



## Leader Outlines Managerial Revamp Strategy for New Government

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STAY UPDATED #LeaderSpeech

### Opinion

## Promoting domestic production in industry, mining sectors seriously pursued

By Ebrahim Fallahi

TEHRAN – Developing domestic production and cutting reliance on external sources for meeting the country's needs have become one of the main priorities of the Iranian government over the past few years, and especially since the re-imposition of the U.S. sanctions in 2018.

This goal has been pursued in various sectors including agriculture, industry, mining, petrochemicals, and oil industry.

The industry and mining sectors, as major pillars of the Iranian economy, have been especially the focus for the said programs and to this due, last year a comprehensive program was defined in the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry for promoting domestic production and supporting production units in these fields.

The industry ministry's programs in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21) which has been named the year of "Production: ▶ Page 4

## Ambassador: Iran reserves the right to respond to any Israeli miscalculation

TEHRAN — The Iranian ambassador to the United Nations wrote a letter to the UN Security Council chief on Friday warning the Tel Aviv regime against any possible miscalculation or adventurist act.

The following is the letter submitted to the UN Security Council by Zahra Ershadi:

"I am writing further to letter dated 12 April 2021 (A/75/852-S/2021/347) of the Islamic Republic of Iran, through which we have informed you of a terrorist act by the Israeli regime at the Natanz Fuel Enrichment Plant on 11 April 2021, disrupting the operations of this sensitive nuclear facility, which has been under International Atomic Energy Agency safeguards and extensive monitoring.

In his recent interview, the Israeli regime's Prime Minister has confessed, though implicitly, to Israel's covert attacks on Iran's ▶ Page 2

## Ring wore by Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani inscribed as national heritage

TEHRAN – A silver ring owned by Lieutenant Qassem Soleimani, who was assassinated in a U.S. terrorist attack in early 2020, has been added to Iran's cultural heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts has declared the inscription in a letter addressed to Governor-General of Tehran province Anushiravan Mohseni Bandpey, Mehr reported on Saturday.

As the commander of the Revolutionary Guards' Quds Force, Soleimani was considered one of the most powerful Iranian figures as he played a

prominent role in the country's foreign policy in West Asia for years.

Soleimani was assassinated along with his longtime comrade Abu Mahdi al-Mohandes, the former deputy head of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF).

The martyrdom of General Soleimani and al-Mohandes generated new momentum in the region among resistance groups to achieve the goal of getting rid of America's mil-

itary presence. The elan was partly generated due to the two men's sacrifices during the fight against the Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant.

*Commander of Hearts' ring is now a national heritage*

The two commanders enjoyed enormous popularity not just in Iran and Iraq but in entire West Asia and beyond for the major role they played in the successful battles that ultimately put an end to the territorial rule of Daesh, the world's most notorious terror group.



## Tokyo 2020: Iran's Rostami wins gold in powerlifting

TEHRAN – Iranian powerlifter Rouhollah Rostami claimed a gold medal at the 2020 Paralympic Games on Saturday.

Rostami lifted 234kg in his third attempt in the men's -80kg and won the gold medal. Xiaofei Gu from China seized the silver medal, lifting 215kg and bronze medal went to Mohamed Elelfat from Egypt with 212kg.

It was Iran's second medal in powerlifting. Amir Jafari snatched a silver medal on Friday in the men's -65kg.

## Nasrallah baffles Zionist regime again

TEHRAN — Speaking in a televised speech about developments in Lebanon and the entire region broadcast via Lebanon's al-Manar television on Friday, Hezbollah Secretary General Sayed Hassan Nasrallah said the United States and Israel are fazed by Iran's fuel shipments to Lebanon.

He added that due to the fuel shortage in Lebanon a deal was reached with Tehran to dispatch a third fuel-loaded tanker to the Mediterranean country.

Since late 2019 Lebanon has been mired in a deep financial crisis that has caused the Lebanese pound to lose around 90 percent of its value to dollar. Severe fuel shortages and wide-scale power cuts have also paralyzed the country. Additionally, Lebanon is grappling with a political deadlock.

"We have agreed to start loading a third vessel. The coming days will prove those doubtful about the shipments arriving with fuel wrong ... and our words will be clear when the first vessel reaches Lebanon," Nasrallah said five days after he confirmed that the first tanker carrying Iranian fuel for Lebanon had already departed.

The Hezbollah chief said Lebanon's current economic crisis was due to an economic siege imposed by the U.S., stressing that the so-called Caesar sanctions by Washington on Syria has also harmed Lebanon.

Nasrallah was speaking on the occasion of the fourth anniversary of the Second Liberation Day, when territories in eastern Lebanon were liberated by Hezbollah fighters and the Lebanese Army from the Takfiri Daesh and other terrorist groups.

Addressing Washington, Nasrallah added, "Go ahead and give Lebanon an exemption for Iranian gasoline and diesel ... go ahead and give Lebanon an exemption from Caesar."

Nasrallah made remarks as the small country's fuel shortage is reaching a crunch point, threatening to bring daily life to a halt.

This is while some critics have warned of purchasing fuel from Iran. They say such purchases will likely risk U.S. sanctions imposed on Lebanon, whose economy has already been in meltdown for nearly two years. ▶ Page 2

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### Interview

## Armless archer Stutzman happy to be inspirational

By Masoud Hosseini

TEHRAN – Matt Stutzman is one of the most well-known faces in Para archery. Matt is in Tokyo at the moment to show us how strong he is. The "Armless Archer" is famous for his unique shooting style with his feet.

Stutzman holds the bow with his foot as he competes in the individual compound-open, during the Paralympic Games in Tokyo.

He has his sights set on Tokyo glory. The American archer won a silver medal in the Rio 2016.

I wanted to have an interview with him in the Rio 2016 but I missed the session but this time I did it.

Stutzman is a role model for all people with disability. He can go a long way to inspiring people.

"Yes I do. And I am happy I could be role model for the people with disability."

"To be a part of the Paralympic Games is an honor. I'm here to tell my story in a positive way," he said.

Matt can be inspirational for everybody.

He won silver in the men's individual compound at London 2012 but lost in the round of 16 at Rio 2016. He decided to take a break from the sport before returning with high hopes. Stutzman has taken part in multiple able-bodied competitions since Rio 2016 to improve his skills and took bronze at the 2019 Worlds after losing 144-142 in a close semifinal against teammate Ben Thompson. ▶ Page 3

### Interview

## U.S. economic hegemony is waning: Russian diplomat

By Mohammad Mazhari

Withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan has triggered a lot of speculation about decline of America. It was a big political catastrophe that reminds the world of the U.S. exit from Vietnam.

But before its military failure in Afghanistan, America ruined its reputation via unilateral policies to push other countries to align with Washington, especially when President Donald Trump weaponized sanctions against Iran, Russia and China.

That is why some politicians talk about U.S. decline.

"U.S. economic hegemony is waning in natural way, our task is to strengthen domestic economies and cooperation of like-minded countries," Dmitry Polanski, the first deputy permanent representative of Russia to the UN, tells the Tehran Times.

U.S. "sanction diplomacy" coupled with its use of dollar as a weapon to pressure others, some countries are pushing the international community to take steps to curb American hegemony. ▶ Page 5





## Leader: Diplomacy should not be tied to nuclear issue

TEHRAN — Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said on Saturday that diplomacy should not be tied to the nuclear dispute with the United States.

The Leader made the remarks in his first meeting with President Raisi and his cabinet team. The meeting took place in National Government Week.

"Diplomacy should not be impacted by the nuclear issue. In the nuclear issue, the U.S. acted extremely shamelessly. They withdrew from the JCPOA but talked as if Iran had withdrawn from it. They ridiculed the negotiations. The Europeans acted like the U.S., too," the Leader remarked.

### "Biden not different from Trump"

Former U.S. President Donald Trump quit the nuclear, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, and imposed the harshest sanctions in history against Iran within his "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran. Trump withdrew from the JCPOA despite the fact that the agreement is endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

Through the maximum pressure, the Trump administration was seeking a new nuclear deal in order to impose U.S. dictates on Iran.

Current U.S. President Joe Biden had promised to join the multilateral nuclear pact, however six rounds of talks, which started in April to revive the agreement, have so far failed to bear a result because the Biden administration is raising new issues.

"The current U.S. government is no different from the previous one. They demand the same things that Trump demanded. Behind the scenes of U.S. foreign policy there lies a predatory wolf that sometimes changes into a cunning fox. Today's situation in Afghanistan is an example of this," Ayatollah Khamenei stated.

### We support the nation of Afghanistan

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Leader said the Islamic Republic backs the people of Afghanistan regardless of who is in power.

The remarks by the Leader comes as the Taliban took over Afghanistan on August 16 and President Ashraf Ghani fled the country.

"We support the nation of Afghanistan. Governments come and go. What remains is the Afghan nation. The nature of our relations with governments depends on the nature of their relations with us," the Leader pointed out.

Ayatollah Khamenei wished peace and prosperity for the Afghan nation, saying,

"May God bring the best situation for the nation of Afghanistan."

The Leader described Afghanistan as a brotherly country which shares many affinities with the Iranian nation.

"Afghanistan is our brother country, with the same language, religion and culture," the Leader noted.

Ayatollah Khamenei also pointed to the agonies of the Afghan people during the 20 years of the U.S. occupation of the Central Asian country, saying, "The source of Afghanistan's crises is the U.S. During 20 years of occupation, they committed all sorts of atrocities— bombing weddings and mourning ceremonies, imprisonment and 10 times more drug production."

According to international bodies, the opium cultivation started to increase greatly since the U.S. invaded Afghanistan after the September 11 attacks in 2001.

### Leader says diplomacy should serve economy

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Leader said in the new Raisi administration diplomatic efforts should be intensified to consolidate Iran's economy with the outside world, especially neighbors.

"Diplomatic dynamism should be intensified and economic aspects of diplomacy fortified in the new government... Foreign trade with neighboring countries and other nations should also be bolstered."

Ayatollah Khamenei went on to say that it is possible to increase economic and trade ties with most countries around the world.

"Except for a couple of countries, friendly ties are possible with most countries," the Leader insisted.

### "Do not let time be wasted"

The Leader also called on the Raisi administration to use its time in office to serve the people to the best of its ability and improve their livelihoods.

"I had a recommendation to all the officials in different periods, I also offer you this recommendation; time passes quickly. These four years will end soon, so use every hour, every opportunity. Do not let time be wasted when it belongs to the people and to Islam," he said, according to Press TV.

The new government, Ayatollah Khamenei said, should focus its efforts on initiating a "revolutionary but rational and thoughtful reconstruction in all managerial fields".

"Being revolutionary must certainly be accompanied by rationality. This has been the correct way of the Islamic Republic from the very beginning until today, requiring that the revolutionary movement should be accompanied by an intellectual and rational movement."

### "Economy is main priority"

The Leader said the most important priority of the country is primarily the economy and then culture, media and science.

"Of course, there is an urgent issue, which is the coronavirus and the health of the people," Ayatollah Khamenei added.

One of the essentials, the Leader said, is smart quarantine and serious care at borders in order to prevent the entry of new strains of the disease.

As for the economy, the main problems of the country are high inflation, budget deficit, people's livelihood issues, devaluation of the national currency, reduction of people's purchasing power, and issues related to business climate and banking system, he stated.

"Economic experts believe that money creation should be done in proportion to production, and if this ratio does not exist, money creation should be stopped, which, if done correctly, will result in preventing inflation, boosting production and employment, and strengthening the national currency."

President Raisi has said he has chosen a cabinet to improve economy and fight corruption. One of his key slogans in the presidential campaigns was to form a "popular government".

Two days after the formation of his cabinet, Raisi paid an unannounced visit to Khuzestan province. Raisi's cabinet held its first session on Thursday. It took place one day after the 18 out of his 19 proposed ministers were given vote of confidence by the parliament.

"One of the manifestations of being popular is going among the people and hearing directly from the people. This very good and commendable move that Mr. Raisi made yesterday, when he went to Khuzestan among the people, heard from them, talked to them, is a manifestation of being popular, which is a very good thing," Ayatollah Khamenei said.

Another manifestation, the Leader said, is the life-style which state officials choose, enjoining the new administration to practice "modesty in manners and character and avoid aristocratic styles and looking down at people from a high position".

"We are lagging and have to work hard"

Ayatollah Khamenei also said the basis of the Islamic government and the Islamic Republic is the establishment of justice, but a lot of work has to be done in this regard.

"We have a lot of work to do in these areas. We are lagging and have to work hard."

Ayatollah Khamenei also said the basis of the Islamic government and the Islamic Republic is the establishment of justice, but "we have a lot of work to do in these areas".

"We are lagging behind and have to work hard," the Leader said.

"In my opinion, every resolution that you pass, every bill that you draft in the government, every directive that you issue in your own system, should have an appendix of justice. You have to be careful that it does not impact justice and does not stamp on the oppressed classes," he added.

In his Saturday remarks, the Leader said it is very important to restore the people's trust and hope, because people's trust is the biggest asset of the government.

"People will help you and walk the walk with you when they trust you and have hope in you. This is the biggest asset for a government if it can gain the trust of the people, which, of course, is unfortunately a bit damaged. You have to repair this, and the solution is for the words and actions of the officials to be the same."

# Iran FM tells Baghdad summit: U.S. is main cause of insecurity in the region

*Amir Abdollahian says Iran hopes regional states will realize that security will be achieved through mutual trust*

TEHRAN — Iran's new Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian who participated in the Baghdad summit on Saturday blamed the U.S. for security problems in West Asia.

It was the first diplomatic tour by Amir Abdollahian in the post of foreign minister. He was confirmed as foreign minister after gaining the parliament's vote of confidence on Wednesday.

Amir Abdollahian told the participants to the conference, attended by the Saudi foreign minister, king of Jordan, Emir of Qatar, the French president, and other key players in the region, that "the Islamic Republic of Iran has always emphasized the achievement of peace through dialogue and negotiation within the region."

The following is the full text of his speech:

"In the name of God

I am very pleased to be present today at the conference in support of Iraq in Baghdad on behalf of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ayatollah Raisi.

This meeting, with the presence of the countries of the region, confirms the efforts of the Republic of Iraq in creating areas for cooperation and interaction between the countries of the region, and I hope that through these meetings we can reach a prosperous, developed and free region.

Distinguished guests,

Today, Iraq is playing an important role in the region because of its constructive efforts and vision. The Islamic Republic of Iran was one of the first countries in the region to recognize the new Iraq and to develop its political, economic and trade exchanges by supporting the political

processes in this country.

The new Iraq, liberated from terrorism, today needs internal reconstruction and strengthening, and the expansion of cooperation in the region. The Islamic Republic of Iran, while supporting the stability, security, independence, territorial integrity, dignity, authority and promotion of Iraq's regional and international status, declares its readiness to develop bilateral and regional cooperation.

In recent years, trade between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic

"What we need more than ever today is sustainable regional security"

Distinguished guests, the rise of ISIS was one of the most important dangers faced by the region and left irreparable damage. Unfortunately, Iraq has suffered a lot from the emergence of terrorist groups. Were it not for the will of the Iraqi people, the support of the religious authority and the convergence of the Iraqi people, it would not have been clear what would happen to Iraq and the countries of the region and how deeply the region and the world



would be endangered by terrorist threats. The Islamic Republic of Iran rushed to the aid of the friendly and brotherly country of Iraq in the fight against terrorism and did not withhold any assistance in this direction. The Iraqi people, parties, various groups and the Iraqi government have sacrificed thousands of lives for independence and the fight against terrorism; however, the U.S. government committed a great crime and martyred two fighters of the Takfiri counter-terrorism front: Martyr Gen. Soleimani and Martyr Abu Mohandi Al-Mohandes. Not only did they

not bring peace and security to the people of this region, but they are the main cause of insecurity, and this is clearly visible in many countries in the region.

Here, I would like to emphasize the role and support of the countries in the region for the stability and security of Iraq, and mention the realization of security with the participation of all Iraq's neighbors, including the friendly and brotherly country of the Syrian Arab Republic.

Distinguished guests,

The destiny of the government and the nations of this region are intertwined according to common religious, cultural, traditional, historical and geographical interests. The Islamic Republic of Iran has always emphasized the achievement of peace through dialogue and negotiation within the region and hopes that the countries of the region will reach a common belief that security will be achieved through mutual trust, reliance on nation-

al capabilities, strengthening relations and good neighborliness. This common belief can pave the way for many political, economic and cultural cooperation in the region and guarantee the grounds for all-round growth and development of the countries of the region in the shadow of common and lasting security and by utilizing God-given wealth.

Our region has all the religious, cultural, civilizational characteristics and material and spiritual capacities for regional cooperation and convergence, but unfortunately, due to foreign interventions and the dominance of security-oriented ideas, it has many problems, including war, instability and insecurity.

What we need more than ever today is 'sustainable regional security' with the participation of the countries of the region, the realization of which depends on the use of economic resources to achieve the coalition for peace and development.

The Islamic Republic of Iran expresses its support for the Iraqi government and people and its decisions in the field of internal affairs, including the withdrawal of foreign troops and the holding of early elections, and reiterates its constructive role in promoting a culture of dialogue and regional cooperation, and considers cooperation within the region as the basis for achieving stability and peace in this way. The Islamic Republic of Iran, emphasizing the important role of the countries in the region, declares its readiness to advance these goals.

Thanks again to the Iraqi government for hosting this summit, and I wish success and pride to the Iraqi people and government.

Peace be upon you and God's mercy and blessings be upon you.'

## Ambassador: Iran reserves the right to respond to any Israeli miscalculation



From page 1 ► peaceful nuclear program and brazenly stated that the regime will continue such attacks. It was followed by other shameless threats by the Israeli regime's Defense Minister to attack Iran, stating that Israel has the means to act and will not hesitate to do so as well as the Chief of the General Staff of the regime, who revealed Israel's plans for launching strike on Iran's nuclear program.

The deliberate targeting, by the Israeli regime, of a highly sensitive safeguarded nuclear facility with the high risk of potential release of radioactive material constitutes reckless criminal acts of nuclear terrorism, and serves as another clear example of its continued violation of international law. Bearing in mind that the growing and continuing threat of nuclear terrorism posed by the Israeli regime threatens international peace and security, it is incumbent upon the international community to condemn such criminal terrorist acts in the strongest possible terms.

Moreover, the aforementioned explicit threats

against a Member State of the United Nations constitute gross violations of international law, the United Nations Charter, particularly its Article 2(4) and therefore must not be tolerated by the international community and the Security Council.

Only in less than two years, the Israeli regime has conducted countless unlawful overt and covert adventurist measures, including terrorist acts against Iran's nuclear scientists and centers, attacks against commercial vessels in the region as well as drone attacks and airstrikes against certain regional countries, in material breach of cardinal principles of international law. Unchecked, such continued unlawful acts and systematic provocative measures, with all their serious ramifications, would undoubtedly further destabilize the region and also endanger international peace and security.

Recalling the long record of the Israeli regime in sabotage operations against our peaceful nuclear activities and cowardly assassination of several Iranian nuclear and other scientists in the past (A/65/622-S/2010/634, A/66/656-S/2012/27 and S/2020/1148), as well as the joint United States-Israeli cyber operation against Iran's nuclear facilities through the use of a malicious computer worm known as Stuxnet, the Security Council must live up to its Charter-based responsibilities and take immediate necessary measures to prevent all destabilizing policies and unlawful and yet adventurist practices of the Israeli regime and hold it ac-

countable for all such measures.

Yet, determined to exercise its inalienable right to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes in all its aspects, the Islamic Republic of Iran warns against any possible miscalculation or adventurist act by the Israeli regime. As stated in our previous letters to the Security Council, the Islamic republic of Iran reserves its inherent right under international law to take all necessary measures to protect and defend its citizens, interests, installations and sovereignty against any terrorist or disruptive acts.

Seizing this opportunity, I must also categorically reject all unfounded allegations of the Israeli regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran contained in documents S/2021/710 and S/2021/725.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the Security Council.

Please accept, Excellency, the assurances of my highest consideration."

In an interview with the news website Ynet earlier this month, Gantz said that the Israeli regime was prepared to attack Iran, saying that "we are at a point where we need to take military action against Iran."

Furthermore, Aviv Kochavi, the Israeli Chief of the General Staff, said on Wednesday that Israel was accelerating plans for a possible strike on Iran in case Tehran does not halt its nuclear program.

"Deliberate targeting of safeguarded nuclear facility constitutes reckless criminal acts of nuclear terrorism"

## Nasrallah baffles Zionist regime again

From page 1 ► Elsewhere in his remarks, Nasrallah touched on the issue of the current political deadlock in Lebanon, lambasting repeated delays in forming a government.

After a colossal explosion that destroyed the port of Beirut on August 4, 2020, then premier Hassan Diab stepped down. However, since that date he has been running the government as caretaker prime minister.

Since then, politicians have failed to agree on a government even as Lebanon has been crippled by a major financial crisis. Political crisis over the past two years have put the national currency in a free fall, killed jobs, and made banks freeze accounts.

Nasrallah urged top politicians to stop debating names for the new cabinet and urgently form a government, which is a necessary first step to receive international support to help take Lebanon out of its deepest crisis since its 1975-90 Civil War.

"It is high time this debate now ends,"

the Hezbollah chief said.

Lebanon is currently in decline, mostly due to interventions by the U.S. and France. During months of economic spiral that saw the local currency tank, poverty rates soar and the banking sector teeter on the verge of collapse, the Lebanese people have been criticizing lack of leadership and accused the political elite of plundering what was left in the country.

Lebanon's economy has tanked. Tourists who were traveling to Lebanon in previous years and accounted for a significant portion of country's foreign income, have stopped visiting due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Macron was in Beirut within days of the Beirut explosion, followed by the French minister of armed forces. U.S. Undersecretary of State David Hale also paid a visit to Lebanon. During his visit to Beirut, Macron promised direct aid, but he also called for a new political system.

The U.S. and France were not helpful at all. They cried for a new political sys-



tem, but at the same time, they threw obstacles in the way of forming a new government. Nowadays, their allies are protesting Nasrallah's decision to import fuel and mazut from Iran. They don't care that their selfishness is harming the Lebanese nation.

On the other hand, Hezbollah chief is worried for the people and has devoted his time to negotiate with various investors to import fuel and mazut from Iran. It is a selfless act from a devoted man.

Nasrallah also declared on August 22

that as soon as the tankers leave Iranian ports until the cargo is completely unloaded, the tankers are considered within Lebanese territory and any attack on them is an attack on Lebanese territory and means a declaration of war on the Lebanese people and the party, and Hezbollah will surely respond appropriately to it.

Accordingly, during the past week, when the tankers left the Iranian ports and headed for Lebanon, they have not been in any danger. It seems that by the end of next week, when they reach their destination, there will be no particular problem for these cargoes.

Of course, this courageous action of the secretary general of Hezbollah shows the superior hand of Hezbollah in the political and security environment of Lebanon.

Finally, the new strategy will enter Hezbollah into the field of economic deterrence in Lebanon. This issue can bring a lot of peace to the minds of the Lebanese people.



TEHRAN – In his first meeting with the new government of President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei addressed the whole gamut of state affairs and outlined the path of the country in the coming years.

On the occasion of National Government Week, Ayatollah Khamenei met with President Raisi and the members of his cabinet on Saturday in Imam Khomeini Hussainiyyah.

He called on the new government to seize the opportunity of serving the people and make tireless and around-the-clock efforts to improve the “difficult” situation in the country. The Leader said that the Raisi administration “will certainly overcome problems” if it makes such efforts.

Ayatollah Khamenei called on the new government to “revolutionize” all economic, reconstruction, service, foreign policy, cultural, and educational sectors. The Leader also underlined the need for the Raisi administration to be popular, pursue justice, and combat corruption.

The Leader stated that the country has not yet met expectations in terms of justice. He said, “The Islamic government and the Islamic Republic are based on the administration of justice. In my opinion, every resolution that you adopt and every bill that you ratify should have a section on justice. You must be careful that your resolutions do not damage justice or violate the rights of the underprivileged classes of society.”

He advised the new officials to focus their efforts on carrying out a revolutionary, rational reconstruction in all managerial areas. In presenting a definition of “revolutionary,” Ayatollah Khamenei said, “Being revolutionary should always be accompanied by rationality. This has been the correct approach adopted by the Islamic Republic from the first day and has continued up until today. A revolutionary movement should be accompanied by wise, reasonable actions.”

Ayatollah Khamenei then addressed “the very important issue of reviving people’s trust and hope,” according to a readout of the meeting that was published by the Khamenei.ir.

“The biggest capital of government is people’s trust, which, unfortunately, has been somehow damaged,” the Leader asserted.

Underlining the importance of delivering on the promises, Ayatollah Khamenei said that the “oneness of officials’ word and action” is the way to restore trust between



# Leader outlines managerial revamp strategy for new government

the people and the government.

“[You] have to be very careful in promises and remarks, and if a promise is made, it must be fulfilled, because making a promise and not fulfilling it will cause people to lose trust,” he noted.

The cohesion of government was another issue underscored by the Leader. “Cohesion of government means that different voices do not come out of the government and in practice, all institutions should act in a cohesive manner, because any lack of cohesion and authority in the government will induce a state of abandonment in the people and will hinder the progress of government programs and policies,” Ayatollah Khamenei said.

The Leader also addressed the priorities that should be put high on the agenda of the government. “The most important priority of the country is first the economy

and then culture, media, and science. Of course, there is an urgent issue, which is the corona and the health of the people,” he said.

The Leader pointed to a number of economic woes currently facing the country and called on the government to devise plans to tackle these challenges.

The Leader brought two important points to the notice of the government. First, he told the assembled cabinet to avoid seeking provisional, short-term solutions and instead focus on drastic solutions. Second, he called on the government to refrain from tying solving economic problems to

U.S. sanctions on Iran.

“Planning to solve problems should be conducted on the assumption that sanctions would remain in place,” Ayatollah Khamenei.

In addition to domestic issues, the

“The nature of our relations with other governments depends on the nature of their relations with us.”

## Ayatollah Raisi outlines immediate plan to tackle Khuzestan challenges

TEHRAN – In his first provincial visit as president, Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi traveled to the southwestern province of Khuzestan where he underlined the need to immediately address the challenges facing this strategically important province.

The visit came weeks after the oil-rich Khuzestan was rocked by a wave of protests over water shortages.

Upon his arrival at Ahwaz’s General Ghasem Soleimani Airport, Ayatollah Raisi said, “I intended to make a visit to the province sooner, but because of the amount of work I had for establishing the government, I wasn’t able to,” according to a statement by the Iranian presidency.

“Khuzestan province has very good people, and they have done their best to defend the country at different times, and we owe them a great deal,” he said.

Emphasizing that the government has a duty towards all the people of the country, the president added, “We have additional responsibilities to the people of Khuzestan, and God willing, we will be able to solve some of the problems of this province during this visit, which is a short one.”

Ayatollah Raisi added, “I was very interested in meeting with the good people of the province, but due to the problem of corona and the need to follow health protocols, public meetings are not possible, but in brief meetings with various administrative departments of the province, I will learn more about the problems of Khuzestan.”

The president emphasized, “In this trip, we will consult with the ministers and provincial officials to find appropriate solutions to solve the problems of the province quickly, and appropriate decisions will be designed and adopted.”

Ayatollah Raisi pointed out, “All my concern and that of the people’s government is to solve the problems of all the people of the country, especially this province, with the participation of the people themselves, and I have no doubt that many of these problems will be solved thanks to God.”

The ministers of energy, interior, agriculture jihad, health, and the head of the Plan and Budget Organization accompanied the president on the one-day trip.

During his unexpected visit, Ayatollah Raisi instructed the immediate elimination of medical and health deficiencies, including increasing hospital beds, providing oxygen to medical centers and also meeting the needs of the intensive care unit.

The instruction was issued during a visit to the COVID-19 section of the Razi Hospital in Ahwaz on Friday morning.

The president also instructed the interior minister at the Razi Hospital in Ahwaz to make the necessary follow-up in order to make more use of the capacity of the armed forces’ medical centers to hospitalize COVID-19 patients.

During the visit, Ayatollah Raisi praised and thanked the health care staff as well as the seminary students at Razi Hospital in Ahwaz who had come to fight the disease in a jihadist move.

The president also attended the gathering of the

patients’ families and also met with the patients at different sections, followed up on their problems and issued special orders.

On Friday morning, immediately after arriving in Ahwaz, Ayatollah Raisi visited one of sewage projects of Ahwaz and visited different parts of the complex and was briefed on the ongoing measures to solve the city’s sewage problem.

During the visit, a complete report on the various stages of the project, including the construction of tunnels, pumping stations, etc., was presented to the president.

Ayatollah Raisi also convened a meeting of the province’s Administrative Council. During the meeting, he was briefed on the challenges currently facing the oil-rich province.

Referring to the reports provided by the managers about the problems of Khuzestan province and the measures taken to solve these problems, the President said, “Solving the problems of Khuzestan requires a jihadist spirit, and additional work must be done in the province.”

Speaking on Friday night in the meeting of the Administrative Council of Khuzestan province, Ayatollah Raisi described defining a short-term plan to solve problems necessary and urgent and said, “Provincial managers should predict what actions we should take to solve problems as soon as possible.”

He stressed that “we must work around the clock to compensate for the backwardness,” emphasizing, “This can be done with a spirit of jihad and mobilization, and we must act like the era of Holy Defense to remove obstacles and problems.”

The president went on to say that solving the problems of the province requires that the managers be located in the province and that work is not done with flight managers.

Ayatollah Raisi said, “Supervision, especially internal supervision with the eyes of the managers of the province should always be on the agenda.”

He also said solving the unemployment problem in Khuzestan is among other important issues on the agenda of his government. “We support any plan aimed at creating employment in the province.”

Referring to the great potential of Khuzestan province in the field of agriculture, the president said, “This province plays a leading role in agriculture in many sectors, and special attention should be paid to the province’s agriculture, and this sector is one of the important areas for creating employment.”

Ayatollah Raisi said, “The empty capacities that exist in the industries of the province are very important for creating employment and these capacities should be activated.”

Leader also gave pieces of advice to the new government on how to best pursue an active foreign policy. Ayatollah Khamenei stated that the foreign diplomacy of the country should be more active, in particular the economic diplomacy of the country. He went on to say, “Foreign trade should be strengthened both with our neighbors and with other countries. Apart from one or two countries, it is possible to establish good, constructive relations with most countries in the world.”

Furthermore, he stated that the country’s diplomacy should not be overshadowed by the nuclear issue. He stressed that the Americans have passed all limits in impudence and brazenness regarding the nuclear negotiations. “It was they who withdrew from the JCPOA, but they speak as if it was Iran who withdrew from it. In reality, it was they who mocked the negotiations. The Europeans acted in the same way,” he added, referring to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal by its acronym.

Ayatollah Khamenei reiterated that the current U.S. administration is no different from the previous administration and that the new administration makes the same demands that the Trump administration did.

The Leader also touched on the Afghanistan issue and outlined the contours of Iran’s position on the war-torn country.

“Behind the scenes of U.S. foreign policy there lies a predatory wolf that sometimes changes into a cunning fox. Today’s situation in Afghanistan is an example of this,” he said.

Explaining the current situation in Afghanistan, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution stated, “Afghanistan is our brother country, with the same language, religion and culture. The source of all the crises in Afghanistan is the U.S. The U.S. committed all sorts of atrocities during their 20-year occupation of that country. These ranged from bombing wedding and mourning ceremonies, to imprisoning individuals, and included increasing the production of addictive drugs by tens of times. They did not take a single step for the development of Afghanistan.”

Explaining the position of the Islamic Republic on Afghanistan, Ayatollah Khamenei said, “We support the Afghan nation. Governments come and go. It is the Afghan nation that will remain. The nature of our relations with other governments depends on the nature of their relations with us. May God bring the best situation for the nation of Afghanistan.”

# IRAN IN FOCUS

AUGUST 29, 2021  
Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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## SPORTS

### Armless archer Stutzman happy to be inspirational

From Page 1 ► “I hope the world sees what we can do, and that motivates them to be better as well,” he said.



Before starting archery he had big problems since no one would hire him. The sport changed his life.

“I learned archery by watching youtube,” Stutzman said.

Stutzman can be a role model for all people who think there is limitation to move forward.

“There is no excuse for moving forward. I do everything with my feet,” the “Armless Archer” said.

### Iran sitting volleyball beat Germany in straight sets

TOKYO – Iran sitting volleyball team defeated Germany 3-0 (25-23, 25-16, 25-17) in their opening match in the 2020 Paralympic Games on Saturday.

The match was held at the Makuhari Messe Hall in Chiba.

Iran will play Brazil in Group B on Monday.

“Germany surprised us. They played very well in the first set,” Morteza Mehrzad told Tehran Times correspondent in Tokyo.

“We will have a difficult task in the Games since the teams have progressed. I don’t want to talk about the next matches because our coaches have analyzed the teams,” he added.

Iran have made the final at every Games since debuting sitting volleyball and have won six gold medals – making them clear favorites.

Hosts Japan are debuting in the men’s tournament, and are in Group A with Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Russia Paralympic Committee (RPC) and Rio 2016 bronze medalists Egypt.

Group B is led by Iran, but also features Brazil, China and the last qualifiers, Germany.

### Persepolis complete signing of Reza Asadi

TEHRAN – Persepolis football club completed the signing of Reza Asadi on Friday.

The 25-year-old defensive midfielder has penned a one-year contract with Persepolis for an undisclosed fee.

Asadi was a member of Austrian team St. Pölten last season.

He has also played for Naft, Saipa and Tractor.

He is Persepolis’ fourth signing in the summer. The Iranian giants have previously completed the signing of Nassaji winger Alireza Dehghani, Gol Gohar defender Alireza Ebrahimi and Padideh defender Ali Nemat.

### Amin Ghaseminejad joins Esteghlal

TEHRAN – Padideh forward Amin Ghaseminejad joined Esteghlal football team.

The 34-year-old player had reached an agreement with Esteghlal’s archivals Persepolis but changed his mind and joined the Blues.

Ghaseminejad has joined Esteghlal as a free agent player. He played for Padideh last season.

He has penned a two-year contract with Esteghlal.

Ghaseminejad was the Esteghlal’s target last year but Padideh didn’t let him to leave the team.

### Iran wheelchair basketball defeat Algeria at Paralympics 2020

TEHRAN – Iran wheelchair basketball team defeated Algeria 81-47 at the 2020 Paralympic Games on Saturday.

Iran had already suffered two losses against Australia and the U.S. in Pool B.

Mohammadhasan Sayari led Iran with 30 points, while Bilel Ayache scored 13 points for the Algerian team.

Iran are scheduled to meet Great Britain on Sunday.

Iran will have to play Great Britain and Germany in Pool B as well.

The competition began on Aug. 25 and will continue until Sept. 5 at two venues in Tokyo: Musashino Forest Sports Plaza for the group matches and Ariake Arena for the finals.

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

### We don’t think about Bosnia until we face them: Hadi Rezaei

TOKYO – Iran sitting volleyball coach Hadi Rezaei says that they just concentrate on their next opponent in the 2020 Paralympic Games.

Iran defeated Germany 3-0 (25-23, 25-16, 25-17) in their opening match at the Makuhari Messe Hall in Chiba on Saturday.

Iran will play Brazil in Group B on Monday.

“We had a difficult match against Germany and they played very well in the first set. It shows that the sitting volleyball has progressed well and the countries take the sport seriously,” Rezaei told the Tehran Times correspondent in Tokyo.

Iran have won Paralympics gold medals six times so far and looking forward for the seventh gold.

They will most likely face Bosnia and Herzegovina in the event. Bosnian team have defeated Iran in two finals at the 2004 Athens and 2012 London.

“We never think about our upcoming matches and move forward step by step. Our next match is against Brazil and we know that they are a strong team,” Rezaei said.

“The teams have greatly strengthened themselves. We’ve analyzed them and are well-aware about what we want to do in Tokyo,” he concluded.

### Iranian javelin thrower Papi takes silver at Paralympics 2020

TEHRAN – Iran’s Amanollah Papi won a silver medal at the men’s javelin throw-F57 of the 2020 Paralympic Games on Saturday.

Papi finished in second place with a throw of 49.56 meters.

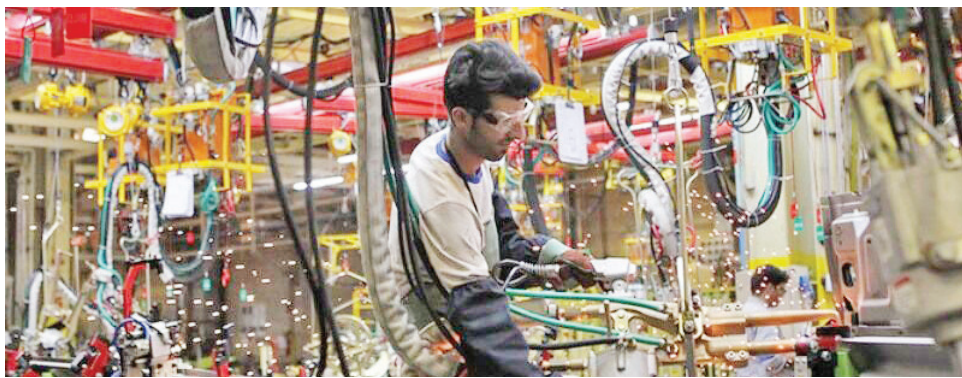
Azerbaijan’s Hamed Heydari won the gold medal with 51.42 meters.

And bronze medal went to Cicero Valdiran Lins Nobre who threw 48.93 meters.

It was Iran’s third medal in the Games so far.

Powerlifters Rouhollah Rostami and Amir Jafari have won a gold and a silver medal, respectively.





## Promoting domestic production in industry, mining sectors seriously pursued

From page 1 ► Support and Elimination of Obstacles,” by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Seyed Ali Khamenei, include reviving idle units and providing bank facilities for the country's production units and small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Management of imports and development of non-oil exports, development of mines and mining industries, development of technology and knowledge-based products, market management and organization of commercial logistics, improving the business environment and ultimately providing financial resources to the producers, and investment development have also been among the ministry's major programs this year.

Following the mentioned programs, the production of 20 major mining and industrial products has increased in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry data.

The mentioned products include all kinds of home appliances (washing machines, refrigerators, air conditioners, etc.), passenger and heavy vehicles, and mining industry products including steel, copper, aluminum, cement, ceramic tiles, etc.

Based on the ministry data, washing machines, edible vegetable oil, combines and aluminum ingots were the top produced items in the said four months.

In the said time span, domestic manufacturers of home appliances managed to produce 1.47 million sets of various products to register 17.2 percent rise compared to the previous

year's same period.

The manufacturers produced 430,000 units of washing machines in the mentioned four months, registering a 36.2 percent increase compared to the previous year's same period.

The production of freezers and refrigerators also increased 20.4 percent to reach 692,000 units.

The production of various types of vehicles also increased significantly in the mentioned time span. During this period, more than 292,500 units of passenger cars, 22,415 trucks, 538 buses, minibusses, and vans, 216 combine harvesters, and 5,937 tractors have been manufactured in the country.

Production of petrochemical products also registered a 3.8 percent increase in the mentioned four months to reach 21 million tons.

Also, more than 9.6 million tons of crude steel was produced in the period under review, which indicates a growth of 1.5 percent compared to the same period last year.

The production of copper cathode, chinaware and glass products were 100,000 tons, 19,600 tons, and 442,400 tons, respectively, which shows a growth of 5.3 percent in the production of copper cathode, an increase of nearly 31 percent in chinaware products, and a growth of 30 percent for glass products compared to the same period in the previous year.

The growth in the manufacturing of the mentioned products has been achieved despite the specific economic conditions of the country due to the U.S. sanctions and the outbreak of coronavirus which has created problems in the production sector.

# Iran's non-oil trade rises 38% in 5 months yr/yr

TEHRAN - The value of Iran's non-oil trade rose 38 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22) as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Speaking to the press on the sidelines of the Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Ehsan Khandouzi's visit to the Imam Khomeini Airport City's customs on Saturday, Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi said that Iran has traded 59.3 million tons of non-oil products worth \$34 billion with other countries in the mentioned period, which indicates also 14 percent growth in terms of weight on an annual basis.

The official put the five-month non-oil exports at 45.5 million tons valued at \$17.661 billion, with a 63 percent rise in value and 20 percent growth in weight.

The IRICA head mentioned methanol, natural gas, polyethylene, semi-finished iron products, iron ingots, gasoline, liquefied propane, iron rods, urea, and bitumen as the main exported



products in the said time span.

He said major export destinations

**Iran's trade balance was over \$1 billion positive in five months.**

tions of the Iranian non-oil goods were China with about 12.3 million tons worth \$5.9 billion, Iraq with 12 million tons worth \$3.163 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with five million tons worth \$1.9 billion, Turkey with 1.375 million tons worth \$1.1 bil-

lion, and Afghanistan with 2.165 million tons worth \$885 million.

The official further announced that Iran has imported 13.8 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$16.631 billion in the first five months of the present year, with a 21 percent growth in value and a 0.5 percent fall in weight year on year.

## Several projects inaugurated in Khorasan Razavi, Mazandaran provinces

TEHRAN - Some 41 development projects in different sectors including water, telecommunication, electricity supply and infrastructure were inaugurated on Saturday in Khorasan Razavi and Mazandaran provinces on the occasion of Government Week (August 24-30).

According to IRNA, 30 of the mentioned projects with a total investment of 120.589 billion rials (about \$2.87 million) were put into operation in Khorasan Razavi province, while the other 11 worth 201 billion rials (about \$4.95 million) were in Mazandaran province.

The telecommunication projects include launching and developing high-speed ADSL internet, developing telephone networks, and establishing fiber optic networks in rural areas.

Water and electricity supply to some rural areas in the mentioned provinces were also among the inaugurated projects.

Some electricity transmission lines, power stations, a fire station, and several other



projects were also put into operation in the said provinces.

Every year, on the occasion of Government Week numerous development projects are inaugurated in various provinces across the country.

This year too, several development projects in different sectors including water, agriculture, infrastructure, industry, and electricity have gone operational across Iran.

Last week, Mehr News Agency quoted the Head of Golestan Province's Regional Water Authority as saying that 36 water projects with a total investment of 140.9 billion rials (over \$3.3 million) were set to go operational during the said week.

Seven agriculture projects worth 208 billion rials (about \$4.9 million) were also going to be inaugurated in Amol city, Mazandaran Province to celebrate the mentioned week.

Also, in Lorestan Province, 39 agricultural projects worth 1.07 trillion rials (about \$25.6 million) were planned to go operational in the Government Week.

According to the Head of Lorestan Agriculture Department Esfandiar Hosseini Moqadam, 21 projects in the field of water and soil, six projects in the field of horticulture, one project in fisheries, two projects in the field of livestock, three projects in the field of conversion and food industries, and four projects in nomadic areas were among the projects scheduled to be inaugurated in this province.

## Capital market under spotlight as new minister takes office

TEHRAN - Iran's new Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Ehsan Khandouzi has underlined the capital market as one of the major priorities of his ministry during his tenure, outlining the programs for improving this market.

As ISNA reported, increasing the role of the capital market in financing production companies and projects, diversifying financial instruments in the capital market, eliminating unnecessary regulations and barriers, facilitating the entry of companies into

pursue in order to improve the capital market.

According to Khandouzi, the stock market is one of the most important pillars of the economy as it will play a significant role in financing government projects and supporting economic growth.

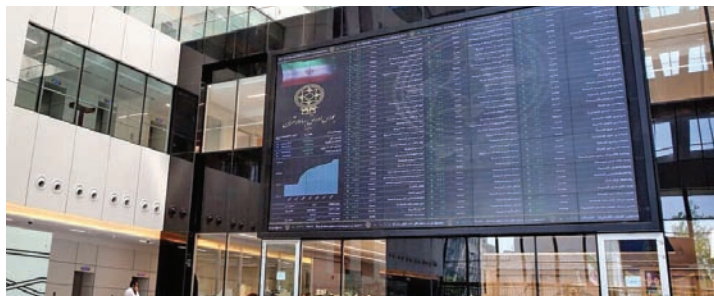
The minister had previously mentioned financing the government and ensuring economic growth as the main priorities of the Economy Ministry during his tenure.

**Khandouzi's capital market reform plan was one of the reasons to approve him as finance minister.**

“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.

Earlier on Wednesday, the parliament had approved Khandouzi to take office as the new Economy Minister mainly because of his comprehensive plans for improving the capital market.

In a report presented to the parliament on the mentioned day, the



parliament's Economic Committee had stated that Khandouzi's capital market reform plan was one of the reasons why the committee approved the minister.

The mentioned report also underlined some of the expectations that the parliament and people would have regarding the stock market, including the promotion of information transparency in the market, strengthening commodity exchanges, expanding the energy exchange activities through the supply of crude oil and petroleum products in this exchange, and designing new financial instruments, launching securities market rating agencies and cooperating with the capital markets of other countries.

The report also emphasized the institutional reform of corporate governance for public corpora-

tions and financial institutions in order to develop the capital market.

**Positive signals in the market**

According to market analysts, Khandouzi's new plans for the stock market have sent positive signals to the market.

“One of the signals that have been received by the capital market is that the new government is strongly opposed to regulatory pricing and believes that supply and demand should determine the stock prices,” Market Analyst Rouzbeh Shariati told ISNA.

The best way for the stock market is for the government not to intervene in the pricing processes and Khandouzi has stressed this fact again and again in his programs, Shariati said.

## Ornamental fishes export up 200% in a quarter on year

TEHRAN - The value of Iran's ornamental fishes export has increased 200 percent during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to an official with Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO).

Isa Golshahi, IFO's director-general for quality improvement, processing, and market development, said that 85 tons of such fishes has been exported in the three-month period, indicating 608 percent growth in terms of weight as well.

He named Iraq, Turkey, and Europe as the major export destinations of Iran's ornamental fishes in the first quarter.

The official had previously announced that the country's fishery export has increased nine percent during the first quarter of this year.

He said that over 28,000 tons of different types of fisheries worth over \$52 million has been exported in the three-month period, indicating 12 percent growth in terms of weight as well.

In terms of accessing some new target markets in the field of fisheries, the official said that cooperation with the relevant organizations such as chambers of commerce, Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as the non-governmental sector to open new markets in the international arena is one of the agenda of the IFO's plans.

Over the past two years, the efforts of the

Aquatics' Production and Trade Union of Iran, and the non-governmental sector have led to the addition of markets in countries such as Oman and Malaysia to Iran's target export markets in this field, he further noted.

Fishery production has increased noticeably in Iran in recent years.

Enjoying high quality, Iran's fishery products were sold easily in the export markets, and also some new export destinations welcomed these products in the past two years; as new markets including China, South Korea, and the Eurasian Union nations opened up for Iranian fishery products.

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil exports reached \$10.7 billion in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year, up 69 percent compared to the last year's same period.

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

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

## Electricity export to Afghanistan, Pakistan can be risen by 400 MW

TEHRAN - Energy Ministry's Spokesman for Electricity Industry Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said that it is possible to increase the supply of electricity to Pakistan and Afghanistan by more than 400 megawatts (MW).

The official said Iran is willing to expand relations with Pakistan and boost electricity export to this country, IRNA reported.

Transmission line to Pakistan border to supply electricity to Gwadar port has been built, but power grid is not yet available, the official stated.

If the condition will be provided to build a network in Pakistan or if they build the network themselves, Iran is definitely ready to develop electricity exchange with this country, he added.

On Tuesday, Pakistan Today reported that Pa-

kistan is looking to increase electricity imports from Iran to 70 megawatts (MW) to meet the power needs in its under-development Gwadar port.

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

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

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

## TEDPIX gains 25,500 points on Saturday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 25,555 points to 1.575 million on Saturday (the first day of the Iranian calendar week).

Over 12.342 billion securities worth 114.34 trillion rials (about \$2.722 billion) were traded at the TSE on Saturday.

The first market's index gained 23,094 points, and the second market's index climbed 37,806 points.

TEDPIX 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 Dehqan 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.”

Dehqan 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.



# The U.S. empire is slowly disintegrating...

By Martin Love

Anyone in America with eyes to see and read and ears to hear cannot honestly conclude anything but that the U.S. is in decline. Its leaders during the past 30 years at least have presumed a kind of negative “activism” across the globe is good policy, but now the chickens as they say are coming home to roost and blowback is apparent most everywhere, but for now especially so in Afghanistan.

Negative “activism” primarily revolves around military overreach, trillions spent on the Military Industrial Complex, Neocon promoted wars, horrendous sanctions on other countries like Iran, bullying and more. Keep in mind the U.S. has not literally won a single war, or achieved any kind of strategic war objective (that made sense) since the end of World War 2. But the number one ill is state sanctioned murder by the U.S. military, its proxies and its alleged allies especially in West Asia, of which there are only two of major note it seems: Saudi Arabia and Apartheid Israel, both of which are at the bottom of any list of favorite nations. The U.S. is no longer “the leader of the free world”, as it has alleged for decades, because it has denied freedom to so many countries under its heel and made so many lives miserable, including Iranian lives.

Even little Norway, for example, notes this decline when its University of Science and Technology this month advised its students overseas to return home, and counseled: “This applies especially if you are staying in a country with poorly developed health services and infrastructure, for example the U.S.A.” Thus it is becoming increasingly apparent, quite aside from the debacle in Afghanistan, that the U.S. is failing and struggling relatively at least, and President Biden is not to blame. He did the right thing halting the U.S. war on Afghanistan, which went nowhere for 20 years. If anything, Biden is fast becoming the victim of delayed but increasing blowback for bad policies over decades. And moreover, evidence of what appears to be cognitive decline suggest a bad outcome before 2024: that he will be replaced by VP

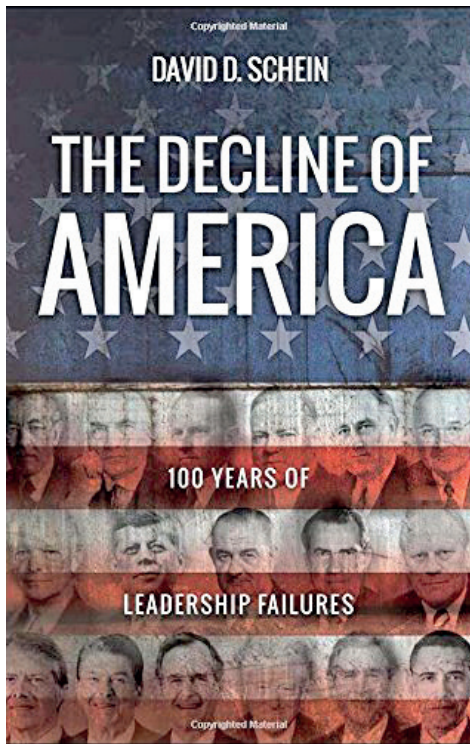
Keep in mind the U.S. has not literally won a single war since the end of World War 2.

Kamala Harris whom few Americans believe has the sensibility or smarts to become an effective president. Then the question looms how she could ever win a full term as president in 2024, and who might replace her in such a divided country where the Republicans seem bound to support a candidate even worse than Donald Trump – one who could well double down on the same belligerent policies of recent presidents that got the U.S. into the expanding jam it is in now.

This writer anyway has often, over the past four years, counseled simple “patience” to U.S. adversaries such as Iran, and the crushing part is that Iran never had to become a U.S. adversary except that U.S. policies has taken its marching orders from faux allies like Apartheid Israel and the Saudi regime. At least Biden continues to claim the administration desires the resurrection of the JCPOA, but as time marches on and Iran incrementally re-gains its footing and cements more goodwill and partnership deals from its near neighbors like Russia and China, even Iran may well begin to conclude that the JCPOA wanes in importance for the Islamic Republic as a necessary component of revival.

The greatest act the U.S. military is performing in Afghanistan and did perform in any other country it has literally struck since World War 2 is simply to leave. Dynamic Vietnam cleaned up the mess the U.S. made there and eventually Afghanistan will clean up the mess the U.S. made there even if it only reverts to its ancient ways of life in relative poverty. However, it is a country rich in some mineral resources, if not oil and gas like Iran, and China in particular is bound to step in and help Iran's economy in coming years with trade for its own economic juggernaut.

Meanwhile, VP Harris on a trip to Asia this month asserts that the U.S. “is still a global leader”. Really? If one looks at various aspects of conditions inside the U.S. it's not at all leading in terms of the relative overall health of its citizens in many areas. Note that Harris did not say the U.S. is still THE global leader, but maybe just one of several and even that is questionable now. At best, what is ahead for the U.S. are years of



penance for its policies internal and external over the past 30 or so years. “At best” because refusing penance and reflection and change will only dig a deeper hole than Afghanistan demonstrates.

Worth noting is that after the somewhat similar debacle and exit for the U.S. in Vietnam in 1975, hardly a dent was made in U.S. global dominance and various administrations continued to indulge in coups and wars and sanctions for decades as if killing some four million Vietnamese did not matter. But this time it's different.

As a hegemonic power with its military and economic “empire” the U.S. may be on its last legs. The world has changed dramatically since 1975. Some observers in Asia are even saying the 500-year-long upsurge of Western power and expansionism and colonialism and imperialism is fast dying, giving way to developments all across Asia led by China.

## U.S. economic hegemony is waning: Russian diplomat

From page 1 ► “We interact in particular in the UN and try to mobilize support for the UN Charter,” Polanski says when asked about multilateral efforts to respond to Washington's sanctions on Russia and other countries.

But it could be safe to say that it was Iran that faced the harshest sanction campaign when Trump decided to abandon the Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, in May 2018. Trump reimposed economic sanctions on Iran lifted under the JCPOA and added new ones to force Tehran give up to U.S. conditions.

However, “maximum pressure” policy failed to change Iran's nuclear policies. Now the Biden administration tries to rejoin the JCPOA through nuclear negotiations brokered by the EU in Vienna.

Despite some pessimistic views about reaching an agreement in a short-run, Polanski expects the talks to continue in Vienna. “Not forgetting that U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA triggered current crisis. We believe that not only Washington, but also Tehran should return to the compliance with the deal.”

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

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

Citing a report by the International Atomic Energy



Agency, Reuters said that “Iran increased the purity to which it is refining uranium to 60% from 20% in April in response to an explosion and power cut at its Natanz site that damaged output at the main underground enrichment plant there.”

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

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

“My colleagues in Vienna not aware of all the details of possible agreement”

The U.S. wants a much bigger bargain which covers Iran's ballistic missiles and what they call Iran's “regional ambitions.”

On U.S. main preconditions to rejoin the nuclear deal and if America's terms are viable or not, especially when they talk about developing the pact to include Iran's missile program, the top Russian diplomat says, “As far as I know my colleagues in Vienna are not aware of all the details of possible agreement. It's being facilitated through EU good offices, not Russian.”

Despite U.S. emphasis on its seriousness in nuclear talks, the Russian diplomat says there is no difference between the Biden administration and his predecessor. Biden has not still lifted the sanctions imposed on Iran by Trump. That is what Russian officials complain about.

“We condemn this policy. And so far we don't see any difference between the Trump and Biden administrations in this regard,” Polanski concludes.

**How can non-Western powers collaborate to realize the dream of a multipolar globe instead of an American unipolar world? How can these countries contain unilateral sanctions to get rid of U.S. economic hegemony?**

- We interact in particular in the UN and try to mobilize support for the UN Charter. U.S. economic hegemony is waning in natural way, our task is to strengthen domestic economies and cooperation of like-minded countries

## Hezbollah says third shipment of Iranian fuel is loading

The Secretary-General of Lebanon's Hezbollah resistance movement, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, says a third vessel of Iranian fuel has been agreed with Tehran to ease crippling energy shortages in the country.

In a televised address Nasrallah says “We have agreed to start loading a third vessel,” Nasrallah said.

“The coming days will prove those doubtful about the shipments arriving with fuel wrong ... and our words will be clear when the first vessel reaches Lebanon.”

On Sunday Nasrallah had said the first vessel carrying Iranian fuel for Lebanon had already departed.

Nasrallah also says the United States and Israel have been taken aback by Iran's fuel aid shipments to Lebanon.

Earlier on Friday, Prime Minister-designate Najib Mikati said he was against anything that would harm Lebanon's interests but also asked denounced critics of the Iranian fuel deals calling on them to offer an alternative solution.

Some in Lebanon fear consequences from the purchase, saying it risks sanctions being imposed on a country whose economy has been in meltdown for nearly two years.

Nasrallah blamed the country's financial crisis on an economic siege by the United States adding that the Caesar sanctions act imposed by Washington on Syria had harmed Lebanon.

Following Nasrallah's announcement of fuel deliveries from Iran, the U.S. ambassador offered other ideas to help resolve the energy problem.

Those ideas have been slammed by analysts in Lebanon as time wasting nonsense.

Addressing the United States in his speech, Nasrallah said “Go ahead and give Lebanon an exemption for Iranian gasoline and diesel ... go ahead and give Lebanon an exemption from Caesar”

Lebanon's worsening fuel shortages reached a crunch point this month threatening to bring daily life to a halt. The opening of gasoline and diesel routes from Iran is being seen as a quick fix to the country's energy crisis.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Nasrallah says the United States was behind the creation and funding of the Daesh Takfiri group. Nasrallah cited former U.S. government officials who acknowledged this; both publicly or in declassified documents. This is while the Pentagon claims to be fighting the terrorist group.

It is not the first time accusations have been leveled at Washington and its closest allies in West Asia of creating, backing and funding the Takfiri organization.

Turning to the country's political impasse, Nasrallah urged top politicians to stop debating names for the new Cabinet and urgently form a government. “It is high time this debate now ends” he said.

Lebanon has been run by the caretaker government of Prime Minister Hassan Diab, who resigned with his Cabinet after a massive Beirut port blast ripped through the capital a year ago.

Mikati is the third prime minister-designate since then to attempt to form a government with President Michel Aoun.

## Panjshir, the last anti-Taliban holdout, faces long odds

By Syed Zafar Mehdi

A silent anti-Taliban rebellion is brewing in the rugged mountains of northern Afghanistan's picturesque Panjshir valley, which has traditionally been the fortress of Afghan resistance forces.

The quaint valley nestled in the majestic Hindu Kush Mountains, 150 km north of Kabul, is home to a largely ethnic Tajik population. Known for its lush-green meadows and gushing streams, the valley has long been the graveyard of invaders, from the Greeks to Sikhs, British, Soviets and the Taliban.

According to a fascinating legend, sometime in the 10th century AD, five brothers built a spectacular dam in the valley on the orders of Sultan Mahmud of Ghazni, after which they earned the sobriquet of ‘Panjshir’ (Five Lions). The valley adopted the same name.

Panjshir has over the centuries produced many legendary warriors who single-mindedly resisted and repelled attacks from foreign invaders. They were helped by the valley's unique topography and strategic location, which made the task difficult for powerful invading armies.

When the Soviets went on a rampage in Afghanistan in 1980s, they could not lay siege to this Hindu Kush valley. When the Taliban swept to power in 1990s, the difficult mountainous terrain dissuaded them from making inroads there.

The man who spearheaded the fight, first against the Soviets and then against the Taliban – Ahmed Shah Massoud – came to be known as ‘Sher-e Panjshir’ (The Lion of Panjshir) for his battlefield heroism.

After the Taliban captured Kabul in 1996, Massoud, who was then the Defense Minister in President Burhanuddin Rabbani's government, retreated to Panjshir along with his close associates.

The militant group made stunning advances across the country, but failed to capture Panjshir where the Northern Alliance led by Massoud put up a spirited resistance.

Having earned fame for leading ‘Mujahideen’ fighters against the Soviets in 1980s, resistance against the Taliban, which was led by shadowy figurehead, Mullah Omar, catapulted him to global stardom.

His key ‘jihadi’ associates included those who went on to assume key political positions in years to come – Abdullah Abdullah, Ata Moham-mad Noor, Marshal Fahim, Yunus Qanooni, Abdul Rashim Dostum and Amrullah Saleh.

As fate would have it, Massoud's eventful journey was short-lived.

Two days before the cataclysmic events of 9/11, the legendary anti-Taliban commander was assassinated. Posing as filmmakers, the al-Qaeda assassins sat down with Massoud for an interview before the explosives hidden in the camera and battery pouch blew up everything.

Soon after the 9/11 attacks, then U.S. President George Bush ordered the invasion of Afghanistan on the pretext of taking out the alleged 9/11 mastermind, Osama bin Laden, who was believed to be hiding in the mountains of Afghanistan, hosted by the Taliban.

The Taliban were toppled and Bin Laden was later found in another country, but the foreign invaders refused to end the military occupation of Afghanistan, which eventually paved the way for Taliban's astonishing resurgence. The militant group, which had in 2001 offered to give up arms and recognize the US-backed Hamid Karzai government, in 2021 forced Americans to beat a humiliating retreat.

In recent weeks, as we have seen, the Taliban has made a stunning comeback, toppling the US-backed government in Kabul and seizing control of the war-ravaged country.

The only terrain that is yet to be overrun by the marauding Taliban fighters is the Panjshir valley.

## U.S. Intelligence fails to offer Covid19- origins

In a report summary, U.S. officials say the country's intelligence community has failed to resolve the debate within the Biden administration over whether a Chinese laboratory incident was the source of Covid-19. It says Beijing needs to provide more details.

The report, issued by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence in response to President Joe Biden's request, said a satisfying answer to the question of how a virus started remained out of reach.

The disagreement among organizations within the U.S. intelligence community about the origins of the novel coronavirus will not be welcomed by the White House.

The assessment by U.S. spy agencies delivered didn't find a definitive conclusion on whether the coronavirus jumped to humans naturally, or via a lab leak.

According to the summary, American spy agencies think “natural exposure to an animal infected with it or a close progenitor virus”. Other groups were not able to come to a firm opinion saying

This time it's the son of Ahmed Shah Massoud – Ahmed Massoud – leading new resistance against the same old militant group. There is no Mullah Omar anymore and there is no Northern Alliance either. Massoud's resistance fighters of 1990s have become unscrupulous politicians in 2021.

When the Taliban took power in 1990s, the Northern Alliance was a formidable force, backed by many regional countries. It held much of the country's north, including the strategic Badakhshan province.

This time, the dynamics have changed. The game is heavily tilted in favor of the Taliban, who are at their strongest ever. On the other hand, the Northern Alliance is dead and most of its famed fighters-turned politicians are in hiding. Many of them have tamely surrendered.

The young Massoud, who has his father's one-time allies like former vice president, Amrullah Saleh, and former defense minister, Bismillah Mohammadi, on his side, is banking on the support of local anti-Taliban militia fighters and former Afghan security forces who have found refuge in Panjshir.

The National Resistance Front (NRF), the new avatar of the Northern Alliance, boasts of a large stockpile of equipment, vehicles and weapons to fight the Taliban. There are also unconfirmed reports of helicopters from neighboring Tajikistan delivering arms and ammunition to them.

But the question is: Will Massoud and his associates be able to withstand an attack from a much superior armed force and can they mobilize the kind of support the Northern Alliance had in 1990s?

“We will sacrifice our lives, but we will not sacrifice our land and our honor,” Massoud, the graduate of Kings College and Sandhurst Military Academy, told his supporters in Panjshir earlier this week. He has reportedly built an army of 6,000 fighters.

“We want to make the Taliban realize that the only way forward is through negotiation,” he was quoted as saying in media. “We do not want a war to break out.”

Even with history being on his side and the advantage provided by geography, Massoud realizes that it is an uphill task under present circumstances. War seems to be the last option. He is battling for an “inclusive, broad-based government” in Kabul that represents different ethnic groups.

At the same time, the legacy of his legendary father sits heavily on his young shoulders. He may not like direct military confrontation with the Taliban, but he doesn't want to retreat or surrender.

There are reports that the Taliban fighters are already advancing toward Panjshir. The group has claimed that they are in control of at least three districts around the Hindu Kush valley.

Saleh, who has declared himself the new caretaker president after his boss fled the country, on Tuesday warned the Taliban to “avoid the terrains” to Panjshir, while acknowledging that the militant group has “amassed forces near the entrance of Panjshir.”

He served as Ahmed Shah Massoud's liaising officer with international spy agencies in 1990s and later went on to head Afghanistan's spy agency in mid 2000s. In the last few years, his politics has vacillated between Panjshir and Kabul. To the surprise of many, he became Ghani's running mate in last year's presidential election against his long-time friend and fellow Panjshiri Abdullah Abdullah.

“I will never, ever and under no circumstances bow to the Taliban terrorists. I will never betray the soul and legacy of my hero Ahmad Shah Massoud, the commander, the legend and the guide,” he wrote on Twitter last week, a clear attempt to woo back Panjshiris.

Saleh hasn't publicly backed the Massoud-led resistance, but pictures circulating on social media have shown them holding meetings in their hometown. While both are putting up a tough front, they know odds are heavily against them.

Unless the two warring sides work out a compromise, the Taliban attack on the valley that has become the focal point for resistance against the militant group looks imminent. And this time, the Taliban may create history by traversing the valley's difficult and dangerous terrains.

(Source: Press TV)

more information from China is needed.

The new assessment, which was ordered by Biden 90 days ago, highlights the difficulty facing the U.S. President's administration in politicizing the issue against America's economic rival and super power China.

Beijing has ridiculed the theory that Covid-19 escaped from a lab in Wuhan and has suggested Covid-19 may have slipped out of a lab in Fort Detrick, Maryland, in 2019.

Nevertheless, in the report summary, U.S. officials said only more information from China can help solve questions about the true origins of the virus. Beijing has rejected this, saying it has shown transparency with the World Health Organization.

China's embassy in Washington says “the report by the U.S. intelligence community shows that the U.S. is bent on going down the wrong path of political manipulation... the report by the intelligence community is based on the presumption of guilt on the part of China, and it is only for scapegoating China.”





## Izeh historical sites unaffected by Earth tremor

TEHRAN – No damage to historical sites has been reported as the result of a medium-sized 4.3 magnitude earthquake, which vibrated the ancient city of Izeh in southwestern Khuzestan province on Friday.

“Based on field visits by experts of the province’s Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department, no damage to historical relics and monuments has been reported so far,” Izeh tourism chief, Mehdi Faraji, said on Saturday, CHTN reported.

Buildings in the city, which were constructed of local and traditional materials during the Qajar period (1789-1925), have been abandoned and partially destroyed, so earthquakes here would have devastating consequences, the official added.

While only a few Izeh monuments have been restored to their original beauty, the maintenance and restoration of these structures

remains critical, and they require the support and attention of local and national officials, he noted.

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.

## Shah Abbasi caravanserai undergoes restoration

TEHRAN – One of the once-thriving Shah-Abbasi caravanserais, which is located in the ancient town of Meybod in Yazd province, has undergone some rehabilitation works, Meybod tourism chief announced on Saturday.

The project is aimed to have the historical caravanserai ready for an inspection scheduled to be conducted by a UNESCO-affiliated assessment team, CHTN quoted Mehrdad Zolfaqari as saying.

For possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list, the assessors are scheduled to evaluate the caravanserai in the near future, the official added.

The project involves strengthening the rooftop, walls, rooms using cob materials as well as repairing wooden doors, flooring, gutters, and electricity system, he explained.

The monument is still a lively bustling place being used for the production and marketing of local handicrafts, he mentioned.

The Safavid-era (1501-1736) inn has four porches (iwans), a central courtyard, traditional ice storage (yakhchal), cistern, and some 100 rooms for travelers.

It has been inscribed on the national heritage list.

Shah Abbasi caravanserai of Meybod is one of nine caravanserais from Yazd province being considered for possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list of



Iranian historical caravanserais.

Saryazd, Zeineddin, Qaleh Khar-gushi, and Kermanshahan are among the selected caravanse-rais, scattered across the province, each characterizing a distinctive feature.

According to UNESCO, Meybod is a remarkable example of the viability and transmission of human being’s collective thoughts from different generations to the present one. “What is significant in the city of Meybod is the regularity in city planning. The anatomy and spatial structure of the city show original plans which conform with the old Iranian city planning.”

**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.

In 2019, the tourism ministry announced that Iran is developing a dossier for a selection of its historical caravanseries 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 portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed around the courtyard and stables behind them with doors in the corners of the yard.

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

Such roadside inns were origi-

### Iran’s earliest caravanserais were built during the Achaemenid era (330– 550 BC).

# New study sheds light on second Neanderthal tooth discovered in western Iran

TEHRAN – A new study conducted by a team of archaeologists and paleoanthropologists from Germany, Italy, Iran, and Britain delves into the discovery of an in-situ Neanderthal tooth, which was discovered in 2017 in a rock shelter, western Iran.

The research is described in a paper in the online journal PLOS ONE that was published last Thursday. The tooth, which is a deciduous canine belongs to a 6 years old child, was found at a depth of 2.5 m of the Baba Yawan shelter in association with animal bones and stone tools near Kermanshah.

The analysis that was performed by Stefano Benazzi, a physical anthropologist at the University of Bologna, Italy shows that the tooth has Neanderthal affinities. Stone tools discovered close to the teeth belong to the Middle Paleolithic period and a series of c14 datings suggest the tooth is between 41,000-43,000 years in the age which is close to the end of the Middle Paleolithic period when Neanderthal disappeared in the Zagros.

Fereidoun Biglari, a Paleolithic archaeologist at Iran National Museum, says “this recent discovery, along with other Neanderthal remains previously found in other parts of Zagros, including

Shanidar Cave, Bisotun Cave, and Wezmeh Cave, indicate that Neanderthals were present in a wide geographical range of Zagros from northwest to west of this mountain range since at least 80,000 until about 40,000-45,000 years ago when they disappeared and Homo Sapiens populations spread into the region”.

He added that “Association of Yawan Neanderthal tooth with

Middle paleolithic stone tools known as Zagros Mousterian is a further confirmation of association of this stone tool industry with Neanderthals. Such associations have been observed in Wezmeh where a Neanderthal pre-molar tooth and Zagros Mousterian tools were found in the same cave, and also in the Bisotun cave that was excavated in 1949 by C. Coon. Bisotun produced a human partial radius that most likely belongs to a Neanderthal along with Zagros Mousterian lithics in Middle Paleolithic layers of the site”.

Huw Groucutt, a Paleolithic archaeologist at Max Planck Institute for the Science of Human History, commented on the dat-



File photo depicts a hyperrealistic face of a Neanderthal male

ings provided for the Yawan tooth in his Twitter post “Dating sites like this, with small fragments of charcoal which are highly susceptible to movement and contamination, using the only radiocarbon is challenging”. He added “Nearly half of the radiocarbon dates from the site failed. I am rather dubious about the available dates for ‘Zagros Mousterian’ sites based only on C14. But he added “this is a

great work, thousands of lithics found and a nice Neanderthal tooth. It is crucial though to use other dating techniques where possible. The frequent ca. 45 ka ages in many parts of the world may reflect samples beyond the range with a bit of contamination.”

According to the researchers, Neanderthal extinction has been a matter of debate for many years. New discoveries, better chronologies, and genomic evidence have done much to clarify some of the issues. This evidence suggests that Neanderthals became extinct around 40,000–37,000 years before the present (BP), after a period of coexistence with

Homo sapiens of several millennia, involving biological and cultural interactions between the two groups. However, the bulk of this evidence relates to Western Eurasia, and recent work in Central Asia and Siberia has shown that there is considerable local variation. Southwestern Asia, despite having a number of significant Neanderthal remains, has not played a major part in the debate over extinction.

Yawan is the second Neanderthal tooth that has been discovered in Iran. The first Neanderthal tooth was discovered in the Wezmeh cave near Kermanshah in 2001. This cave is well-known for the discovery of a large number of animal fossils. A recent re-excavation of the cave by Fereidoun Biglari revealed stone tools made by Neanderthals, which shows that the cave was not just a den used by carnivores such as hyenas, lions, wolves, and leopards.

Moreover, the discovery of the third tooth of a 5-7 years old Neanderthal child was announced by a joint Iranian-French team that was discovered in Qal-e Kord near Qazvin in 2019.

These discoveries show that Iran has a rich paleoanthropological record and the country can produce important data in the future.

## Work begins to reinforce Sassanid bridge in western Iran



TEHRAN – A rehabilitation work has been conducted on parts of a long-dead historical arch bridge in Kuhdasht county, western Lorstan province, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

“Some of the pillars of the Sassanid-era (224 CE–651) Shiah Pelleh Bridge are being strengthened as a part of the project,” Seyyed Amin Qasemi said on Saturday.

The project also aims at repairing slices of the deck, the official added.

The material and restoration methods of the project are “traditional” and the bridge is being restored according to international standards, he noted.

The bridge, which is built over the Seymareh River, one of the largest rivers in western Iran, has been designated as a national heritage site.

An arch bridge carries loads primarily by compression, which exerts on the foundation both vertical and horizontal forces. Arch foundations must therefore prevent both vertical settling and horizontal sliding. Despite the more complicated foundation de-

sign, the structure itself normally requires less material than a beam bridge of the same span.

Arch bridges can be classified into deck arch bridges (featuring arches below the deck) and through arch bridges (those with arches above the deck, generally tied arches). In all arch bridges, the structural difficulty can be found in the minimization of the misalignment of the arch axis and the line of thrust, as well as a sufficient bending and buckling resistance. General design recommendations focus principally on the arch-to-span ratio, the arch and deck slenderness, and the number of hangers or piers.

Recent innovative arch bridges include high-speed railway (HSR) bridges, concrete-filled steel tubular and precast concrete arches, high-performance concrete or ultra-high performance concrete arches, and steel-concrete composite arches, and feature innovative erection methods. Recent research has been dedicated to the shape and magnitude of equivalent geometric imperfections, fatigue detailing, erection methods, reduction of the arch’s self-weight, and new materials for arches, hangers, and ties.

Lorestan, which is a region of raw beauty, was inhabited by Iranian Indo-European peoples, including the Medes, c. 1000 BC. Cimmerians and Scythians intermittently ruled the region from about 700 to 625 BC.

The Luristan Bronzes noted for their eclectic array of Assyrian, Babylonian, and Iranian artistic motifs, date from this turbulent period. Lorestan was incorporated into the growing Achaemenid Empire in about 540 BC and successively was part of the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid dynasties.

## 15 historical monuments restored in eastern Iran

TEHRAN –A total of 15 historical buildings and aging structures, which are located in South Khorasan Province, have recently been restored, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

Historical mansions and Hosseinihs – spaces where Shia Muslims come together to observe religious ceremonies – underwent some rehabilitation works in close collaboration with the private sector, Ali Shariatimanesh announced on Saturday.

A budget of 8.25 billion rials (\$196,400 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) was allocated to the renovation projects, he noted.

Reviving such historical sites could help attract more tourists, which in turn could lead to a better economic climate, the official added.

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

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

## Qom province offers specialized tours for administrators, researchers

TEHRAN – Qom province, which embraces various religious, historical, cultural, and natural sites, has arranged a series of specialized tours for administrators, students, and researchers.

“Specific tours and workshops have been organized for administrators, students, and experts in history and sociology,” the deputy provincial tourism chief, Ammar Kavousi, said on Saturday.

Today, the first guided tour of the series was conducted to introduce some religious sites and mausoleums which are capped with conical domes, the official said.

Tours dedicated to historical houses and mansions as well as the ones devoted to historical Ab-Anbars (cisterns) will be conducted in the near future, he said.

Situated adjacent to salt-covered deserts, golden dunes, running sands, and jagged mountains, Qom is home to the shrine of Hazrat-e Masumeh (SA) and major re-

ligious madrasas (schools).

Apart from sightseers and pilgrims who visit Qom to pay homage, it is also a top destination for Shia scholars and students who come from across the world to learn Islamic studies at its madrasas and browse through eminent religious bookshops. Here is a selection of things to see and do in Qom:

The imposing shrine tends to fly under the radar, but it is one of Iran’s most stunning mosques. Named for a sister of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Shia Imam whose shrine is located in Mashhad, the geometric shapes and floral motifs of the shrine have a distinctly feminine touch, making you want to linger outside a bit longer to admire the tiles. The interior of this spacious shrine is immaculately decorated and has many notable burials on-site, ranging from royalty and political figures to clerics and scholars.

Bazaars are the beating heart of



Iranian cities, and the one in Qom is no different. Divided into two parts, the old section dates from the Safavid era (about four centuries ago) and appears more like an exhibition of handicrafts, while the new sec-

tion was developed and expanded in the 19th century.

Nestled in a small garden are three 13th-century tower-like mausoleums built for members of the House of Safi, who ruled Qom in the 14th century. The two turquoise-colored coned domes and one round dome are 12-sided on the exterior but octagonal inside. Intricate brickwork, as well as Thuluth and Kufic calligraphy, are just some of the similarities they bear to Soltaniyeh Dome in Zanjan, from which they’re believed to have been inspired.

Another destination could be Yazdanpanah House, which dates back to the late Qajar and early Pahlavi era. This 120-year-old mansion is divided into separate wings to account for the changing temperatures throughout the year. Elaborately designed columns, windows, and wind towers stand out against the simple mud-brick building. It’s a spacious yet cozy

place to enjoy a Persian meal, particularly the traditional dizi stew or kebabs, followed by tea prepared over a charcoal fire.

Jamkaran Mosque, which is a popular place of pilgrimage for Shia Muslims, was originally constructed in the 1730s and expanded over the years. The brickwork iwans, multi-colored tiles, and Thuluth calligraphy become especially picturesque at night when floodlights illuminate the complex and give it a spiritual radiance. Pilgrims frequenting this mosque write their wishes on a piece of paper and drop it down the mosque’s well to have it answered by the 12th Imam.

One of the most visited natural spots of Qom is Hoz-e Soltan, an eye-catching salt lake is in the middle of the desert. The visitors could easily walk in the shallow parts and enjoy the shapes created by the salt, however, the center of the lake could be dangerous, as it is muddy and could easily trap people.



# IFRC allocates \$850,000w to help Iran combat drought

TEHRAN - The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) has allocated \$850,000 to Iran to help the country implement programs to deal with drought.

The budget will be solely spent on projects which have been approved by the IFRC, Hassan Esfandiari, an official with the Iranian Red Crescent Society, told IRNA on Saturday.

The funding will be channeled through to the provinces of Hormozgan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Kerman, and South Khorasan, which have been affected the most by drought, he explained.

In addition to drought, the fifth wave of coronavirus and the inflow of Afghan refugees has exacerbated living conditions in the mentioned regions, he added.

On August 24, the IRCS started a campaign for the fourth time with the aim of providing sustainable water in four provinces suffering from drought.

The long-standing 20-year-old drought in the region is forcing many to have to provide their water from tank trucks delivering water to the areas.

The campaign, called Nazr-e Ab (literally meaning water donation), was launched three years ago, following the drought crisis in the southern and southeastern provinces of the country, with the aim of supplying fresh water to deprived areas with the help of the people and the IRCS.



It was first held in August 2018, in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan which went into trouble after the Hamoun wetland drained and the rainless sky left many in dire need of drinking water.

The campaign has two main aspects; the first one centers on water supply issues including desalination of water, rehabilitation of qanats,

improving wells and water quality, filtering and sanitation of reservoirs. And the second aspect focuses on health issues including health care services, free diagnosis, and providing food packages to the deprived.

Through the fourth phase of the campaign, water supply operations will be carried out in 333 villages of Sistan-Baluchestan, South Khorasan, Kerman, and Hormozgan provinces by September 22.

Last year, the campaign was launched with a budget of 120 billion rials (nearly \$2.8 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials).

In April, Abolghasem Hosseinpour, director of flood control at Forests, Rangelands, and Watershed Management Organization, said that Iran will probably experience drought over the current [Iranian calendar] year (began on March 21), as only four provinces out of 31 provinces of the country received normal rainfall last year.

Given that Iran is an arid and semi-arid region, the rainfall rate is low, in other words, the fluctuations of rainfall vary significantly from year to year, he added.

Over the last two years, Iran was doused with rain which was unprecedented during the past 50 years, but last year, the country faced drought, which shows a 40 percent decrease in rainfall, he explained.

Watershed management is a solution to strengthen the ecosystem in the face of subsequent droughts by penetrating rainfall into the ground.

According to the World Meteorological Organization's multiannual forecast, in the next five years, Iran's average rainfall will decline by 75 percent, and the temperature rises by 50-75 percent compared to the long-term average.

## COVID-19 and Afghan refugees have worsened the situation in drought-stricken areas.

## Coronavirus vaccination not an obstacle for blood donation



TEHRAN - Those people who have injected a coronavirus vaccine can also donate their blood and there are no obstacles in this regard, Bashir Haji-Beigi, the Blood Transfusion Organization spokesman, said on Saturday.

People who have received AstraZeneca and Sputnik vaccines can donate blood 28 days after vaccination, he said, adding, but those who have been injected with Sinopharm, Sinovac, and Barekat vaccines can refer to blood donation centers as soon as their symptoms such as pain, fever, and faintness are removed.

Over the first three months of the current [Iranian calendar] year (started March 21), some 510,000 people donated blood across the country, Haji-Beigi said in July.

Blood donation over the aforementioned period

has increased by 15 percent compared to the same period last year, he added.

"During this period, the provinces of Qazvin, Khuzestan, and Khorasan Razavi had the highest growth rate of blood donation in the country."

He went on to say that the index of regular blood donation in the country was estimated at 57 percent and the highest rate was related to the provinces of Semnan, Yazd, and Bushehr.

**Over 2.1m Iranians donate blood per year**

Blood donation in Iran has long been done voluntarily as over 2.1 million Iranians donate blood annually, Haji-Beigi said on June 14.

There are currently 178 blood donation centers in the country, with Fars, Khorasan Razavi, Khuzestan, Tehran, and Mazandaran provinces having the largest number of blood donation centers, he stated.

Highest blood donation in Eastern Mediterranean

While blood donation in 70 countries still depends on replacement or paid donors, Iran is the first country in the region that has enjoyed voluntary blood do-

nation by 100 percent since 2007.

More than 85 percent of all donated blood worldwide is used to produce blood products, while the rate is 65 percent in Eastern Mediterranean countries. Iran ranks among the highest-income countries in terms

of converting more than 97 percent of the blood donated by people to plasma-derived medicinal products (PDMP).

Only 55 of 171 countries produce PDMP through the fractionation of plasma collected in the reporting country. A total of 90 countries reported that all PDMP are imported, 16 countries reported that no PDMP was used during the reporting period, and 10 countries did not respond to the question, according to WHO.

Iran currently has the highest blood donation rate in the Eastern Mediterranean region so that out of 9.9 million blood donation units in this region, more than two million belongs to Iran.

Also, the index of blood donation is 25 per 1,000 populations, while in the member states of the Eastern Mediterranean region, this number is 14.9 per 1000.

## Half a million Iranians donated blood in March-June this year.

## Smuggled goods, currency worth \$65m discovered in week

TEHRAN - Over the past week, smuggled goods and currency worth 2,733 billion rials (nearly \$65 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) have been discovered in the country, police official Mohammadreza Moqimi announced on Saturday.

A total of 12,431 million items of smuggled goods along with 1,256 million liters of smuggled fuel and 783 smuggled cars were seized

during the mentioned period, he added, IRNA reported.

In this regard, 1,310 culprits have been arrested and handed over to the judicial authorities, he noted.

Every year, \$20-25 billion are smuggled in and out of the country, which, if stopped, will create hundreds of thousands of jobs, Hassan Norouzi, a member of the parliament, said.

In the Iranian calendar year 1396 (March 2017-March 2018), \$12 billion was smuggled into Iran and \$900 million out of the country, according to the Headquarters for Combating the Smuggling of Commodities and Foreign Exchange.

Iran, which has a 900-kilometer border with Afghanistan, has been used as the main conduit for smuggling Afghan drugs to nar-

cotics kingpins in Europe.

Despite high economic and human costs, Iran has been actively fighting drug trafficking over the past decades.

In June 2020, the first phase of the national anti-smuggling plan was implemented with the priority given to customs, tobacco, and transit goods.

## Over 564,000 passengers tested for COVID-19 at borders

TEHRAN - A total of 564,348 passengers have so far been screened for coronavirus at the country's official borders since March 10, Mehdi Valipour, head of Relief and Rescue Organization affiliated to the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), said on Saturday.

During the aforesaid period, 62,641 passengers with symptoms underwent PCR tests and 80,310 underwent rapid tests, he added, IRNA reported.

He went on to lament that 120 individuals, who tested positive, have so far been temporarily quarantined.

Some 471 members of the IRCS cooperate for carrying out the plan in 16 provinces across the country, Valipour concluded.

With the cooperation of ministries of health and transport, a plan is being implemented with the goal of rapidly identifying and testing incoming passengers and keeping them in quarantine facilities, if necessary.

Thirty border checkpoints have been selected, including 18 land borders, nine air borders, and three sea borders, all incoming passengers will be tested and referred to the quarantine facilities in case of necessity.

Around 8,000 individuals enter the country via borders on a daily basis.

## Some 120 individuals, who tested positive, have been temporarily quarantined.

All travelers to Iran must have a negative PCR test certificate or a health card during the Covid-19 pandemic, IRINN reported on August 22.

Due to the prevalence of delta variant, negative PCR test is also mandatory for vaccinated passengers, Mohammad Reza Seif, head of safety and quality assurance department of Imam Khomeini Airport Town Co, said.

All passengers entering Iran, even if they have been vaccinated and have a vaccination card, must have a negative test result, he stated.



## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### Lake Urmia water level keeps rising

The level of water at Lake Urmia is on the rise, as increased by a 1.7 billion cubic meters compared to the previous year, according to the studies conducted by the Lake Urmia restoration program committee.

The lake is expected to reach its ecological level (1,274 meters) within 10 years by completing the restoration plans which started four years ago.

Farhad Sarkhosh, head of the Lake Urmia restoration program's office in West Azarbaijan province, said the lake's level has reached 1,271 meters, adding the figure has increased by 68 centimeters compared to last year, according to the latest survey.

He said that the lake surface area has reached 2,828 square kilometers, adding that the figure is increased by 689 square kilometers compared to the same period last year.

### روند صعودی تراز دریاچه ارومیه

تراز دریاچه ارومیه روند صعودی به خود گرفته است به طوری که حجم آب دریاچه در مقایسه با سال گذشته یک میلیارد و ۷۰۰ میلیون مترمکعب افزایش یافته‌است. دریاچه ارومیه از اواسط دهه ۱۳۸۰ شروع به خشک شدن کرد و بنا بر آمار بین‌المللی تا سال ۲۰۱۵ میلادی حدود ۸۰ درصد از مساحت آن خشک شد.

این دریاچه در قالب طرح‌های احیا قرار است ظرف مدت ۱۰ سال ۱/۱۳۹۴ به تراز اکولوژیک خود (یک‌هزار و ۲۷۴ متر) برسد.

به گزارش ایرنا، فرهاد سرخوش رئیس دفتر استانی ستاد احیای دریاچه ارومیه در آذربایجان غربی با اشاره به ثبت تراز یک‌هزار و ۲۷۱ متر و ۳۰ سانتی‌متری طبق آخرین پایش برای دریاچه ارومیه اظهار داشت ارتفاع دریاچه نسبت به سال گذشته ۶۸ سانتی‌متر بیشتر شده‌است.

وی با بیان اینکه مساحت دریاچه به ۲ هزار و ۸۲۸ کیلومترمربع رسیده، بیان کرد این رقم نسبت به زمان مشابه سال گذشته ۶۸۹ کیلومترمربع افزایش نشان می‌دهد.

## Russian oblast seeks to bolster technological cooperation with Iran



*Iranian Ambassador to Moscow Kazem Jalali (C) paid a visit on Saturday to Technoprom-2021 being held in Novosibirsk.*

From page 1 ► Mehdi Ghalehnoei, an official with the vice presidency for science and technology, has said last [Iranian calendar] year (March 2020-March 2021), knowledge-based companies gained about \$800 million in revenue from export, and in the current year, the figure is projected to reach up to \$2 billion.

Africa, neighboring countries, Southeast Asia and Eurasia are our export target priorities, and we hope to create Iranian innovation and technology in all these areas, he added.

**Innovation in Iran developed rapidly in 5 years**

Knowledge-based companies and creative startups have grown over the past five years, and Iran has risen 45 places in the Global Innovation Index, according to the UNESCO 2021 Report.

The Global Innovation Index in Iran from 2015 to 2019 has risen from 106 to 61 with continuous improvement, showing 45 steps growth.

The development of accelerators and innovation centers over the last five years has led to a rapid increase in startups and knowledge-based companies.

Between 2014 and 2017, exports of knowl-

edge-based goods grew by a factor of five, before slumping in 2018 after the U.S. withdrew from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (2015), commonly referred to as the nuclear deal, and re-imposed sanctions.

The report states that innovation in Iran has developed rapidly over the past five years, and by the end of last year, 49 accelerators and 113 innovation centers had provided services to start-ups with the participation of the private sector.

## Over 7,000 knowledge-based companies are active in the country.

**Knowledge-based companies**

Despite sanctions putting pressure on the country, a unique opportunity was provided for business development and the activity of knowledge-based companies in the country.

Currently, over 7,000 knowledge-based companies are active in the country, manufacturing diverse products to meet the needs of the domestic market while saving large amounts of foreign currency.

The fields of aircraft maintenance, steel, pharmaceuticals, and medical equipment, oil, and gas are among the sectors that researchers in technology companies have engaged in, leading to import reduction.

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON AUGUST 28

New cases	26,034
New deaths	614
Total cases	4,985,448
Total deaths	105,901
New hospitalized patients	4,002
Patients in critical condition	7,845
Total recovered patients	4,117,098
Diagnostic tests conducted	28,556,919
Doses of vaccine injected	25,608,505



TEHRAN TIMES





Tehrantimes79

www.tehrantimes.com

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Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430  
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807  
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran    P.o. Box: 14155-4843    Zip Code: 1599814713

AUGUST 29, 2021

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

That knowledge which remains only on your tongue is very superficial. The intrinsic value of knowledge is that you act upon it.  
**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times» Noon:13:05    Evening: 19:54    Dawn: 5:07 (tomorrow)    Sunrise: 6:35 (tomorrow)

## History of art in Iran: Sassanid period

Part 7  
**Wall paintings and graffiti**  
Literary sources mention the decoration of palaces with wall paintings but only a few fragmentary murals from Susa, Ayvan-e Karkheh, and from Hesar offer evidence for the appearance of works in this medium.

The painting from Susa is a monumental hunting scene. At Ayvan-e Karkheh, a royal headdress was depicted on the upper part of an apse. The fragments of Hesar illustrate the head of a horse and the leg of a rider. Recently excavated murals of Hajiabad in southern Iran near Darabgerd also illustrate figural motifs.

A crude fresco with battle scenes and a banquet was found in the Syrian city of Dura Europos. Middle Persian inscriptions associate it with the period of the 3rd century Sassanid occupation at this garrison city on the Euphrates River.

Graffiti at Persepolis belong to the decades immediately preceding the rise of the dynasty under Ardashir I. The representations include equestrian and standing figures as well as a lion and ram.

**Mosaics**  
Although mosaics have survived in greater quantity than textiles and paintings, they come almost exclusively from a single site, Bishapur, where eighteen panels with masks and heads, female dancers, musicians, and garland makers have been excavated.

Ghirshman interprets these 3rd century scenes as Dionysiac motifs and believes them to be an appropriate subject for the decoration of a banquet hall. Von Gall has suggested that there is a specific connection between the themes appearing on the mosaics and the victory reliefs of Shahpur I in the nearby river gorge and considers both series of monuments illustrations of a Dionysiac pomp or victory celebration.

At Ctesiphon, mosaics decorated the walls and ceilings of the noble residences. Some of the cubes recovered by the German expedition are made of gold glass and the original effect must have been impressive.

Syrian craftsmen from Antioch, brought east as prisoners of war in the 3rd and 6th centuries, probably played an important role in the development of this craft within the Sassanid kingdom.

**Gold**  
References to gold received by the Sassanids as tribute and booty abound in the ancient literature, but there was no substantial source of gold within the lands permanently under Sassanid rule.

This situation may explain the fact that there was never an extensive gold coinage and that the court plate was made of gilded silver.

A few gold vessels of late Sassanid date come from the tomb of a Khazar chieftain in Pereshchepina in the Caucasus. More numerous are the golden belts and swords found by chance in recent years on Iranian soil.

The form of the swords, with P shaped mounts on one side of the scabbard, differs from those appearing on early Sassanid rock reliefs. This distinctive form of suspension was adopted by the Sassanids possibly as early as the 5th century from the Hephthalites but certainly by the 6th century from Turkic invaders in the lands northeast of Iran.

**Glass and pottery**  
Excavations by a Tokyo University expedition in the area of Daylaman in northwestern Iran and by an Italian mission at Choche in southern Iraq have provided some information concerning the chronology and typology of Sassanid glass and pottery.

Strong influence from the Mediterranean world is apparent in the forms and designs of the glass ware, an industry prominent in the east Roman empire.

The large number of Sassanid glasses

decorated with wheel cut facets suggests that this form of surface embellishment was particularly popular within Iran, the alleged source of most vessels with wheel cut designs.

Early Sassanid ceramics continue many of the traditional Parthian forms. Monochrome glazed wares are common in Iraq and in those areas of Iran, around Susa, that are naturally an extension of the Tigris Euphrates valley.

Other Iranian wares of Sassanid date have a red burnished surface. Until extensive excavations have been undertaken in Sassanid sites in different parts of Iran and Iraq, it is impossible to reconstruct a comprehensive ceramic typology and establish a chronological sequence for the period.

**Conclusion**  
Sassanid art is an expression of the social and religious institutions that developed in Iran during the first half of the first millennium A.D.

A powerful central authority, the monarchy, and an established state religion, Zoroastrianism, dominated and ordered daily life. In Sassanid art, there is a clear emphasis on order and clarity of design.

Considerable repetition occurs in the subject matter and in the ways of portraying standard motifs.

To some extent this can be explained by the fact that many of the surviving works of art had a particular political or cultic significance, and their appearance was regulated by the demands of dynastic or religious doctrine.

The adherences to formal rather than realistic images predominates even in the minor arts, on seal stone, bronzes, and textiles.

Although many Sassanid motifs are familiar from earlier periods of Near Eastern art, plant forms, rams confronting a tree, human headed winged bulls, bull and lion combats, birds of prey attacking animals, there are a number of designs newly adopted from Western sources, populated vine scrolls, vintaging scenes, winged victory figures.

Toward the end of the period, influences from the East—India and Central Asia—increase. These regions may be the source of the narrative and genre scenes appearing on some late silver plate.

It is also probable that many of the Greco Roman designs reached the Sassanids from their eastern neighbors rather than directly from the Mediterranean world. In return, Sassanid landscape, geometric, and figural patterns were adopted and used in the art of Central Asia.

At present, only those monuments reflecting the life and beliefs of the ruling classes have been recovered and studied in depth.

Future archeological excavations in Sassanid sites may provide a better understanding of the material remains and broaden our knowledge of the art of this important period in Iranian history.

Photo: A Sassanid mosaic art discovered in Bishapur.

Highlight: Sassanid art is an expression of the social and religious institutions that developed in Iran.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica  
Concluded

# Afghan father’s text message inspires Persian poetry collection

TEHRAN – A short text message sent by an afghan father in desperate search for his child at Kabul University after the ISIS terrorist attack on the university in November 2020 has inspired a Persian poetry collection.

“My Beloved, Where Are You?” has been released by Sureh-Mehr, a major publishing house affiliated with the Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization.

The collection carries 115 works by various poets, selected by Zahra Hosseinzadeh.

Several gunmen attacked Kabul University, shooting at students in their classrooms and clashing with security forces for hours on November 2, 2020.

At least 22 people were killed and 22 others wounded when gunmen stormed the university in a brutal assault.

Some of the students had calls from their mothers and fathers. One of the victims had 142 missed calls, and there was a final text message that read, “My beloved, where are you?”

The brutal attack has been strongly condemned around the world.

The message was also the theme of the Afghanistan Art Week organized by the Iranian National Commission for UNESCO in Tehran in December 2020.

Cover of the poetry collection “My Beloved, Where Are You?”.

Iranian artists have always shown a reaction to the oppression of Afghan people in various periods of history.

In May, Oscar-nominated Iranian filmmaker Majid Majidi strongly criticized the world for not speaking out against the bomb attack outside the Sayed Al-Shuhada School in

Afghanistan in the Afghan capital of Kabul that claimed the lives of over 60 people including schoolgirls.

“I regret having to live in a time when justice is a meaningless word in this age of futility... I wish we had died and not seen the death of justice and humanity, and we would not have witnessed such

tragic silence over the sad martyrdom of dozens of oppressed girls from the Afghan Hazara community,” he wrote in a statement.

In addition, Iranian pianist Bardia Sadrenoori released a single titled “Afghan Child” in memory of the children killed in the terrorist attack on the school.

## Arvand Dashtaray to stage Florian Zeller’s “Father” in Tehran

TEHRAN – Iranian stage director Arvand Dashtaray plans to stage French writer and director Florian Zeller’s acclaimed psychological drama “The Father” in Tehran.

Dashtaray, who has earlier worked on several international theater productions such as “Reconsider Your Image of Me” and “Zero”, has started rehearsals with a cast leading by renowned Iranian actor Reza Kainian, who will star as Anthony.

Kianian has previously worked “The Improvisation”, a play that Dashtaray staged at Tehran’s Nazerzadeh Kermani Hall in October 2019. Dutch writer Marene van Holk also collaborated in this production as an artistic advisor.

“The Father” will be performed after the government eases the curbs on regular activities in the new wave of COVID-19, Dashtaray announced in a press release published on Saturday.

Written in 2012, the play follows Anthony, an aging man who must deal with his progressing dementia.

In 2020, Zeller directed a screen adaptation of the play, starring Anthony Hopkins, Olivia Colman, Mark Gatiss, Imogen Poots, Rufus Sewell, and Olivia Williams.

It is the second adaptation of the play after the 2015 film “Floride”.

Dashtaray’s latest production “Zero” was live streamed for Dutch theatergoers on March 5. The play written by Shahab Mehraban was staged at the Koninklijke Schouwburg, a theater in the city center of The Hague.

The play was a co-production between the Virgule Film & Performing Arts Company in Tehran and STET, the English Theatre in The Hague.

Robin Steegman was the actor of the monologue, which tells how human identity has been reduced to numbers.

The play is a monologue trilogy that criticizes the double standard of the world, and Europe in particular, toward emigrants.

“In the first episode, the play revolves around a Turkish actor who lives in the Netherlands, the second episode is about a Dutch actor in Iran, and the third part centers on a Dutchman who has chosen to live in Iran,” Dashtaray earlier stated.

“This play is a protest against the double standard toward emigrants, and I thought that it might be deemed offensive by Dutch theatergoers, but this was not the case, and the play was really helpful,” he added.

He also directed “Reconsider Your Image of Me”, a co-production between the English Theatre STET from The Hague, Netherlands and the Virgule Performance Arts Company from Iran, at Tehran’s

Iranian directed Arvand Dashtaray in an undated photo.

City Theater Complex in September 2016.

The play questions the images that we have of others and challenges the current state and impact of theater and art in our global society.

## Lisbon horror film festival to screen “The Night”, “Eaten”

TEHRAN – The 15th edition of the MOTELX – Lisbon International Horror Film Festival will screen “The Night” and “Eaten” from Iranian filmmakers.

“The Night”, a co-production between Iran and the U.S. directed by Kurosh Ahari will compete in the official section of the Portuguese festival, which will take place in Lisbon from September 7 to 13.

The film is about an exhausted couple, Babak, Neda and their baby, that decide to spend the night at the grand, but mysterious, Hotel Normandie after a night out with friends. Over the course of a seemingly endless night, mysterious disturbances ruin their night’s rest when Babak and Neda quickly realize they are trapped by a malevolent force that yearns for the dark secrets they have hidden from each other.

Shahab Hosseini acts in a scene from “The Night” by Iranian director Kurosh Ahari.

As his debut film, Ahari shot “The Night” in LA and spoken in Farsi, with great affinities to Stanley Kubric’s

1980 horror film “The Shining”.

The film stars Shahab Hosseini, the winner of the best actor award at Cannes 2016 for “The Salesman” by Asghar Farhadi.

The story of the short animated film “Eaten” is set on a mysterious, unknown planet, where a rabbit-like creature is eaten by a wolf. It meets another rabbit-like creature in the wolf’s stomach and they begin a new life with each other, but that’s not the end of the story.

Directed by Mohsen Rezapur, the film has been screened at numerous international festivals.

It garnered the Children’s Prize at the Black Movie International Independent Film Festival in Geneva, Switzerland in March.

The movie also won an honorable mention at the 26th Golden Beggar

International Film Festival in Slovakia in 2020.

Rezapur received the special jury award for “Eaten” at the 11th Tehran International Animation Festival in Tehran in 2019.

In a statement published by the organizers of the 15th edition of the MOTELX – Lisbon International Horror Film Festival, they said, “Fifteen years ago, we inaugurated a festival under the aegis of ‘each session, a festival’, to make the most of the celebration of a genre that is not very representative of Portuguese cinema.”

“After all these editions, we feel we are living in an era in which producing horror films has become a necessity to try to understand this new reality offered to us by the pandemic, wars, and climate change,” they added.

## “Slaughter”, “Psycho” to compete in Riurau Film Festival

“Slaughter” co-directed by Saman Hosseinpur and Ako Zandkarimi.

TEHRAN – Iranian shorts “Slaughter” and “Psycho” will be competing in the Riurau Film Festival, which will take place in the

Spanish city of Denia on September 1 and 2.

“Slaughter” co-directed by Saman Hosseinpur, Ako Zandkarimi is about

Qasem, who is forced to sell their cow during a particularly harsh winter in the village. But before he could butcher it, his son who loves the cow has freed the cow, and now Qasem must launch a search to find the missing cow.

The film was selected best Asian narrative at the Global University Film Awards (GUFA) in 2020 in Hong Kong. It also won Hosseinpur and Zandkarimi the award for best director.

Directed by Mostafa Davtalab, “Psycho” tells the story of a couple, a young woman and her mentally-ill husband, who take a cab to a psychiatric hospital.

The Riurau Film Festival (RRFF)

was established by the non-profit association Escola de Cinema Riurau (ECRR) in 2012 with the aim of offering a space for meeting, dissemination, development and competition to short filmmakers from all over the world. It has its origin in the Fes De Curts festival in Dénia in 2011.

The Associació Escola De Cinema Riurau (ECRR) was created in 2007 to provide accessible audiovisual literacy to the Marina Alta region.

The ECRR currently teaches film courses in Denia and Xabia/Javea. Students who finish their work each year are automatically invited to showcase their works at the festival.