

# With SCO Membership, Iran Rolls Out New Orientation

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STAY UPDATED #SCO

## Report

### How Hezbollah changed the equation by importing fuel from Iran

TEHRAN - The fuel shortage, especially gasoline and diesel, is one of the aspects of the growing economic and financial crisis in Lebanon, which has intensified over the last 18 months.

With consumption of 12 million liters of fuel daily, the Lebanese Central Bank pays near 85% of the cost of energy as subsidy.

The Lebanese political and economic crisis, which began in late 2019, is the most painful period of instability.

Since the start of the recent economic crisis, the value of the Lebanese national currency has fallen by about 90%, and unemployment has risen sharply.

Commodity prices and inflation have skyrocketed, with civil society and economists saying that about half the country's population is now below the poverty line.

Most gas stations are crowded daily, and people wait long hours for petrol and diesel. Some bring gallons with them.

This sharp devaluation of the national currency, given that Lebanon imports most of its products and goods, has had a severe impact on the prices of these goods, especially fuel and essential goods, and the severe shortage and high cost of medicine and other necessary items such as wheat.

The crisis is because Lebanon's source of income comes mainly from tourism, the sale of agricultural products, financial transactions, and remittances from Lebanese working abroad. The economy has severely affected the purchasing power of the people and tourism and import sectors.

The slump in tourism due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus has further exacerbated the decline in Lebanese incomes.

Meanwhile, Lebanon's reception of hundreds of thousands of displaced Syrians who were forced to flee their homes for fear of terrorist attacks and seek refuge in neighboring countries, including Lebanon, has put additional pressure on the Lebanese.

Last year, the Lebanese government announced that it was unable to pay its foreign debts, and the foreign exchange reserves of the Lebanese central bank, whose economy is heavily dependent on imports, have plummeted. ▶ Page 2

## Op-ed

### As the U.S. "empire" frays, there is Zubeidi and his colleagues...

By Martin Love

It has been reported that Zakaria Zubeidi, one of the four of six escapees from maximum security Gilboa Prison in the West Bank who was recaptured by Zionist thugs, has been admitted to an ICU at an Israeli hospital after repeated rounds of torture that included breaking one of his legs and then hanging him upside down by his broken leg, among other atrocities.

As for the two escapees who have not yet been recaptured, it has been suggested that one of them MAY have been able to cross into Lebanon, given some unconfirmed evidence that someone may have figured out a way to cross the border. But this may just be very wishful thinking.

It anyway goes almost without saying that the Apartheid state is the world's greatest sponsor of terrorism (not Iran or any other country), and this has often been the case ever since 1948 when Zionist terrorists perpetrated the notable massacre of hundreds of innocent Palestinian villagers at a place called Deir Yassin near Jerusalem in an effort to so frighten Palestinian natives that they would leave their homes and become refugees. 800,000 Palestinians did become refugees back in 1948 and many Palestinian villages and towns were emptied and then wiped from the maps of what became "Israel". ▶ Page 5

### U.S. couldn't care less about EU: Will Europe learn the lesson?



TEHRAN — "Through AUKUS, our governments will strengthen the ability of each to support our security and defense interests, building on our longstanding and ongoing bilateral ties. We will promote deeper information and technology sharing. We will foster deeper integration of security

and defense-related science, technology, industrial bases, and supply chains. And in particular, we will significantly deepen cooperation on a range of security and defense capabilities.

As the first initiative under AUKUS, recognizing our common tradition as maritime democracies,

we commit to a shared ambition to support Australia in acquiring nuclear-powered submarines for the Royal Australian Navy. Today, we embark on a trilateral effort of 18 months to seek an optimal pathway to deliver this capability. We will leverage expertise from the United States ▶ Page 2

### Industry ministry approves new plans for improving domestic markets

TEHRAN - Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry approved seven programs for improving the commodity distribution system in the domestic markets in a meeting held on Thursday, IRIB reported.

As reported, attended by the Industry Minister Reza Fatemi Amin and some of his deputies, the mentioned meeting was held to present and review reform programs for improving the goods distribution system and the domestic market in order to amend the policies related to this area.

The measures related to the reform of networks, channels, as well as policies and regulations in the field of domestic goods distribution, have been set in the form of 19 programs whose general purpose is to reduce transaction, production, and distribution costs, transparency in the pricing system and informing consumers about their rights, ranking and validation of distribution networks, specialized monitoring of the markets, branding development and expansion of contracting institutions (including consumer NGOs).

The mentioned programs have been prepared

over a period of 18 months based on the studies conducted by the Institute for Trade Studies and Research, of which seven programs were approved in the Thursday meeting.

This meeting was held in line with the new strategies of the Industry Ministry and the reform programs defined by Fatemi Amin, in order to appropriately supply goods in the domestic market; in this regard, during the meeting project managers presented project charter including goals, execution schedule, problems, and possible solutions. ▶ Page 4

### WHO working to certify Iranian COVID vaccines

TEHRAN - "We are collecting the necessary information for the registration and certification of Iranian-made coronavirus vaccines," World Health Organization (WHO) representative to Iran Jaffar Hussain has said.

"Despite the severity of the pandemic, Iran has been able to control the epidemic to an acceptable level by taking necessary measures," he said, appreciating the actions and cooperation of the Food and Drug Administration.

Iran has taken measures such as closing educational centers, commercial businesses, forcing the use of masks in public places, and despite the problems and conditions, has been able to inject a significant amount of vaccine to the people, he highlighted

"I paid a visit to a COVID-19 vaccination center in Tehran lately and the work was managed quite professionally," he added, IRNA reported on Friday.

Earlier in August, Hussain issued a statement, saying that it is encouraging to see an acceleration in coronavirus vaccination in Iran that started early August. ▶ Page 7

### Archaeologically-rich cemetery in southwest Iran preparing to host visitors

TEHRAN - The first phase of rehabilitation work has been finished on Shoghab cemetery in southwest Iran aimed to prepare the archaeologically-rich site for public visits.

Covering five hectares of land, Shoghab cemetery, which is located on the outskirts of Bushehr, is adjacent to other magnificent sites which date from the Elamite (3200 - 539 BC) and Sassanid (224 CE-651) eras, ISNA quoted a senior Iranian archaeologist, Mostafa Dehpahlavan, as saying on Wednesday.

Previous excavations have revealed three types of burial, including rectangular tombstones, rectangular pit tombs made of stone, and (giant) urn pits (stretched) in the east-west direction, Dehpahlavan said.

"All archaeologists agree that the majority of these burials date from the end of the Parthian era (247 BC - 224 CE) to the end of the Sassanid epoch."

Elsewhere in his remarks, the expert stated that the ancient cemetery was once on the verge

of disappearing due to urban issues.

"In recent decades, parts of this cemetery were used for urban garbage depots being repeatedly embanked and leveled by the municipality, part of it has been turned into a park and parts have been buried under the administrative, recreational and residential structures of the city," he explained.

Recent excavations were conducted in line with turning the cemetery into an open museum, he added. ▶ Page 6

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## Interview

### U.S foreign policy suffering from hypocrisy: professor

By M. A. Saki

TEHRAN - Arshin Adib-Moghaddam, a London-based professor, says that the U.S foreign policy suffers from hypocrisy.

"The hypocrisy in the discourse is primarily a problem for U.S. foreign policy itself, as the leaders of the country are seen to be caught up in their own double standards," Professor Adib Moghaddam tells the Tehran Times.

The professor in global thought and comparative philosophies at SOAS also says, "human rights are absolute" and "we don't need the U.S. state or anyone else to set the standards for human rights violations."

He adds, "Human dignity, freedom, democracy, pluralism, tolerance are innate human traits with which we are born."

Recently, U.S. President Joe Biden directed a declassification of certain documents related to the Sept. 11 attacks in a supportive gesture to the families of victims who have long sought a possible involvement of the Saudi Kingdom in the attacks.

For twenty years the U.S. has prevented revealing information about possible Saudi Arabia's link to the Sept. 11 attacks. Moreover, America prefers not to raise human rights in talks with Saudi authorities, while they spare no efforts to condemn countries such as Russia, China and Iran for allegations of human rights violations.

Such an approach has raised questions about Washington's foreign policy as American authorities turn a blind eye to their own values like democracy, liberty and human rights.

"The United States isn't the only country that uses fake values to further its foreign policies and fails, but it has probably the most disastrous failing rate in recent history," Adib Moghaddam argues. ▶ Page 5

### Persepolis to meet Al Hilal at 2021 ACL quarters

TEHRAN - Persepolis football team of Iran will meet Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal in quarterfinals round of the 2021 AFC Champions League following the completion of the draw in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia on Friday.

With four former champions among the eight teams in the draw, blockbuster ties await fans with the centralized single-leg Quarter-finals and Semi-finals of the East Region to be played in Korea Republic and the West Region matches and Final hosted in Saudi Arabia.

In the West Zone quarter-finals-finals, UAE's Al Wahda FSCC will face Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr while two-time runners-up Persepolis will face 2019 champions Al Hilal SFC.

Two-time winners Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors while face defending champions Ulsan Hyundai FC in an all-Korea Republic affair while a third side from Korea Republic, Pohang Steelers will face Japan's Nagoya Grampus in the East quarter-finals.

The quarter-finals are scheduled for October 16 and 17 with the semi-finals on October 19 and 20. The final is on November 23, the-afc.com wrote.



## How Hezbollah changed the equation by importing fuel from Iran

From page 1 ► Political instability added to the miseries of the Lebanese, as bitter rival political factions failed to agree on a consensus government.

Several Lebanese domestic political circles also blamed foreign interference and Saad Hariri, the leader of AL-Mustaqbal, for exacerbating the crisis due to his nine-month delay in forming a government and disagreement with other political groups in this regard, and his eventual resignation.

The international community and financial institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund have made financial assistance to Lebanon conditional on deep political and economic reforms and a government independent of the influence of political parties and groups. More frankly, these organizations seek to end the presence of parties aligned with the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly Hezbollah, in the Lebanese cabinet.

In the wake of these dire living conditions, especially the fuel crisis, Hezbollah's secretary-general, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, announced his initiative to supply Lebanon with the fuel it needed.

Nasrallah had previously said that if the Lebanese government fails to fulfil its duty in meeting the needs of the society, Hezbollah will take action and provide the necessary fuel to alleviate

the problems.

Finally, Nasrallah announced the departure of the first fuel tanker from Iran to Lebanon. He said the ship is carrying diesel because it's a priority. It will not be the last ship.

"I would like to announce that the arrangements for the first ship to depart Iran have been completed and the vessel will set sail within hours", he said in a televised address commemorating Ashura.

Nasrallah announced the news by adding that the Resistance Movement would regard this vessel and other tankers to carry Iranian fuel as Lebanese territory in an apparent warning to Israel and the United States.

The movement is known for resisting, defending, liberating, and preserving Lebanon's territorial integrity from Israeli occupation and aggression. Once again it has come to rescue the country.

The first shipment of the convoys carrying Iranian fuel has arrived in Lebanon from Syria, and the rest are on the route.

Maybe it's worth repeating what Mohanad Hage Ali, a fellow at the Carnegie Middle East Center in Beirut, told to The New York Times on the subject: "That would paint the U.S. as being harsh and heavy-handed, and that is a win for Hezbollah."

## Iran backs formation of inclusive government in Afghanistan, Raisi says

TEHRAN – Iran supports the formation of an inclusive government in Afghanistan with the involvement of all ethno-religious groups, President Ebrahim Raisi said in a meeting on Thursday with Uzbek President Shaukat Mirziyayev on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran supports the formation of an inclusive government with the participation of all groups and ethnic groups in Afghanistan, which will lead to the restoration of peace and stability in this country," Raisi insisted.

Both Iran and Tajikistan share common borders with Afghanistan which has come under renewed control of the Taliban after 20 years.

Raisi also congratulated Mirziyayev on the 30th anniversary of Uzbekistan's independence.

The Iranian president also called for increasing economic cooperation with Uzbekistan in line with his priority to establish close interaction with neighbors and regional countries.

An activation of the Joint Commission and involvement of private sector can play an "effective role in expanding economic relations and interactions between the two countries," Raisi noted in the meeting.

He said that the current level of economic relations between Tehran and Tashkent was not the commensurate with the level of political relations, adding the Islamic Republic was interested in expanding economic relations with Uzbekistan

within the framework of expanding relations with neighbors and regional states.

Raisi added: "I believe that your positive and constructive attitude can bring great blessings and fruits to the region and the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Raisi emphasized that sanctions had not and will not be an obstacle to Iran's progress, a reference to the U.S. economic and financial sanctions against Iran in violation of the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPO).

"At the same time, we are seeking the lifting of oppressive sanctions against the Islamic Republic," the new Iranian president remarked.

President Mirziyayev, for his part, expressed his happiness over the meeting with the president of Iran, praising the experiences of Raisi during his tenure in the Judiciary and the effective fight against economic corruption.

The President of Uzbekistan noted that the two countries enjoy good political relations, adding that the common civilizational and historical backgrounds could play an important role in facilitating the development of economic and cultural relations between the two countries.

"Uzbekistan is looking for an operational roadmap to expand economic relations with Iran, especially in the field of transportation, and to make the North-South transport corridor more active centered on the port of Chabahar, Mirziyayev stated.

of the greatness of the country.

"Although the enemy has tried to hinder the progress of the Iranian nation, but the Iranian nation has shown its determination to remove all obstacles to its growth and excellence," he pointed out.

Raisi described the expatriate Iranians as a precious opportunity and capacity for the development of Iran.

The Iranians abroad had always tried to use their resources and capabilities in economic, scientific, technical and engineering fields in the benefit of their homeland, he added.

The president underlined that in practice, the officials should pay attention to the capacity of the expatriates and use it to serve the development and expansion of the country's communications.

"This capacity can play a role in various fields

and become a lasting asset for the country. The responsible bodies must prepare the necessary ground for this in the country,"

The president also said neighboring and regional countries, especially those who have a common civilization with Iran, prefer to expand their relations with Iran in all areas.

The president stated: "The Iranians abroad, including in Tajikistan, play an important role in expanding and deepening Iran's relations with other countries."

Raisi said export of goods and services from Iran to neighboring countries and the region is as one of the priorities of his administration.

"Exports of goods and services from Iran to other countries, especially neighbors can be an important factor in improving the level of our country's foreign relations."

All responsible bodies should make every

# Raisi tells Iranian expatriates that investment is guaranteed

TEHRAN – President Ebrahim Raisi stated on Thursday evening that the security of "investment" depends on the security of "capital" and "investor".

Raisi, who had traveled to Tajikistan to participate at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit, made the remarks in meeting with Iranians living in Tajikistan, IRNA reported.

The new president said his government is guaranteeing the security of capital and investor.

"The security of both is guaranteed in the 13th administration and the ground for Iranian investment in the country is provided, including facilitating and accelerating the issuance of licenses," Raisi highlighted.

He also said that Iranians everywhere in the world are "ambassadors" of Iran and a symbol

# Iran becomes full member of Shanghai Cooperation Organization

TEHRAN – Iran was officially admitted as a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) on Friday.

The decision to admit Iran as a full member was declared in the 21th summit of the SCO leaders in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

So far Iran was an observer member of the organization.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeted Iran's full membership.

Addressing the SCO summit on Friday, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said, "Strengthening bilateral cooperation, especially in the field of economy is an important factor in improving the strategic role of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization in global economy."

Raisi called the SCO summit "one of the few" opportu-

nities for dialogue to ensure real peace and cooperation at the regional level.

In another part of his speech, Raisi noted that his government's foreign policy orientation will focus on "economic multilateralism" and strengthening "neighborhood policy" in its broadest sense, and strengthening its presence in regional organizations.

He also mentioned Iran's vast potential in terms of geopolitics, population, energy, transportation, human resources, and most importantly spirituality, culture and civilization.

The president also underscored that the world has entered a new era.

"Hegemony and unilateralism are declining. The international system is changing towards the polariza-

# Raisi calls for closer co-op with Kazakhstan in form of strategic ties

TEHRAN – President Ebrahim Raisi has said that Iran and Kazakhstan have diverse and numerous economic capacities to enhance the level of cooperation.

"Joint working groups can identify and make operational these capacities in the form of strategic relations in different sectors," Raisi said in his meeting with Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev on Friday on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) Summit in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Raisi also told the Kazakh president that all countries in the region should pay due attention to developments in Afghanistan, reiterating Tehran's support for an inclusive government in the country.

"Afghanistan's problems will be solved only with the formation of an inclusive government with the participation of all ethnic groups that can restore peace and stability in this country and avoidance of foreign countries from interfering in Afghanistan's affairs," the Iranian president remarked.

The President also stressed that Iran is seeking to resolve the nuclear dispute with the West through dialogue.

"Of course, as it has been announced before, we do not want negotiations for negotiations and we are looking for negotiations

that will lead to a solution to the problem and yield a result."

The President of Kazakhstan, for his part, stated that his country was interested in strengthening relations, especially in the economic field, with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

"Transit lines centered on Chabahar port can be the center of development of economic ties between Iran and Central Asian countries," the Kazak president highlighted.

Tokayev added, "Kazakhstan fully agrees with the Islamic Republic of Iran and considers the formation of an inclusive government with the participation of all groups and ethnic groups as the only way to solve Afghanistan's problems."

"Tehran-Yerevan ties have always been friendly"

Also, in a meeting with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan on the sidelines of the SCO meeting on Friday, Raisi said the historical ties between Iran and Armenia have always been "friendly and constructive".

The existing will by the political leaders can mark a new period in cementing economic cooperation, Raisi added.

Raisi stressed the need to increase the current level of economic relations.

## U.S. couldn't care less about EU: Will Europe learn the lesson?

From page 1 ► and the United Kingdom, building on the two countries' submarine programs to bring an Australian capability into service at the earliest achievable date.

The development of Australia's nuclear-powered submarines would be a joint endeavor between the three nations, with a focus on interoperability, commonality, and mutual benefit. Australia is committed to adhering to the highest standards for safeguards, transparency, verification, and accountability measures to ensure the non-proliferation, safety, and security of nuclear material and technology. Australia remains committed to fulfilling all of its obligations as a non-nuclear weapons state, including with the International Atomic Energy Agency. Our three nations are deeply committed to upholding our leadership on global non-proliferation."

The first three paragraphs came from the joint leaders statement on AUKUS (Australia, UK, and U.S.) partnership to provide Canberra with nuclear-propulsion technology for submarines, according to The White House website on Wednesday.

China's President, Xi Jinping, has vowed to resist "interference from external forces" as Taiwan welcomed support from major allies after a U.S.-Australia ministerial forum pledged stronger ties with the island and the European parliament called for a bilateral trade deal.

Speaking at a meeting of the heads of state of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Tajikistan via video link, Xi urged members of the group to "absolutely resist external forces to interfere [in] countries in our region at any excuse, and hold the future of our countries' development and progress firmly in our own hands."

Lloyd Austin, U.S. Defense Secretary, said on Friday, "While we seek a constructive results-oriented relationship with [China], we will remain clear-eyed in our view of Beijing's ef-

forts to undermine the established international order."

The U.S. has made it clear that the Biden administration has decided to secure positions with Australia in the face of China.

Taiwan's government welcomed the show of support from Washington and Canberra.

"Our country's government will, on the existing solid foundation, continue to work closely with the United States, Australia and other like-minded countries to expand Taiwan's international space, defend the democratic system and shared values," said Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Joanne Ou.

However, China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson, Zhao Lijian, said the three partners are engaging in an "obsolete cold war zero-sum mentality."

What is now clear is that the Biden administration is following the path of Donald Trump, even in a stricter approach. Having an Anglo-Saxon pact, without informing the European Union about it outraged European countries. France took the strongest reaction against the pact, calling it "a stab in the back."

France's foreign minister expressed "total incomprehension" at the recent move, while the EU foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell complained that Europe had not been consulted.

France will lose a nearly \$100 billion deal to build diesel submarines for Australia under the terms of the initiative, which will see the U.S. and Britain help Canberra construct nuclear-powered ones.

Let's have a flashback at a time, when a disappointed Borrell screamed for "strategic autonomy" of the EU. A term that essentially means the EU must let go of its long-time friend, the United States.



Kassym-Jomart Tokayev

Ebrahim Raisi

For his part, the Armenian prime minister said expansion of ties with neighbors was one of the principles of his country's foreign policy.

"The fact that your administration has made strengthening its relations with its neighbors a priority of its foreign policy can start a new and fruitful period of relations between two countries," the prime minister stated.

**Raisi meets Lukashenko, says his priority is economy**

"The priority of the Iranian administration is economy, and we seek to develop economic relations in the region," Raisi said in a separate meeting with his Belarusian counterpart Alexander Lukashenko on Thursday evening on the sidelines of the SCO summit.

"I seek to develop economic relations in the region and I have instructed the economic and technical ministers to pursue the implementation of joint agreements," Raisi said.

Raisi said the level of economic relations between Iran and Belarus was not satisfactory, adding that a quick completion of joint projects could accelerate and facilitate expansion of bilateral economic interactions.

"Tehran and Minsk have very good grounds and capacities for expanding re-

This is what Iran has repeatedly called for since the U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018, and during six rounds of intense negotiations. Iran repeatedly stated that the EU must act independently and stick to its commitments to the JCPOA, something that was neglected by the Europeans. They blindly followed the U.S., and now, they feel betrayed.

The Biden administration, according to many political analysts, is following the Trumpian foreign policy in a stricter way.

"Throughout his election campaign, Biden argued that Trump's withdrawal from that agreement had been a cardinal error and that, as president, he would rejoin it as long as Iran would also move into compliance," Fareed Zakaria wrote in The Washington Post on Friday.

He continued, "As with Iran, the cost of these policies has been paid by ordinary people. One of the cruelest aspects of America's sanctions policy is that it is so readily deployed because it satisfies special interest groups in Washington and is painless to Americans, but inflicts horrific damage on the poorest and most powerless — millions of ordinary Cubans and Iranians — who have no way to protest or respond.

Obama began to relax these policies toward Cuba. Trump reversed course. Biden has kept in place the Trump policy and actually tightened sanctions."

The AUKUS pact has worried the countries on the southern shores of the Persian Gulf as well. They thought that if the U.S. can ditch a partner like EU that easily, why not do the same with the UAE and Saudi Arabia? Bin Zayed's trips to France and the UK show that the UAE is extremely worried of losing the U.S. as an ally, and seeks to partner with the EU instead.

However, the question remains: Will Europe learn the lesson of not relying on the U.S.?

an goods and services have a lot of fans, especially in neighboring countries, Raisi stressed.

Referring to the creation of a department for economic diplomacy by the minister of foreign affairs, Raisi stated the administration planned to activate economic diplomacy, and from now on economic tables would become more active.

"We will take it seriously and operationally to develop export markets and strengthen economic interactions and the obstacles will be removed."

The president went on to say there was a plan for the expatriate Iranians to invest in various sectors and the security of capital and investors is fully guaranteed.

"The security of 'investment' depends on the security of 'capital' and the security of the 'investor' is both guaranteed in the current administration, and we provide the ground for

Iranians to invest inside the country in various ways, including facilitating and accelerating the issuance of licenses, and we support the activities of Iranian companies abroad."

Prior to the president's speech, Iranian Ambassador to Tajikistan Mohammad Taghi Saberi referred to the deep historical, cultural and civilizational similarities between Iran and Tajikistan and said over 170 cooperation agreements have been signed between Tehran and Dushanbe.

"There are many fields and capacities to improve the level of economic, cultural and technical relations between Iran and Tajikistan," Ambassador Saberi said.

Also, three Iranians present at the ceremony expressed their views and opinions on the grounds and strategies for the development of bilateral relations, especially using the capabilities and capacity of the private sector.

Raisi went on to say that diplomacy is as one of the means to secure the national interests of countries, but "diplomacy is effective when all parties adhere to it in practice."

He said, "Threats and pressure weaken diplomacy and tie its hands."

Raisi said the Islamic Republic considers the lifting of sanctions as the "inalienable right of the Iranian people" and does not consider any moves that violate the rights of the Iranian people.

In conclusion, Raisi noted that the SCO states, by relying on their deep-rooted history of civilization, "can establish existing methods for achieving and promoting peace and security based on diplomacy and comprehensive interaction based on justice and spirituality."



# With SCO membership, Iran rolls out new orientation

TEHRAN – While the West impatiently waits for an affirmative nod from Iran for resuming the stalled Vienna nuclear talks over reviving a 2015 nuclear deal, the new administration of Iran patiently carves a strategic path toward cementing ties with the East.

A major step on that path was taken on Friday when Iran announced that it ended a 16-year-old peripheral status at the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) to become a full member in the regional body.

“At the end of the 21st Summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), held in the Tajik capital Dushanbe, the leaders of the eight main members of the organization agreed to change the membership of the Islamic Republic of Iran from an observer member to a full member and signed the relevant documents,” the Iranian presidency said in a statement. “Accordingly, the technical process of Iran becoming one of the main members of the organization has begun and Iran will henceforth cooperate and interact with member countries as the main member of the important regional organization.”

The membership was achieved during the first foreign visit by Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi in his capacity as Iran's president. So, it gives the Raisi team a boost at the start of their Asia-oriented foreign policy.

## Iran president, Pakistan PM insist on formation of comprehensive government in Afghanistan

From Page 1 ► We should help formation a government in Afghanistan that includes all ethnic groups, and groups that arise from the will of the people of this country. The key to solving Afghanistan's problems is to form an inclusive government and prevent foreign interference in the country's affairs,” Raisi said.

The meeting between the two senior officials took place as Raisi accepted a request by Prime Minister Khan to hold a joint meeting on the developments in Afghanistan.

Pakistan's leader also said a safe and secure Afghanistan will benefit all countries in the region and the world at large.

Khan warned if an inclusive government is not formed in Afghanistan, the problems in the country would exacerbate, and Pakistan and Iran would suffer more than any other country. The meeting took place at the residence of the Iranian president.

Iran and Pakistan share long borders with Afghanistan. The two countries are home to millions of Afghan refugees for more than 40 years. The situation in Afghanistan is highly volatile as after 20 years the Taliban has regained power in the Central Asian country. The Taliban had vowed a



Iran's joining the SCO could be the first step on the path of the Raisi administration's stated policy of strengthening relations with neighbors and regional organizations.

Addressing the SCO summit in Dushanbe, Ayatollah Raisi elaborated on this policy. “When I took over the presidency of the Islamic Republic, I introduced my foreign policy orientation as focusing on ‘economic multilateralism’ and strengthening ‘neighborhood policy’ in its broadest sense, and strengthening its presence in regional organizations,” he said.

The Iranian president added, “The combination of the Eurasia and One Road-One Belt initiatives can be an objective realization of this approach, and the vast potential of the Islamic Republic of Iran in terms of geopolitics, population, energy, transportation, human resources, and most importantly spirituality, culture

and civilization can cause a significant stimulus to this outlook.”

Iran's top diplomat, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, described the country's membership in the SCO as “strategic” that will have an important impact on Iran's “comprehensive” cooperation within the framework of the Neighborhood and Asia-oriented Policy.

The membership was made possible due in part to Russia's support and diplomacy. Preparations for the realization of Iran's joining the SCO first came to light in mid-August when Ali Shamkhan, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, announced after a phone call with his Russian counterpart Nikolai Patrushev that Iran will soon become a full member of the SCO.

“Fortunately, the political obstacles to Iran's membership in the Shanghai CO

have been removed & Iran's membership will be finalized,” Shamkhani said on Twitter in August.

Abdollahian also said that his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov and Russian President Vladimir Putin have supported Iranian membership. In a tweet on Friday, Abdollahian said he met with Lavrov on the sidelines of the SCO summit in Shanghai in Dushanbe and thanked him and Putin for their support of Iran's membership in the organization.

Iran has been in talks with Russia and China in the last few years to sign long-term strategic partnerships that could shape its foreign policy for decades to come. By joining the SCO, Iran stepped closer to finalizing these partnerships and pushed forward its new Asia-centered foreign policy, which rests on two pillars: enhanced ties with neighbors and strategic partnerships with non-western powers.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh underlined this new policy in a tweet on Friday.

“Warmly welcome the decision of the SCO to approve #Iran's full membership. A major step toward enhanced ties with neighbors & an important impetus for our Asia-centered foreign policy. We'll continue our efforts to build on indigenous initiatives for the good of the region,” Khatibzadeh said.

commonalities.

“We should not allow the sedition and mischief of foreigners to affect these good relations,” the Iranian president emphasized.

He has said that there are intact and valuable capacities in Iran and Pakistan to expand relations, adding that the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to promote regional relations and cooperation, especially with neighboring countries, and Pakistan has a special place in this regard.

Referring to the long border between the two countries and the capacity to expand border trade, the President said: “Restoring security in the border areas can activate the significant capacities for economic and trade exchanges and contribute to the prosperity of these areas.”

Prime Minister Khan also praised the constructive position and brotherly attitude of Iran towards Pakistan.

“We are following a comprehensive expansion of relations with Iran, especially in transportation and believe improving the level of cooperation between the two countries will have positive regional and global effects,” Khan remarked.

## Iran FM holds intensive talks in Dushanbe

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian held many meetings with his counterparts from China, Russia, India, and Pakistan to discuss a variety of bilateral and regional issues such as the developments in Afghanistan and the situation around a 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

The Iranian foreign minister took part in these meetings while accompanying Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi in his first foreign visit as president to Tajikistan to attend a summit of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Dushanbe.

On the eve of the 21st SCO Summit in Tajikistan, Abdollahian has met with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi.

In the meeting, Abdollahian described Iran's foreign policy as Asian-oriented and said Tehran is determined to advance relations with China based on the 25-year cooperation agreement as a roadmap for the two countries, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

Referring to the multilateral issues of the Islamic Republic of Iran's cooperation with China, Abdollahian appreciated the Chinese government's supportive stance on Iran's approach. He also blamed the United States for undermining the Iran nuclear deal and Iran's nuclear cooperation.

Abdollahian also referred to the U.S.'s unconstructive stance on Iran's nuclear program, saying the White House must learn not to use a threatening tone against the Iranian people.

Abdollahian described the U.S.'s disgraceful withdrawal from Afghanistan following years of occupation as another example of Washington's unconstructive unilateralism, the adverse effects of which have been felt by Afghanistan's neighbors.

He said the establishment of an inclusive government in Afghanistan with the participation of all ethnic groups is the only desirable form of the country's political future. Abdollahian also referred to the valuable cooperation between Iran and China in the fight against the Covid-19 pandemic. He appreciated Beijing's dispatch of Covid vaccine consignments following talks between the presidents of the two countries.

The Chinese foreign minister also stressed the need for the two countries to work together in international affairs. He said China supports Iran's permanent membership in the SCO.

He said the implementation of the 25-year cooperation agreement between the two countries is an important roadmap for bilateral relations and stressed China's determination to

fully develop relations with the Islamic Republic.

The Chinese foreign minister called for the continuation of consultations with Iran on the political future of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan was also on the agenda of a four-way meeting of the foreign ministers of Iran, Russia, China and Pakistan. The meeting was held on the sidelines of the Shanghai summit.

At the meeting, the top diplomats supported the formation of an inclusive government with the participation of all ethnic groups in Afghanistan.

An Afghanistan free of terrorism, free of drugs and free of threats against its neighbors was another topic on the agenda.

Participants in the meeting welcomed the holding of the next Afghanistan neighbors' summit in Tehran in late October with the foreign ministers of the countries, plus Russia, in attendance.

**India calls for closer consultation with Iran on Afghanistan**

The Iranian foreign minister also held a separate bilateral meeting with his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar as his bilateral meetings continued on the sidelines of the Shanghai summit.

In this meeting, held on Thursday night, Abdollahian touched upon deep-rooted relations between the two countries as well as relevant infrastructure, and underlined Tehran's readiness for further enhancement of ties with New Delhi.

He gauged the latest situation in Afghanistan, saying Iran is an immediate neighbor of, and has been affected by the chaotic conditions in Afghanistan due to the long common border with the country.

Abdollahian said there are upwards of 3.5 million Afghan migrants in Iran, and slammed international organizations and Western countries' indifference with regards to helping these Afghan refugees.

He said Iran's hosting Afghan guests and offering humanitarian services to them amid the toughest economic sanctions indicate the extent of altruism between the two nations. The top Iranian diplomat underlined the only proper political model for Afghanistan is the formation of an all-inclusive government that brings together all Afghan groups.

He said Iran is closely watching the political developments in Afghanistan.

As for Tehran-New Delhi relations, he called for a meeting of the two countries' joint commission to be held soon.

The Indian foreign minister, in turn, referred to historical and good relations between the two countries, saying India stands ready to enhance reciprocal ties with Iran.

Jaishankar also called for closer consultations with Iran on regional challenges, particularly the issue of Afghanistan.

He said India is prepared to hold a meeting of the two countries' joint commission, and noted New Delhi is ready to further boost mutual cooperation with Tehran.

**Iran, Pakistan FM's discuss Afghanistan**

Abdollahian also discussed the Afghanistan issue with his Pakistani counterpart Shah Mahmood Qureshi.

Pursuing bilateral consultations with his counterparts on the sidelines of the 21st Shanghai Cooperation Organization Summit in Dushanbe, Abdollahian met with his Qureshi to discuss the situation in Afghanistan and the broader region.

During the talks, Abdollahian voiced concern over the situation of the Afghan people and the security and political situation in Afghanistan. He said the dire conditions are the result of U.S. intervention and irresponsible actions in Afghanistan.

While noting that Iran and Pakistan, as Afghanistan's neighbors, suffer most from the situation in the country, the Iranian foreign minister stressed the need for consensus between Tehran and Islamabad on how to restore stability and lasting peace in Afghanistan.

Abdollahian also called for the establishment of stability and security in Afghanistan by establishing an inclusive government with the participation of all ethnic groups.

At the end, the foreign minister of Iran extended an invitation to his Pakistani counterpart to participate in the next meeting of the foreign ministers of Afghanistan's neighbors in Tehran.

The Pakistani foreign minister also praised the role of neighbors in helping Afghanistan achieve the desired situation, and praised Iran's efforts and initiatives in this regard.

**Abdollahian, Lavrov stress formation of inclusive Afghan government**

Abdollahian also sat down with his opposite number from Russia Sergey Lavrov on the fringes of the 21st summit of the SCO.

During the talks, the top Iranian diplomat underscored the importance of enhancing Tehran-Moscow relations, and stressed the necessity of consultations between the two countries on regional issues, especially Afghanistan.

Abdollahian recalled the current complex situation in Afghanistan which, he added, is the fallout from the United States' irresponsible and ignominious withdrawal from the country.

## IRAN IN FOCUS

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Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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## SPORTS

### Milad Mohammadi joins AEK Athens

TEHRAN – Iran international winger Milad Mohammadi joined Greek football team AEK Athens on Friday.

The free-agent left winger has joined AEK on a two-year contract for an undisclosed fee.

Mohammadi has joined his countrymen Karim Ansarifard and Ehsan Hajisafi in the Greek team.

The 27-year-old player started his playing career in his homeland Rah Ahan in 2014 and joined Russian team Akhmat Grozny after two years.



In 2019, he signed for Belgian top-flight team Gent and left them after two years as a free-agent player.

Mohammadi represented Iran national football team in the 2018 FIFA World Cup and 2019 AFC Asian Cup.

### Iran advance to Asian Volleyball Championship semis

TEHRAN – Iran eased past Chinese Taipei in straight sets (25–10, 25–23, 25–11) to book a place in the semifinals of the 2021 Asian Volleyball Championship on Friday.

Behrouz Artaei's men will play China in the stage.

Japan will also play Chinese Taipei.

The 21st Asian Senior Men's Volleyball Championship is being held from Sept. 12 to 19 in Chiba, Japan, and the teams vie for two spots in next year's FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship in Russia.

The top two teams of the tournament will qualify for the 2022 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship as the AVC representatives.

### Iran back on top of Asia in FIFA ranking

TEHRAN – Iran national football team moved back top of the Asia in the latest FIFA World Ranking issued on Thursday.

Iran have moved up to 22nd place in the world, while Japan dropped to 26th.

Iran replaced Japan thanks to victories against Syria and Iraq in Group A of the 2022 World Cup qualification Round 3.

Japan's defeat to Oman in Group B saw the Blue Samurais drop to second in the FIFA World Ranking.

Australia remain third in the ranking.

Belgium remain first, followed by Brazil and England.

Belgium have been top of the rankings since 2018, despite failing to win an international tournament in that period.

The next FIFA World Ranking will be published on Oct. 21.

### Iran beat Kuwait at Asian Women's Handball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Kuwait 38–11 at the 2021 Asian Women's Handball Championship on Thursday.

Iran had started the campaign with a 23–20 loss against Japan in Group B on Wednesday.

Jordan, Palestine and Syria also are in the group.

Group A consists of South Korea, Singapore, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan and Hong Kong.

The 2021 Asian Women's Handball Championship is being held from Sept. 15 to 25 in Amman, Jordan under the aegis of Asian Handball Federation.

It is the third time in history that the championship is organized by the Jordan Handball Federation.

It also acts as the qualification tournament for the 2021 World Women's Handball Championship, with the top six teams from the championship directly qualifying for the event to be held in Spain.

### Iran's Sarkhosh finishes vce-champion at Asian Snooker C'ship

TEHRAN – Amir Sarkhosh from Iran became runner-up at the 2021 Asian Snooker Championship in Doha, Qatar on Thursday.

He lost to Indian Pankaj Advani 6–3 (72–42, 72–0, 70–49, 41–66, 70–17, 30–68, 74–34, 12–50, 64–44) in the best of 11 frames final at the Al Messila Luxury resort in the outskirts of Qatari capital.

The Indian great was competing in his first assignment in almost two years due to COVID-19.

Advani had won the title in 2019 before the 2020 edition got scrapped due to the pandemic.

His tally of Asian titles across both snooker and billiards now stands at 11, apart from the two Asian Games golds of 2006 and 2010.

The ACBS Asian Snooker Championship is the premier non-professional snooker tournament in Asia.

The event series is sanctioned by the Asian Confederation of Billiard Sports and started from 1984. Mostly, the winner of the tournament qualifies for the next season of the Professional Snooker Tour.

### Ex-Iran captain Ashkan Dejagah signs for Al Shahaniya

TEHRAN – Former Iran national football team captain Ashkan Dejagah has reportedly joined Qatari football club Al Shahaniya.

The second division Qatari club are going to promote to Qatar Stars League.

Dejagah was without a team since parting company with Iran's Tractor in the final weeks of the 2020–21 Iran Professional League.

The 35-year-old midfielder had previously played for Qatari club Al Arabi.

Dejagah had been also linked with a move to Esteghlal.

### Cheick Diabate signs for Al Gharafa

TEHRAN – Ex-Esteghlal forward Cheick Diabate joined Qatari football club Al Gharafa on Thursday.

The 33-year-old striker has penned a six-month deal with Al Gharafa worth \$300,000, Tasnim reported.

Diabate joined Esteghlal from Emirates in 2019 and was named the best goalscorer of Iran league in the 2019–20 season.

The Malian footballer rejoined his former coach Andrea Stramaccioni in the Qatari club.

### Torabi's goal nominated for Best Goal of the 2021 ACL Round of 16

TEHRAN – Persepolis midfielder Mahdi Torabi's goal has been nominated for the best goal of the 2021 AFC Champions League Round of 16.

The largest crowd of the 2021 AFC Champions League packed into Dushanbe's Republican Central Stadium in the hope of seeing hosts= FC Istiklol causes a major upset against two-time runner-up Persepolis.

But the 17,000 spectators were stunned at the last as Torabi's cross-cum-shot sailed over Mukriddin Khasanov to seal a last-minute victory for the Iranians.

The other four nominees are as follow:

**Bafetimbi Gomis**

Al Hilal SFC vs Esteghlal FC, September 13, 2021

**Jakub Swierczok**

Nagoya Grampus vs Daegu FC, September 14, 2021

**Vincent Aoubakar**

Al Nassr vs Tractor FC, September 14, 2021

**Teerasil Dangda**

BG Pathum United vs Jeonbuk Hyundai Motors, September 15, 2021



## Industry ministry approves new plans for improving domestic markets



From page 1 ► Fatemi Amin had previously emphasized the attention to market regulation, exports, and the removal of barriers to domestic

production as some of the short-term plans of his ministry and among his main priorities.

The minister noted that 36 new improvement programs were defined to be implemented along with the mentioned priorities.

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

## 'RMTO capable of building 7,000km of rural roads a year'

TEHRAN – Head of Iran Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization (RMTO) Darioush Amani has said his organization is capable of constructing 7,000 kilometers of roads in rural areas if the necessary funding is provided by the government, IRNA reported.

"Currently, there are 208,000 kilometers of rural roads across the country, of which about 113,000 kilometers are asphalted," Amani said.

According to the official, in addition to the current rural roads network, the country needs 32,000 kilometers of new roads for villages with 20-100 households.

To build the mentioned 32,000 kilometers of new roads, 450 trillion rials (about \$10.7 billion) of funding is needed, and we are consulting with the Program and Budget Organization in this regard; it is expected that the construction of the said roads will begin as soon as the funding is allocated, Amani explained.

Pointing out that constructing each kilometer of rural roads requires about 15 billion rials (about \$357,000), he added: "According to the studies, if 100 trillion rials (about \$2.38 billion) is provided for the Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization every year, we can hope that after four years, about 30 to 32,000 kilometers of new rural roads will be constructed."



Amani further commented on the situation of rural roads in the country and said: "the country's rural roads have been in poor condition in recent years due to lack of funding."

"If we want to improve the condition of existing roads and pursue the issue of asphalted rural roads, we must provide the necessary budget," he added.

The Deputy Minister of Transport and Urban Development said: "If we continue the current trend of funding for the rural sector, it is predicted that in the next four years we will have a fundamental change in rural roads both in terms of quality and quantity."

# Iran's annual trade with SCO members stand at \$28b

TEHRAN – The value of trade between Iran and the members of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) hit \$28 billion in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Ruhollah Latifi put the weight of commodities traded between the two sides at over 55 million tons, IRIB reported.

Iran's export to the SCO members was 46 million tons valued at \$13.6 billion during the mentioned year, while the imports from the mentioned countries stood at nine million tons worth \$13.2 billion in the said time span, according to Latifi.

Iran has cross-border trade with 11 key member states and observer states of the Shanghai Agreement, including China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Mongolia, Pakistan, India, Afghanistan and Belarus, among them the largest volume of trade was with China which is \$18.9 billion, the IRICA spokesman stated.



India with \$3.4 billion worth of trade, Afghanistan with \$2.3 billion, Russia with \$1.6 billion and Pakistan with \$1.2 billion were next in terms of trade volume, the official said.

As for other SCO members, trade with Uzbekistan stood at \$256 million, with Kazakhstan at \$205 million, with Kyrgyzstan \$51 million, and the value of trade with Belarus stood

at \$30 million, while trade with Tajikistan reached \$24 million and \$3 million of goods were traded with Mongolia.

According to Latifi, Iran had the highest trade volume with China and the lowest trade volume with Mongolia among the member states of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization.

The official put the Islamic Repub-

lic's trade with the SCO members at \$12.5 billion in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22).

Iran export basket to SCO members includes a variety of fish and seafood, vegetables, fruits, textiles and clothing, industrial and agricultural machinery, home appliances, petrochemicals, pistachios and nuts, while imported products are often industrial raw materials, machinery parts, meat, medicine, chemical products, medical equipment, auto parts and spare parts, as well as all kinds of fabrics and artifacts.

The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), or Shanghai Pact, is a Eurasian political, economic, and security alliance, the creation of which was announced on June 15, 2001 in Shanghai, China by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan; the Shanghai Cooperation Organization Charter, formally establishing the organization, was signed in June 2002 and entered into force on September 19, 2003.

## 'Developing renewables in industrial parks to resolve power issues'

TEHRAN – Energy Ministry's Spokesman for Electricity Industry Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said developing renewable power plants in industrial parks is going to be a practical way for meeting the power demands of the industrial sector and prevent outages during peak consumption periods, IRNA reported.

Making the remarks in an online meeting held on the matter, Rajabi Mashhadi said: "If we develop solar power plants in industrial parks, they would be able to stay active during the peak consumption periods by reducing consumption under the supervision and management of the industrial parks themselves."

The meeting was attended by members of Iranian Electrical Power Equipment Manufacturing and Provision Company (known as SATKAB), Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO), Department of Environment, Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SAT-BA), Tavanir Company, and Iran Grid Management Company (IGMC).

Rajabi Mashhadi appreciated the cooperation of industrial parks during the summer's peak consumption period and said: "Reducing the electricity consumption of industries located in industrial



parks during peak hours is necessary, however, it must be done in such a way that solar power plants located in settlements are not cut off at all, and power plants should stay connected to the national grid at peak periods."

The official further underlined constructing renewable power plants in industrial parks as a practical and cost-effective way for resolving the problems regarding the supply of fuel for power plants during the cold season as well, saying that it should be implemented as soon as possible.

Over the past decade, constant temperature rising and the significant decrease of rainfalls across Iran have put the country in a hard situation regarding electricity supply during peak con-

sumption periods.

This year, however, new deteriorating factors like severe drought and the decline in the country's water resources as well as a new wave of illegal cryptocurrency mining across the country have also worsened the situation.

Back in July, ISIPO Head Fathali Mohammadzadeh said the country's industrial parks currently lack 8,000 megawatts (MW) [eight gigawatts] of electricity which could be provided through small-scale power plants.

According to Mohammadzadeh, the government has considered special incentives for industries active in such industrial parks for constructing small-scale solar power plants to meet their needs.

"For those industrial units that can install solar panels on their roofs simultaneously with constructing their units, we will give a five to 10 percent discount on the price of their allocated land [in the industrial parks]," Mohammadzadeh said.

Earlier this month, Deputy Industry Minister Saeed Zarandi announced that the ministries of Energy and Industry, Mining and Trade are going to sign an MOU for collaboration in constructing 13 power plants for industrial units across the country.

## TSE's main index falls 2.5% points in a week

TEHRAN– TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 38,000 points, or 2.5 percent, in the past Iranian calendar week.

The index closed at 1,488 million points on Wednesday (the last working day of the week).

During the past week, the indices of State Retirement Fund, Social Security Investment Company, Sepid Makian Company, Behsaz Kashaneh Tehran Company, and Barekat Pharmaceutical Group were the most widely followed indices.

A capital market analyst has said the trades at the Tehran Stock Exchange are going to follow an upward trend in the remaining months of the current Iranian calendar year (ends in March 2022).

"Based on the forecasts, it seems that the stock market trading will experience a positive trend and be upward by the end of this year due to the current inflation in the country's economy," Soheil Kolahchi told IRNA.

Emphasizing the parameters affecting stock market transactions, he said: "A few days of correction in the market paved the way for the return

of the upward trend in stock trading, in this regard, the future of this market in the medium term can be considered as upward."

"Another issue that can affect the stock market in the near future is the nuclear deal and the outcome of the negotiations, which can to some extent affect the trading process in this market," the expert added.

Kolahchi further stressed the need to change some of the regulations in the stock market and said: "Issues such as the base volume and the amplitude in the market are among the topics whose change has been discussed many times."

Back in July, Market Analyst Mehdi Bayat-Manesh had said that TEDPIX is going to improve in the second half of the current Iranian calendar year (September 23, 2021-March 20, 2022).

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

According to Bayat-Manesh, the government policies for supporting the upward trend of the



market should continue in the coming months in order to ensure this upward trend.

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

Iran's new Minister of Finance and Economic Affairs Ehsan Khandouzi has previously underlined the capital market as one of the major priorities of

his ministry during his tenure.

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 minor 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.

## Iranian trade delegation to visit Austria in mid-October



TEHRAN – Iran-Austria Joint Chamber of Commerce will dispatch a delegation of Iranian traders and businessmen to Austria next month.

The delegates will visit the European country during October 17-21 when the meeting of the two countries' joint economic committee will be held.

The Iranian traders and businessmen are planned to have B-2-B meetings with their Austrian counterparts, while meet the economic and trade officials of that country, as well as Iranian officials working in Iran's embassy in Vienna.

During an online meeting between Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Hamid Zadboum and Austrian Deputy Economy Minister for Economic Affairs, Innovation and International Policy Florian Frauscher in September 2020 the two sides had discussed the roadmap for economic cooperation between the two countries.

In the meeting, Zadboum referred to the positive progress of the cooperation agreements and memorandums signed within the economic roadmap of the two countries, and said: "Despite the sanctions and their effects on Iran's trade, there are still favorable conditions for the development of economic relations between the two countries."

Frauscher for her part underlined the satisfactory performance of the two countries' economic working groups and stressed the need for constant evaluation of these working groups in parallel by both Iran and Austria.

At the end of the virtual meeting, the two sides expressed hope for the elimination of the problems caused by the coronavirus, and the U.S. sanctions.

## Export to Iraq rises 31% in 5 months on year



TEHRAN– The value of Iran's export to Iraq has risen 31 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Ruhollah Latifi said Iraq has been the second largest buyer of Iranian goods in recent years, but unfortunately last year several borders were closed for months due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, and like many other countries, trade with this country decreased last year.

He put Iran's export to Iraq at over 12,024 million tons worth \$31.63 billion in the five-month period, with a 53-percent rise in terms of weight.

Iran has imported 313,612 tons of

commodities valued at \$175.9 million from Iraq in the first five months of this year, with a 430-percent growth in terms of value and a 970-percent rise in terms of weight as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the official announced.

As previously announced by the IRICA head, the value of Iran's non-oil trade rose 38 percent during the first five months of the current year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi said that Iran has traded 59.3 million tons of non-oil products worth \$34 billion with other countries in the mentioned period, which indicates also 14 percent growth in terms of weight on an annual basis.

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

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

He said major export destinations of the Iranian non-oil goods were China with about 12.3 million tons worth \$5.9 billion, Iraq with 12 million tons worth \$3.163 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with five million tons worth \$1.9 billion, Turkey with 1.375 million tons worth \$1.1 billion, and Afghanistan with 2.165 million tons worth \$885 million.

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

## Iraq has been the second largest buyer of Iranian goods in recent years.



# As the U.S. “empire” frays, there is Zubeidi and his colleagues...

From page 1 ► Zionist terrorism has been rampant ever since 1948 and one only has to look at what the IDF has done to Gaza repeatedly and many more Palestinians across the Middle East including more massacres such as at Sabra and Shatila refugee camps near Beirut and beyond. Not to mention the fact that some observers have been convinced that Zionists may have also been at the bottom responsible for 9/11 in New York City even though it is clearer some Saudis were, and 14 of the aircraft hijackers who plowed into the World Trade Center were Saudi citizens.

Max Boot, an American Zionist Jew and commentator and apologist, claimed this week that the American “global war on terror” over the past 20 years has been a huge success. Why? Because he says, there has not been another 9/11 and that by one count a mere 107 people have been killed in jihadist attacks in the U.S. since September 11, 2001. And half of them are accounted for by carnage at a Florida night club. Boot has it all wrong.

Because the U.S. had enormous world sympathy after 9/11. (Boot adds that more Americans are dying of Covid 19 every two hours than died of alleged Islamic terrorism in the past 20 years.) The U.S. did not capitalize on the sympathy it had, but as everyone knows went on to launch or support various wars that have killed millions of people and destroyed any pretense the U.S. had as a fair arbiter of disputes anywhere.

U.S. greed and war profiteering have been the norm ever since, and not one of the “wars” has been won, or won anything but the virtual bankruptcy of the U.S. financially and morally. Afghanistan is the current case in point. Are the chickens now coming home to roost? Some of them and many more to come back home in time.

Boot among many others are nothing but shills for Zionists interests, suggesting that the decades-long U.S. fealty to the Apartheid state may well be the centerpiece of the ultimate downfall of the U.S.

The so-called “empire” affliction in the U.S. at least has been diminished this summer and at long last at least some in the current Biden Administration are waking up to the fact that “nation building” by the U.S. anywhere is not a winning policy.

Because, simply, the U.S. has been “nation destroying” for decades reaching all the way back to the Vietnam War sparked by a false flag incident in the Gulf of Tonkin in the mid-1960s. Also, one could argue that the U.S. had long been even worse than the Apartheid state as the number one state sponsor of terrorism in the past 30 years, but on the other hand one has to dig deep and understand the deeper policies spawned by alleged U.S. allies like “Israel” that have led the U.S. by the nose to what some call “evil” foreign policies. The opportunity costs of the latter have been beyond enormous and increasingly reveal, even if too many Americans remain victims of propaganda of the sort that Max Boot has postured.

Iran and friends of Iran just need to wait a while for the day the U.S. currency implodes. At that time Allah only knows beforehand the troubles the U.S. will encounter affecting all Americans.

But back to Zakaria Zubeidi. One American Greta Berlin, who over a decade ago led with friends the “Free Gaza



Movement” and literally broke the siege of Gaza briefly when she led a small boat that sailed into Gaza’s harbor. She has offered up a short biography of Zubeidi and it’s worth quoting:

Zakaria Muhammad ‘Abdelrahman Zubeidi, 46, is the former Jenin chief of the Al-Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigades and a “symbol of the Intifada”.

One of eight children, his father was prevented from teaching by the Israelis after he was arrested in the late 1960s for being a member of Fatah. He worked instead as a laborer in an Israeli iron foundry, did some private teaching on the side, and became a peace activist.

The first Israeli Zubeidi had ever met was the soldier who came to take away his father away, leaving the mother to raise their children alone. In the late 1980s and early 1990s, during the First Intifada, Israeli human rights activist Ama Mer-Khamis opened a children’s theater in Jenin, “Ama’s House”, to encourage understanding between Israelis and Palestinians. Dozens of Israeli volunteers ran the events, and Samira, believing that peace was possible, offered the top floor of the family house for rehearsals. Zubeidi, then aged 12, his older brother Daoud, and four other boys around the same age formed the core of the troupe.

In 1989, at age 13, he was shot in the leg when he threw stones at Israeli soldiers. He was hospitalized for six months and underwent four operations, but was left permanently affected, with one leg shorter than the other and a noticeable limp.

At age 14, he was arrested for the first time (again for throwing stones) and jailed for six months. At that time, he had become the representative before the prison governor for the other child prisoners.

On his release, he dropped out of high school after one year. A year later, he was re-arrested for throwing Molotov cocktails and imprisoned for 4 and a half years. In prison, he learned Hebrew, and became politically active, joining Fatah.

On his release following the 1993 Oslo Accords, he joined the Palestinian Authority’s Palestinian Security Forces. He became a sergeant, but left, disillusioned, after a year, complaining: “There were colleagues whom I had taught to read who were promoted to senior positions because of nepotism and corruption.”

He went to work illegally in Israel, and for two years earned a good living as a contractor for home renovations in Tel Aviv and Haifa. He was eventually arrested in Afula and, after being briefly imprisoned for working without a permit, deported back to Jenin. He became a truck driver, transporting flour and olive oil, but in September 2000 lost his job when the West Bank was sealed off due to the Second Intifada. On 3 March 2002, one month before the main assault on the refugee camp, his mother was killed during an Israeli raid into Jenin. She had taken refuge in a neighbor’s home and was shot by an IDF sniper who targeted her as she stood near a window.

She subsequently bled to death. Zubeidi’s brother Taha was also killed by soldiers shortly afterward. Aside from grieving for lost family members and friends, Zubeidi was greatly embittered by the fact that none of the Israelis who had accepted his mother’s hospitality, and whom he had thought were his friends, tried to contact him. In a 2006 interview, he stated angrily, “You took our house and our mother and you killed our brother.

We gave you everything and what did we get in return? A bullet in my mother’s chest. We opened our home and you demolished it. Every week, 20-30 Israelis would come there to do theatre. We fed them. And afterward, not one of them picked up the phone.

That is when we saw the real face of the left in Israel.” Losing hope in the Israeli peace camp, he joined the al-Aqsa Martyrs’ Brigades, an armed wing of Fatah. Ama’s son, an Israeli actor Julian Mer-Khamis, did return to Jenin in 2002 and looked for the boys who had been in the theater group.

Zubeidi had turned to armed resistance, Daoud was sentenced to 16 years in prison for militant activities, and the other four were dead.

In 2004, Mer-Khamis completed a documentary film about the group, Arna’s Children. Israel tried to assassinate him four times. In one such attempt in 2004, an Israeli police unit killed five other brigade members, including a 14-year-old boy, in a jeep carrying Zubeidi. On November 15, following Arafat’s death, Israeli forces launched an incursion in Jenin to kill him, but he evaded them; in the raid, nine Palestinians were killed, including four civilians and his deputy, “Alaa”.

The raid uncovered an arms cache.

Prior to these incidents, another attempt on his life had been made by a Palestinian; Zubeidi had his hands broken as a punishment.

In September 2005 he declared that his group’s cease-fire was at an end after Samer Saadi and two other militants were killed by Israeli forces in Jenin. Nevertheless, Zubeidi told a Swedish nurse, Jonatan Stanczak, that he wanted to re-establish his links with the Jewish peace movement.

The way he spoke of Ama’s project led Stanczak to contact Mer-Khamis and within six months they re-established the Freedom Theater in Jenin, which opened in February 2006. On July 6, 2006, the IDF attempted to capture Zubeidi at a funeral, but he escaped after an exchange of gunfire. He was on Israel’s most-wanted list for some years until he handed over his guns to the Palestinian National Authority and accepted an Israeli amnesty.

In mid-2007, he renounced militancy and committed himself to cultural resistance through theater. On July 15, 2007, the Office of the Israeli Prime Minister announced that Israel would include Zubeidi in an amnesty offered to militants of Fatah’s al-Aqsa-Brigades. In 2008, he was hired by Juliano Mer-Khamis (who was later murdered) as director of the Freedom Theatre in the Jenin refugee camp, where children could study theatre and experience the growing art and music culture surrounding the Palestine International Film festivals.

On 28 December 2011, Israel rescinded Zubeidi’s pardon. On 29 December 2011, Israel rescinded Zubeidi’s pardon and Zubeidi stated to Ma’an News Agency that he had not violated any of the conditions of his amnesty.

He was advised by PA security officials to turn himself in to Palestinian custody lest he be arrested by Israel’s security forces. A week before Zubeidi was notified about the cancellation of his amnesty, his brother had been arrested by the PA. Zubeidi was then kept in detention without charge by the Palestinian Authority from May to October 2012.

Zubeidi undertook to study for a master’s degree from Birzeit University, where he was supervised by Abdel Rahim Al-Sheikh, Professor of Cultural Studies, with a thesis entitled The Dragon and the Hunter, that focused on the Palestinian experience of being pursued from 1968 to 2018.

On 27 February 2019, before he could complete his dissertation, Zubeidi was arrested again, on suspicion of having engaged in terrorist activities, and in May he was charged before an Israeli military court with carrying out at least two shooting attacks on civilian buses in the West Bank.

Zakaria Zubeidi was at the Gilboa Prison since his arrest, and on September 6, 2021, he escaped from the Gilboa Prison in Israel’s along with five other Palestinian prisoners. Five days later, on September 11, 2021, Zubeidi was caught near the Israeli village of Kfar Tavor.

On September 12, 2021, Zubeidi was transferred from the site where he was being held unlawfully, to a medical center in Haifa for injuries sustained from torture and brutal beating by occupation forces.

It’s not hard to say that Palestinians may be the bravest people in the world.

## U.S. struggles to contain French anger

As France furiously protests Australia’s scrapping of a major arms deal in favor of American nuclear submarines, Washington is struggling to contain the fallout from Paris.

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, who had prioritized building ties with Europe, said he considered France “a vital partner” and saw no “regional divide” between Atlantic and Pacific allies.

Blinken told reporters “We want to find every opportunity now to deepen transatlantic cooperation in the Indo-Pacific and around the world”

But the French hit back accusing U.S. President Joe Biden, in whom Paris placed high hopes, of being no different than his “America First” predecessor Donald Trump.

French Foreign Minister, Jean-Yves Le Drian, says he is “very angry” over the loss of what he once called “the contract of the century,” which was worth 31 billion Euros, (\$36.5 billion) when signed in 2016.

Le Drian told French media “This unilateral, sudden and unforeseeable decision very much recalls what Trump would do”. And on Australia, Le Drian says “It’s really a stab in the back. We had established a relationship of trust with Australia. This trust has been betrayed.”

He also called the U.S. move a “huge breach of trust” at a time when France was working with Washington on coordinating Asia policy.

French Defense Minister Florence Parly says that Australia’s about-face demonstrated the growing need for Europeans to bolster their own “strategic autonomy.”

“In terms of geopolitics and international relations, it’s serious”.

Biden has unveiled a new three-way alliance among the United States, Australia and Britain that features the submarines, a key asset Washington supposedly views will challenge China in the decades to come.

It is a setback for the French president, Emmanuel Macron, not just in financial terms but also to French diplomacy, which had worked for years to secure the partnership with Australia and strengthen its strategic presence in the Indo-Pacific region.

During a meeting in Washington with his Australian counterpart, Biden says that the U.S. has been in contact with France over “the last 24-48 hours” to discuss the row.

However, a French embassy spokesman, says the contact came only after news had begun to leak in the media.

The French embassy in Washington also says it was scaling back commemorations of France’s role in a decisive American Revolution naval battle, with a ceremony at the ambassador’s residence canceled.

The move by the U.S., UK and Australia in the Indo-Pacific underscores increasing concerns in France where Paris is also looking to protect its interests. These include the overseas territories of New Caledonia and French Polynesia. France is the only European country with a presence in the region, with nearly 2 million French citizens and more than 7,000 troops.

Despite the French anger, the submarine contract has been proving increasingly contentious in Australia in part due to cost overruns. Australian Defense Minister Peter Dutton says the country’s existing submarines would only provide an edge into the 2040s and that military chiefs recommended switching to nuclear-powered versions.

Dutton says “in the end the decision that we have made is based on what is in the best interest of our national security”, calling France’s offer “not superior” to the nuclear submarines operated by the United States and Britain.

Australia will become only the second nation after Britain to access U.S. nuclear technology for the submarines. Prime Minister Scott Morrison earlier said that Australia would acquire long-range U.S. Tomahawk cruise missiles.

The Australian PM says the new alliance, announced after more than 18 months of discussions with the United States and Britain, will be permanent.

Australia has also come under intense diplomatic and commercial pressure from China, the key market for its agricultural and mineral exports, over its close alliance with the United States.

Morrison will travel next week to Washington for the first in-person four-way “Quad” summit with U.S., Japanese and Indian leaders.

Biden has identified the rise of China as the top U.S. challenge of the 21st century and reoriented U.S. foreign policy around it.

He unveiled the new Australia-U.S.-Britain defense alliance this week, as not just extending nuclear submarine technology to Australia, but also cooperation in cyber defense, applied artificial intelligence and undersea capabilities.

Last month the American President withdrew the remaining troops from Afghanistan after 20 years, calling the war a distraction from the “bigger picture”.

China’s government described the U.S.-UK, Australian alliance as an “extremely irresponsible” threat to regional stability, questioning Australia’s commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and warning the Western allies that they risked “shooting themselves in the foot”.

China accused the U.S. of setting off an arms race. At the International Atomic Energy Agency in Vienna, China’s envoy Wang Qun called the three-way to move a “sheer act of nuclear proliferation”.

The Chinese embassy in Australia has also rejected “unfounded accusations” against Beijing made by the Defense and Foreign ministers of Australia and their U.S. counterparts after annual talks in Washington.

The embassy dismissed allegations by the U.S. and Australia about China’s internal affairs as a futile pressure tactic saying “this petty move to put pressure on China will be of no avail but a staged farce”. The embassy added “we firmly oppose and reject the unfounded accusations and erroneous remarks against China on issues related to the South China Sea, Xinjiang, Hong Kong, Taiwan and other China-related issues.”

Critics accuse the White House of spreading disinformation about China’s internal affairs. For example, Washington claims Beijing is mistreating Muslims in China’s Xinjiang eastern province. Whereas China has actually taken security measures to protect itself from any terrorist threats as many Chinese Uighurs had returned to Xinjiang from Iraq and Syria after the collapse of Daesh.

Critics say it is a classic example of double standards as Washington consistently focuses on Chinese Muslims, but stays silent on Muslims being terrorized elsewhere like in Palestine, Yemen, Kashmir, Nigeria or even Muslim human rights violations among America’s ruling allies in West Asia.

Analysts say the issue revolves around China’s growing economic power, which is expected to overtake that of the United States and there are believed to be more Mosques in China’s Xinjiang province than the entire United States.

The reality is, Washington’s public concerns has nothing to do with Muslims.

In another sign of America’s ongoing support for Saudi Arabia’s deadly war on Yemen, the U.S. State Department has announced the approval of a maintenance contract worth up to \$500 million for the Kingdom’s military helicopter fleet. This is despite claims by President Joe Biden to halt U.S. support for the Saudi war on Yemen.

Under the deal, a continuation of a previous agreement, the U.S. will provide 350 contractor technicians and two government officials over two years to handle the maintenance of the Saudi military’s Apache and Black Hawk attack helicopters, as well as the future fleet of Chinook transports.

Meanwhile, Yemen has launched another retaliatory attack using four explosives-laden drones and a ballistic rocket fired in the direction of the southern Saudi city of Jizan.

The Saudi war on Yemen began in 2015 with aim of reinstating a former government loyal to Riyadh.

Over the past two years, the tables have turned with Yemen waging regular sophisticated attacks in retaliation and experts say Yemen is widely believed to have the upper hand in the war now.

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## U.S foreign policy suffering from hypocrisy: professor

From page 1 ► Following is the text of the interview:

**How do you see the impact of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan on Biden’s popularity and position in America? Some polls talk about a decline in Biden’s popularity. As well, some Democrats slam the modality of the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.**

In general, the electorate in the United States is rather agnostic about foreign policy issues, as there is a lack of deeper knowledge about the world at the heart of U.S. society. Ultimately, Biden is a cautious president which is both due to the excesses of the Trump presidency and the disasters it brought about including the storming of the Capitol and a changed world order that demands a general acknowledgment that U.S. hegemony has been seriously constrained. I have analyzed this decline in my most recent study “What is Iran?”

**To what extent does the American public care about foreign policy? For example, escalation over Iran’s nuclear program?**

Mostly, they really don’t care, also because the political culture in the United States is geared to domestic, even local issues rather than international affairs. Iran is enmeshed in a problematic “Middle Eastern” narrative with Orientalist undertones as Edward



Said rightly pointed out over four decades ago.

There are many bright intellects in the country, of course, and they would largely confirm my assessment about the relative ignorance of the mainstream in the United States, about specific foreign policy issues such as Iran.

**Biden has ordered declassification of documents related to the Sept. 11 attacks in response to calls from the family of victims for revealing the whole truth. Can it help Biden restore public confidence? How far may the U.S. administration go in telling the truth in this regard?**

‘The electorate in the U.S. is agnostic about foreign policy issues.’



## Tourism projects worth \$78.5m underway in Nir

TEHRAN – A total of four tourism-related projects worth 3.3 trillion rials (\$78.5m at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) are currently underway in the city of Nir, Ardabil province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The projects are being carried out in collaboration with the private sector, CHTN quoted Nader Fallahi as saying on Friday.

The projects include a three-star hotel, two tourist complexes, and a guest house, the official added.

Back in January, the official announced that more than 150 tourism-related projects are underway across the northwestern province. The mentioned projects will prepare the province's tourism sector for the post-coronavirus era when the number of tourists and travelers is expected to rise magnificently, the official added.

Earlier in July, a local tourism official announced that some 835 jobs are expected to be created in Ardabil by several investments in tourism-related projects, which are estimated to get off the ground by the end of the current Iranian year 1400 (ends in March 2022).

Last April, tourism authorities of the province announced that they have developed ex-

tensive plans to draw more tourists during the winter season to the province and make it the winter tourism hub of the country. In December 2019, Fallahi announced that seventeen tourism projects, worth 1,500 billion rials (some \$35 million) would be inaugurated in the province in near future. Ha said that the objective to launch tourism projects in the province is to provide tourists from all over the world and domestic tourists as well with the opportunity to use these facilities and select Ardabil as their prime destination.

Back in November former Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan said that investment in the tourism sector and boosting tourism infrastructure has not stopped despite the outbreak of the coronavirus in the country.

Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, Ardabil is well-known for having lush natural beauties, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition. It is also home to the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and Shrine Ensemble.

The province is very cold in winter and mild in summer, attracting thousands every year. The capital city of Ardabil is usually recorded as one of the coldest cities in the country in winter.

## Historical mansions, mosques, castles in Kordestan made national heritage

TEHRAN – A selection of 23 historical structures and aging buildings, which are scattered across Kordestan province, have recently been added to the national heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts on Thursday announced the inscriptions in separate letters to the governor-general of the western province, CHTN reported.

Several historical mansions along with four mosques and two castles were among the properties added to the magnificent list.

The name Kordestan refers to the region's principal inhabitants. After the Turkish invasion of Iran in the 11th century CE (Seljuk period), that name was given to the region comprising the northwestern Zagros Mountains.

It was during the reign of Abbas I the Great of Iran's Safavid dynasty (1501-1736) that the Kurds rose to prominence, having been enlisted by Abbas I to help stem the attacks of the marauding Uzbeks from the east in the early 17th century.

**Page 1** ▶ Over the past decades, rounds of archeological studies have been carried out on Shoghab to determine the boundaries of the ancient cemetery which is registered as a national cultural heritage.

The port city of Bushehr lies near the head of the Persian Gulf at the northern end of a flat and narrow peninsula that is connected with the mainland by tidal marshes. It embraces significant monuments from the Elamite, Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras.

Bushehr's Siraf was the most important Iranian port from the Sassanid period to the 4th century AH. It bears plentiful evidence of Persian mastership and genius in seafaring, international relations, and interaction with other near and far cultures and civilizations.

Between 1966 and 1973, the British Institute of Persian Studies conducted seven seasons of excavation and survey at Siraf, which was a major city on the Iranian shore of the Persian Gulf that played a leading role in the network of maritime trade that supplied Western Asia with the products of India, the Far East, and Eastern Africa between 800 CE and 1050.



## Archaeologically-rich cemetery in southwest Iran preparing to host visitors

Siraf had a population of about 300,000 during the early Islamic era and this fact shows that it was a large city. However, today, just about 7,000 people live in Siraf in a small

area.

The historical and architectural monuments of Bushehr include Islamic buildings like mosques and praying centers, mansions, old tow-

ers, castles, as well as gardens.

Bushehr province is also home to various archaeological mounds including Tall-e Khandaq with Sassanid architectural style, Tall-e Marv located near an Achaemenid Palace, and Qajar era Malek al-Tojar Mansion.

Traveling to the Persian Gulf region would be an experience that you probably haven't even considered. While you've been planning your Iranian sojourn around the jewels of the country's rich history (Isfahan, Shiraz, Yazd), to the southeast the Persian Gulf is equally deserving.

Explore the magnetic islands of Kish, Qeshm, and Hormuz, which are absurdly easy to combine and are altogether different. While Kish is unashamedly glam and glitzy, Qeshm and Hormoz are refreshingly void of large-scale development and offer a chance to glimpse a more traditional way of life – not to mention an array of geological wonders.

Along the coast, soak up the vibes of lively Bandar Abbas and make a beeline for the delightful town of Kong, whose historical center is peppered with charming old houses and monuments.

## Sarein: time to relax in hot springs!

TEHRAN – If you are a devoted fan of natural hot springs, Sarein in northwest Iran may be your next destination.

In the ancient town, which is situated in Ardabil province, you can find hot springs and geothermal waters, often in scenic settings that fit every travel preference.

Due to its beautiful and lush nature, Sarein has areas that annually attract thousands of people from different parts of the country.

Its hot springs, all of which are of mineral origin, are the highlight of the town and it seems that these springs will always remain the most important attractions of this city.

It is not known how many hot springs are there exactly in this city, but what is very clear is that there are more than ten ones in and around the city which has become one of the fastest-growing attractions today.

Geographically, Sarein is located in the west of Ardabil with a height of 1650 meters above sea level. Amongst its most famed spas are:

Sabalan Hydrotherapy Complex is said to be the largest hot water complex in Iran and West Asia. It

offers many facilities and has two separate floors for men and women, providing services at the same time.

Dareh Lar Soui hydrotherapy complex is recommended for the treatment of diseases such as rheumatoid arthritis, symptoms of neurological diseases, lumbar disc, skin diseases, and discomfort associated with going to this hot water.

If you decide to go to this complex during your trip to Sarein and use their services, keep in mind that the men and women are not supposed to use the services in this complex at the same.

Gamish-goli mineral hot water pool is said to be one of the oldest of its kind in Iran

Traveling to Sarein would be quite different in each season, yet the best time to travel to Sarein and see its attractions is in the last days of spring and summer. If you do not have a problem with the cold weather, you can travel to this area during autumn or early winter and enjoy hot springs in this season.

Sarein is located 621 km away from Tehran, which takes between seven to eight and a half hours of driving. However, it should be noted

### Sarein hot springs, all of which are of mineral origin, are the highlight of the ancient town.

## UNWTO plans restart of tourism across Asia and the Pacific

TEHRAN – Tourism leaders from across Asia and the Pacific have met to plan the sector's restart and recovery even as borders remain closed throughout the region.

The meetings attracted around 120 participants from 25 of UNWTO's 29 member states in the region under the chairmanship of Malaysia and the Maldives.

Participants exchanged views to jumpstart tourism during the 33rd joint meeting of the World Tourism Organization's Commission for East Asia and the Pacific and its Commission for South Asia, on the back of a challenging year for the region.

India and Iran were nominated to represent South Asia on the UNWTO Executive Council; Cambodia and Maldives were nominated to represent the region as Vice-Presidents of the 24th General Assembly, while Samoa and Bhutan will serve the members on the Credentials Committee.

In a press note, UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili said, "The Asia and Pacific region has a proven record as a dynamic tourism destination. With the right policy measures and strong coordination, destinations can start safely welcoming back international visitors, thereby allowing tourism to deliver on its potential as a driver of recovery and inclusive growth."

Ahead of the 24th Session of the UNWTO General Assembly (November 30–December 3, 2021, Marrakesh, Morocco), the meeting concluded with elections and nominations for positions within key UNWTO bodies.

The first to feel the impacts of the pandemic, the



A view of Si-o-se-Pol, a centuries-old arch bridge in Isfahan, central Iran.

tourism sector of Asia and the Pacific has also been the hardest hit, recording a 95 percent fall in international arrivals in the first five months of 2021.

With UNWTO data also showing that this region continues to have the largest proportion of destinations closed to tourists, the member states taking part in the virtual meetings focused on the coordination of policy measures and strategies to accelerate the recovery of tourism activities in the region.

These include the phased lifting of travel restrictions and the introduction of travel corridors. Looking ahead, members also agreed on the im-

portance of upgrading the skills of the tourism labor force, as well as embracing innovation and digital transformation.

Malaysia and the Maldives were nominated as Chairpersons to serve their Commissions for a second term, with Fiji and Japan appointed to play the role of Vice-Chairs for the Commission for East Asia and the Pacific, while Bangladesh and Iran will serve as Vice-Chairs for the Commission for South Asia. Maldives was nominated as the venue for the next Joint Meeting of the two Commissions (CAP and CSA) in 2022, and Indonesia was endorsed as the host of World Tourism Day 2022.

Experts expect Iran to achieve a tourism boom after coronavirus contained, believing its impact would be temporary and short-lived for a country that ranked the third fastest-growing tourism destination in 2019.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025. The latest available data show eight million tourists visited the Islamic Republic during the first ten months of the past Iranian calendar year (ended March 20).

### India and Iran have been nominated to represent South Asia on the UNWTO Executive Council.

## Millennia-old jars donated to Iranian museum

TEHRAN – An Iranian national has donated two earthen jars, estimated to date back to millennia, to a museum in Bukan, northwest Iran.

The donor stated that the purpose of this work was to help protect the historical monuments and the [cultural] identity of the area. Bukan's tourism chief said on Thursday, ILNA reported.

The objects date from the first millennium BC, the official added.

Located in West Azarbaijan province, Bukan is famed for embracing the ancient site of Qalaichi (Ghalay-chi), which has yielded a large number of decorative glazed objects connected to the Mannai civilization.

Mannai, also spelled Manna, was an ancient country surrounded by three major powers of the time namely Assyria, Urartu, and Media. It flourished in northwestern Iran in the 1st millennium BC.

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

## New round of restoration starts on Qajar-era bathhouse in southern Iran

TEHRAN – The third round of a restoration project has been commenced on Hammam-e Molla Baba, a Qajar-era (1789-1925) public bathhouse in Kazerun county, which is located in the southern Fars province.

The project involves strengthening and repairing the structure's walls, basement and arches as well as implementing electrical infrastructure, Kazerun's tourism chief has announced.

A budget of 2.5 billion rials (\$59,500 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been allocated to the project, which is scheduled to be completed within four months, Mohammad Javad Jokari said on Thursday.

The historical structure has been inscribed on the national heritage list.

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

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

### Hammams in Persian culture

Bathhouses or 'hammams' in Iran were not only places for bathing and cleaning up. They had a social concept



for people who gathered at these places weekly.

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

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

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

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

## Handicrafts center to open in Dishmok

TEHRAN – A house of handicrafts is planned to be established in Dishmok, a mountainous town in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province, the deputy provincial tourism chief has announced.

Covering an area of 400 square meters, the center aims at reviving the art of weaving Kilim-Mashteh (a kind of hand-woven kilim), which was once one of the main crafts in the region, as well as organizing training courses in this field, Mohammad Kazem Rahmani said on Friday.

Dishmok is known for its historical fortress, whose basement and parts

date back to the Sassanid era (224-651) and the main building to the Qajar period (1789-1925).

The southwestern province is known for its nomads and nomadic life. Sightseers may live with a nomadic or rural family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, their agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.

### Iranian handicrafts

With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities

and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next.

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

The Islamic Republic exported \$427

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

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



# Some \$4b allocated to support knowledge-based firms in 4 years

TEHRAN – The Innovation and Prosperity Fund affiliated to the Vice Presidency of Science and Technology has earmarked a sum of 170 trillion rials (nearly \$4 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials) to support knowledge-based companies over the past 4 years.

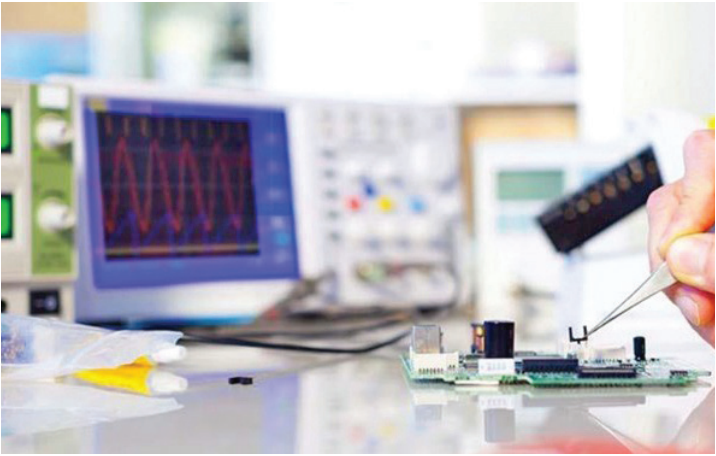
There are currently 6,263 knowledge-based companies operating in the country, offering advanced products and services in various fields of technology to domestic and foreign markets, and some of them have entered international markets, Siavash Maleki, deputy head of the Fund stated.

The Innovation and Prosperity Fund is responsible for supporting knowledge-based companies so that it provides financial assistance to companies that have reached the export stage while granting facility and investment tools to firms that have produced a product but failed to export, he explained.

“We currently offer more than 70 services to knowledge-based companies in four formats of facilities, guarantees, investments, and empowerment,” he noted.

“Export empowerment also includes export training and consulting, obtaining specialized and export standards and licenses, and intellectual property. Export networking also includes supporting the independent presence of knowledge-based companies in foreign exhibitions, holding export events and etc.

Export development and financing include setting up joint venture capital funds with similar entities, financing companies, and export projects in the form of various facilities and investments, granting prototyping facilities,



granting facilities for setting up an assembly line abroad.

Launching the assembly line abroad is one of the latest facilities of the Innovation and Prosperity Fund to knowledge-based companies,” he explained, IRNA reported on Friday.

The Innovation Fund covers 90 percent of the costs of sending business delegations to different countries, he concluded.

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.

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.

**Gov. supports establishment of innovation houses to develop export**

The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology supports the establishment of innovation houses in other countries to develop the export of knowledge-based products.

Exporting technological products of Iranian knowledge-based companies is one of the important and key programs of the vice presidency for science and technology, and in this regard, three houses of inno-

Knowledge-based firms are mainly active in aircraft, steel, medicine, oil, and gas industries.

vation and technology were inaugurated in Kenya, China and Syria.

And countries like Turkey, Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan are set to host the innovation houses in near future.

By supporting innovative ideas, holding technological and innovative events, the centers will be a platform for the development and promotion of Iranian knowledge-based companies, startups, and creative industries.

The centers are mainly formed with the investment and support of the private sector to provide the necessary infrastructure for their exports through the innovation houses.

In each center, the products of more than 50 knowledge-based and creative companies are presented, such as health and medicine, information technology, machinery, and equipment.

To this end, the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology supports 50 percent of operating costs in the first three years to pave the way for companies to establish innovation centers.

The houses also host business meetings to accelerate international export activities and ultimately create new export markets for knowledge-based products.

Mehdi Ghalehnoei, an official with the vice presidency for science and technology, said in February that last year, knowledge-based companies gained about \$800 million in revenue from export, and next year (March 21), it seems to reach up to \$2 billion.

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

## Guidelines prepared to use Iranian traditional medicine for COVID-19 treatment

TEHRAN – The instructions for the use of Iranian traditional medicine to treat COVID-19 have been prepared, the director of the Iranian Medicine Office of the Ministry of Health, has announced.

This instruction has been compiled in the Iranian Medicine Committee of the National Scientific Committee, it was reviewed by the specialists in conventional medicine, clinical pharmacists, etc. until prepared, ISNA quoted Nafiseh Hosseini as saying on Friday.

These guidelines are set in various areas, including prevention based on lifestyle and simple recommendations for outpatients, hospitalized patients with varying degrees of disease, and based on simple and accessible recommendations and diets.

Simple instructions that help patients along with the treatments available in conventional medicine. Many of the contents of this guideline were also subjected to clinical trials, which clearly had a positive effect on the symptoms and duration of hospitalization of patients compared to the control group.

It seems that communicating this instruction and facilitating the use of Iranian traditional medicine alongside conventional medicine will help us to be successful in various aspects of dealing with the pandemic.

It is necessary to take serious insurance measures



for traditional medicine. So far, only visits to traditional medicine specialists have been covered by insurance, and none of the other services are covered by insurance, she noted.

scientists are trying to play a role in the production of effective medicine in the treatment of various diseases, including COVID-19, despite sanctions and global pressures.

Alireza Abbassian the health ministry's director of the traditional medicine department, said in March that Iranian traditional medicine can play an effective role in strengthening the immune system to resist the novel coronavirus infection.

Moreover, a center offering traditional medicine

About 2,300 species of medicinal plants have so far been identified in the country.

## WHO working to certify Iranian COVID vaccines

From page 1 ► WHO acknowledges a great increase in the frequency of vaccination recently after the deployment of international and locally-made vaccines.

### Mass vaccination accelerated

“We plan to double the number of vaccination centers, which is about 1,008 by now,” Raisi stated, adding, in addition, we plan to operate most centers in two work shifts to increase the speed of vaccination and to surpass 1.5 million injections per day.

He went on to in total, about 20 million doses of vaccine will be imported by

the end of September, adding, about 30 million doses also will be delivered to the country since October.

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

While Iran continues efforts to mass-produce local candidates, over 40 million doses of foreign vaccines have already been imported, and others are expected soon.

Iran is also producing vaccines jointly with three countries of Russia, Cuba, and

Australia.

### Homegrown vaccines

Made by researchers at the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, COVIRAN BAREKAT was unveiled on December 29, 2020, and received the license for public use on June 14.

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

Eleven countries from Asia and South

America, and a European country have asked for importing COVIRAN vaccine, Hassan Jalili, the vaccine's production manager, said in June.

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

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

## Fauna of Iran

(Part 3)

### Relations of the fauna

The vast, arid, and physiographically complex tract stretching across North Africa, southwestern Asia, and northwestern India is home to a complex of species, many of them distinct from those of sub-Saharan Africa, tropical Asia, and northern temperate Eurasia.

Their relations at the generic and family levels are, however, for the most part with those of Eurasia, and they form part of the fauna classically termed Palearctic. Persia is the most geographically complex area within this region and consequently has the greatest biological diversity for its size in southwestern Asia.

In this article only a descriptive outline of the distribution of Persian fauna in relation to physiographic and ecological features can be presented, with no speculation upon historical factors that have produced the present complex of species.

Except for faunal elements shared with other regions, southwestern Asian species are distributed between two broad types of landscape. One is the region generally known as the Iranian plateau, stretching from the Anatolian highlands across Persia and Afghanistan to the Solayman range in the southeast.

Species occupying this area have been labeled Irano-Turanian by most zoogeographers. Anderson (in Camb. Hist. Iran) divided them into Iranian elements, restricted to the uplands, and Aralo-Caspian elements, concentrated mainly on the plains and basins of Turkmenistan and neighboring republics of Central Asia (see iii, below).

The second major landscape type, encompassing the low-lying desert areas along the southern margins of the Palearctic from North Africa to northwestern India, is home to the Saharo-Sindi-



an group of fauna.

Within these regions are species and associations of species with much more restricted distribution. Considering the fauna of western Asia as a whole, various authors have introduced a confusing array of terms, attempting to systematize patterns of distribution within particular taxa.

In addition to the labels already mentioned, there are Holarctic for the temperate and boreal latitudes of the northern hemisphere, including North America; Western and Eastern Palearctic; Euro-Siberian for the northern latitudes of the Palearctic; Eremian for Saharo-Sindian plus the arid portions of Irano-Turanian; Ethiopian or Afrotropical for sub-Saharan Africa; Oriental for southern and southeastern Asia, Paletropical for Ethiopian plus Oriental; Mediterranean for southern Europe and the North African littoral plus the Levant; and various subdivisions that are more or less self-explanatory.

Although some authors have used these terms descriptively, to others they have implied areas of origin. When used here they are simply descriptive.

(Source: Encyclopaedia Iranica)

## What are the challenges in making the planet more sustainable?



If 2020 was defined by COVID-19, then 2021 is so far defined by climate change and the need for urgent action – yesterday.

The new Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report – which says the planet is warming even faster than we thought – comes during a year characterized by extreme, climate-related weather events, from unprecedented heat in the Pacific Northwest to wildfires in Siberia, and many fires, floods and hurricanes in between.

Despite a brief moment when it seemed like pandemic lockdowns reduced greenhouse gas emissions, 2020 saw record emissions and tied for the hottest year ever. Emissions at the end of December 2020 were 2% higher than the same month in 2019, according to the UN's Sustainable Development Goals Report 2021.

he bottom line: “The world remains woefully off track in meeting the Paris Agreement target of limiting global warming to 1.5 C above pre-industrial levels and reaching net-zero carbon dioxide (CO2) emissions globally by 2050,” says the report.

These issues and more will be addressed at the Forum's virtual Sustainable Impact Development Summit 2021 on 20-23 September.

While six Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) focus on the environment, climate change will hurt our ability to meet all 17 goals. Poor air quality and polluted water create health risks, with a disproportionate impact on people of color and poor countries. Droughts and rising sea levels harm our food supply, increasing food insecurity and hunger. Biodiversity loss not only harms economies and livelihoods, but also puts us at greater risk of another pandemic.

he upside is we're seeing action – and the appetite and financing for more.

“As of December 2020, over two thirds of the world's GDP was being generated in places with actual or intended ‘net zero by 2050’ targets, covering over half the world's population and emissions,” says the UN's progress report. We're also seeing business rally around environmental, social, governance (ESG) reporting standards, and invest in reaching net zero within their own companies, too.

### How much progress has been made?

When it comes to the environment-focused goals, the UN's latest report on the SDGs reveals we've made a little progress – but an alarming amount of work still needs to be done.

Greenhouse gas emissions continue to rise and “need to be reduced by 45% by 2030 from 2010 levels, and reach net-zero emissions by 2050,” says the report.

In the ocean, while marine protected areas have “increased significantly,” increases have “plateaued,” while ocean “dead zones – areas of water that lack sufficient oxygen to support marine life – increased from around 400 in 2008 to approximately 700 in 2019”.

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON SEPTEMBER 17

New cases	17,605
New deaths	364
Total cases	5,396,013
Total deaths	116,436
New hospitalized patients	2,537
Patients in critical condition	6,902
Total recovered patients	4,708,195
Diagnostic tests conducted	30,782,338
Doses of vaccine injected	41,250,460

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## FDA to penalize manufacturers producing unlabeled GM foods

Iran's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will penalize food manufacturers who have not labeled genetically modified (GM) food products, Vahid Mofid, the caretaker of the FDA department of food and beverages has announced.

All food products containing ingredients derived from GMOs must be labeled, including soybean and corn oil, rapeseed and cottonseed, he also noted.

He went on to say that eight laboratories in addition to the Energy & Power Industries Laboratories Company can test the products in terms of containing GM organism.

Labeling the products is merely done out of respect for the customer and providing the consumer with different choices and has nothing to do with the product's safety and health, he concluded.

## سازمان غذا و دارو با محصولات تراریخته فاقد برچسب برخورد می کند

مدیرکل فرآورده های غذایی و آشامیدنی سازمان غذا و دارو، وحید مفید در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا اعلام کرد: تمام محصولات تراریخته در سطح عرضه کنترل می شوند و در صورتی که تراریخته باشند اما برچسب نداشته باشند، حتماً برخورد می کنیم.

وی اضافه کرد: برخی محصولات در کشور مانند ذرت، سویا و کلزا از نوع تراریخته وجود دارد و فرآورده های غذایی در صورت استفاده از این محصولات تراریخته باید آن را روی برچسب خود اعلام کنند.

مفید افزود: هشت آزمایشگاه علاوه بر آزمایشگاه مرجع در کشور می توانند تراریختگی را تعیین کنند.

مدیرکل فرآورده های غذایی و آشامیدنی سازمان غذا و دارو گفت: درج تراریختگی در برچسب جلوی ترکیبات، صرفاً احترام به مشتری و فراهم کردن قدرت انتخاب برای مصرف کننده است و هیچ ارتباطی با ایمنی و سلامت آن فرآورده ندارد.



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SEPTEMBER 18, 2021

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Patience is of two kinds: patience over what pains you,  
and patience against what you covet.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times» Noon:12:58    Evening: 19:25    Dawn: 5:26 (tomorrow)    Sunrise: 6:50 (tomorrow)

## What’s in Tehran art galleries

\* An exhibition of paintings by Mahsa Leilabi, Nasim Mirzai, Ziba Rasuli-Madani, Samira Pahlavani and Danial Barzegar is currently underway at Vaali Gallery.

The exhibit “Behind the Mountain” will continue until October 1 at the gallery located at 72 Khoddami St., Vanak Sq.

\* Shahrzad Jahan is showcasing her latest collection of paintings in an exhibition at O Gallery 2.

An exhibition underway at O Gallery 1 is hanging photos by Matin Abedi.

The exhibitions will run until October 4 at the galleries located at 18 Shahin St., Sanai St.

\* An exhibition displaying photos and paintings by a group of artists, including Maryam Bayat, Leili Rezai, Sahar Tahmasbi, Nasrin Moradian, Baharaz Qasemi and Toranj Jafarzadeh, is currently underway at Entezami Gallery.

The exhibit named “Smile of the Mask” will run until September 22 at the gallery located at 608 Shariati Ave. near Motahhari St.

\* Iranshahr Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of silkscreens by Foad Sharifi.

The exhibit will run until October 1 at the gallery that can be found at 69 Sepand St., off Karim Khan Ave.

\* Artworks in various media by Avazeh Almasi, Pune Oshidari, Aidin Baqeri, Maryam Behruzina, Narges Farahani and several other artists are on view in an exhibition at Vista Gallery.

The exhibition will run until October 1 at the gallery located at No. 11, 12th Alley, Mir Emad St.

### Painting

\* Homa Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Najva Erfani.

The exhibit will continue until September 28 at the gallery located at No. 8, Fourth Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.

\* Paintings by Sepehr Hajiabadi are currently on view in an exhibition at Dastan Basement Gallery.

The exhibit named “Teyyeb” will be running until October 1 at the gallery located at 6 Bidar St., off Fereshteh St.

### Photo/painting

\* Shalman Gallery is hanging photos and paintings by Faramarz Ahmadpur, Kambiz Hazratpur, Yusef Shajari-Aqdam, Elham Shiravi, Mahdis Kavemehr, Masiha Mandegar, Ali Mazarei, Parviz Moazzaz and Behdad Najafi in an exhibition entitled “Fall”.

Najafi is the curator of the showcase, which will run until September 26 at the gallery located at 27 Kavusi Alley, West Rudbar St., off Mirdamad Blvd.

### Photo

\* Photos by Maryam Zandi, Alireza Shadizadeh, Mehdi Shadizadeh, Kiarang Alai and Shahram Karimi are currently on display in an exhibition at Shirin Gallery.

The exhibit will run until September 29 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Ave.

### Multimedia

\* Ehsan Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of artworks in various media by Narges Amiri, Atefeh Asakareh, Aidin Amanpur, Naghmeh Keshavarzi, Sara Musazadeh, Ashraf Kamankesh and several other artists.

The exhibit will run until September 21 at the gallery located at No. 22, East 14th St. in the Ajudanieh neighborhood.

# Alireza Qorbani, Alim Qasimov team up for Konya mystic music festival

TEHRAN – Iranian vocalist Alireza Qorbani and Azerbaijani singer Alim Qasimov will give a joint concert during the 18th edition of the Konya International Mystic Music Festival.

The concert will be performed at the Seljuk Congress Center of the Turkish town of Konya on September 30, the organizers have announced.

Musicians from England, Lebanon, Tanzania, Turkey, Jordan and Kyrgyzstan will also perform concerts at the Konya International Mystic Music Festival, which is organized annually by the Provincial Directorate of Culture and Tourism of Konya.

It always culminates on September 30, which marks the Persian mystic and poet Jalal ad-Din Rumi’s birthday.

Last year, the festival celebrated Rumi’s 813th birthday online by streaming a recording of a concert Iranian vocalist Mohammadreza Shajarian had performed at the mausoleum of Rumi a few years ago.

This will not be the first time Qorbani and Qasimov will have collaborated.

Earlier in December 2020, Qorbani and Qasimov released a duet single entitled “Rababi” featuring a poem by Rumi.

The single, composed by Iranian musician Hessam Nasser, was recorded by the Cultural and Artistic Institute of Ahang Eshtiahi (Aerecords), a company working in the fields of audio and video productions and publications.

The two vocalists have sung both in

A poster for a joint concert by vocalists Alireza Qorbani and Alim Qasimov at the 18th edition of the Konya International Mystic Music Festival in Turkey. (Sahar Naebi)

Persian and Azerbaijani together in the song.

Qasimov has previously worked with some other Iranian musicians.

In December 2018, Iranian composer Saeid Khavarnejad and Qasimov joined together to make an album based on the Haft Paykar, the magnum opus of the Persian poet Nezami Ganjavi (c. 1141-1209 CE).

Lyrics on the album “Haft Paykar” have been sung in Persian, Azerbaijani and French.

Qasimov and his daughter Fargana Qasimova together with the Tehran Wind Orchestra gave concerts at Vahdat Hall in January 2015.

The master also gave a concert at the Milad Hall of the Tehran International Permanent Fairgrounds in May 2014.

After that program, he then performed concerts in Ardebil, Tabriz and Urmia. Iran’s major Azeri-speaking cities.

In addition, Qasimov along with a number of Iranian musicians, including vocalist Mohammad Motamedi and kamancheh virtuoso Sina Jahanabadi, performed a joint concert at the 49th International Festival of Carthage in Tunis in August 2013.

## Iranian movies line up for Busan film festival

TEHRAN – Five movies by Iranian filmmakers, including Saghar Farhadi’s acclaimed drama “A Hero”, will be screened at the 26th Busan International Film Festival (BIFF) as the organizers announced the official lineup last week.

“A Hero” will be competing in Icons, a BIFF showcase of the latest films by contemporary iconic filmmakers from around the world.

The film, which won the Grand Prix (ex aequo) at Cannes 2021, is about Rahim who is taken into custody as he is unable to pay his debts. After being granted a two-day parole, he attempts to get his lender to write off part of the debt and withdraw the charges. When Rahim finds a handbag full of gold pieces and returns it to the owner instead of helping himself, he is suddenly celebrated in the media as an upstanding citizen.

“The Absent Director” by Arvand Dashtaray and “Asteroid” by Mehdi Hosseiniwand Aalipur will compete in New Currents, a section dedicated to up-and-coming Asian filmmakers’ first or second features that bestows two films with a New Currents Award.

“The Absent Director”, in one continuous take, follows the various members of a young Iranian theater company during their secret rehearsals of Macbeth at their director’s home in Tehran, while he works with them remotely from

Paris via video call. Their dream is to submit the play to the Edinburgh Theater Festival on time, but things get complicated when their personal conflicts escalate, and their hidden agendas come into light. The heated tensions reach their climax when a mysterious tragedy threatens to bring their work to a complete halt.

“Asteroid” is about Ebrahim, a 12-year-old boy who lives with his mother and five siblings of all ages in a two-room shack in the heart of the desert, far away from the village.

Aside from feeding the children and obtaining a birth certificate for them, the main preoccupation of Ebrahim and his mother is to build a house in the village so they don’t have to walk all the way back and forth all the time.

“Ballad of a White Cow” by Behtash Sanaeiha and Maryam Moqaddam has been selected to be screened in A Window on Asian Cinema, a section for films of various styles and visions from Asian cinema.

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

“Cloudy Man” by Shahin Jalali will be screened in the

Photo: “Asteroid” by Mehdi Hosseiniwand Aalipur.

Asian Short Film Competition of the Korean festival, which will open on October 6 with a screening of “Heaven: To the Land of Happiness” by Korean filmmaker Im Sang-soo.

Reza Mirkarimi, the director of the acclaimed Iranian dramas “Castle of Dreams” and “A Cube of Sugar”, is the president of the Kim Jiseok Award Jury at the Busan festival this year.

“Anita” by Longman Leung from Hong Kong will be the

## “The Cats of Copenhagen” housed at bookstores in Iran

TEHRAN – Irish novelist James Joyce’s “The Cats of Copenhagen” has been published in Persian.

The book translated by Gholamreza Emami has its original illustrations by Casey Sorrow. Porteqal is the publisher of the book.

“The Cats of Copenhagen” was first written for James Joyce’s most beloved audience, his only grandson Stephen James Joyce, sent in a letter dated September 5, 1936.

Cats were clearly a common currency between Joyce and his grandson. In early August 1936, Joyce sent Stephen “a little cat filled with sweets”, a kind of Trojan cat meant to outwit grown-ups.

A few weeks later, Joyce penned a letter from Copenhagen which begins, “Alas! I cannot send you a Copenhagen cat because there are no cats in Copenhagen.”

The letter reveals the modernist master at his most playful, yet Joyce’s Copenhagen has a keen, anti-authoritarian quality that transcends the mere whimsy of a children’s story.

Front cover of the Persian translation of James Joyce’s book “The Cats of Copenhagen”.

## Art in Iran: History of Parthian art

### Part 4

The walls of important rooms were covered with decorative stuccoes, some of which are used to articulate the wall surface. The patterns used in the stuccoes of Qal’eye Yazdegerd—meanders, stylized vegetal patterns framed in squares or semicircles, battlements—are similar to those seen at Parthian Uruk Warka and Assur.

Likewise, the pseudo Corinthian capitals found at Qal’eye Yazdegerd are similar to those from a Parthian house at Warka. An unusual capital from Qal’eye Yazdegerd shows a female nude, probably Aphrodite, between dolphins which take the place of volutes.

Unlike the stuccoes from Warka and Assur, which utilize purely abstract patterns, those of Qal’eye Yazdegerd include many figural motives derived from Greco Roman art, such as Erotes, nude females, Attis like figures, dancing

figures, both nude and draped, and animals being hunted.

Heraldically confronted griffins are also derived from the Greco Roman repertoire, but another type of griffin has a curved wing that suggests the senmurv of Sassanid art; unfortunately, all specimens discovered so far are broken just behind the wing, so that it is impossible to tell whether the rest of the body was present.

Other types, such as a ring enclosing a male bust with a billowing Parthian hairdo and wearing a torque, and a panel with intertwined dragons, recall motives used at Hatra. Enough traces of the bright paint that once covered the stuccoes remain to make possible an eventual reconstruction of the color scheme.

The three most important sites of the Parthian period in modern Iraq are Hatra and Assur in the north and Uruk Warka in the south. Hatra is the

Hatra was a religious and trading center of the Parthian Empire.

most impressive; though there is some evidence, so far unpublished, of remains from the Assyrian period.

The city as we know it was probably founded in the late 1st century BC and flourished until its fall to the Sassanid in AD 240/41. Excavation has been concentrated on the religious structures that dominate the site—the great temple of Shamash and the

smaller temples grouped around it.

There are vast quantities of stone sculpture, including architectural decoration; religious sculptures, both in relief and in the round, representing the numerous deities of the Hatran pantheon; and statues of the kings, princes, and nobility of Hatra.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued