** "Completion of this system makes it possible to monitor the flow of production and distribution of goods and makes it possible to predict and make timely decisions," Fatemi Amin said.

He further announced the holding of numerous meetings with officials and managers of the

# Oji outlines plans for Oil Ministry



TEHRAN - New Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji has outlined his plans for the Oil Ministry in the first official meeting with his deputies on Thursday, Shana reported.

Developing joint oil and gas fields, meeting winter gas and fuel needs, organizing human resources, maintaining production, supporting domestic production of equipment, strong energy diplomacy and comprehensive cooperation with neighboring countries in the field of oil and gas were among the most important programs that the oil minister is going to pursue during his tenure.

Addressing the meeting, the new minister expressed hope that with the efforts of the employees and managers of the oil and gas industry, he will be able to solve the challenges ahead and take effective steps towards the advancement of this industry.

He further mentioned his experiences in the industry, saying: "I am a member of the oil industry family,

I have been educated in this field and I have worked in this field for 35 years and have experiences in both upstream and downstream sectors of the industry."

Further in the meeting, the deputies of the Oil Minister presented reports on their performance in recent years.

Oji had previously released a comprehensive program for the development of the country's oil and gas industry during his tenure.

The published plan consisted of five separate sections including an introduction, some documents related to the oil industry's upstream sector, major challenges facing the oil industry, urgent measures to be taken in the oil industry, and finally strategic steps based on the industry priorities.

The official had underlined the es-

tablishment of strong diplomacy and bolstering international relations as a major priority for the Oil Ministry.

Paying special attention to diplomacy with a focus on trading oil, gas, petrochemical products, and export of technical and engineering services, interacting with neighboring countries to reduce tariffs and find suitable solutions are the major axis of his international agenda.

Moreover, Oji had said he will be deeply focused on expanding bilateral or multilateral agreements with target countries by tapping the capacities of international and regional organizations, including the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the Gas Exporting Countries Forum, etc.

The official is also cognizant of modifying the consumption pattern of gas and oil products using Articles 12 and 13 of the Law on Removing Barriers to Production.

Development and implementation of energy diplomacy document in cooperation with relevant institutions, maintaining and increasing Iran's status in OPEC, and expanding cooperation with neighboring countries, the Persian Gulf nations, and the Caspian Sea countries in the field of exploration, production, and joint venture capital are other areas that Oji's team will be specially focused upon during his tenure as the Iranian Oil Minister under Ebrahim Raeisi's administration.

Encouraging foreign investment for exports in the mid and downstream sectors and increasing the export of petroleum products to neighboring countries, as well as ensuring active support for boosting export of technology and engineering services of Iranian companies to neighboring countries are other areas of attention for the new minister.

## Supporting govt., economic growth major priorities of Economy Minister

TEHRAN - Iran's new Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Ehsan Khandouzi has said financing the government and ensuring economic growth are the main priorities of the ministry during his tenure, IRNA reported.

"The main responsibility of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs is to finance the government and ensure economic development using sustainable, safe and low-risk methods," Khandouzi said on Thursday, the first day of his work as economy minister.

Stating that Iran's economy requires several short-term measures with good effectiveness, the official said: "Of course, these short-term measures must be considered in the long-term path toward economic reform."

According to Khandouzi, the ministry's short-term measures

include enhancing the role of the Ministry of Economy in macroeconomic policy-making to restore stability to the country's economy, reducing price and currency fluctuations and stabilizing the markets, and then moving rapidly toward economic growth and increasing per capita income.

Helping to rearrange the performance of the Iranian economy with the aim of neutralizing sanctions and to ensure that the Iranian economy is not so fragile and vulnerable is also on the agenda.

He further mentioned his plans for establishing relations with academics, knowledge institutes and interaction with the private sector, and said: "The Ministry of Economy will definitely succeed when it systematically uses the academic and research capacities and experiences of the coun-

try's scholars and specialists, and therefore, we intend to communicate with economic experts and think tanks and raise issues and concerns and address the problems that are most faced by NGOs in the production and export sectors."

Finally, Khandouzi expressed hope that with the help of the private sector and cooperative institutions, organizations and associations, the Finance and Economic Affairs Ministry will be able to reach its goals and realize its priorities.

TEHRAN - Ali-Akbar Mehrabian, who was recently approved by the parliament as the new energy minister, has outlined his major plans for the ministry during his tenure, ISNA reported on Thursday.

Construction of 10,000 megawatts (MW) capacity of new power plants, reforming the country's water resources management system, supplying over 90 percent of the country's rural areas with drinking water, and desalination of seawater for using in central parts of the country were among the top programs of the Energy Ministry during Mehrabian's office.

Economic improvement of water and electricity sectors in order to create balance in resources and consumption, increasing productivity and efficiency, supporting and promoting research and technology to strengthen domestic manufacturing of equipment, improving the business environment in the water and electricity industry through maximum interaction with the private sector were also among the major priorities of the new energy minister.

According to the official, the ministry's plan for constructing new power plants will be mainly focused on the establishment of renewable plants to help save

more fuel while protecting the environment.

"Saving fuel from renewable power plants is a great and permanent treasure because renewable sources are sustainable and free. The investment needed to build 10,000 megawatts of such power plants would be about six billion dollars, while the constructed power plants will save three billion dollars of fuel every year," Mehrabian said.

Regarding the amendment of the country's water management system, the minister said: "My most important plan in this area is to reform the water management system and the allocation method based on the three principles of justice, transparency, and law."

Water supply to deprived and rural areas is also among the minister's major programs.

"Rural water supply is one of our main programs in the ministry. At present, the percentage of villages with access to drinking water is 75 percent, which according to the plan, the figure will reach 90 percent," he said.

Mehrabian had previously said that his ministry plans to boost the country's power generation capacity by 35-40 gigawatts (GW) over the next four years.

## Transport Ministry to pursue National Housing Action Plan

TEHRAN - Iran's newly appointed Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qassemi said his ministry will strongly pursue the National Housing Action Plan during his tenure, IRNA reported.

"The implementation and completion of the National Housing Action Plan, for which a lot of efforts have been made, will continue in the 13th government," Qassemi said on Thursday.

"Providing affordable housing for lower classes is the priority of the ministry," he stressed.

Underlining some of his ministry's major plans during his office, the official said: "Strengthening various sectors of transport including land, air, sea and rail will be on the agenda and we will try to increase the share of transport in the country's Gross Domestic Product."

The official further noted that his ministry will try to complete the semi-finished projects and fulfill the demands of the government and people.

Started in winter 2018, the National Housing Action Plan aims to construct 400,000 small and medium-size apartments (70-100 square meters

in size) across the country and particularly in Tehran, where housing prices have risen most sharply.

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

Back in March, former Transport Minister Mohammad Eslami had announced that 510,000 residential units will be provided for the applicants under the framework of the National Housing Action Plan during the current year.

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

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

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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."

Dehqān 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.

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

Analysts and scholars believe that trades in the Iranian stock market will be much better and more reasonable in the second half of the current Iranian calendar year (September 23, 2021-March 20, 2022) compared to the first half of the year.

## TSE's main index up 3% in a week

TEHRAN - TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 50,000 points, or three percent, in the past Iranian calendar week.

The index closed at 1.55 million points on Wednesday (the last working day of the week).

During the past week, the indices of National Iranian Copper Company, Mobarakeh Steel Company, Social Security Investment Company, Iran Khodro Company, and Barekat Pharmaceutical Group were the most widely followed indices.

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 stock market.

"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 Dehqān 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."

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## Multiple forex rate a major reason for corruption

TEHRAN - The secretary-general of the Federation of Iranian Food Associations says that multiple foreign currency exchange rate is a major reason for the corruption in the economic system.

Emphasizing that one of the basic ways to return the country's economy to the desired track is to eliminate multi-rate forex, Rashid Azizpour said: "Certainly, there is nothing in multi-rate forex but rent-seeking and corruption", the news portal of the Federation of Iranian Food Associations reported.

The most serious problem created by the multi-

rate forex is rent-seeking, he reiterated, adding, "As long as there is such system it cannot be said that we are going to fight the corruption".

As experience has shown, multiple exchange rates in the economy lead to rent-seeking for intermediaries and brokers, and the greater the difference in rates, the wider the rent-seeking, and the deeper the corruption and the harder it is to get out of it, he further explained.

Noting that we have experienced this issue over and over again in different years and periods, Azizpour added: "Our experience at different times has

shown that corruption and rent-seeking increase sharply in periods when the currency is offered in multiple rates, and despite our best efforts, we have never been able to deal with the corruption that results from this."

Iran's multiple exchange rate economic system has been criticized by several economic and political bodies as well as scholars and experts, many still believe that creating these extreme changes in a situation where Iran's sanctioned economy has been severely affected by exchange rate fluctuations, will not be beneficial for the economy and is going to result in an inflation shock.

# Geography and history defeated America in Afghanistan: Egyptian professor

INTERNATIONAL

AUGUST 28, 2021

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

5

From page 1 ► According to the political developments in Afghanistan, the Taliban fighters, numbering about 60,000, and the various militias, and the rest of the Afghan army, will all compete for power inside Kabul, thus starting the civil war that may be waged between the Taliban, which controlled by the (Pashtuns) who are forming the majority of the Afghan population with almost 40%, and between what is known as the "Northern Alliance" and consists primarily of Tajiks and Uzbeks in the north, and the Shia Hazaras in central Afghanistan, who are supported by the Iranian side.

The current Afghan government has almost certainly collapsed, especially with the threat of the international community to withdraw its current financial support or finds it very difficult to distribute it for various reasons. It is worth noting here that the former Afghan government backed by the Soviet Union withstood the Soviet military withdrawal in 1989, but it collapsed in 1992 when Moscow stopped its financial support for it.

A prolonged civil war or the collapse of the Afghan central government would surely fuel the regional animosities.

With the withdrawal of the international coalition, a major geostrategic competition over Afghanistan is likely to erupt between external powers seeking to increase their influence in this country, as happened in the 1990s.

Iran may prefer the Tajiks and Hazaras, while Turkey may prefer Uzbeks, but other countries, such as Russia and India may offer other Central Asian republics, and possibly the United States support for all sides of the Northern Alliance.

In contrast, Pakistan may try to expand its influence in Afghanistan through the Afghan Pashtun community, including the Taliban who represent about 40 percent of the population, and traditionally the largest ethnic group in the country. But it is unlikely that Islamabad would support the Taliban with the same force it did in the 1990s when it sent military officers to help it capture more than 90% of the country. Unlike in the 1990s, Pakistan contains its own opposition organization. Some Afghan experts believe that Islamabad's support for the Afghan "Taliban" would be more deliberate, and would prefer a weak coalition of the various forces present in Kabul.

On the other hand, one of the main effects of the agreement between Washington and the Taliban is that the latter will no longer rely on Pakistan to provide it with safe havens. The Taliban understands that the majority of Afghans aspire to a moderate Islamic nation that is peaceful, prosperous, and connected to the region and the world. The moderate elements of the Taliban want India to be a strategic partner and a counterweight to Pakistan's influence. As for foreign fighters in Afghanistan and their ties to India-centric terrorist organizations, such as Lashkar-e-Taiba and Jaish-e-Mohammed, the Taliban have never said that they want to export their "jihad" outside Afghanistan, nor do they want any of them to plan it from inside Afghanistan.

Historically, India has also had links with Afghans through trade and culture, as Afghan youth are associated with Bollywood and cricket.

More importantly, the Pashtun way of life is older than Islam, and is still predominant among the Pashtun tribes, or the Pathans, as it is known in India.

Given that Afghanistan is a state lacking modernity, with tribal, ethnic, and sectarian loyalties still at play within it, it is more likely that it will not continue as a unified central state.

Attempts to establish a centralized rule for the country have succeeded only rarely, and for short periods. Afghans are united in devotion to the survival of their country but are divided when it comes to subordination to a central government. Some decision-making circles in the West believe that the trend or vision that may bring a solution is for Afghanistan to become a "decentralized" state that creates a balance between the center and the periphery, preserves the rights of all components of the Afghan people in political decision-making and the sharing of resources, and satisfies the neighboring countries.

The only way to solve the Afghan

problem is "neutralizing" it, meaning that regional and international powers refrain from interfering in Afghanistan's affairs and suffice to stave off the threat of extremism, terrorism, and the opium and drug trade emanating from its territory, a danger that enjoys consensus among regional and international parties.

It was the source of the support that Washington obtained in its war against the "Taliban" and "Al-Qaeda" in the wake of the September 2001 attacks. At the same time, an international effort must be undertaken under the auspices of the United Nations and the Organization of Islamic Cooperation to rebuild Afghanistan and provide it with political and security stability, especially if the neighboring countries agree on nominating a president for Afghanistan to adhere to the policy of restraint and fight terrorism, and to benefit from the lessons of history that confirm the failure of unilateral efforts to establish hegemony over Afghanistan in the face of the interference of external forces.

**Do you agree with the view that Afghanistan has turned into a graveyard for superpowers like the Soviet Union and the U.S.?**

I completely agree that the current situation in Afghanistan has transformed from an international game to a regional conflict.

Regarding my future expectations, I think that the operation dates back to 1989, the period in which the Soviets withdrew from Afghanistan, and the game turned from international to regional as now.

I can explain it more: The game will be between Russia and Iran on the one hand, and between both Pakistan and China on the other hand, and India's role may be closer to Russia and Iran.

I am referring to a statement by (former) Iranian Foreign Minister Javad Zarif to an Afghan newspaper, in which he said that "it is time to integrate the Fatemiyoun Brigade (Afghan Shia militia) in Syria with the Afghan army.

If it happens, this means that Iran will prepare for the aftermath of the fully American withdrawal, the Taliban military escalation will be the result of a confrontation between regional powers.

But Washington will surely rest and push other forces opposed to it into the current conflict in Afghanistan, and it may preoccupy China, but Beijing is smarter than that, and it may have a role behind the scenes with Pakistan.

I am denying the potential possibility of the emergence of radical organizations, such as ISIS which is trying to activate itself in Afghanistan in the face of the Taliban and the Afghan people, according to some reports.

I believe that the matter is difficult in Afghanistan and does not succeed as in the Arab region because of the references and lack of a serious rival to the Taliban.

**Some critics say that the U.S. could remain in Afghanistan to support its government while Biden claims that the U.S. cannot continue to support a failed government forever. Why did the Afghan government and military fail to resist?**

I disagree with the analyses that expect the Americans to remain in Afghanistan due to the huge amount of costs paid by the USA within the period of its existence in Afghanistan.

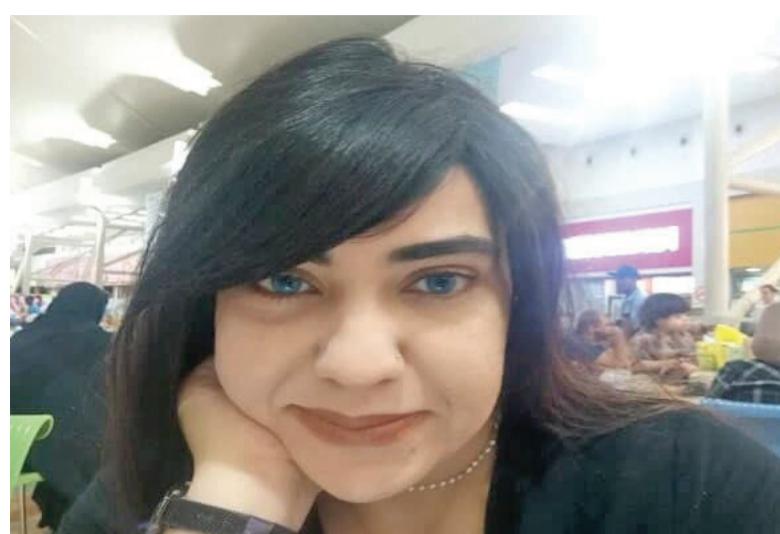
The main reasons for the failure of the legitimate government and military in Afghanistan are as following:

1. After the fall of the Taliban regime at the end of 2001, it became clear that the challenges of restoring peace and stability and the reconstruction of Afghanistan are the most enormous and difficult.

2. Afghanistan is an active state of war for more than two decades, and it is one of the countries affected by the largest amount of mines in the world.

3. According to the United Nations Development Program, 70% of Afghanistan's population, numbering 22 million, are suffering from malnutrition, and the average lifespan of the individual is about 40 years.

4. In the period following the international intervention, a great deal of development was achieved, and one of its clear results was that NATO and the international community, besides the Afghans themselves achieved a series



of achievements, but not complete.

5. The Bonn process negotiations, which were officially announced in 2001 after the fall of the Taliban regime, ended successfully after parliamentary elections were held in Afghanistan a few years ago, but they have failed to rebuild strong political institutions.

6. Despite the pessimistic forecasts, parliamentary elections like the presidential elections in Afghanistan took place in a safe and peaceful atmosphere, due to the American and the international military forces, but the situation is completely different now than before.

7. The almost certainly success in Afghanistan, due to the assistance provided by the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to the Afghan government in the last years, in order to maintain a safe environment, but now, after the withdrawal of the international support inside Afghanistan, the situations are becoming worse than before.

8. As explained, the political pluralism experience in Afghanistan has begun and taken hold under the supervision of the international intervention, but now we have returned back to the zero point.

9. The government of President Ashraf Ghani has been trying to gradually expand the sphere of its influence and control over all regions of Afghanistan, and has managed to attract many of the country's powerful dignitaries and former warlords to the political arena under the supervision and assistance of the USA and NATO forces who were stationed in Afghanistan to protect the Afghanistan political gradual developments, but now, it's not possible to achieve any political progress without the interference of external forces to protect any kind of achievements.

10. Ensuring that the continued success of the International Security Assistance Force in its mission is an important issue for NATO as well as Afghanistan to achieve stability and bring security within the Afghanistan landscape.

11. While the process of building the state of institutions in Afghanistan was still somewhat behind, it continued to progress with the help of the international community and the efforts of donor countries, but, now most of the European and Western powers refrained from donating to the Taliban movement considering them as an illegal terrorist organization.

12. The International Security Assistance Force has expanded its presence to western Afghanistan, and this force was considered as an indispensable partner in helping to maintain security and achieve stability throughout Afghanistan, through the continuous deployment of this force in thirteen provinces and with the assistance of nine regional reconstruction teams, but, after their withdrawal from Afghanistan lands, the disorder has become increasingly popular under the Taliban regime.

13. In addition, the International Security Assistance Force has participated in the reconstruction and disarmament efforts of the former militias, and the seizure of heavy weapons, as

well as taking the necessary confidence-building measures. But, this isn't recognized now under the Taliban regime and without the participation of the international community.

**What were the U.S. main goals in Afghanistan? Fighting terrorism or democratization?**

The geography and history defeated American politics in Afghanistan, for the following reasons:

1. Geography has its impact as an important element in influencing political events, and history should also inspire the American and international community decision-makers, in order to take the most appropriate of alternatives.

2. The strategic location and the mountainous and tribal nature had a significant impact on the survival of the Taliban and their recent victory after nearly twenty years of war with Western powers.

3. This brought to mind the victory of the Afghans over the Soviet Union and the latter's withdrawal in February 1989.

4. It's important to point out here to US President Joe Biden who has already commented on his decision to withdraw from Afghanistan by saying that: "He does not want his forces to remain in a cemetery of the former empires."

5. But that is not all in Afghanistan, because it should be noted here that the States is not built through force alone like the American agenda, and the promises of democracy through the American and international military intervention that have failed in many places, including in the Middle East (West Asia) especially in Iraq, Yemen, and Syria.

6. The nature and composition of the Afghanistan society, which is highly private, must also be understood, but the USA has completely ignored this reality.

7. It is also necessary to take into account the changing interests and priorities of regional and international powers and the implications of this for political developments in Afghanistan have surely affected the USA's failed strategy at Afghanistan.

8. Therefore, what happened in Afghanistan by the wrong adopted policy by the USA cannot be fully understood during this short period, nor can it be expected what will happen to things, whether with regard to the way the country is governed in the new Taliban era, or its regional and international relations.

9. The American existence period in Afghanistan has failed to bring political stability after overthrowing the Taliban movement.

10. The American democracy in Afghanistan was fragile and not based on effective political and security institutions. Rather, it remained protected from foreign forces at best.

11. This means that the USA has completely ignored and failed to rebuild strong political governmental institutions in the capital Kabul to build effective methods of governance, and the ongoing struggle for power between the various political currents.

12. The USA was not interested to build an effective well-trained Afghan army, and was unable as well to

form regular forces that could extend its control over the country, and remained hostage to Western military assistance, not to mention the intersection of loyalties and tribal affiliations, which affected also the ability of these forces.

13. The Afghan government supported by the USA did not have sufficient political legitimacy, while it was not able to present itself convincingly to the Afghan people and provide them with the necessities of a decent life.

14. The USA has failed to understand the real extremely complex structure of the Afghan society, which is dominated by a tribal character on the one hand and a religious affiliation on the other, which contributed to creating political nervousness among the supporters of the Taliban and their cohesion despite the painful blows dealt by the Western coalition forces over the past two decades.

15. In addition, the mountainous nature has contributed to finding safe havens for the Taliban fighters, gathering their forces, and also strengthening their relations with some neighboring countries to form a coalition against the USA itself.

16. The inability of the USA to read the scene inside Afghanistan and among its regional extensions, as the close ties that bind the Taliban movement to some of the neighboring regional powers, whose role in the movement's continuation cannot be ignored, whether it is the ideological and ethnic ties between it and the Taliban, and its sharing of interest with some of these forces to weaken the Western military presence, especially the American one.

17. The American increasing cost of the war in Afghanistan and the critics from Washington against the American military presence have formed strong pressure as well on the USA.

18. As well as changing of U.S. foreign policy priorities in terms of seeking to optimally employ military and political resources to contain both the rise of China and Russia's attempt to revive its international role.

19. Therefore, the continued U.S. involvement in the so-called "endless wars" is no longer a priority for the American decision-makers themselves.

20. The wrong strategy by the USA at Afghanistan that has neglected the reality of that crises sometimes constitute opportunities that can be exploited in one way or another to influence political and regional developments, in this context the transformation of Afghanistan and its surroundings into a "turbulent region" will have future repercussions on that region and effect on the USA in the long-run.

21. The USA has failed to bring democracy to Afghanistan after its withdrawal and contributed to the weakening of the chances of creating prosperous economic and political spaces as well.

22. This vacuum by the USA will be covered by the upcoming new projects of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative or by Russia's pursuit of creating an economic and security belt with some countries in Central Asia and Eurasia, and most of these countries are enemies and competitors to the USA itself.

23. It is important to read the repercussions of this for the regional powers in particular, and the way of dealing with the current realities in Afghanistan that become under the influence of some regional rival powers against the U.S. policies with the help of the Taliban movement, and this new situation has been exploited in a way that harms the security of the region in one way or another, which will have an effect on the future influence of the USA itself and its allies as well like India.

24. What are the differences between Biden and Trump and in general between Democrats and Republicans when it comes to Afghanistan?

I have reached out to a final analysis that both the two American presidents Trump and Biden, who are affiliated with Republicans and Democrats, aren't able to comprehend and understand the elements of special power prevailing today. So, I can analyze that the failed strategy of President Trump in Afghanistan and his successor Biden, due to many reasons, as follows:

1. The two American presidents

(Trump and Biden) have failed to understand the current transformations accompanying the structure of power in Afghanistan and the rise of the rival regional powers, like China and Russia.

2. Both Republicans and Democrats in the USA have encouraged the other regional competitors to the USA to succeed in Afghanistan on the account of the USA. I am mainly talking here about the rise of Chinese and Russian powers and the challenges they pose to the American hegemony.

3. So, the failure of the USA in Afghanistan may conflict with the American Democratic President Biden's principle of America's return to lead the world and restore the role of democratic alliance, and we saw this on his last visit to Europe.

4. Most importantly, the region suffers from problems of rebuilding power, a state of chaos and military interventions, and a weak regional power structure, which encourages other powers to intervene.

This scenario if occurring will surely harm Biden's administration interests.

5. The extension of Russia's strong influence in the region will raise the question about what are the scenarios that can be envisaged for the American decision-makers under the Biden administration.

The U.S. policies will be negatively affected under Biden's principle and administration by many different variants following scenarios, such as:

- First Scenario: represented in the regional forces rushing to fill this void, which is the most likely in front of Biden's administration.

- Second Scenario: the scenario of acceleration of non-state actors, such as the Taliban in Afghanistan, which is a strong scenario.

- Third Scenario: the stabilization of the Russian presence. Here, Russia is a major player and restores the dream of Soviet imperialism in the region, which is a scenario based on the ground, and this scenario is the worst-case scenario in front of Biden's strategy to restore the American democratic policies with allies in the world.

- Fourth Scenario: on the other hand, the Arab potential involvement in the current issue in Afghanistan, which is forcing Arabs to form and build a joint Arab force, which will mainly consist of Egypt, Saudi Arabia, the Emirates, Jordan and Iraq, as an attempt to protect the Arab lands from the extensions of the Taliban movement in the region. This expectation may negatively affect American politics in the (Persian) Gulf states, as they will never trust the American military presence and the American presence and military bases in the region.

- Fifth Scenario: the scenario of Arabs re-building of self-powers depending on the Arab military capabilities itself. This means that the Arab countries will allow the competitive powers against the USA itself and Biden's administration to intervene against the American interests in the Arab world, specifically the (Persian) Gulf states.

- Sixth Scenario: the long-term run scenario in the Arab world after turning back the Taliban movement, according to my own analysis is that:

Israel and the United States may seek to build a regional military alliance led by Israel in the face of the Iranian threat. But, this scenario if occurs may not succeed, due to the Arab fears and the Arabs refraining from cooperating militarily with the Israeli side.

- Seventh Scenario: which is based on the Arab realistic vision to achieve and bring the stability of the region away from the assistance of the USA and Biden's assistance.

- Eighth Scenario: according to my own view, all other adopted scenarios after the withdrawal of the USA from Afghanistan will mean more conflict and increase the possibilities of both Asian and Arab regional war, which will harm the American influence in both Asia and the Middle East (West Asia); additionally, the expectation that the USA will lose its allies in Asia and the (Persian) Gulf states over the USA.

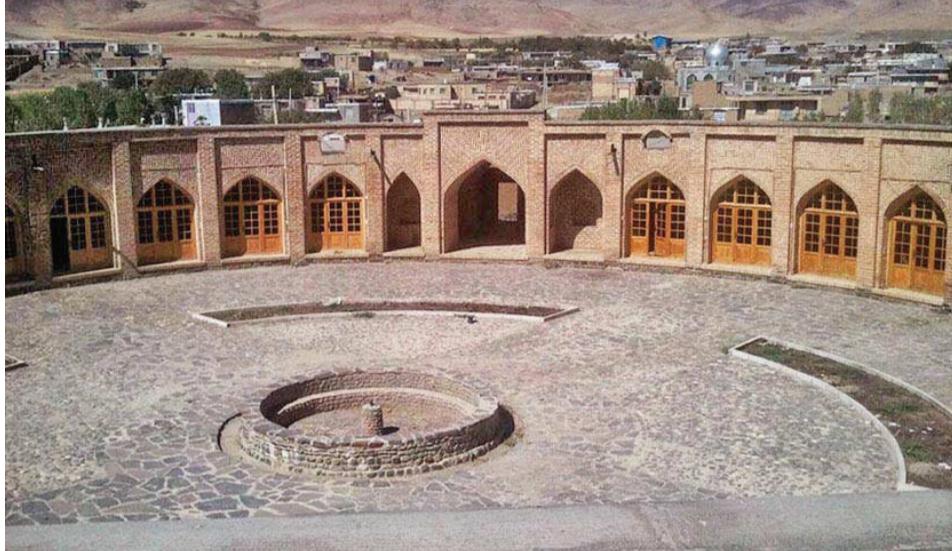
And I believe that mentioned scenarios may be the upcoming political and military repercussions of the U.S. decision to withdraw at a time of rapid regional and international power shifts, which necessitate a rapid Arab and Asian movement against the Taliban extremism extensions in the Arab world and the Asian region itself.

## International powers want to prevent threat of extremism, terrorism and drug trade emanating from Afghanistan.

The only way to solve the Afghan

AUGUST 28, 2021

## UNESCO assessors to examine centuries-old Iranian caravanserai



From page 1 ► In 2019, the tourism ministry announced that Iran is developing a dossier for a selection of its historical caravanserais for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list. In this regard, cultural heritage experts are assessing such monuments that are scattered across the country to make a shortlist in terms of their architecture, historical and cultural values.

Caravansary is a compound word combining "caravan" with "sara"; the former stands for a group of travelers and the latter means the building. They often had massive porticos supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed around the courtyard and stables behind them with doors in the corners of the yard.

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

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

## Discover Iron Age burial in Gilan: bizarre patterns and rituals

(Part 2)

TEHRAN – As mentioned previously, the Iron Age in Iran and Gilan is divided into three sections: Iron Age I, II, and III. Furthermore, some archaeologists believe the existence of Iron Age IV, which continues until the middle of the Parthian (Ashkhanian) period (end of 1st Millennium BC).

According to a scientific article conducted by the senior Iranian archaeologist Yousef Fallahian, in almost all Iron Age sites of Gilan, the dead had been buried on the right shoulder or left shoulder and bent legs with low and high curvature degrees. Only a small number of bodies had been buried supine (face up) in some cemeteries.

### Jamshid Abad

The ancient cemetery of Jamshid Abad, which is situated in the central district of Roudbar township, covers an area of six acres approximately and is located within a residential context.

As mentioned by Fallahian, of the seven discovered graves in Jamshid Abad excavations in 2000, five graves were simple vacuolar graves and the other two had a number of stone pieces on themselves (stack stone). The other had a row of dry constructed walls. All graves were discovered at a depth of one to three meters about 270 cm above ground level like that of the average mass graves.

In addition, all nine discovered graves in Jamshid Abad in 2006 were of simple vacuolar graves. Most of the discovered graves in Jamshid Abad had one corpse, but in some cases, some graves with the corpses of two dead men or women had been achieved. A condition that is almost common in Jamshid Abad graves is the burial of corpses as flank burial and bent feet. It is worth mentioning that no buried object discovered adjacent to a corpse seems to belong to a woman in the second grave of the seventh trench.

Most of the discovered objects from Jamshid Abad were made either of clay or bronze. In the first season of excavation, 42 pieces of ceramic objects had been found as the 78% of the total amount of discovered objects. On average, six pottery artifacts have been found in each of the Jamshid Abad graves. Among them, the discovery of the two types of pottery including a series of narrow-mouthed urns sometimes with different colors and the wide mouth containers in various forms were considered as the most discovered artifacts.

In the second season, metal objects had been discovered that also all are made of bronze including three groups of weapons (swords and daggers) ornaments (bracelets, rings, and barrette), and tools with specific applications (awl).

### The abundance of cattle figurines is an striking characteristic of the Iron Age burial in the Roudbar domain.

Lame Zamin is one of the Iron Age sites in Shahran village which is located in the Roudbar township. Thirteen graves were discovered in the first season of excavation at Lame Zamin by the Japanese team in an area of several hundred square meters, all of which were of vacuolar-type. But in the second excavation in 1978, the foreign explorers had discovered twelve graves in an area of two hundred square meters of land. In this excavation, graves have been discovered were of simple vacuolar and stone heap vacuolar graves. Some of these graves were elliptic which belonged to adults. The other type was a rectangular vacuolar grave mostly belonging to children.

The discovered objects and artifacts from adults' graves



were mostly black and gray pottery. Generally, the objects discovered in Lame Zamin graves mostly include gray and red pottery in the form of rounded bottom pottery (needing a tripod to stand) with large covers like a large funnel and large layers as well as other objects such as humanoid pottery figurines. It is worth noting that the metal objects discovered in the graves in Lame Zamin of Shahran were just copper. The human bones were studied in this site and was expressed that most of them belong to Mesocephalic.

Generally, three types of graves have been discovered during the excavations in Shahran. The first type was of vacuolar graves discovered in the low-lying neighboring area at Shahran. The second type was crypt graves mostly found from high neighboring areas in Shahran. The third type was stone cavity graves mostly have been discovered at the Lame Zamin site in Shahran.

### Features of Iron Age burial culture in Roudbar (Sefidrood) domain

Generally, the oldest cemeteries related to Iron Age can be traced in the cultural domain of Roudbar in Gilan. In other words, the number of Iron Age I sites in this domain is more than any other domain of the Iron Age in Gilan. The significant Roudbar sites are namely Lamezamin of Shahran, Kalouraz, and Jamshid

TEHRAN – A spectacular collection of decorated glazed bricks, once being looted and smuggled out of Iran some four decades ago, is scheduled to go on show at the National Museum of Iran in the near future.

A total of 49 of the glazed bricks were returned home from Switzerland last year while two other ones have been repatriated recently, ISNA reported on Friday.

Dating back to the 7th or 8th centuries BC, the bricks come from Qalaichi, one of the most important archaeological sites in western Iran, which is just north of the north-western city of Boukan, near the Iraqi border. Qalaichi was the capital of the Mannaean kingdom.

Moreover, a museum in Boukan is arranged to showcase the collection if the coronavirus situation will allow it, the news agency reported without providing more detail.

According to The Art Newspaper, the artworks were recovered from a warehouse in Switzerland. The 51 restituted glazed bricks, most just over one square foot in size, have a wide variety of motifs: winged lions and bulls with human heads, mythological figures, birds of prey, deer, and floral or geometric designs.

The artifacts are connected to the Mannaei civilization, which was once flourished in northwestern Iran in the 1st millennium BC. Mannaei, also spelled Manna, was an ancient country surrounded by three major powers of the time, namely Assyria, Urartu, and Media.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, the Mannaeans are first recorded in the annals of



## Prehistorical artworks repatriated from Switzerland to go on show in Tehran

the Assyrian king Shalmaneser III (reigned 858–824 BC) and are last mentioned in Urartu by Rusa II (reigned 685–645 BC) and in Assyria by Esarhaddon (reigned 680–669 BC). With the intrusion of the Scythians and the rise of the Medes in the 7th century, the Mannaeans lost their identity and were subsumed under the term

Medes.

In the 1970s, a farmer plowing at Qalaichi came across a decorated brick, probably from the columned hall of its citadel. This discovery led to extremely damaging illegal excavations, partly using a bulldozer. Eventually, in 1985, there was an official rescue excavation, but this was quickly

abandoned because of an intensification of the Iran-Iraq war. There were then 14 more years of illegal digging until 1999 when there was another official excavation. But by this time only small fragments of broken bricks were found.

In 1991, an Iranian antiquities dealer with a base in Switzerland contacted John Curtis, the British Museum's keeper of the Middle East at the time, intending to sell a collection of Qalaichi bricks. Curtis traveled to a warehouse in Chiasso, very close to the Italian border. He warned the vendor that the bricks may have been illegally exported from Iran and advised that they should be returned. His advice was ignored.

### Trouble in store

The bricks remained in Chiasso, but in 2008 the warehouse owners took action after the dealer's storage bill had remained unpaid. The warehouse obtained authority to seize the contents and on finding the bricks, the Swiss authorities were alerted. Curtis, together with a London-based lawyer, Jeremy Scott, contacted Tehran's National Museum, which submitted a formal request for their return.

The decorated bricks have led to a reconsideration of Mannaei civilization since they show that its people were highly skilled artists. Their designs also reveal a strong Assyrian influence, such as the human-headed winged bulls.

Curtis, now the academic director of the Iran Heritage Foundation, says that before the discovery of the bricks, "the richness of Mannaei civilization and its links with Assyria had not been appreciated".

## Carpets, textiles in southeast Iran approved as national heritage

TEHRAN – A total of 14 moveable properties, which are being kept in Sistan-Baluchestan province, have been inscribed on the national heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts announced the inscriptions on Tuesday in a letter to the governor-general of the southeastern province, CHTN reported.

Two handwoven carpets, a kilim, traditional clothes decorated with needlework as well as some bowls and cups were among the properties added to the list.

The collective province -- Sistan in the north and Baluchestan in the south -- accounts for one of the driest regions of Iran



with a slight increase in rainfall from east to west, and an obvious rise in humidity in the coastal regions. In ancient times, the region was a crossroad of the Indus Valley and the Babylonian civilizations.

The province possesses special significance because of being located in a strategic and transit location, especially Chabahar which is the only ocean port in Iran and the best and easiest access route of the middle Asian countries to free waters.

The vast province is home to several distinctive archaeological sites and natural attractions, including two UNESCO World Heritage sites, namely Shah-e-Soukhteh (Burnt City) and Lut desert.

## Donation of daffodils to Imam Reza (AS) shrine made national heritage

TEHRAN – An annual ritual involving the donation of 8,000 daffodil bulbs to the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) has been inscribed on the national heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts announced the inscription on Thursday in separate letters to the governors-general of both provinces, CHTN reported.

The history of the ritual goes back at least 50 years as florists of Behbahan in southwestern Khuzestan province donate their first harvest of daffodils to the holy shrine around late December and early June.

In Persian culture and literature, the daffodil symbolizes the eye, usually the eye of the beloved. A daffodil's inside recalls the pupil of the eye. In poetry, the beloved is likened to the daffodil because of its leafless and green stem, which is hollowed out, straw-like, and curved, which is associated with humility and dignity.

Mashhad, the provincial capital, is Iran's holiest and second-largest city. Its raison d'être and main sight is the striking massive shrine complex of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Shia Imam.

Dozens of five-star hotels and hostels are

dotted across Mashhad. The city has also the highest concentration of water parks in the country, and it also embraces a variety of cultural and historical sites that are generally crowded. The metropolis is also a good place to buy top handwoven rugs and carpets, and it's a staging post for travel to Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, and little-touristic Khorasan regions.

Khuzestan is home to three UNESCO World Heritage sites of Susa, Tchogha Zanbil, and Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System yet it is a region of raw beauty where its visitors could spend weeks exploring. The province is also a cradle for handicrafts and arts whose crafters inherited from their preceding generations.

Lying at the head of the Persian Gulf and bordering Iraq on the west, Khuzestan was settled about 6000 BC by a people with affinities to the Sumerians, who came from the Zagros Mountains region. Urban centers appeared there nearly contemporaneously with the first cities in Mesopotamia in the 4th millennium. Khuzestan, according to Encyclopedia Britannica, came to constitute the heart of the Elamite kingdom, with Susa as its capital.

## Qajar-era bathhouse to gain former glory

TEHRAN – Hammam-e Haji Khani, a Qajar-era (1789–1925) public bathhouse located in Fars province has undergone some rehabilitation works, a local tourism official has said.

A budget of three billion rials (\$71,400 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been allocated to the project, Ahmad Taqavi announced on Thursday.

The historical monument consists of two pentagonal spaces with a very beautiful building texture made of stone and mortar.

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

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

Some cities had separate bathhouses for men and women. They were usually built next to each other. However, there were some bathhouses, which were used by men and

women at different times of the day.

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

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

The ancient region of Fars also spelled Pars, or Persis was the heart of the Achaemenian Empire (550–330 BC), which was founded by Cyrus the Great and had its capital at Pasargadae. Darius I the Great moved the capital to nearby Persepolis in the late 6th or early 5th century BC.

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

# More 2.2m doses of COVID-19 vaccine imported

TEHRAN – The seventeenth consignment of coronavirus vaccines, amounting to 2.22 million doses, was imported by the Iranian Red Crescent Society on Thursday.

So far, a total of 20.390 million doses of the vaccine have been imported, IRCS head Karim Hemmati said, IRNA reported.

President Ebrahim Raisi has confirmed that 30 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine will be imported.

"All public and private sectors, real and legal persons, and individuals must be coordinated and unanimous to control the spread of this dangerous virus," Raisi said on August 14.

Raisi highlighted that it is not solely enough to draft and announce health protocols, adding that if an individual disobeys the protocols and causes people to get sick, he has violated their rights.

In his August 11 televised address, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei suggested that containing the rapidly increasing wave of the Coronavirus is the first and foremost issue of the country.

Placing great emphasis on the fulfillment of duties and the implementation of decisions regarding the Coronavirus pandemic, Ayatollah Khamenei said "the vaccine, whether imported or domestically produced, must be provided."

So far, a total of 20.390 million doses of the vaccine have been imported.



ed with double effort and in any way possible made available to all people."

"Fortunately, with the production of the domestic vaccine, its foreign import route is also paved, while before that, despite the payment for the vaccine, foreign sellers failed to fulfill their commitments," the Leader said, urging officials to take importation and production of vaccine seriously.

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 Children's Fund (UNICEF).

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

Other countries can also donate vaccines through the COVAX facility, like Japan that is going to provide close to 3 million doses of vaccine to Iran, Hosseini explained.

Hosseini paid a visit to a COVID-19 vaccination center in Tehran on Wednesday and injected a vaccine into one of the clients.

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 Anagene of Italy.

Earlier this month, Hussain 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 international and locally-made vaccines.

## COVID-19 vaccine Razi Cov Pars starts third clinical trial phase



With the efforts of local experts, the 20-year path of vaccine development was completed in a few months, he highlighted.

In the field of vaccine production, great and unique steps were taken by the pharmaceutical industry, he noted, ISNA reported on Sunday.

The reason why some countries got vaccinated earlier than us is because of their experience on the development of SARS and MERS vaccines, otherwise, our speed would have been much faster than other countries, he explained.

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

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

The vaccine is protein-based, which helps the immune system by producing antibodies.

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

Eleven countries from Asia and South America, and a European country have asked for importing Iranian-made coronavirus vaccine (COVIRAN BAREKAT), Hassan Jalili, the vaccine's production manager, has said.

Christoph Hamelmann, the former representative of the World Health Organization in Iran, said in March that Iran has one of the most successful platforms

in the world for COVID-19 vaccine production.

"Considering the production line of the Pasteur vaccine, Iran is very advanced and successful in developing a vaccine while being able to help other countries, I am sure that Iran's vaccine production platform is one of the most successful ones in the region," he said.

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AUGUST 28, 2021

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Be generous but not extravagant, be frugal but not miserly.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:13:06 Evening: 19:56 Dawn: 5:06 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:34 (tomorrow)

## What's in Tehran art galleries

### Photo

\* Silk Road Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of photos by Nazli Abbaspur.

The exhibit entitled "Metempsychosis" will run until October 22 at the gallery located at 103 Lavasani St. in the Kamranieh neighborhood.



### Painting

\* Paintings by a group of artists, including Mostafa Tavakkoli, Mehdi Reyhani, Leli Fazli, Sina Galedari, Farshid Heidari, and Aida Eslami are currently on view in an exhibition at Seyhun Gallery.

The exhibit named "Being" runs until September 15 at the gallery located at No. 11, 4th St., Vozara Ave.



\* An exhibition of paintings by Masud Babakhani is currently underway at Vista Gallery.

Entitled "Born", the exhibition will run until September 6 at the gallery located at No. 11, 12th Alley, Mir Emad St.



\* Azarakhs Askari is showcasing her latest collection of paintings in an exhibition at O Gallery.

The exhibition will run until September 13 at the gallery located at 18 Shahin St., Sanat St.



\* Paintings by Zahra Mohammadi are on display in an exhibition entitled "Secret in Depth" at Zarma Gallery.

The exhibit will continue until September 2 at 10 Esko Alley near Daneshgah St. and Enqelab Ave.



\* Elnaz Kazemtash is currently showcasing her paintings in an exhibition at Saless Gallery.

The exhibit will be running until September 1 at the gallery that can be found at 148 Karim Khan Ave.

### Drawing

\* Mahsa Rajabi is currently hanging a collection of her latest drawings in an exhibition at Vaali Gallery.

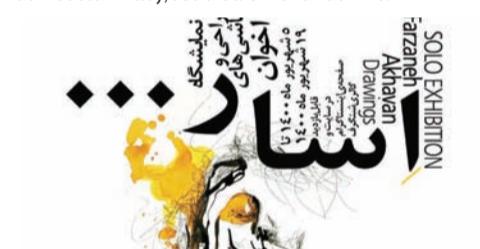
The exhibit "The Crack" will continue until September 7 at the gallery located at 72 Khoddami St., Vanak Sq.



### Drawing/painting

\* Shangarf Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings and drawings by Farzaneh Akhavan.

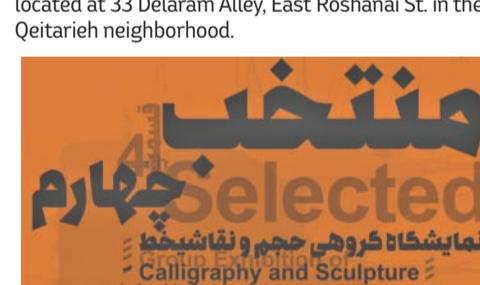
The exhibition will be running until September 10 at 2 Sattari Alley, Jolfa St. off Shariati Ave.



### Calligraphic painting/sculpture

\* Calligraphic paintings and sculptures by Ahmad Mohammadpur, Amir-Shahrokh Faryusef, Azra Aqiqi, Einoddin Sadeqzadeh, Behruz Zindashti, Mahmud Zenderudi, and Hadi Roshanzamir are on view in an exhibition at Negar Gallery.

The exhibition curated by Hassan Mehrabani will be running until September 7 at the gallery located at 33 Delaram Alley, East Roshanai St. in the Qejarieh neighborhood.



### Multimedia

\* An exhibition of artworks in various media by a group of artists, including Sobhan Nateqi, Shakiba Musavi, Mehrmaz Naqshineh, Yeganeh, Alai, Zeinab Shahbazi, Mahsha Sotudeh, and Puyan Khatiri, is currently underway at Ehsan Gallery.

The exhibit will run until August 31 at the gallery located at No. 22, East 14th St. in the Ajudanieh neighborhood.



\* Artworks in various media by Azam Baghban, Maryam Vakili, Atefeh Firuzfar, Hannaneh Talebi, Parisa Sadeqi, Maryam Shams, and dozens of other artists are currently on display in an exhibition at Ayrik Gallery.

The exhibition will run until September 1 at the gallery located at Ayrik Center on East Ferdows Blvd.



\* Elnaz Kazemtash is currently showcasing her paintings in an exhibition at Saless Gallery.

The exhibit will be running until September 1 at the gallery that can be found at 148 Karim Khan Ave.

# Dealing with effects of pandemic on artists' lives top priority for new culture minister

Frome Page 1 ▶ however, communication with the past can help new managers head toward the future with more knowledge," he added.

Esmaeili has not been welcomed by artists and cineastes as he accused them of disregarding the values of the Islamic Revolution in his programs discussed at the Iranian Parliament.

He has also challenged the legality of the Iranian House of Cinema, which is the official guild of Iranian cineastes.

Esmaeili is scheduled officially inaugurated as the new culture ministry this week.



New culture minister Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili (L) and his former counterpart, Seyyed Abbas Salehi meet at his office in Tehran on August 26, 2021.

## Works by Iranian artist on view at Berlin gallery

TEHRAN – Galerie im Saalbau in Berlin is showcasing works by six artists from across the world, including Iranian artist Samira Hodai, in an exhibition opened on August 21.

The exhibition named "Textile as the Language of Resilience" is putting on display the hand-sewn textile works to testify to the power of resistance.

Works by Tewa Barnosa from Libya, Nuray Demir from Turkey, Regina José Galindo from Guatemala, Sophie Utikal from the U.S., and German-Bolivian artist Verena Melgarejo Weinandt has also been selected for the exhibition curated by Daniela Nadwornicek.

In traumatic and violent injuries, when tissue is severed or lost, wounds develop. Wounds on our body. Wounds on our soul, Nadwornicek said in a statement for the exhibition, which will run through October 3.

Violence against women is one of the most widespread and deeply rooted human rights violations worldwide, which is still an obstacle to the realization of equality, peace, and

women's rights.

Physical and psychological violence shapes the everyday life of women from all walks of life and continues to be tolerated, ignored and exploited – also here in Berlin-Neukolln.

Larger injuries take a long time to heal without assistance, which is why they are sewn. Scars are visible traces of these healed wounds.

The artists in the exhibition reveal their personal scars with visible seams and provide insights into the strategies of self-preservation and healing. Seams, the visible traces in the tissue, illustrate the process of artistic work and the associated wound healing.

The stories of the women who have hidden behind the fabric become visible – who were hidden by the fabric. The hand-sewn textile work is evidence of resilience and the collective protest against invisibility, oppression, and violence.

Hodai, 40, is an artist whose tapestries are like paintings that have a distinctive appearance. Her paintings emerge from pixel-like dots.



A painting by Iranian artist Samira Hodai.

## Film from Iran line up for Nevada City festival

TEHRAN – Four Iranian shorts are competing in the Nevada City Film Festival, which opened in the U.S. city on Friday

The films include "The Recess" by Navid Nikkhah-Azad, "Mandatory" by Javad Khorsha, "The Visit" by Azadeh Musavi, and "Bodies" by Morvarid Kashian.

"The Recess" tells the story of Sahar, a 17-year-old student who is determined to skip high school during the recess to attend the football stadium to watch the football match between Esteghlal F.C. vs. Al-Ain as part of the AFC Champions League against the national ban on women to enter football stadiums in Iran.



Mojān Kordi acts in a scene from the short drama "The Recess" directed by Navid Nikkhah-Azad.

The film has been screened at numerous intentional events and won several awards.

It won the award for best dramatic short film at the 15th San Francisco Frozen Film Festival in July. In addition, the film's star Mojān Kordi won the award for the best performance at the 33rd Living Skies Student Film Festival in Canada in March.

"Mandatory" is about a firing squad soldier who is forced to kill a prisoner in the firing squad. He does not know which to choose in the dilemma of ethics and duty.

Khorsha was selected as best director at the 13th Annual Iranian

Film Festival – San Francisco in 2020 for this film.

"The Visit" is about Elaheh who is finally allowed to visit her husband, a political prisoner, after a delay of six months. She and her little daughter Tara have one single day to prepare for this important meeting.

"Bodies" a transgender boy who feels like a girl. He is a stage actor and has fallen in love with his director. He would like to have a sex change and becomes a girl but his conservative father does not approve of this. He is trying to persuade his father and confess his love to the director.

## Anna Seghers novel "Transit" comes to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – German writer Anna Seghers's novel "Transit" has been published in Persian by the Qoqpus publishing house in Tehran.

Setareh Notaj is the translator of the book first published in 1944.

Seghers is famous for depicting the moral experience of the Second World War.

"Transit" is an existential, political, literary thriller that explores the agonies of boredom, the vitality of storytelling, and the plight of the exile with extraordinary compassion and insight.

Having escaped from a Nazi concentration camp in Germany in 1937, and later a camp in Rouen, the nameless twenty-seven-year-old German narrator of Seghers's multilayered masterpiece ends up in the dusty seaport of Marseille.

Along the way he is asked to deliver a letter to a man named Weidel in Paris and discovers Weidel has committed suicide, leaving behind a suitcase containing letters and the manuscript of a novel.

As he makes his way to Marseille to find Weidel's widow, the narrator assumes the identity of a refugee named Seidler, though the authorities think he is really Weidel.

There in the giant waiting room of Marseille, the narrator converses with the refugees, listening to their stories over pizza and wine, while also gradually piecing together the story of Weidel, whose manuscript has shattered the narrator's "deathly boredom," bringing him to a deeper awareness of the transitory world the refugees inhabit as they wait and wait for that most precious of possessions: transit papers.



In 2018, German director Christian Petzold adapted the novel as a film of the same name.

He transposed the plot to the twenty-first century in some respects, using contemporary settings and ambiguous references

to political issues.

It is still set in Marseilles, a major center of North African migrants to France, and now also a transit point of refugees from other countries seeking asylum and resettlement in the West.

## Film from Iran line up for Nevada City festival

"The Cambridge Introduction to Shakespeare" published in Persian

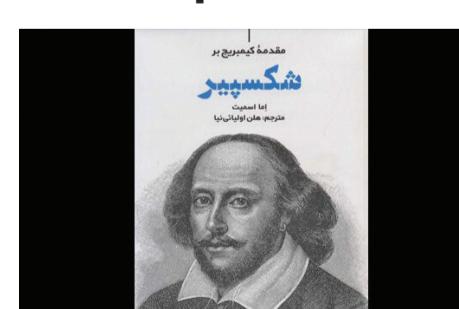
TEHRAN – Emma Smith's book "The Cambridge Introduction to Shakespeare" has been published in Persian in Tehran.

Elmi Farhangi is the publisher of the book translated by Helen Oliainia.

This is a volume of the series Cambridge Introductions to Literature published by Cambridge University Press in 2007.

This lively and innovative introduction to Shakespeare promotes active engagement with the plays, rather than recycling factual information.

Covering a range of texts, it is divided into seven subject-based chapters: Character; Performance; Texts; Language; Structure; Sources and History, and it does not assume any prior knowledge. Instead, it develops ways of thinking and provides the reader with resources for independent research through the 'Where next?' sections at the end of each chapter.



The book draws on scholarship without being overwhelmed by it, and unlike other introductory guides to Shakespeare, it emphasizes that there is space for new and fresh thinking by students and

readers, even on the most-studied and familiar plays.

Emma Smith is a professor of Shakespeare studies at the University of Oxford. She has lectured widely in the UK and beyond on the First Folio and on Shakespeare and early modern drama.

Her research interests include the methodology of writing about theatre, and developing analogies between cinema, film theory, and early modern performance.

Her recent publications include "Macbeth: Language and Writing", "The Cambridge Shakespeare Guide" and "Shakespeare's First Folio: Four Centuries of an Iconic Book".

Elmi-Farhangi has previously published a Persian translation of "The Cambridge Introduction to Chekhov" authored by American literary historian James N. Loehlin for the series Cambridge Introductions to Literature.