

# Iran embarks on a new regional policy

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## Interview



*Ties between Israel and Persian Gulf monarchies take place in dark: Scottish activist*

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN - An anti-racist activist from Scotland says Israel and most Persian Gulf Arab states have clandestine relations.

"Naturally most of these relations between Israel and the (Persian) Gulf monarchies take place in the dark and so it's difficult to gauge their extent," Mick Napier tells the Tehran Times.

"We know however that the UAE hired an Israeli American mercenary company, Spear Operations, to carry out a program of killing political figures, members of the Al Islah Party in Yemen who were opposed to the UAE military presence in the country," adds Napier.

Nobody doubts that Persian Gulf Arab countries are competing to earn modern technologies of espionage. It is safe to say that they may have gained access to Israel's technological skills, including Pegasus, to spy on their foes and dissidents.

"Knowing that Israel and the UAE cooperated on an assassination program against political figures in Yemen we can safely conclude that their collaboration on matters of repression and illegal surveillance goes much further," the Scottish activist notes.

Napier says, "Just on the last few days, NSO's Pegasus spyware has been shown to have infected the phones of nine activists in Bahrain opposed to the Royal dictatorship."

"There is no doubt that Israel will continue not only to repress and kill Palestinians but also to profit worldwide from the sale of the skills and technology they have developed to do so," he argues.

Actually, the spyware is used to collect information about journalists and rights activists, especially in Arab monarchies that have normalized their ties with Israel. ► Page 5

## Permanent exhibitions of knowledge-based companies to be set up in 7 countries

TEHRAN - Iran National Innovation Fund has embarked on establishing permanent exhibitions in seven countries to showcase products of domestic knowledge-based companies.

The exhibitions will be set up in Turkey, Syria, Russia, Iraq, Kenya, the United Arab Emirates, and India, IRNA quoted Marziyeh Shaverdi, an official with the Fund as saying.

The Fund has held a total of 163 exhibitions overseas since March 2019 in the fields of communication and information technology, oil and gas, health, transportation, agriculture, energy, mining, textile, and food industries, she explained.

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 knowledge-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 increase in exports, as well as their focus and encouragement to increase production and provide knowledge-based services in the country, are examples of this rapid growth. ► Page 7



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## Iranian judo athletes win two gold medals at Paralympics 2020

TOKYO - Iranian judo athletes Vahid Nouri and Mohammadreza Kheirollahzadeh won two gold medal at the 2020 Paralympic Games on Sunday.

Iran's Nouri wins gold in judo in Paralympics 2020

Nouri seized the gold in the men's -90kg weight category.

He defeated Brazilian Cavalcante da Silva Arthur by ippon. The Iranian judoka also emerged victorious over French athlete Helios

Latchoumanaya by waza-ari in a close bout.

Nouri finally defeated Elliot Stewart by ippon in the final match and seized a gold.

Kheirollahzadeh also won a gold in judo in the men's +100kg weight category. ► Page 3

## Issuance of industrial unit establishment permits up over 13% in 4 months

TEHRAN - According to the latest data released by Iran's Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry, during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22) 2,169 permits have been issued for establishing new industrial units in the country, which marked a 13.3-percent increase year on year.

The estimated investment making for these units was more than 858.7 trillion rials (about \$20.4 billion), 174.8 percent more than the figure for the previous year's same time span, IRNA reported.

The units are going to create 54,000 job opportunities to register a 46-percent rise compared

to the last year's same four months.

As announced by Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki, the issuance of establishment licenses for industrial units in the country increased 40 percent in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

"The number of establishment licenses increased to more than 36,000 last year, which shows that people are encouraged to invest in the productive sectors", the official has stated.

He also said that over 6,500 new industrial units were established across the country during the past year, which created jobs for over 121,000 people.

The official further said that 1,500 idle industrial units have been revived in the country during the previous year.

Touching upon the Industry Ministry's plans for the realization of the motto of the current year which is named the year of "Production: support and the elimination of obstacles" by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, the deputy minister said: "In the year that has been dedicated to the production sector by the Leader of the revolution, the orientation of all government organizations and executive bodies should be towards supporting the country's industrial and mining units." ► Page 4

## Lavish gifts: 10 souvenir ideas your family & friends will love

TEHRAN - Tired of bringing home the same old magnets and postcards from your trips? On your next trip to Iran, bring home something they'll (or you'll) not only love but also be able to make good use of.

Also, many people like to take a little something home with them as a reminder of where they have been. Not to mention, displaying such a memento around the home can be a great conversation starter when you have guests. Here are 10 great Iranian souvenirs to take home:

### Minakari

Minakari is the ancient art of painting natural motifs such as flowers and birds on the surface of metals, mostly copper. It is generally crafted in Isfahan.

Over the ages, the art of Minakari has fascinated many famed people including French traveler Jean Chardin and American orientalist Arthur Pope. The prices are diverse, therefore you can either spend a lot or little money on these special pieces of art. ► Page 6



## Mohammad Eslami appointed Iran's nuclear chief

TEHRAN - In a decree on Sunday, President Ebrahim Raisi appointed Mohammad Eslami as vice president and chief of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI).

Eslami was born in 1956 in Isfahan. He got his BS in civil engineering from Detroit University in 1979 and master's degree in the same field from Ohio University in 1981. He also got MBA in global aviation management from the University of Sharif and Royal Rhodes University in 2004. ► Page 2

## TENDER INVITATION NO. 1400-1008

IRAN ALUMINIUM COMPANY (IRALCO) would like to invite eligible suppliers for the supply of 60 MT Aluminum -Titanium Boron (AL-Ti-B) on tender basis.

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NO.49, Mollasadra Ave., Vanak Square, Tehran- Iran, Postal code: 1991614581

Name of office: Managing Director Office, Iranian Aluminum Company. Fax: +98 21 88049028 Tel: +98 21 88049024

For obtaining tender's documents and more information, please check: [www.iralco.ir](http://www.iralco.ir)

Public Relations Department of Iran Aluminum Company



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## Ten lessons to be learned from the U.S. disastrous war on Afghanistan

By Andrew Korybko

The U.S. panicked retreat from Afghanistan following the Taliban's complete takeover of the country leaves many lessons to be learned from America's longest-ever war. Tens of thousands of lives were lost and over \$2 trillion was wasted only for the situation to revert back to how it was almost exactly twenty years ago. Now's the time for its decision makers, strategists, media, and civil society to soberly reflect on what went wrong in the hopes that nothing like this ever happens again. Here are the ten lessons to be learned:

*Legitimate anti-terrorist actions mustn't be exploited for ulterior motives*

The U.S. had the international legal right to militarily respond against Al Qaeda in Afghanistan out of self-defense after it concluded that the terrorist group's leader there was responsible for planning the 9/11 terrorist attacks, but its greatest mistake was exploiting this as the pretext to engage in so-called "nation-building".

*"Nation-building" will never succeed*

It's impossible to sustainably support the cause of so-called "nation-building" whereby a foreign country aggressively imposes its completely different way of life onto a targeted state's inhabitants who historically organized their society on the basis of other morals, ethics, principles, and values.

*Local allies must be held to account*

After regrettably getting caught up in the Afghan quagmire, America had the responsibility to hold its allies there to account instead of letting them steal from their people, enrich themselves from the drug trade and other forms of organized crime, and carry out extrajudicial killings on the pretext of targeting the Taliban. ► Page 5

## Nationwide U.S. protests against voting rights

Tens of thousands of people have staged protests in Washington and dozens of other U.S. cities to protest against laws in several Republican-led states that critics say will make it harder for minorities to vote.

In 1965, the U.S. Congress adopted the Voting Rights Act, meant to ban discriminatory election measures.

However, since then some states, mainly in the South, passed often technical changes that ultimately made it harder for African Americans and other minority groups, who tend to be reliably Democratic, to vote.

Those measures have seen a sharp rise as former President Donald Trump hammered away at the allegation that massive voting fraud had cost him victory in the November 2020 presidential election.

The huge rallies aim to pressure lawmakers to pass legislation to challenge a wave of ballot restrictions in the Republican-led states. Organizers did not pick the date of the demonstrations by coincidence either.

Thousands converged on the nation's capital to demand the protection of voting rights, walking in the footsteps of the 250,000 people who historically marched on Washington 58 years before for a massive civil rights rally highlighted by the Martin Luther King Jr.'s famous "I have a dream" speech. ► Page 5



## Iran's drones have customers in the world: ex-defense minister



TEHRAN - Former defense minister Amir Hatami said on Saturday that Iran's arms exports in the previous Iranian calendar year 1399 amounted twice the year before.

The year 1398 fell between March 2019-March 2020, and the year 1399 between March 2020-March 2021.

Hatami said this took place despite all hostilities against Iran.

The former defense chief went on to say that now Iran exports arms to 42 countries, adding Iran's drones have customers among "other countries".

Hatami was defense minister during the second term of the Hassan Rouhani presidency.

He went on to say that during four years of his management of the ministry more than 300 products used in ground battles were produced.

Hatami made the remarks at a ceremony welcoming new Defense Minister Mohammadreza Ashtiani.

The former defense minister went on to say that "very good measures" have also been taken in the field of ballistic and cruise missiles.

"Today, we are also in a very good condition in the areas of air and electronic defense and electronic warfare."

On October 19, 2020, a 13-year-old UN arms embargo on Iran was lifted as part of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal. It happened against vociferous opposition from the Trump administration. Since that date Iran was legally allowed to export and import arms.

Then Iranian foreign minister Mohammad Javad Zarif hailed October 19 as a "momentous day".

Iran has been insisting that arms industry is based on defensive needs.

"A momentous day for the international community, which — in defiance of malign U.S. efforts—has protected UNSC Res. 2231 and JCPOA," Zarif tweeted on Sunday, referring to the 2015 agreement.

According to UN Security Council Resolution 2231, which confirmed the JCPOA — the official name for the nuclear deal, arms embargo against Iran ended last year.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry also said in a statement

on October 19 that "as of today, the Islamic Republic of Iran may procure any necessary arms and equipment from any source without any legal restrictions and solely based on its defensive needs."

The Foreign Ministry added Iran can now "export defensive armaments based on its own policies."

The U.S. was overwhelmingly defeated by other UN Security Council members when it attempted to extend the arms embargo in August. It subsequently declared a "snapback" of nearly all UN sanctions on Iran against the opposition of the 2015 deal's European, Russian and Chinese signatories, who called the move void.

For the vast majority of the Security Council, lifting the embargo is crucial to the Iranian nuclear deal's survival, says RUSI's Tabrizi.

"It was part of the (2015 Iran nuclear) agreement since the beginning, and not meeting their obligations would mean that the agreement collapses," Tabrizi told CNBC. "So there is a risk that Iran comes out of the agreement completely."

The embargo's expiration allowed Iran to buy major conventional weapons systems, including everything from battle tanks and large caliber artillery to combat aircraft and warships, and perhaps most importantly, missiles and missile launchers — the latter group already highly developed indigenously in Iran.

Behnam Ben Taleblu, a senior fellow at the hawkish Foundation for Defense of Democracies in Washington, D.C., has acknowledged that Iran has succeeded to indigenize military industry.

"With a likely emphasis on homeland defense and long-range strike capability," Iran will likely pursue more selective modernization, Taleblu said.

According to CNBC, Iran's specialty is asymmetric warfare, honed under years of sanctions with the help of reverse engineering to replicate other countries' missiles and smaller arms — and in some cases, make them better.

Kirsten Fontenrose, director of the Scowcroft Middle East Security Initiative at the Atlantic Council, predicts this capability will only get stronger.

"What we're worried about is not so much the drones themselves, but the pieces on them, so things like high-er-quality engines for the units and optical lenses to improve targeting," she said during a webinar hosted by Washington-based think tank AGSIW.

"What Iran has shown is that even if they buy a small number of weapons, within 20 years they will produce a variant of that which in some instances is even better than what they bought," Dave DesRoches, an associate professor and senior military fellow at the National Defense University in Washington, D.C., said during the same webinar.

"So as they make incremental improvements, as they reverse engineer new technologies, integrate new imported motors, they're getting much more quickly operational, lethal and reproducible capability."

Initial purchases for Iran might be solid fuel rocket motors, guidance systems, optical jammers that could counter drones or anti-tank missiles, and small arms like upgraded anti-tank guided missiles, DesRoches said, with China and former Soviet states as key sellers.

**"Very good measures" have been taken in field of ballistic and cruise missiles**

## Expert says Baghdad summit could be basis for comprehensive regional talks

TEHRAN - A senior expert on regional issues has said that the "Baghdad Regional Summit" could be the basis for serious negotiations between the countries of the region for the next rounds and eventually lead to signing of agreements between the countries in the region.

In an interview with IRNA on Saturday, Sadullah Zarei went on to say, "Perhaps the Baghdad Regional Summit is unique in its kind in the last eight years because it was attended by representatives from European, African, Asian and Arab and non-Arab countries."

As the expert says, representatives from Egypt, Jordan, France, the United States, Iran, Saudi Arabia and Turkey attended the meeting, some at the level of heads of state or foreign ministers or ambassadors.

He pointed out that the meeting at this level required the technical committee to consult between the countries beforehand and to reach an agreement on the agenda and the issues under discussion and to approve the general points.

"These preparations have not been made and in fact what has happened is the presence of countries that pursue different issues in this regard. For example, the role of Egypt and Jordan in this region is a weak role, but Turkey, Iran and Saudi Arabia have

**"It does not seem that a common issue can bring the participating countries to a point to make a decision"**

scored, "There have been three meetings between Iranian and Saudi officials in Baghdad hosted by Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, so the meeting between the two sides is not a new event. I must remind that Iran and Saudi Arabia are not the only ones participating in this summit, and it is unlikely that anything special happen between Tehran and Riyadh during the Baghdad summit."

At the same time, we hope that this meeting, even if it leads to just a statement and no agreement is reached, can be the basis of a series of talks on resolving regional issues, and the Baghdad summit can achieve clear goals in the second, third and fourth rounds," he commented.

Regarding the possibility of a meeting between the Iranian and Saudi delegations in Baghdad, Zarei under-

stood, "There have been three meetings between Iranian and Saudi officials in Baghdad hosted by Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, so the meeting between the two sides is not a new event. I must remind that Iran and Saudi Arabia are not the only ones participating in this summit, and it is unlikely that anything special happen between Tehran and Riyadh during the Baghdad summit."



He went on to say that the water shortage crisis and the crisis in Yemen and Lebanon are among the important agendas of the Baghdad Summit.

The countries participating in the conference do not have the same opinion on the issues raised as the agenda of this summit, he said, adding as for Yemen, the position of the Saudis and Iran will definitely be different, and Turkey will take the position not in support not in opposition, and the Jordanians will take a position similar to Saudi Arabia.

So, Zarei said, it does not seem that a common issue can bring the participating countries to a point to make a decision.

"I think we are just witnessing consultation and dialogue between the countries participating in the Baghdad summit, and it is more of a joint conference than an intergovernmental summit aimed at reaching an agreement," Zarei said.

At the same time, he said, the summit can be the basis for serious nego-

# Military chief says Iran will see remarkable progress in air defense power

*U.S. exiting Afghanistan with 'humiliating defeat', Baqeri notes*

TEHRAN - Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri, the armed forces chief of staff, said on Sunday that Iran will see a remarkable progress in air defense system.

"Due to increased cooperation that the General Staff (of the Armed Forces), Army, Guards, and Law Enforcement Forces have with the Ministry of Defense we will witness an incredible progress in air defense system," Baqeri said in ceremony to welcome new Defense Minister Mohammadreza Ashtiani.

This will take place by also tapping the potential of knowledge-based companies, universities and highly talented youth in the country.

The armed forces chief of staff went on to say that the Ministry of Defense has been on the road to progress over the years.

"In the past four years, Brigadier General Amir Hatami made great and effective efforts and considerable progresses were made in the country's defense capability," Baqeri stated.

Hatami was defense minister during the second four-year presidency of Hassan Rouhani.

Baqeri added in the new leadership of Brigadier General Ashtiani at the Defense Ministry this policy will "definitely continue successfully."

He said Ashtiani has splendid record in different military posts.

Major General Baqeri went on to say that a constant increase in defense capabilities is a must, noting it is impossible to keep security without development and capable defense power.



To boost defense power is an "unavoidable duty" in view of the situation in the West Asia region, Baqeri pointed out.

He said the Defense Ministry has a primary responsibility to enhance defense power and maintaining military readiness.

The top general also praised the Armed Forces' remarkable achievements despite all difficulties.

The performance of the Armed Forces in view low military budget in comparison to other countries is incomparable in quality, he pointed out.

According to Tasnim, Baqeri also said while Russians refused to pro-

vide Iran even with the shape of their Iskander missile, which is a ballistic missile with a range of 300 km, Iranian experts managed to gain the technical

know-how to manufacture homegrown ballistic missiles with pinpoint accuracy.

**"U.S. leaving Afghanistan in dire situation"**

He also pointed to the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan and its ultimate withdrawal from that country after a humiliating defeat after 20 years, saying the Americans have pulled out as the oppressed people of Afghanistan have been left in a dire situation without a bright prospect.

"The United States occupied Af-

ghanistan with a lot of killings, lootings and many other crimes, but left the country with a humiliating defeat. It left the oppressed people of this country in the throes of problems, troubles and turmoil without a clear future," he said, according to Press TV.

"Despite spending \$2 trillion (in Afghanistan), the U.S. turned the Afghan National Army into a useless army that could resist against that attacking group (Taliban) for only 11 days," the top commander explained.

He added, "The United States has not left the region in all these 42 years, and as time passes, it concocts more conspiracies and threats against the region."

In remarks on Saturday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei denounced the U.S. as the source of all the crises in Afghanistan, saying, "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 Iran 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 has no problems in borders with Afghanistan, border guard official says

TEHRAN - The Deputy Commander of Iranian Police Border Guard Jalal Setareh said on Sunday that Afghan immigrants are treated with respect and dignity and are often returned to their home country.

The top police official said that every day an average of 2,000 Afghan nationals are requesting to enter Iran from the borders.

Large numbers of Afghans are trying to flee their country fearing a renewed new civil war as the Taliban took over the capital Kabul on August 16. However, Taliban has sought to allay concerns and promised to establish a comprehensive government.

The Afghan army as well as tribal leaders and groups from different ethnic groups did not resist the Taliban and that was the chief reason that the Taliban took the control of country immediately.

"There are no special problems on the eastern borders. However, a number of oppressed Afghan people go to the eastern borders to enter the Islamic Republic of Iran which they are treated with the utmost respect and dignity," he stated.

The police official said, "We share the pain and suffering of the Afghan people and sympathize with them.... Afghans are asked not to go to the borders

and stay in their own country, so that, their problems will be solved."

The border police official also warned about plots by the United States against Iran in cooperation with its puppets in certain states in the southern shores of the Persian Gulf.

"Given planning new conspiracies by the United States with cooperation of their agents in the Persian Gulf countries, we must be careful of their tricks," the police official cautioned, according to the Tasnim news agency.

Setareh who was speaking at a ceremony honoring the former and introducing the new border commander of Bushehr province, said maintaining the security of the Persian Gulf region is one of the country's main priorities.

To maintain the security of the Persian Gulf, the Coast Guard of the Islamic Republic of Iran has been interacting with the countries of the region for a long time, he underscored.

The deputy commander of Iran's Border Guard Police also said it is necessary to take decisive approach against the smuggling of goods and narcotics.

"Considering the change of the transit route of narcotics from land to sea, all countries in the region should work in this regard," he suggested.

**"Afghans are asked not to go to the borders and stay in their own country, so that, their problems will be solved."**

## Iran must supply fuel to resistance front states: lawmaker

An Iranian legislator says the Islamic Republic must supply needed fuel to countries that are members of the resistance front, so that those states would not be harmed in this regard and could ease their energy crises.

"We must offer any help we can to the resistance bloc, so that they would not face any problem for provision of fuel, which is among the basic needs of any country," Hadi Beiginejad, a member of the Energy Commission at Iran's Parliament, told Iran's labor news agency, ILNA, in an exclusive interview on Sunday.

Beiginejad, who was elaborating on Iran's recent measure to send fuel tankers to Lebanon, added, "Selling oil derivatives and fuel, which have more customers, is easier than selling crude oil, whose buyers are limited."

He described it as important to Iran to meet the needs of a strategic and friendly country like Lebanon.

"Countries like Lebanon, Syria, and Venezuela are very important to Iran, because they stood by our side in time of need. Therefore, we must take steps to solve these countries' problems as much as we can," the Iranian parliamentarian highlighted, according to Press TV.

"Just as [late Syrian President] Hafez al-Assad firmly stood by Iran's side during the Iran-Iraq War (1980-1988) and did not withhold any help, we must rush to assist countries like Syria and Lebanon, which are now in trouble," he added.

The lawmaker went on to say that several fuel-laden



The top police official stated that Bushehr province has an important position in the country due to resistance and sacrifices that they made during different periods in history, especially countering the British colonialism under the command of Rais-al-Delvari.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Setareh said that the Police Border Guards welcome any plan to improve the livelihood of the people living in the coastal areas, stating, "In this regard, several plans are being considered by Iran's Police Border Guards Command."

He also emphasized the importance of preserving aquatic resources in the Persian Gulf.

It is necessary to increase aquaculture projects, the police official said, underlining that fishing boats should be organized in order to preserve aquatic resources.

ships have already been sent to Lebanon and there has been no problem.

Beiginejad stressed that Lebanese traders are responsible for the security of the Beirut-bound fuel shipment, and they certainly know how to protect the cargo.

"The Lebanese nation is currently under pressure and in hardship. Therefore, we must not withhold any help to solve their problems as a friendly country and an ally," Beiginejad underscored.

On Friday, a senior official from the Hezbollah resistance movement said shipments of fuel from Iran to Lebanon in order to ease crippling shortages there will thwart all plots that the United States has crafted in this regard.

The vice president of the executive council of Hezbollah, Sheikh Ali Da'moush, said that his group is utilizing all means at its disposal to address livelihood challenges facing the Lebanese people and alleviate their suffering, stressing that the decision to import fuel from Iran is aimed at tackling the fuel supply crisis.

"Hezbollah's decision to import diesel and gasoline from Iran was not politically-motivated, and does not fall within the context of political or factional bickering. It was rather a decision taken on humanitarian and moral grounds," Sheikh Da'moush said.

Hezbollah head Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah has said a third shipment of Iranian fuel has been agreed to ease crippling shortages in Lebanon.

## Mohammad Eslami appointed Iran's nuclear chief

From page 1 ► He was also confirmed as housing and transport minister by the parliament in the autumn of 2018 after nomination by President Hassan Rouhani. Eslami became minister after Abbas Akhondi resigned his post. Eslami kept the job until the end of Rouhani's

presidency.

Eslami also served as the managing director of Iran Aircraft Manufacturing Industrial Company and deputy chief of

Aerospace Industries Organization among other top managerial posts.



TEHRAN – From the beginning, the new Iranian government of Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi made it clear that change in the executive branch would bring about a shift in foreign policy.

The new Iranian foreign minister, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, indicated how this shift would play out under Ayatollah Raisi. In his speech at the Baghdad summit, Abdollahian reiterated what his predecessor often underlined in such regional platforms: that Iran wants closer cooperation with the countries of the region, especially Iran's neighbors.

But at the same time, he was keen to let it be known that this cooperation should be done in a new spirit, one that would respect the legitimate interests of Iran and refrain from pursuing a zero-sum game. In addition, the top Iranian diplomat made it clear that no one should seek to change the balance of power in the region by relying on outside forces.

Underlining Iran's support for the Iraqi efforts to create areas for cooperation and interaction among the countries of the region, Abdollahian noted, "Our region has all the religious, cultural and civilizational characteristics as well as 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."

In pointing to a foreign role in the region, the Iranian foreign minister put the focus on the main thrust of the Baghdad summit. The Iraqi government put much energy and effort into holding this summit to bring closer the views of stakeholders of a region suffering from political divergence and polarization.

The Iraqis portrayed the summit as a unique platform to foster intra-regional cooperation and partnership. From their point of view, bringing together officials from rival countries would make Iraq more secure and spare it the prospect of being collateral damage for regional

# Iran embarks on a new regional policy



rivalry.

In addition, the Iraqi government was eager to convey the message that they want, and are able, to work with all countries of the region regardless of their political standing.

Iran welcomed the Iraqi efforts and underlined the need to strengthen regional security through dialogue among the players in the region. "What we need today more than ever before is "sustainable regional security" with the participation of regional countries. Regional security will materialize depending on the use of economic resources to build a coalition for peace and development," Abdollahian told the summit.

He added, "The Islamic Republic of

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

goals."

At the end of his speech, the top Iranian diplomat underlined that Iran is adopting a new approach toward the region under Ayatollah Raisi, who has reiterated more than once that Iran's foreign policy should focus on regional

cooperation, particularly in economic arenas.

Abdollahian pointed to this new pivot and said, "With great pleasure, I declare, at the inauguration of Iran's new government, that our foreign policy, being 'balanced, active and smart', emphasizes the priority of relations with neighbors and other countries in the region, and we warmly shake hands with all neighboring and regional nations."

Whether this new approach would lead to the normalization of ties with regional heavyweights such as Saudi Arabia remains to be seen. But it seems that there is still a long road ahead until relations are fully normalized.

Two things happened at the Baghdad summit that dampened hopes for closer regional cooperation. First, Syria was not invited to the summit despite being a major neighbor of Iraq. Some press reports suggested the exclusion of Syria was due to foreign pressure on the Iraqi government.

Iran objected to this exclusion both before and during the summit. "We believe that Syria, as one of Iraq's important neighboring countries, should have been invited to this meeting, too," said Abdollahian before leaving Tehran for Baghdad.

During the summit, Abdollahian once again alluded to Syria's absence. "I would like to emphasize the role and support of regional nations in stabilizing and resorting security to Iraq including the friendly and brotherly country of the Syrian Arab Republic. I would like to express regret that Syria is not attending this summit," he said.

Second, there were no reports of a meeting between Abdollahian and his Saudi Arabian counterpart Faisal bin Farhan in Baghdad. This is while many important meetings were held on the sidelines of the summit. One such meeting was between the emir of Qatar and the president of Egypt. Another meeting was between the emir and the governor of Dubai who also met with Abdollahian.

significant and hailed Iran for its support for Iraq.

The Iranian foreign minister and the Iraqi president also exchanged views on other topics, including regional developments, economic and trade cooperation among regional countries and the necessity for the expansion of economic ties between the two countries.

Abdollahian has also sat down with Iraqi Parliament Speaker Mohammed al-Halbousi as the top Iranian diplomat continued his meetings with high-ranking Baghdad officials on the sidelines of the Baghdad regional summit.

In the meeting, Amir Abdollahian congratulated the top parliamentarian on the successful holding of the summit, and once again extended Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf's invitation to al-Halbousi, according to a statement by the Iranian foreign ministry.

Also, given the upcoming Iraqi parliamentary election, Amir Abdollahian highlighted Tehran's support for an early legislative election as an arena for the manifestation of the Iraqi people's will and demands.

The Iraqi parliament speaker, in turn, congratulated Amir Abdollahina on his appointment as Iran's foreign minister, and announced the Iraqi parliament's readiness to further enhance mutual relations.

Abdollahian and Iraqi Premier Mustafa al-Kadhimi have exchanged views on the latest developments regarding Tehran-Baghdad relations on all fronts.

During the talks, which were part of Amri Abdollahian's meetings on the sidelines of a regional summit in Baghdad, the top Iranian diplomat conveyed Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi's greetings to al-Kadhimi and congratulated him on the successful holding of the Baghdad summit.

Amir Abdollahian said his presence at the event as Iran's representative indicated Tehran's firm resolve to support Iraq.

The two sides also discussed bilateral economic projects, which would benefit both sides, as well as Iranians' pilgrimage to holy sites in Iraq during Arbaaen.

The Iraqi prime minister, in turn, described good-neighborliness as important and called Tehran-Baghdad relations strategic.

Al-Kadhimi also appreciated Iran's constructive and lasting role in supporting Iraq as well as the presence of Iran's high-ranking delegation in the Baghdad regional summit.

Abdollahian also met foreign leaders attending the Baghdad summit. Abdollahian sat down with his Kuwaiti counterpart Ahmed Nasser al-Mohammed Al-Sabah on the sidelines of the Baghdad summit.

In the meeting, the top Iranian diplomat thanked his opposite number for taking part, on behalf of the Kuwaiti Emir, in the swearing-in ceremony of new Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, and discussed with him issues of mutual interest.

In the meeting, Amir Abdollahian reviewed Iran-Kuwait relations in different political and economic areas, and highlighted the need to further enhance mutual ties and implement the agreements already reached between the two countries.

He added Iran stands ready to forge closer cooperation with Kuwait.

Amir Abdollahian expounded on the Raisi administration's stance on good neighborliness as well as on the significance of cooperation between regional countries, voicing support for whatever move aimed at activating the Joint Iran-Kuwait Economic Cooperation Commission by utilizing innovative approaches.

## IRAN IN FOCUS

AUGUST 30, 2021

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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## SPORTS

### Iranian judo athletes win two gold medals at Paralympics 2020

From Page 1 ► He started the campaign in the +100kg category with a win over Jamaican Theodor Subba by Ippon.

He emerged victorious over Korean Gwang Geun Choi in his second match and qualified for the final match.

Kheirollahzadeh defeated Georgian judoka Revaz Chikoidze in the final bout and claimed second gold in judo.

Iran have won seven gold medals so far in the 2020 Paralympic Games.

Rouhollah Rostami has won a gold medal in the powerlifting.

Judo athletes Nouri and Kheirollahzadeh have also claimed two gold medals.

Amir Jafari and Hamed Solhipour have snatched two silver medals in powerlifting.

And Amanollah Papi and Alireza Mokhtari have seized two silver medasl in athletic.

Iran has sent 62 athletes in 10 sports to Tokyo.

It's the nation's smallest team since sending 40 to Sydney 2000.

Since then, Iran sent 89 athletes to Athens 2004, 72 to Beijing 2008, 79 to London 2012 and 110 to Rio 2016.

Iran finished 15th in the medal table in 2016 with 24 medals after winning eight golds, nine silvers and seven bronzes.

About 4,400 competitors from more than 160 countries are competing at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics before it was delayed by a year.

### IPL: Rasoul Khatibi takes charge of Aluminum

TEHRAN - Rasoul Khatibi was named as new head coach of Aluminum football team on Sunday.

Khatibi, 43, will lead the Arak-based football club for the second spell.

He left Aluminum in February and took charge of Tractor but was dismissed as the Tabriz based football team coach following poor results.

He has returned to Aluminum for the 2021/22 season of Iran Professional League (IPL).

Khatibi replaced Alireza Mansourian in Aluminu.

### Iran to meet Czech at 2021 FIVB U19 World C'ship round of 16

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Nigeria 3-0 (25-19, 25-13, 25-19) in the 2021 FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship.

Iran had previously lost to France and defeated India.

The Iranian team will play Czech Republic on Monday in the Round of 16.

The 2021 FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship is the seventeenth edition of the FIVB Volleyball Boys' U19 World Championship, contested by the men's national teams under the age of 19 of the members of the FIVB, the sport's global governing body.

The tournament will last until Sept. 2 in Tehran.

### Esteghlal midfielder Rigi signs forSepahan

TEHRAN - Esteghlal football team midfielder Masoud Rigi joined Sepahan.

Rigi penned a two-year contract with Sepahan for an undisclosed fee.

He joined Esteghlal from Padideh in 2019 and played in the first team over the past two years.

He had also been linked with a move to Emirati and Qatari teams.

The 30-year-old defensive midfielder started his playing career in 2011 in Fajr Sepasi.

### Taremi scores as Porto defeat Arouca

TEHRAN - FC Porto returned to winning ways as they hosted Arouca at the Estádio do Dragão.

Sérgio Conceição's team scored three unanswered goals and collected three important points.

FC Porto's goals were scored by Mateus Uribe (24), Mehdi Taremi (34), and Ivan Marcano (64).

After four rounds in the Liga Portugal Bwin, FC Porto currently sit in first place, while rivals Benfica and Sporting Lisbon both have a game in hands.

### Iran wheelchair basketball fall short against Britain

TOKYO – Iran wheelchair basketball team lost to Britain 69-57 in Group B of the 2020 Paralympic Games on Sunday.

Mohammadhassan Sayari led Iran with 27 points while Briton Terry lbywater scored 18 points.

Iran had previously suffered two losses against Australia and the U.S. and defeated Algeria.

The Iranian team will meet Germany on Monday in their last game.

### Shot putter Alireza Mokhtari takes silver

TOKYO – Iran's Alireza Mokhtari Hemami claimed a silver medal at the men's shot put F-53 at the 2020 Paralympic Games on Sunday.

He won the silver medal with a throw of 8.48 meters.

Gold medal went to Elvin Astanov from Azerbaijan who threw 8.77 meters and also broke the Paralympics record by five centimeters.

Ales Kisy from Czech Republic snatched the bronze with a throw of 8.25 meters.

### FIFA appoints five female to officiate at 2021 Futsal World Cup

TEHRAN – For the first time in its history, FIFA appointed five ladies, including Iranian referee Gelareh Nazemi, to officiate at the 2021 FIFA Futsal World Cup in Lithuania.

The competition will be held from Sept. 12 to Oct. 3 in the European country, Tehran Times reported.

Nazemi had already officiated the men's competition. She has most recently whistled in the 2021 FIFA Futsal World Cup qualifiers held in Sharjah, the UAE in May along with her compatriot Zari Fathi.

Gelareh Nazemi also officiated in the 2018 Summer Youth Olympics in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

### Lyon submit 11€m bid for Iranian striker Azmoun

TEHRAN – French football club Lyon have made an opening €11m bid for Iranian international striker Sardar Azmoun, who is currently plying his trade at Russian Zenit St Petersburg.

The Iranian international striker Sardar Azmoun has received a new bid from French football club Lyon after the Italian and German clubs of Rome and Bayer Leverkusen.

The French football website "www.getfootballnewsfrance.com" says that the Russian side had been seeking €20m for the 26-year-old at the beginning of this window and it is currently unclear whether or not their stance has since softened.

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

Azmoun has just 12 months remaining on his existing contract while few weeks have passed since the start of the Russian league.

## Iran FM holds extensive talks in Baghdad

TEHRAN – In his foreign trip as foreign minister, Hossein Amir Abdollahian held several meetings with Iraqi and non-Iraqi officials during his stay in Baghdad, where a regional summit was held with the participation of Iran.

Heading a political and parliamentary delegation, the new Iranian foreign minister arrived in Baghdad on Saturday and was received by his Iraqi counterpart Fuad Hossein. Upon his arrival, he visited the place where Iran's top commander General Qassem Soleimani and his Iraqi comrade Abu Mahdi al-Mohandes were assassinated in an American drone strike in early 2020. After paying homage, Abdollahian vowed to legally pursue the matter.

In Baghdad, the top Iranian diplomat met with several dignitaries and participated in the Baghdad regional summit. Before the summit, he welcomed the Iraqi initiative but said that Syria should have been invited to the summit. Abdollahian said Iran embraces any regional initiative by Iraqi officials which gets regional countries on board.

"We believe that Syria, as one of Iraq's important neighboring countries, should have been invited to this meeting, too" said the top diplomat before leaving Tehran for Baghdad.

"Of course, we are in contact and holding consultations with the Syrian leader on security and sustainable development in the region, and we will have direct consultations with Damascus on the Baghdad conference and the importance of the regional countries' key role in whatever regional initiative," he added.

During the summit, expressed regret that Syria was not attending the summit. "I would like to emphasize the role and support of regional nations in stabilizing and resorting security to Iraq including the friendly and brotherly country of the Syrian Arab Republic. I would like to express regret that Syria is not attending this summit," Abdollahian told the Baghdad summit.

In his summit speech, the Iranian foreign minister underlined Iran's policy of fostering regional cooperation. "This meeting, with regional countries in attendance, confirms the efforts of the Republic of Iraq in creating areas for cooperation and interaction among the countries of the region, and I hope that, through these meetings, we can make a prosperous, developed and free region," he said, adding, "Today, Iraq is playing an important role in the region thanks to its constructive efforts and vision. The Islamic Republic of Iran was one of the first regional countries to recognize the new Iraq and to develop its political, economic and trade ties with Iraq by supporting the political processes in this country."

Abdollahian noted, "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 of Iraq has reached more than 12 billion dollars. The existence of eight official active border crossings between the two countries and the continuation of trade exchanges via these crossings, even despite the Coronavirus pandemic, indicate the economic entanglement of the two nations. In recent years, Iran has made a significant contribution to the development

"I would like to express regret that Syria is not attending this summit."

The top Iranian diplomat added, "Our region has all the religious, cultural and civilizational characteristics as well as 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."

The Iranian foreign minister also expressed support for the Iraqi government and people, underlining that Iran welcomes Iraq's role in promoting dialogue.

During his stay in Baghdad, Abdollahian met with a number of Iraqi leaders including President Barham Salih, Parliament Speaker Mohammad al-Halbousi, Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, and Fuad Hussein. In his meeting with Salih, Abdollahian while conveying the Iranian president's greetings and congratulating the Iraqi president on holding the Baghdad summit successfully, reiterated the Islamic Republic of Iran's support for independence, national sovereignty and territorial integrity of Iraq.

During the meeting, Salih, in turn, thanked the Iranian delegation for participating in the regional summit for cooperation and partnership. He said the Iranian foreign minister choosing Iraq for his first foreign visit is



## Issuance of industrial unit establishment permits up over 13% in 4 months

From page 1 ► He also mentioned an 85-percent rise in the allocation of land for establishing industrial units across the country and noted that over 4,500 hectares of land were handed over to applicants in the previous calendar year.

According to the official, there are over 46,000 small and medium-sized industrial units in Iran's industrial parks and zones, of them about 9,200 units are inactive.

Iran's industrial parks play a significant role in making the country independent through boosting production, which is a major strategy of Iran to combat the U.S. sanctions.

In fact, strengthening domestic production to achieve self-reliance is the most important program that Iran is following up in its industry sector in a bid to nullify



fy the effects of the U.S. sanctions on its economy.

# Housing prices rise 3.1% in Tehran City

TEHRAN - Average housing price increased 3.1 percent in Tehran City during the fifth Iranian calendar month of Mordad (ended on August 22), compared to its previous month, according to a report by the Central Bank of Iran (CBI).

According to the CBI data, the average price for one square meter of a residential unit in the capital city during the mentioned month increased 34 percent compared to the same month in the previous year, IRIB reported on Sunday.

As reported, despite the month-on-month increase, the year-on-year trend of the growth for housing prices in the capital city since the beginning of the current fiscal year (started on March 21) has been downward because the prices had increased 43.7 percent, 56.6 percent, 69.7 percent, and 91.7 percent in the fourth, third,

second and first Iranian calendar months, respectively, compared to the same months last year.

The number of real estate deals increased 8.4 percent in the past month to reach 5,500 deals. The number of deals, however, fell 39.4 percent in comparison to the last year's same month.

The housing market in Tehran was the second-highest returning market in Iran among the country's four major markets in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) with 85 percent annual growth.

The information obtained from Kiliid website (which is a major platform for housing trades) indicated that the housing price index in Tehran grew by



85 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) compared to its preceding year.

The highest monthly price increase of 12.5 percent occurred in the Iranian calendar month of Mordad (July 22-August 21, 2020), while the biggest monthly price decrease occurred in Azar (November 21-December 20, 2020) with a decline of 8.1 percent.

Back in April, the head of Iran's Property Advisers Union said housing prices in the country should decrease at least 25 percent in order for people to be able to afford to purchase.

Mostafa Gholi Khosravi stressed the need for establishing a mar-

ket regulation headquarters for the housing sector to monitor the activities of dealers and real estate agencies in order to balance the prices.

Housing prices in Iran have been constantly rising over the past year due to various internal and external factors.

Coronavirus has been reported to be a major factor affecting the housing prices in Iran as the pandemic has stoked concerns about losing one's savings and more people entered the housing market.

"People are turning to the housing market in order to protect their savings in the face of rising inflation. No one sees housing as a short-term consumer commodity. Even real consumers view purchasing a home as a long-term investment," Mehdi Soltan-Mohammadi, a housing expert, said.

## TEDPIX falls 2,300 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 2,354 points to 1.573 million on Sunday.

Over 16.056 billion securities worth 142.13 trillion rials (about \$3.384 billion) were traded at the TSE on Sunday.

The first market's index fell 1,867 points, and the second market's index lost 4,301 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, Mo-barakeh Steel Company, Social Security Investment Company, Iran Khodro Company, and Barekat Pharmaceutical Group were the most widely followed indices.

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 the stock market, reducing the cost of issuing bonds by facilitating relevant regulations, canceling monopolies and facilitating licensing for stock market-related services such as portfolio management, marketing and brokerage, reforming corporate governance to manage conflict of interest between major and mi-

nor stakeholders and finally providing incentives for people to invest indirectly in the capital market have been mentioned as the major programs that the economy ministry is going to 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.

"The main responsibility of the Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs is to finance the government and ensure

**TEDPIX closed at 1.55 million points on Wednesday.**



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 parlia-

ment 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 corporations and financial institutions in order to develop the capital market.

## 5 large-scale smart transport firms start operating

TEHRAN - Five large-scale smart transportation companies that operate in the road transportation sector have been launched across Iran, an official with the country's Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization (RMTO) announced.

According to Gholam-Hossein Daghaheleh, the mentioned companies have been established with the aim of increasing productivity in the mentioned sector and accelerating freight transportation using the information technology capacities for smartening the road transportation process.

Referring to the advantages of setting up smart companies in the transportation sector, the director-general of the RMTO Freight Transport Office added: "One of the most important features of forming large-scale smart transport companies is the possibility of being monitored and controlled by



the Intelligent Road Fleet Management and Control Center."

The official also mentioned online payment of the driver's wage in the destination, increasing the performance and productivity of the fleet of the mentioned companies, reducing intermediation and brokerage in the transportation of goods, drivers' ease of access to the owners of the goods through the companies, reducing administrative bureaucracy and having a greater scope of operation as other advantages of such smart companies.

According to RMTO, the Iranian road freight transportation fleet is currently comprised of 387,000 trucks.

A big part of the country's cargo transportation is carried out through the road network and in this regard, the development of this sector has been one of the major priorities of the Transport and Urban Development Ministry over the past few years.

Renovating the country's road transportation fleet, establishing new transportation companies, developing the country's road network, and modernizing the equipment and machinery used in this sector are some of the measures that the ministry has taken for promoting the country's road cargo transportation.

Last August, RMTO signed a tripartite deal with Bank Saderat Iran (BSI) and some private companies for the renovation of the country's suburban cargo transport fleet.

## 'Supplying fuel to power plants during winter should be a priority'



TEHRAN - Meysam Jafarzadeh, the director-general of the Crisis Management Office in Iranian Energy Ministry, has stressed the need for taking necessary measures to ensure sustained supply of fuel to the country's power plants during the cold season, IRIB reported.

"Given last winter's experience, if we do not provide fuel for power plants in late autumn and winter this year, we will have a lot of difficulty in meeting electricity demands; we must think about the necessary preparations for the winter of 1400 (the current Iranian calendar year started on March 21) from now on," Jafarzaeh was quoted by the portal of Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir).

He pointed out three main reasons for the importance of fuel supply to power plants during the cold season, saying: "First, considering the fact that we are witnessing a decrease in liquid

fuel reserves in power plants compared to the previous year, the fuel condition is very important."

The increase in gas consumption by households in winter causes less gas to be supplied to power plants, and if liquid fuel storages are not full, power plants will face problems operating on full capacity, he explained.

The official pointed to the state of overhaul and periodic repairs of power plants as the second reason and added: "This year, due to the intensive operation of the power plants from mid-April until today, we will definitely face many units that need overhauling, and this issue has a serious impact on the country's power generation situation."

He further mentioned not using hydroelectric power plants as the third reason and said: "Considering that hydroelectric power plants have been used to control the network load this summer and also the weather forecast predicts that there will be no serious rainfall in catchments this cold season, we will definitely face some problems in operating hydroelectric power plants."

considering the new approach of the Oil Ministry, which has made the supply of fuel to power plants one of the short-term priorities, stable and accurate planning for the overhaul of power plants can ensure the stability of the electricity network during the cold season, Jafarzadeh stressed.

## Average daily gasoline consumption stands at 83.4m liters in a month



TEHRAN- The average daily consumption of gasoline in Iran stood at 83.4 million liters during the fifth Iranian calendar month Mordad (July 23- August 22).

As reported, gasoline consumption was the same in the fifth month of this year as the fifth month of the previous year.

Gasoline consumption in Iran has fluctuated since the outbreak of the coronavirus in the country.

In the early days of the pandemic, concerns over the virus minimized the travels across the country and led to a record decrease in consumption in the last Iranian calendar year's first month (March 20-April 20, 2020).

On some days in April 2020, gasoline consumption even fell to 40 million liters and the average daily consumption did not exceed 50 million liters that month.

In general, gasoline consumption in the country

declined 20 percent in the past Iranian calendar year, as compared to its preceding year due to rationing this fuel and also the coronavirus pandemic.

The Islamic Republic, which was an importer of gasoline for decades, exported over \$1.4 billion worth of the fuel in the first seven months of the past Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21, 2020).

The significant increase in the country's gasoline production and exports comes despite the fact that nearly two years ago Iran was shipping in over 4.5 million liters per day of the strategic product.

Iran became a net gasoline exporter in February 2019, after the inauguration of the third phase of the Persian Gulf Star Refinery (PGS) project which added 120,000 barrels to the country's daily gasoline production.

The increase in the exports of the mentioned commodity is a result of the increase in the country's refining capacity and the decline in domestic consumption following the implementation of a rationing program.

In mid-November 2019, the Iranian government started rationing of subsidized gasoline and increased fuel prices as it plans to use the revenue for supporting underprivileged families.

Since then, implementation of the rationing plan has led to the reduction of gasoline consumption, while promoting the consumption of compressed natural gas (CNG) in the country.

## Quarterly canned fish export falls 10% yr/yr

TEHRAN - Iran has exported 165 tons of canned fishes in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), which was 10 percent lower than the figure for 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, had previously announced that Iran exported 6,210 tons of canned fish valued at \$24 million in the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (ended on March 20).

He had said that the country's canned fish export was 3,115 tons worth \$15 million in year 1398.

Canned fish is exported from Iran, which can help factories, especially for those that use imported fish, the official said.

He said that Iran's canned fish is main-



ly exported to Iraq, the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), Persian Gulf littoral states, and Armenia.

Golshahi has also 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 includ-

ing 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 \$107 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 \$31 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.

## Mining projects worth \$1.9b to be put into operation by next March



TEHRAN - Head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) Vajjehollah Jafari announced that 30 projects worth \$1.916 billion in the mines and mining industries will be inaugurated across the country by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2022).

The official said that the mentioned project will create 4,700 direct and 18,600 indirect jobs.

In line with Iran's major plans for distancing the

country's economy from oil and moving toward a resilient, oil-free economy, the mining sector has become one of the major areas of focus in recent years, since the country is one of the world's top 10 mineral-rich countries where 68 types of minerals have been identified so far, including the world's largest deposits of copper, zinc, and iron.

Expansion and exploitation of these huge sources of income have become a top priority for the government in recent years, and various programs have been defined for the improvement of this industry.

Reviving idle small mines, increasing the tariffs on the exports of some raw minerals, defining new exploration projects, signing memorandums of understanding with domestic and foreign manufacturers for the renovation of the country's mining equipment and machinery, and allocation of funds for the completion of semi-finished projects in this sector can be mentioned as some of the programs introduced by the government for the development of the country's mining sector.



# Ties between Israel and Persian Gulf monarchies take place in dark: Scottish activist

From page 1 ► “Internationally, Israel has monetized its mass killings and repression of Palestinians by selling surveillance products through companies such as NSO whose Pegasus software is the means of repression of choice for dictatorships worldwide,” the activist says.

He adds, “It’s natural that they should learn from the masters.”

Some political commentators keep saying that most of the countries that bought the Pegasus program are countries ruled by authoritarians in which freedom is heavily suppressed.

Historical facts show how Israel has spied on its friends as much as it did on its foes, but Pegasus was a new tool for Israel’s widespread spying activities.

As a powerful hacking tool, Pegasus has been sold to governments around the world by the Israeli



surveillance company NSO Group.

It has been used to mainly spy on journalists, human rights activists, and political leaders by some Arab monarchies that have black records in their human rights records.

According to the Haaretz, Rafi Eitan, the head of Israel’s main spy agency Mossad, Israel was not only right to spy on allies but that it has always done so systematically.

“Industrial espionage including theft was necessary for Israel to

produce its secret nuclear weapons arsenal in the face of U.S. opposition at the time,” Napier points out.

Apparently, the tradition of industrial espionage and theft of technology from the U.S. has been continuing up until the present day.

“Israeli spy Jonathan Pollard stole industrial quantities of sensitive documents on behalf of Israel, caught and served 30 years in American prisons before being released in 2015 and allowed to immigrate to Israel last year,” he says.

“Now Israel is by no means alone in conducting industrial and economic espionage against the U.S., and is not even the only U.S. ally to do so,” Napier concludes.

“But it is the only country to spy on the U.S. systematically while receiving vast amounts of aid from the same country it targets.”

## Ten lessons to be learned from the U.S. disastrous war on Afghanistan

From page 1 ► *The international coalition doesn’t have impunity*

America and its international coalition allies arrogantly thought that they could commit crimes against the Afghan people with impunity, but that was impossible since the rest of the world inevitably found out about their killings and other such unsavory acts even if justice isn’t yet served to the culprits.

*Winning hearts and minds is more important than winning territory*

Strategically speaking, the war was lost shortly after it began once the U.S. and its allies started abusing the Afghan people in terrible ways and therefore turned their hearts and minds towards the Taliban, which therefore made it impossible for the government to hold its ground despite being backed by the U.S. military.

The Western mainstream media always lies

The dramatic developments of the past two weeks during the Taliban’s lightning-fast conquest of the country shattered the countless lies spread by the Western mainstream media about the true state of affairs there, proving that they can’t ever be trusted about anything, whether

it’s Afghanistan, China, or whatever else.

*Inevitable military withdrawals must be carried out responsibly*

The U.S. inevitable withdrawal wasn’t carried out responsibly since America should have ensured that it didn’t leave any military equipment behind, established tripwires for deterring Taliban attacks until it already left the country, and compelled former President Ghani to politically compromise towards a transitional government.

*Political proxies sometimes defy their patrons*

Part of the problem with the U.S. withdrawal was that its political proxy, former President Ghani, refused to make any meaningful compromises towards a transitional government that could have facilitated a smoother transfer of power and prevented America from being humiliated even more than it already was in recent days.

*Local allies must be rescued during the withdrawal*

The U.S. shamefully abandoned tens of thousands of its Afghan allies who fear for their futures after their American-backed government



just fell, which shows how unreliable the U.S. is as an ally that it would leave its local allies to fend for themselves under such uncertain conditions instead of letting them relocate to America.

America will never be able to make amends for destroying Afghanistan but it can hopefully never repeat this travesty if it learns these ten lessons from that war. Everything that went wrong was entirely foreseeable and many even warned about what was happening but their concerns were dismissed as so-called “propaganda”. The truth finally came out though and now everyone knows that the entire war was built upon a mountain of lies and easily avoidable mistakes. The U.S.’ reputation is ruined and it’s no longer regarded as a superpower.

## Does Afghanistan mark the end of American Empire?

By Zalan Khan

As Afghanistan continues to be in the spotlight of international media after the Taliban takeover of Kabul, familiar tropes are being regurgitated by the usual suspects. The “graveyard of empires” – is there a more used and abused orientalist trope? – is a favorite reference in analyses and commentaries, as if Afghanistan, like other places, has not been conquered and ruled by foreign forces countless times in history.

Questions and doubts about whether Afghans are “fit” for the trappings of civilized society, as if these trappings are reserved only for western nations or whether as “noble savages” they were well-intentioned but just too weak or naïve to fight for and preserve what was given to them.

But as the western narrative focuses on Afghans and their supposed “failures”, few have reflected on what the events in Afghanistan say about America, the retreating superpower, and its increasing inability to decide global matters.

As I was watching Kabul fall to the Taliban, I was reminded of a comment by former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger – “it may be dangerous to be America’s enemy, but to be America’s friend is fatal”.

The richest country with the most powerful military in the world spent two trillion dollars, deployed as many as 775,000 military personnel since the invasion in 2001, and trained, equipped and nation-built for two decades. And when it decided to pull out, its Afghan allies surrendered within a week.

Is Afghanistan marking the end of the American century or is it just a temporary blip in its world dominance?

The Kabul fall reminded me of a comment by Kissinger – “it may be dangerous to be America’s enemy, but to be America’s friend is fatal”.

consequence of other powers adopting U.S. policy principles and ideas.

Looking back, America’s debut on the world stage was dramatic and epoch-making. By 1913, it had become a major economic power, albeit one with little interest in global matters. This would change with its intervention in World War I on the side of the Allied Powers, ensuring their victory. After the end of World War II, it became clear that the U.S. was replacing the British Empire as a dominant power in much of the world. And less than 50 years later, Washington stood victorious, as the Eastern Bloc and the Soviet

A team of international experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) visited Wuhan in January 2021 to produce a first-phase report, which was written in conjunction with their Chinese counterparts, but it failed to find a conclusive position on the origin of the virus.

The WHO’s report said the virus jumping from bats to humans via an intermediate animal was the most probable scenario, and that a leak from the Wuhan virology labs was “extremely unlikely.”

The theory that the contagion had leaked

restrictive election laws, with dozens of others under consideration. Those laws range from a requirement to have a fixed address in order to register to vote to a ban on the drive-through voting that was popular in some states last year amid the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Democratic-controlled House of Representatives has passed two draft laws to limit such restrictions, but they are given virtually no chance of passing the closely divided Senate.

## Absence of Syria, presence of Macron shortcomings of Baghdad summit: Turkish politician

TEHRAN (MNA) – Hailing positive regional effects of the Baghdad Summit, Turkish politician Osman Faruk Logoglu believes that presence of France’s president and absence of Syria as an important regional country were major shortcomings of the summit.

Iraq hosted a regional conference on Saturday. It brought Iraqi neighboring countries and the countries of the region together to support Iraq ahead of early elections. Surprisingly France’s president that his country has a destructive role by supporting terrorist groups active against the interests of the regional countries was present in the summit while Syria as an important regional country was absent.

To know more about the issue, we discussed the pros and cons of the meeting with Dr. Logoglu, a senior member of Turkey’s CHP.

**How effective do you see the significance of the Bagdad Summit in reducing regional tensions?**

“Iraq must be applauded for taking the initiative and organiz-

ing this Conference. It was long overdue. The fact that even with different levels of representation, the counties of the region came together is a positive sign whatever the short-term outcome. The impact and the consequences of the Conference will not be immediately apparent. That will take time. Having always emphasized the need for the ownership of the challenges of the region by the countries of the region, I feel that all the participants will sense the value of talking to each other rather than talking at each other. One measure of where things might go from here will be whether there is a follow-up to this Conference. I hope there is.

**France itself is one of the backers of terrorist groups in the region, what do you think of Macron’s presence at the Summit?**

French President Macron’s presence at the Conference is an anomaly. France is not a country of the region and does not possess any special qualifications setting it apart from other non-regional states to be part of this Conference. I suppose

Macrom must have made certain bilateral commitments to Iraq to be invited to the Conference. In short, it will detract somewhat from the value of the Conference as a regional affair, but if and when there is a next Conference of the sort, only regional countries should be invited.

**Don’t you think that the Summit could have better results if all regional countries were present including Syria?**

The major shortcoming of the Conference if one has to pinpoint one is the absence of Syria at the table. Syria is an important country, still beset with many problems. Iraqi hosts understandably did not call on Syria to attend for fear that some others would then not come to Baghdad. However, one cannot hope to make much progress regionally at the political and economic levels, without the participation of Syria. Syrian participation is a sine qua non for regional peace and stability. What needs to be done therefore is to amend this situation by inviting Syria to the next Conference.”

## France, Britain to propose Kabul “safe zone”

At an emergency, United Nations Security Council meeting set for Monday, France, and Britain will submit a resolution on Afghanistan proposing a safe zone in Kabul to try and protect people trying to leave the country.

Speaking to French media, French President Emmanuel Macron says “our resolution proposal aims to define a safe zone in Kabul, under UN control, which would allow humanitarian operations to continue.”

Earlier, Macron said that Paris was holding preliminary discussions with the Taliban about the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan and the possible evacuation of more people from the country.

It is unclear how the Taliban, which is preparing a new cabinet as the American-led military evacuation nears its end, would react to the joint French, British proposal.

U.S. military forces, which have guarded the airport in Kabul, are due to withdraw by a Tuesday deadline set by President Joe Biden. France is among the countries that have also ended evacuations from Kabul airport. Meanwhile, Britain has confirmed its final flight carrying military personnel out of Afghanistan has left Kabul airport, the country’s Defense Ministry said.

UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres is convening a meeting on Afghanistan with the UN envoys for Britain, France, the United States, China, and Russia; the Security Council’s permanent, veto-wielding members.

Meanwhile, the Taliban’s main spokesman, Zabihullah Mujahid, has condemned an overnight U.S. drone strike against alleged Daesh terrorists following Thursday’s attack near the airport as a “clear attack on Afghan territory”.

The Pentagon claims the airstrikes killed two high-profile Daesh targets and left an-



other wounded.

American President, Joe Biden, has warned that another terror attack at Kabul airport is “highly likely” in the next day or two while at the same time vowing further U.S. airstrikes against alleged Daesh targets.

The swift airstrikes by the Pentagon on what it calls “Daesh targets” has led observers to question whether Washington had prior knowledge of Daesh leaders and facilities’ whereabouts and why the U.S. did carry out the airstrikes before the deadly terror attack at Kabul airport.

Elsewhere, UN officials have warned that Afghanistan faces a humanitarian catastrophe, with large parts of the country suffering from extreme drought conditions. The economy, shattered after decades of war, also faces a financial crisis.

However, Mujahid insists the economy will improve once the new government takes office. He said “the fall of Afghani against foreign currency is temporary and it is because of the situation that suddenly changed, it will come back to normal once the government system starts functioning”

## China blasts ‘mendacious’ U.S. report on virus origins tracing

China has blasted a “mendacious” report by the U.S. intelligence community that concluded a months-long investigation into the origins of the coronavirus, warning Washington against politicization of the issue.

The strong condemnation by China’s Vice Foreign Minister Ma Zhaoxu on Saturday came a day after the U.S. intelligence report on COVID-19 origins was made public and stopped short of ruling out the possibility of the virus coming from a laboratory in the Chinese city of Wuhan.

“The U.S. intelligence community has re-

cently compiled a so-called report on the origins of COVID-19. It is a mendacious report made up for political purposes and there is no scientific basis or credibility in it,” Ma said in a statement.

“The virus origins tracing is a complex scientific matter and it should and can only be jointly done by scientists around the world, but the U.S. has been obsessed with political manipulation and intelligence tracing in disregard of science and facts,” he added.

The released report on Friday said the U.S. spy agencies remain “divided” on the origins

of the coronavirus with the two main hypotheses being “natural exposure to an infected animal” and “a laboratory-associated incident.”

One agency, which was not named, argued with “moderate confidence” that the virus originated in a Chinese government lab while four others leaned towards the natural causes with “low confidence.”

The Chinese vice foreign minister said the United States’ attempts to politicize origins tracing have found no support and met widespread opposition from the international

community.

Ma said in the statement that Washington should stop slandering Beijing over the epidemiological crisis while the U.S. itself could turn out to have a role in the origin of the viral outbreak after investigating its own labs.

“We once again urge that the U.S. should immediately stop poisoning the international cooperation on virus tracing and undermining global unity, and return to the correct path of scientific origins tracing and cooperation in the fight against the pandemic,” Ma added.

A team of international experts from the World Health Organization (WHO) visited Wuhan in January 2021 to produce a first-phase report, which was written in conjunction with their Chinese counterparts, but it failed to find a conclusive position on the origin of the virus.

The WHO’s report said the virus jumping from bats to humans via an intermediate animal was the most probable scenario, and that a leak from the Wuhan virology labs was “extremely unlikely.”

The theory that the contagion had leaked



## UNESCO-designated garden reopens after two-month closure amid coronavirus pandemic

TEHRAN – Shazdeh Garden, which is an enigmatic green oasis in the heart of a desert in the southeast Kerman province, reopened on Sunday after being closed for two months amid the coronavirus pandemic.

“Shazdeh Garden has reopened to tourists again... and holidaymakers are allowed to enjoy the exquisiteness of this World Heritage site if they observe public health protocols,” IRNA quoted a provincial tourism official as saying on Sunday.

Many visitors consider Shazdeh Garden as a miracle because of its location. It is claimed to be one of the biggest and most beautiful gardens in the semi-arid country.

The garden was constructed under the command of Mohammad Hassan Khan, the ruler of Kerman during the Qajar era (1789–1925). Apart from the beauties of the garden, two-storey mansions in the western and eastern parts of the garden perfectly represent Persian architecture. The main material used in them is brick and the art of tiling is easy to recognize.

In 2011, a selection of nine Iranian gardens, including Shazdeh Garden, which bear important architectural, traditional, and cultural elements, were collectively inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list under the title of “The Persian Garden.”

One outstanding feature of Persian gardens is the arrangement of a pond in the center of the structure. The dance of fountains in the middle of Shazdeh Garden has given an admirable view to it that leaves everyone in wonder and appreciation.

For millennia, Iranian gardens have combined the magic of nature with the aesthetic qualities of art and architecture to create



a symbolic representation of paradise on Earth.

The genuine concept of the Persian Garden that is deeply rooted in time interweaves natural elements with manmade components to embody an idea of creating a paradise on Earth by the means of artistic, philosophical, figurative, and religious notions.

UNESCO says the flawless design of the Persian Garden, along with its ability to respond to extreme climatic conditions, is the result of an inspired and intelligent application of different fields of knowledge, i.e. technology, water management and engineering, architecture, botany, and agriculture.

# Lavish gifts: 10 souvenir ideas your family & friends will love

From page 1 ► **Persian carpets and rugs**

Handmade Persian carpets are sought after internationally for their delicate designs and their good quality. They are almost expensive but they are worth every penny.

However, if you can't or don't want to spend much money, you can check out some other types of rugs such as Gilim (Kilim) and Gabbeh (Gabba). They are both made of natural handspun wool yarn, and the colors are created by natural plant dye. Unlike carpets, they don't have any plans, and they're inspired by daily events so they can't be copied.

There are some differences between Gabbeh and Gilim. These items are found everywhere in Iran, but the carpets of Tabriz and the rugs made by Bakhtiari and Fars tribes, have higher qualities.

### Sweets, nuts, and spices

Many Iranians have a sweet tooth and that is why hundreds of types of sweets are produced in every corner of the country. Those who love sweets will be fascinated by Sohan of Qom and Gaz of Isfahan. Besides, Iran is considered to be the center of pistachio production in the world and is the best place for foreign tourists to buy it as a souvenir. Saffron is another famous souvenir of Iran, known as red gold, and is widely used in Iranian foods and pastries. Mashhad is the main city producing saffron in Iran. Rosewater is another great souvenir of Iran that is mainly produced in Kashan.

### Khatam

Khatam is the art of putting wooden or bone-made polygons together with special glue. It is a very delicate art and needs many different specialists. The best types of Khatam are



the ones with no space between the polygons. The main centers of this art are Isfahan, Shiraz, and Tehran. Objects made of Khatam are mainly practical objects, therefore they can be very useful souvenirs.

### Turquoise

Turquoise is one of the Iranian souvenirs, that is not specific to Iran. But you can find one of the best types of Turquoise in Iran because it is solid and hard and is proper for making jewelry.

Turquoise is Iran's national gemstone and is centered in the city of Neishabour. So if you have a special taste in jewelry, don't forget to check out the northeast of Iran.

### Metalworks

Iranian metalworks are famous around the world. Ghalamzani is one ancient metalwork that has a long history in Iran. It is the art of

carving drawings on the surface of metals such as gold, silver, copper, and bronze using a bar and a hammer. Ghalamzani is mostly done on

dishes such as vases and big plates. Artists working in this field are mainly in Isfahan, Shiraz, Kerman, Kermanshah, and Tehran. So if you pass through the center, south, east, or west of Iran you will have the chance to see these artists and their art.

### Miniature

Miniature is the art of drawing small pictures, which was used to decorate ancient or medieval manuscripts. It is a worldwide art and has been developed in both Europe and Asia according to their different cultures. Therefore you can see Miniature all around the world, but it is different in every country. In Iran, Miniature continued its development as a type of painting and

some contemporary artists worked in this field such as the famous painter, Mahmoud Farshchian. There are some shops all around Iran, which sell diverse types of paintings, including Miniature. So it is one of the Iranian souvenirs accessible almost everywhere.

### Termeh

Termeh is a cloth that is handmade with silk thread and usually used as a tablecloth. It is expensive because of its quality and special yarn and perfect design. Nowadays Termeh is mainly made with mechanical tools, but the handmade ones are more valuable. The most beautiful pieces of Termeh are found in the city of Yazd.

### Ceramics and pottery

Pottery and ceramics are also not specific to Iran, but Persian culture and history of art have specialized this art in Iran. Most Iranian cities have shops that sell pottery and ceramics. The center of this art in Iran is the city of Lalejin in Hamedan, which is known as the center of pottery in the Middle East. So if you want to buy small and cheap pieces of Iranian souvenirs and you care about its Persian look, pottery and ceramics are good choices.

### Traditional fabrics

Each city in Iran produces its unique type of fabric. It is also observable in the traditional and local costumes of different cities. For example, Qalamzani is a special print technique used in Isfahan to create Iranian patterns on fabrics. Pateh, which is traditionally practiced by women in Kerman, features abstract patterns on thick woolen fabrics with colored cotton sutures. Termeh comes originally from Yazd and is the art of printing paisley designs on silk fabrics.

## 90 historical objects restored in UNESCO-registered Susa

TEHRAN – A total of 90 historical relics have been restored by teams of cultural heritage experts and restorers at the UNESCO-registered site of Susa in the southwestern Khuzestan province, IRNA reported on Sunday.

The objects, which were unearthed as part of various seasons of archaeology, represent diverse historical periods, from prehistoric to Islamic eras, the report added.

Among the restored items are some painted potteries, a Parthian-era earthen coffin, a Sassanid-era statue, and a number of the globally-famed Luristan Bronzes.

Many of the cited objects are being kept at treasure troves of the Museum of Susa (Shush Museum) whose authorities aim to have them prepared for going on display.

Ancient Susa is one of Iran's most treasured sights. The UNESCO-designated city, now flanked by

the modern city of Shush, formerly belonged to the Elamite, Persian, and Parthian empires.

Situated in the lower Zagros mountain range, around 250 kilometers east of the Tigris river and between the Kharkeh and Dez rivers, Susa is identified as Shushan in the Book of Esther and other Biblical books.

It was once the winter residence of Persian kings after having been captured by Cyrus the Great. Susa became part of the Persian Empire under Cyrus II, the Great in 538 or 539 BC.

Archaeological evidence suggests that Susa has been continuously inhabited since 4,200 BC placing it among the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world.

In addition, there are traces at Susa of a village inhabited around 7,000 BC and painted pottery dating from ca. 5,000 BC at the site.

Artifacts discovered at the site include carved cylinder seals, jewelry, clay balls, and clay tablets with cuneiform inscriptions recording business transactions, political history, and mathematical calculations.

It is said that Alexander of Macedonia captured Susa in 330 BC and plundered the city, seizing some 40,000 talents of gold and silver from the treasury. Alexander the Great initiated Shushan's decline by favoring Babylon and shortly after, following a revolt, the city was burnt to the ground. Subsequently rebuilt by Sapor II (309–



379 CE), it was renamed Iranshahr Shapur and later helped in the resistance against the Arab invasion of 645.

After the fall of the Achaemenid Empire and the reign of Alexander the Great, who married in Susa, the city became part of the Seleucid empire. It was now called Seleucia on the Eulaeus. A palace in Greek style was erected, next to Darius' palace. The administrative center, however, was in the southern part of the city, where nearly all Greek and Parthian inscriptions were dis-

covered. In the Parthian age, the city minted coins.

During the Sasanian age, the city had a large Christian community. It was sacked by the Sasanian king Shapur II, who transferred the population to Iwan-e Karkheh, but Susa was sufficiently recovered in the early seventh century to fight against the Arabs, who nevertheless captured the city which remained important until the thirteenth century CE.

Different archaeological seasons in Susa have yielded ample relics including pottery, arms, ornamental objects, metalwork, bronze articles, as well as clay tablets. Susa is also a gateway to several worthy destinations such as the UNESCO-tagged ziggurat of Tchogha Zanbil, the ruins of Achaemenid Apadana Castle, Shush Castle (Akropol), Prophet Daniel Shrine, Museum of Susa, the archaeological mount of Haft Tapeh.

## Projects worth \$13.6 million to buttress tourism in northern Iran



A view of the UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus in Golestan province

TEHRAN – New tourism projects worth \$13.6 million are expected to advance tourism infrastructure across the northern Iranian Golestan province.

Of the projects, 15 worth almost 140 billion rials (\$3.3 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) are scheduled to be put into operation on the occasion of the Government Week (August 24–30), the provincial tourism chief said on Friday.

Moreover, some ground-breaking ceremonies are scheduled to be held during the week with the attendance of local officials and travel insiders, CHTN quoted Ahmad Tajari as saying on Friday.

Completed projects comprise ten eco-lodge units, two traditional restaurants, two travel agencies, and restoration of a historical monument, he explained.

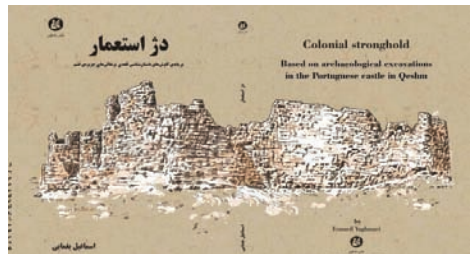
The new ones include eco-lodge units, agritourism farms and accommodation centers worth 433 billion rials (\$10.3 million) will also be commenced, he mentioned.

A total investment value of 573 billion rials (about \$13.6 million) has been channeled through the projects, which are expected to develop tourism across the northern province, the official said.

The projects will add some 560 beds to the hospitality sector of the province and will generate 170 job opportunities for the locals, the official added.

Golestan is reportedly embracing some 2,500 historical and natural sites, with UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus – a one-millennium-old brick tower – amongst its most famous. Narratives say the tower has influenced various subsequent designers of tomb towers and other cylindrical commemorative structures both in the region and beyond. The UNESCO comments that the tower bears testimony to the cultural exchange between Central Asian nomads and the ancient civilization of Iran.

## New book explores Portuguese fort in southern Iran



TEHRAN – A book authored by Iranian archaeologist Esmail Yaghmaei has recently gone out of print to turn the spotlight on a Portuguese fort, which was constructed on Iran's Qeshm Island in the 16th century.

Furthermore, the 300-page book, entitled “Colonial Stronghold”, features archaeological excavations conducted in/around the fortress, Mehr reported on Sunday.

The stronghold was built upon the orders of Portuguese commander Alfonso de Albuquerque when his forces seized the islands in the early sixteenth century.

The Portuguese also left other military structures on the Iranian islands of Hormuz and Larak and in the port of Kong as legacies of their colonialism in the Persian Gulf.

The Persian-Portuguese war took place from 1507 to 1622 and involved the Portuguese Empire and the Kingdom of Ormus, its vassal, on one side, and the Safavid Persia (Iran) with the help of the Kingdom of England on the other side.

In 1622 when the Persians retook Hormuz and other occupied lands, the Portuguese Empire was one of the largest and most powerful empires in the world.

## Office dedicated to Great Wall of Grogan to be built in northern Iran

TEHRAN – Iran is scheduled to construct a special office for the Great Wall of Grogan, which the country pursues its possible inscription as a UNESCO World Heritage.

Stretched across Iran's northern Golestan province, the defensive wall is about 200 km in length and it was built to prevent the invasion of the northern tribes. It is said to be the longest architectural work of ancient Iran, which was built in 90 years.

“Due to the huge scale of the wall and its related facilities as well as providing the necessary foundation for the possible global registration of the wall, while archaeological studies and restoration projects are underway, constructing an office that will provide tourism, protection, and research services are on the agenda,” the provincial tourism chief Ahmad Tajari said on Sunday.

A budget of 14 billion rials (\$334,000 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been allocated to the project, the official said.

“Covering an area of 900 square meters and a rectangular plan, the one-storey office will be similar to the castles of the wall.”

Various sections of the office will be comprised of a lecture and film room, an exhibit of



archeological objects, a photo exhibition, a demonstration of handicrafts, a prayer hall, and a tea room to show off the activities in the region, he noted.

Also known as Red Wall, which in some ancient texts is referred to as the Red Snake, this wall is the longest brick ancient barrier between Central Europe and China, longer than Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall put together and the third-largest wall in the world after the walls of China and Germany.

Most parts of the gigantic monument are still hidden underneath the surface through some segments that have so

far been unearthed and even restored to former glory.

Archaeological excavations have so far identified ditches, brick kilns, earthen dams, water canals, 38 forts, and watch towers attached to the wall, and more than 25 castles in the southern margin of the wall as well as several ancient sites from prehistoric, historic, and Islamic eras.

The gigantic barrier is also more than three times the length of the longest late

Roman defensive wall built from scratch, the Anastasian Wall west of Constantinople. The combined area of the forts on the Gorgan Wall exceeds that of

## The Great Wall of Grogan is remarkable in terms of its physical scale and technical sophistication.



TEHRAN – As of the start of a national plan to develop the nanotechnology sector 15 years ago, more than 5,283 billion rials (about \$125.7 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials) has been allocated to nanotechnology projects, IRNA reported on Saturday.

Nanotechnology's trend of development is growing in Iran, as the number of nanoproducts and equipment developed in the previous [Iranian calendar] year (ended March 20) increased to 750, compared with 647 a year before.

Some 223 product manufacturing companies and 59 equipment manufacturing companies are active in the field of nanotechnology and by the end of last year, which developed a total of 750 products and equipment.

Of the 750 products and equipment registered in the nanotechnology product database, 535 were related to nano-products and 215 were related to nano-equipment, both of which have experienced a growing trend over the past few years, although nano-products have grown more significantly.

The field of "civil engineering and construction" with 20 percent had the largest share among nano products and equipment, followed by "medicine, health" and "industrial services and supplies" each with 13 percent.

Saeed Sarkar, the head of Iran's Nanotechnology Innovation Council, said in June that Iran has created centers in six Asian countries for exporting nanotechnology products.

# Over \$125 million allocated to nanotechnology sector



China, India, Indonesia, Syria, Turkey, and Iraq have received Iranian nanotechnology products and services.

Iranian-made nanotechnology products are currently exported to

49 countries in five continents, he added.

For the time being, 725 nanotechnology products in 10 fields of industry are manufactured relying on indigenized technologies, the of-

ficial noted.

Prioritizing nanotechnology in Iran has led to this country's steady placement among the five pioneers of the nanotechnology field in recent years, and approximately 20 percent of all articles provided by Iranian researchers in 2020 are relative to this area of technology.

Iran has been introduced as the 4th leading country in the world in the field of nanotechnology, publishing 11,546 scientific articles in 2020.

The country held a 6 percent share of the world's total nanotechnology articles, according to StatNano's monthly evaluation accomplished in WoS databases.

There are 227 companies in Iran registered in the WoS databases, manufacturing 419 products, mainly in the fields of construction, textile, medicine, home appliances, automotive, and food.

According to the data, 31 Iranian universities and research centers published more than 50 nano-articles in the last year.

## For the time being, 725 nanotechnology products in 10 fields of industry are manufactured.

## Iran awaiting 100m doses of coronavirus vaccine by yearend



TEHRAN – As per contracts signed with international manufacturers, some 100 million doses of coronavirus vaccine should be imported by the end of 2021, Nasser Riyahi, the head of the Association of Medicine Importers, said on Sunday.

The COVAX facility has pledged to provide Iran with 16.8 million doses of the vaccine, IRIB quoted Riyahi as saying.

Russia has also signed contracts to export 30-50 million doses of the vaccine to Iran, but it has reneged on the promise, he noted.

"It had been planned to import 50 million doses of Chinese vaccine from Sinopharm, but to date around half of the amount has been delivered."

On August 25, World Health Organization (WHO) representative to Iran Jaffar Hussain announced that three million doses of vaccine will be delivered soon to the country under the COVAX facility.

The COVAX Facility is a partnership, co-led by Coa-

lition for Epidemic Preparedness Innovations (CEPI), Gavi-The Vaccine Alliance, and the WHO, alongside key delivery partner United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF).

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

The Iranian Red Crescent Society head Karim Hemmati said on August 26 that a total of 20,390 million doses of the vaccine have been imported so far.

Moreover, negotiation is underway with one or two European countries to purchase Pfizer and Moderna coronavirus vaccines, Alireza Raisi, the spokesman for the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, has said.

Referring to good efforts made to import vaccines, he said: "By the end of September, we will definitely import about 30 million doses of vaccine. With another memorandum of understanding from October, we will receive another 30 million doses.

So, if we receive 60 million doses of vaccine, we can vaccinate the age group of 30 by the beginning of November."

Meanwhile, President Ebrahim Raisi has confirmed that 30 million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine

will be imported.

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

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

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

Placing great emphasis on the fulfillment of duties and the implementation of decisions regarding the Coronavirus pandemic, Ayatollah Khamenei said "the vaccine, whether imported or domestically produced, must be provided with double effort and in any way possible made available to all people."

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

## A total of 20.390 million doses of the vaccine have been imported so far.

## Permanent exhibitions of knowledge-based companies to be set up in 7 countries

From page 1 ► The report has also mentioned various reforms and legislation designed to remove barriers to competition in the Iranian market, calling it an effective step in providing innovation and significant improvement of science and technology in the Islamic Republic.

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.

The Iranian banking system has paid 127.1 trillion rials (about \$3.02 billion) of facilities to knowledge-based companies during the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21).

According to the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) data, the amount of the mentioned facilities, paid to 558 companies,

has increased by 247.4 percent compared to the previous year's same period.

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.

Vice President for Science and Technology Sourena Sattari told the Tehran Times in October 2020 that "U.S. sanctions caused exports of knowledge-based companies to decline three years ago, however, it has returned to growth and is projected to reach the pre-sanctions level of more than \$1 billion by the end of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 20, 2021).

Fortunately, last year, companies achieved a record sale of 1.2 quadrillion rials (nearly \$28.5 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials), which is expected to increase by 40 percent this year."

## Flora of Iran

(Part 4)

### Elements of the flora

The Arcto-Tertiary element. Certain genetic elements of the flora must have been decisive for the plant colonization of the Near East. One of them was the Arcto-Tertiary flora, which apparently spread over the entire temperate zone of the northern hemisphere in the Pliocene. It must have retreated toward the south as the continental glaciers advanced in the Pleistocene.

Today, many plants that died out in Europe and northern Asia during the Ice Age have survived in refuges in the southern Caspian lowlands and on the northern foothills of the Alborz mountains, as well as in the forested areas of ?alesh, the Caucasus, and the southern coast of the Black Sea (Probst, 1981).

Examples include *Parrotia persica* (the last representative of a widespread and species-rich genus in the Tertiary), *Celtis australis*, *Pterocarya fraxinifolia*, and *Zelkova carpinifolia*. During the late Tertiary forests of Euxino-Hyrcanian type must have been widespread in the Near East, as is suggested by the presence of *Cedrus*, *Abies*, and *Ostrya* in modern Lebanon. Beside this mesophytic component of the Arcto-Tertiary element there was a xerophytic component, to which the many native Persian species of *Crataegus*, *Amygdalus*, *Cerasus*, *Prunus*, *Pistacia*, and *Rhamnus* and the species-aggregate related to *Quercus brantii* are to be traced. These xerophytic descendants of the Arcto-Tertiary flora conquered the arid mountain ranges on the interior of Persia. Today, they belong to Irano-Anatolian elements.

The Indo-Malesian element. A second genetic element was the tropical Indo-Malesian flora, which started spreading from southeast Asia in the Cretaceous, and in the early Tertiary had reached as far north as the fiftieth parallel in Europe (e.g., the Paleocene flora of London). Evidence of a Near Eastern distribution of this element has been found only in Lower Egypt and the Negev. It is nevertheless quite probable that a group of plants found today in the Euxino-Caucasian-Hyrcanian province are relics of this tropical flora, for example, *Diospyros lotus*, *Albizia julibrissin*, the genus *Buxus*, *Nelumbo speciosum*, and *Dioscorea caspica*.

A few genera that are naturalized in the Near East and the Mediterranean basin also belong to the xerophytic descendants of the tropical Indo-Malesian flora, for example, *Ceratonis siliqua*; *Cercis siliquastrum*; *Laurus nobilis*; *Myrtus communis*; species of *Olea*, *Tamus*, *Smilax*, and *Ruscus*; and *Danae racemosa*. The westernmost traces of this element today are the laurel forests of the Canary Islands.

The Paleo-African element. It is not entirely certain whether or not there was a third, also tropical,



Tertiary genetic element, but a series of plant-geographical discoveries supports such an identification. The Tertiary flora of Africa can be divided into two categories, the rain-forest flora of the Congo basin and the Paleo-African flora, which consists for the most part of xerophytic vegetation.

Species of the latter spread across Ethiopia and Arabia into the Near East. For example, of twenty-five species of *Acacia* known in the Near East most occur in southwestern Arabia. However, only a few have reached Persia; they probably migrated across the Eritrean-Arabian land bridge in the early Tertiary.

The Mesogean element. Finally, the term Mesogean refers to the flora of a territory that encompasses the three hot and mostly arid regions constituting the eastern Holarctic: the Mediterranean, Saharo-Arabian, and Irano-Turanian floral regions. This element seems quite heterogeneous today, yet it includes a large number of common genera, which suggests a fairly uniform evolution of the flora over the entire area.

Of more than ten thousand species found there more than two-thirds are indigenous. Zohary (1973) considered this flora an independent element, for it seems improbable that such numerous and richly differentiated taxa developed from Indo-Malesian and Arcto-Tertiary stock in the comparatively short span of time after the Tethys Sea receded. The distribution of numerous xeromorphic genera like *Eurotia*, *Artemisia*, *Fagonia*, *Suaeda*, *Kochia*, and *Tamarix*, which are at home in the band of deserts encircling the Old World, is evidence of a pre-Tertiary origin for this element. During the Tertiary, the Mesogean flora split into different components: the Central Asian, the Turanian, the Irano-Anatolian, the Paleo-Saharan, and the Mediterranean. The Turanian and Irano-Anatolian components have further evolved into a large number of species.

(Source: Encyclopaedia Iranica)

## Ocean surface climates may disappear by 2100: study

Up to 95 per cent of Earth's ocean surface will have changed by the end of the century unless humanity reins in its carbon emissions, according to research published on Thursday.

Ocean surface climates, defined by surface water temperature, acidity and the concentration of the mineral aragonite -- which many marine animals use to form bones and shell -- support the vast majority of sea life.

The world's seas have absorbed around a third of all carbon pollution produced since the Industrial Revolution.

But with atmospheric CO2 levels increasing at a rate unprecedented in at least three million years, there are fears that ocean surface climates may become less hospitable to the species it hosts.

US-based researchers wanted to see what effect carbon pollution has already had on ocean surface since the mid-18th century. They also projected the impact of emissions through to 2100.

To do so, they modelled global ocean climates across three time periods: the early 19th century (1795-1834); the late 20th century (1965-2004); and the late 21st century (2065-2104).

They then ran the models through two emissions scenarios. The first -- known as RCP4.5 -- envisions a peak in greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 followed by a slow decrease across the rest of the century.

The second scenario -- RCP8.5 -- is a "business as usual" approach, where emissions continue to rise throughout the next 80 years.

Writing in the journal *Nature Scientific Reports*, the researchers found that under the RCP4.5 scenario, 36 per cent of the ocean surface conditions present throughout the 20th century are likely to disappear by 2100.

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON AUGUST 29

New cases	31,516
New deaths	581
Total cases	4,926,964
Total deaths	106,482
New hospitalized patients	3,614
Patients in critical condition	7,877
Total recovered patients	4,146,742
Diagnostic tests conducted	28,668,156
Doses of vaccine injected	28,668,156

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### ‘City-friendly schools’ scheme launched in Tehran

The “city-friendly schools” scheme was launched in the capital to promote environmental protection and urban development issues among students, ISNA reported on Wednesday.

Mojtaba Daneshvar, director general of citizenship education at Tehran Municipality, said that the project covers more than 550 schools, consisting of 160,000 students.

It aims to familiarize students with the rights and duties of citizens, the environment, waste, transportation and traffic, safety and security, crisis management, he explained.

The training programs will be in the form of workshops, role plays, cultural and educational camps, production of educational content such as books, brochures and posters, he concluded.

### آغاز طرح «مدارس دوستدار شهر» در تهران

طرح «مدارس دوستدار شهر» با هدف آشنا کردن دانش آموزان با حقوق و تکالیف شهروندی، محیط زیست و پسماند، حمل و نقل و ترافیک، و ایمنی و مدیریت بحران در مدارس منتخب شهر تهران آغاز شد.

به گزارش ایسنا مجتبی دانشور، مدیرکل آموزش‌های شهروندی شهرداری تهران، گفت این طرح بیش از ۵۵۰ مدرسه شامل ۱۶۰ هزار دانش‌آموز را در بر می‌گیرد.

برنامه‌های آموزشی این طرح در قالب برگزاری کارگاه‌های آموزشی، تولید محتوای آموزشی در قالب کتاب، بروشور و پوستر، اجرای نمایش و برگزاری اردوهای فرهنگی و آموزشی خواهد بود.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Generosity is to help a deserving person without his request, and if you help him after his request, then it is either out of self-respect or to avoid rebuke.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times» Noon:13:05    Evening: 19:53    Dawn: 5:08 (tomorrow)    Sunrise: 6:36 (tomorrow)

## Art in Iran: Neolithic to Median

Part 1

Geography as a determinant for the development of art

Topographically Iran is a varied country and its art is regionally diversified. This variation in the artistic products from different areas of the country sets off the art of Iran as a whole from that of countries in which greater uniformity can be observed, such as Mesopotamia where major differences exist only between north and south.

The artistic provinces of Iran do not remain constant, however. In the earliest periods, when art, insofar as it is preserved, consisted of clay figurines, painted pottery, and engraved stamp seals, the principal areas of its production can be enumerated as follows:

1. South and southwest Iran, the modern provinces of Fars and Khuzestan with the Susiana, the area around Susa, artistically the most significant.
2. Central west Iran, the modern provinces of Lorestan and Kermanshah, where the sites of Tepe Giyan (Gian) and Godin Tepe yielded the longest sequences.
3. Northwest Iran, the provinces of Azarbaijan and Kordistan, where the sites of the Hassanlu project have provided most of the available information.
4. The area southeast of the Caspian Sea, and the adjacent regions of Gorgan, and Khorasan where the most important sites are Tepe Hissar (Hesar) and Tureng Tepe, closely related to the Namazgah sequence and other sites in Turkmenistan of the USSR.
5. Central south Iran, mainly modern Fars with the prehistoric site of Talle Bakun close to where Persepolis was to rise several millennia later. In the same general area the all-important site of Talle Malyan was discovered, which later texts serve to identify with Anshan, which vied with Susa for being the most significant site of Elam.
6. Southeast Iran, the modern province of Kerman, Sistan, and Baluchestan with the sites of Tell Elbis, Tepe Yahya, Bampur, and Shahr-e Sukhteh (Burnt City).

Dependence of the chronology of art on archeology

From the listing of archeological sites, it is obvious that the study of the art of Iran depends for criteria of geographical origin and date on the results of excavation.

This is also true for the historical periods. Only very few works of art, found with one or two exceptions at Susa or neighboring Chogha Zanbil, can be dated on the basis of their inscriptions.

Most of the dates which will be cited in this survey are therefore approximations based on the stratigraphy of sites where objects, which are related to those selected here as significant for the study of art, were found. Unfortunately, several of these objects come from unknown or insufficiently recorded excavations.

Iconographical motifs as links between regions and periods

The links which connect works of art made in various periods and regions of Iran are all iconographic. Of these the representation of animals is the most distinctive.

Studies of early food production have shown that man in Iran had a remarkable talent for the domestication of different species of horned animals.

This implies a feeling for and understanding of the psyche of animals such as was expressed in animal representations throughout Iranian art, from the clay figurines of the seventh to the



*Kneeling bull holding a spouted vessel (ca. 3100–2900 BC, Proto-Elamite)*

fourth millennium BC to the elegant rams and bucks of the Sassanid silver plates.

Another important element of the art of Iran is the presence of composite beings. One type, here called demon, is a combination of man and animal walking on two legs.

An example is the demon with the head of a mountain goat or a moufflon. That type of creature was especially long lived, lasting from early stamps of Lorestan to the stele of Untash-Napirisha and to a Sassanid stamp seal.

The second type, called here monsters, consists of creatures composed of several animals walking on four legs. The most important of these for the history of art in general is the griffin with the foreparts and wings of a bird of prey and the rest of the body that of lion. The griffin was one of several monsters created in the earliest phase of cylinder seal engraving.

Serpents with feline heads are another type of monsters which had a long life in the art of Iran; the earliest clearly recognizable creatures of this type are found on carved vessels of chlorite or steatite, especially a vase in the British Museum said to have come from Khafajeh.

Moreover, serpents with or without feline heads were widespread in Iranian art, probably because their undulating bodies were equated with the winding courses of streams of life-giving water. Representations may show the entire body of the serpent in monumental size, as in an offering table from Susa, or in very small size, as in the diadem of the archer on the Hassanlu bowl.

Other iconographic use of animals seems to have been limited in time and space; for example, leonine, bovine, or other horned creatures acting like humans are portrayed in small sculptures of the period called by Amiet Paleo-Elamite or protourban and appear to correspond to the Jamdat Nasr phase of Mesopotamian art.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

# Reading promoter says Iran is lingering hope for Afghan migrants

A file photo shows Afghan book reading promoter Nader Musavi attending a class at an Iranian school for Afghan children.

TEHRAN – Afghan book reading promoter Nader Musavi has said that Iran has a main lingering hope for Afghan people feeling in terror as Taliban insurgents have taken over Afghanistan.

Speaking to the Persian service of MNA on Sunday, he noted, “Whoever has the ability to flee will leave the country anyway.”

He called Iran, Pakistan and Tajikistan their destination and added, “Iran is one of their main hopes, because they have close friends and relatives in Iran.”

“In addition, they have no problem with language and culture in the country and they have a lot in common with Iranians on religious issues,” said Naderi, who has been nominated by Iran for the IBBY-iRead Outstanding Reading Promoter Award and the IBBY-Asahi Reading Promotion Award in 2022.

“Iran has also been Afghan tourists’ popular destination in peacetime,” he added.

“Anyway, the remarkable cultural affinities between Afghanistan and Iran draw Afghan people to Iran,”

## Composer Hushang Kamkar dedicates “Another Grieved Land” to Afghan people

TEHRAN – Celebrated Iranian composer Hushang Kamkar dedicated his latest piece “Another Grieved Land” (“Faghanestani Digar”) to the oppressed people of Afghanistan.

He has recorded the symphony based on a melody from the old love song “Let’s Go to Mazar”, which has been sung by various Afghan and Iranian singers.

“It took several days to write the piece, which is strongly inspired by the unhappy situation in Afghanistan and leaving Afghan people alone hastily and inhumanly by the countries that claim to protect human rights,” Kamkar said in a statement on Sunday after the release of the recording.

“I had deep grief in my heart that I could just express through music. I hope the collective endeavors and resistance will bring peace back to the sad land soon,” he added.

“‘Another Grieved Land’ is a symphony written for oud based on ‘Bia ke Berim be Mazar’, a popular Afghan melody; for Mazar-i-Sharif that is not safe enough to travel to anymore.”

He also thanked his brother, Arslan, a master of stringed instruments, for his contributions to the recording.

Kamkar has composed numerous symphonies, including “Anfal”, “Khorramshahr Symphonic Poem” and “In Golestaneh”.

The Tehran Symphony Orchestra choir and Italy’s World Youth Orchestra perform his symphony “Where Art Thou, Divine Martyrs” at the Basilica di Santa Maria Maggiore in Rome in 2017.

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

Iranian composer Hushang Kamkar. (Mehr/ Mohammadreza Abbasi)

of the children killed in the terrorist attack on the school.

## Persian translation of “The Maidens” comes two months after release of English edition

TEHRAN – British-Cypriot author Alex Michaelides's novel “The Maidens” has been published in Persian two months after the publication of its original English edition.



Front cover of the Persian translation of Alex Michaelides's novel “The Maidens”.

Maryam Hosseinejad has translated the book published by Sang in Tehran.

The book illustrates that Edward Fosca is a murderer. Of this Mariana is certain. But Fosca is untouchable. A handsome and charismatic Greek tragedy professor at Cambridge University, Fosca is adored by staff and students alike, particularly by the members of a secret society of female students known as The Maidens.

Mariana Andros is a brilliant

but troubled group therapist who becomes fixated on The Maidens when one member, a friend of Mariana's niece Zoe, is found murdered in Cambridge.

Mariana, who was once herself a student at the university, quickly suspects that behind the idyllic beauty of the spires and turrets, and beneath the ancient traditions, lies something sinister. And she becomes convinced that, despite his alibi, Edward Fosca is guilty of the murder. But why would the professor target one of his students? And why does he keep returning to the rites of Persephone, the maiden, and her journey to the underworld?

When another body is found,

Mariana's obsession with proving Fosca's guilt spirals out of control, threatening to destroy her credibility as well as her closest relationships. But Mariana is determined to stop this killer, even if it costs her everything—including her own life.

## “Redhead by the Side of the Road” arrives in Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – A Persian translation of American writer Anne Tyler's novel “Redhead by the Side of the Road” has been published in Tehran.



Front cover of the Persian translation of Anne Tyler's novel “Redhead by the Side of the Road”.

Tadaei is the publisher of the novel rendered into Persian by Nazli Nasrollahi.

The novel is about Micah Mortimer who measures out his days running errands for work, maintaining an impeccable cleaning regime and going for runs at 7:15, every morning.

He is in a long-term relationship with his woman friend Cassia, but they live apart. His carefully calibrated life is regular, steady, balanced.

But then the order of things starts to tilt. Cassia is threatened with eviction, and when a teenager shows up at Micah's door claiming to be his son, he is confronted with another surprise he seems

poorly equipped to handle.

Can Micah, a man to whom those around him always seem just out of reach, find a way back to his perfectly imperfect love story?

Tyler was born in Minneapolis, Minnesota, in 1941 and grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina.

She graduated at nineteen from Duke University and went on to do graduate work in Russian studies at Columbia University.

She has published 20 novels, her debut novel being “If Morning Ever Comes in”. Her eleventh novel, “Breathing Lessons”, was awarded the Pulitzer Prize in 1988.

In 2012, she received the Sunday Times Award for Literary Excellence.

Tyler is a member of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.