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Opinion **T**

## Iranian oil industry shining bright despite sanctions shadow

By Ebrahim Fallahi

TEHRAN – Iranian oil industry has once again proved the west to be miscalculating in its efforts for crippling the country's move toward development as the local developer of the Azar joint oil field project has won the International Project Management Association (IPMA)'s Global Project Excellence Management Award in the mega projects section.

Sarvak Azar Engineering and Development Company (SAED), owned by the Petroleum Retirement Fund, which is in charge of the Azar joint field as one of the most complex oil fields in the country, won the gold medal in IPMA Global Award for Project Excellence Management in a ceremony held in Saint Petersburg on Wednesday.

Winning a gold medal in this global competition has been realized in a situation when the U.S. sanctions have cut the Iranian oil industry's ties with the global market and pushed domestic firms to grow technologically at an unbelievable pace to meet the industry's needs. ▶ Page 4

Op-ed **T**

## A monster mulls its options

By Prof. Rodney Shakespeare

There has long been a monster roaming West Asia. Its evil breath poisons the atmosphere and, every now and then, it launches an attack to remind everybody that it is big and powerful. Above all, in order to support Zionism, it is anti-democratic and its name is America. Yet, despite the fun it has wrecking lives in West Asia, America wants to cause even more misery and is mulling its options. Thus, it is looking towards East Asia, in particular, towards Taiwan with the chance of creating mayhem.

However, there is the difficulty that even monsters cannot be in two places at once so America is being forced to consider an overall West Asia withdrawal. Therefore, after a humiliating defeat in Afghanistan, it is mulling departing Iraq. This departure is required by the Iraqi Parliament and, following Arbaeen, by the people of Iraq. ▶ Page 5

## Time to ‘fully develop’ tourism economy in Ilam province, president says

TEHRAN – Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi has urged his administration to make extra efforts to fully develop the tourism-related economy in Ilam province.

“We must fully develop the tourism economy of Ilam province to eliminate unemployment and create respected employment for the youth of the province,” Raisi said on Friday.

He made the remarks in a meeting with a host of local people inducing elites, academia, scholars, and the families of martyrs, CHTN reported.

Moreover, Ilam has considerable potential in terms of religious tourism that can seriously help eliminate unemployment in the province, he said.

The [transport] infrastructure must be improved in terms of rail and road connections in such a way that the province would be turned into a corridor connecting Iraq to other Iranian cities, he explained.

Raisi said that Ilam province has great potential for progress and development, adding, “We hope this trip will be an important step towards eliminating deprivations and accelerating the development of the province.”

“I hope that during this trip, various and important decisions will be made for the development of the province.”

Elsewhere in his remarks, the president pointed

out, “The people of Ilam province heroically stood against the enemies and sacrificed many martyrs to the Islamic Revolution, and we cherish the memory of all of them”.

Each year, a huge crowd of Iranian pilgrims cross Ilam province flocking to Karbala, where the holy shrine of Imam Hussein (AS) is located, to perform Arbaeen rituals.

The Arbaeen pilgrimage, which is one of the largest religious gathering in the world, comes 40 days after Ashura, the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Imam of Shia Muslims and the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). ▶ Page 6

Interview **T**

## Ex-Persepolis midfielder Abdi optimistic about Al Hilal match

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN – Former Persepolis midfielder Hossein Abdi thinks that the Reds can win the match against Saudi's Al Hilal in the 2021 AFC Champions League quarter-finals.

With the win against Istiklol from Tajikistan, the Iran Professional League champions, Persepolis, look to win the title for the first time after finishing runners-up in the 2018 and 2020 behind Japan's Kashima Antlers and Korea Republic's Ulsan Hyundai, respectively.

Abdi, who is currently the head coach of the Iran national U17 team, says Al Hilal are a great team but not unbeatable.

“Persepolis have done great so far in the AFC Champions League, and it's not just about the current season. ▶ Page 3

## Amir Abdollahian says concerns about Iran’s nuclear progress are unwarranted

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has said certain Western countries' concerns about the progress of Iran's nuclear program were completely “unfounded”.

The chief diplomat made the remarks as the Western signatories to the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, are insisting on Iran's return to the negoti-

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## Nation mourns loss of ‘self-sacrificing’ student

TEHRAN – Iranians are plunged into deep sorrow over the loss of a self-sacrificing 15-year-old boy from southwestern Khuzestan province, who rushed into a burning building to save the lives of his neighbors.

On September 9, a gas cylinder had ignited, and Ali Landi realized that two neighboring women are trapped in the burning house, he rushed to take it away from the mother and daughter, but suddenly the raging flames burnt his whole body. ▶ Page 7

## Iranian ambassador: Tehran-Baku Ties are strong

TEHRAN — The Iranian ambassador to Baku says relationship between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan is so strong that foreign players cannot undermine it.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan have always had very good, close and sincere relations as two neighbors, and Iranian and the Azeri officials know that this relationship has

enemies and ill-wishers,” Abbas Mousavi said on Saturday.

Referring to the recent efforts by some media outlets and social networks to undermine the relations between the two countries, he said those who are guided from outside failed to disrupt the friendly relations between the two neighbors, IRNA reported. ▶ Page 3

ating table as soon as possible.

“The European parties are interested in Iran returning to the talks,” Abdollahian, who is in New York to participate at the annual UN General Assembly meeting, told the official IRNA news agency on Friday.

“One of their concerns is that they think we have broken some of our commitments to the JCPOA during the steps we have taken,” Abdollahian stated. ▶ Page 3



## President: No one should be deprived of education due to poverty

TEHRAN — On Saturday, President Ebrahim Raisi said no one should be denied of the opportunity for education due to poverty.

“No one should be deprived of education due to poverty,” Raisi said at the official opening ceremony of the 2021–2022 school year.

He said investment in education is a great asset.

“Spending on education is the largest investment and the country’s progress happens through education and training,” Raisi noted.

Insisting that all institutions must help and serve education, Raisi called school a “pillar of social solidarity.”

He also said that all Iranians appreciated school better during the COVID-19 conditions and realized how important school is as a point of connection between the house and other aspects of society.

The President added, “I must also sincerely thank all the women and mothers of the society who played the role of teachers in homes for the children during the closure of schools.”

This experience showed what important capacities the family and mothers have that should be considered and promoted in the growth of society, he noted.

“The pivotal position and fundamental role of schools requires that all institutions of the country in various fields of media, economy, culture, etc. help education and all institutions are obliged to serve the school,” Raisi continued.

The president added that spending resources on education is not a cost but the largest and most productive investment that can guarantee the future of the country.

He noted that if the education reform document is not implemented, the schools and education system



in the country will not be reformed.

“The school must be transformation-seeking and the transformation of the school depends on the work being in the hands of those seeking transformation.”

He said should it should be specified why the remaining parts of the reform document have not been implemented so far.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the president said since about two-third of the Iranian population have been vaccinated against the Covid-19 Pandemic preparations should be made to open schools.

“According to the plans, we will soon reach the goal of 70% vaccination of the society, and my request to the education officials is to make efforts towards the expansion of face-to-face education with strict observance of health protocols,” he stated.

The health ministry plans to vaccinate schoolchildren aged between 12-18.

Iran is one of the countries in the world greatly affected by the Coronavirus. Until Saturday (September 25) 119,72 people have lost their lives due to the pandemic.

# Iran FM to tour West Asia

TEHRAN — According to reports published by Lebanese media outlets, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian will soon visit Beirut and Damascus.

The reports however did not set a specific date for the trips.

The El Nashra website published an article examining the whys of the regional tour.

According to the report, the Lebanon issue has once again become the focus of the global community, especially by France and the United States. This follows the formation of a government by Prime Minister Najib Mikati with endorsement of President Michel Aoun after successive failures to establish a government.

Mikati’s schedule will be crowded with foreign meetings in early October. Qatar, Kuwait and Turkey may be the next stations on Mikati’s calendar, according to the Lebanese sources.

The Lebanese media also say that a trip to Saudi Arabia by Prime Minister Mikati is also on the agenda.

The trip could be interpreted as the rapprochement between Tehran and Riyadh.

On the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York on September 24, Abdollahian described the contacts between negotiators from Iran and Saudi Arabia as “constructive.”

The Iranian Foreign Minister indicated that Tehran has made “dynamic proposals” in order to bring peace to Yemen.

Yemen has been under a relentless

attack by a Saudi-led coalition since March 2015 and this has been a main source of contention between Tehran and Riyadh.

Reports also revealed that the last meeting between the representatives of Iran and Saudi Arabia was constructive under the auspices of Iraq, although the agreement on the Yemeni war has not been reached yet.

The Yemen crisis is a complex issue. The resolution of the Yemen conflict entails time given the intricacy of its security, military, political, and reconstruction once the war on the country comes to an end and an inclusive government is formed and reconciliation process starts.

According to the Lebanese media, Lebanon, Iraq and Syria may be among the easiest files in the Tehran-Riyadh negotiations talks.

Lebanon may benefit economically from the advanced reconciliation between Tehran and Riyadh.

In keeping with this calm environment, Abdollahian will arrive in Beirut in the coming days, having met senior figures including the UN special envoy for Syria, not to mention the top diplomats who have asked to meet him.

Abdollahian will carry the outcome of these meetings with himself. It is expected that he would



reflect the positive vibes ahead in the region, which will ensure the achievement of Lebanon’s electoral and presidential privileges in a cooling climate.

As for the Tehran-Riyadh talks, Hezbollah has repeatedly stated that it welcomes the talks, and sees it as an opportunity that could de-escalate tensions in the region.

The Lebanese government, in turn, will benefit from regional tranquility. After the talks in Baghdad, it is said that the Saudis will soon be looking to invest in Lebanon to help reconstruct the country.

## Reports revealed that the last meeting between the representatives of Iran and Saudi Arabia was constructive

The Lebanese people are suffering from economic sanctions imposed by the United States.

The political and economic crisis in Lebanon, which began in late 2019, has caused great economic pain and instability in the country.

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

Commodity prices have skyrocketed. Civil society and economists say 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.

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

One of the biggest challenges Lebanon faces today is the unprecedented energy crisis that is literally suffocating a nation struggling to keep the light on.

This crisis is not just ongoing but getting worse and worse. It is already on the verge of reaching a point where hospitals, shops, bakeries cannot function because of a lack of fuel. Lebanon was heading towards the unknown.

Iran has sent 5 tankers carrying fuel to Lebanon, at the request of Hezbollah.

The political faction says it aims to ease the suffering of the people, serving the Lebanese “nothing more, nothing less”.

According to Al Mayadeen, a senior Iranian official stated from New York on Friday that his country will continue to supply Lebanon with fuel as long as Lebanese needs it, indicating that Tehran is fully prepared to build two stations that would cover Lebanon’s much-needed electricity supply.

Lebanon can benefit from the appointment of Abdollahian as the Iranian Foreign Minister, and cherish this opportunity to expand economic ties.

## High time for U.S. to wake up to new reality: Foreign Ministry

### *Iran says it engages in only results-oriented talks*



TEHRAN – The spokesman for Iran’s Foreign Ministry has once again reiterated Tehran’s resolve to engage in only results-oriented talks to revive a nuclear deal it struck with world powers in 2015, saying it is high time for the United States, which unilaterally quit the agreement, “to wake up to new reality.”

“Only Iran speaks for Iran. Our mandate is to engage in only RESULTS-oriented dialogue,” Saeed Khatibzadeh said in a tweet on Friday.

He rejected talks for sake of talks and “the fallacy that economic terrorism works.”

It is “high time for the party that unilaterally left JCPOA to wake up to new reality,” Khatibzadeh said, referring to the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Khatibzadeh’s tweet came after Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said Tehran is ready to resume talks on the JCPOA revival “very soon” but the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden is sending a “negative sign” by keeping illegal sanctions on Tehran.

#### “Contradictory messages”

Abdollahian said on Friday that Biden is adding to “the thick file of the Trump sanctions against Iran.”

In interviews with journalists during the United Nations General Assembly meeting in New York, Abdollahian said that Iran would return “very soon” to negotiations in Vienna. But Tehran, he said, had received “contradictory messages” from Washington about restoring the agreement jettisoned by Donald Trump more than three years ago.

In the talks in Vienna the Biden administration has been seeking a “longer

and stronger” accord than the original JCPOA and that was the chief reason that why the sides failed to revive the accord before President Rouhani’s presidency comes to an end.

“We will not have a so-called ‘longer and stronger’ deal,” Abdollahian told The New York Times in an interview on Thursday night at his hotel opposite the United Nations headquarters. The 2015 accord “has a lot of harsh critics in Iran,” he said, “but we accepted it.”

The new foreign minister said the previous Iranian government had spent far too much energy negotiating lengthy, detailed agreements with the United States.

“The standard for us,” said Abdollahian, “will be one to watch the action of U.S. officials and judge based on actions taken by President Biden,” rather than on Biden’s “paradoxical statements.”

He suggested that the Iran deal went off the rails long before Trump took office. He said that President Barack Obama had worked, even after the accord was reached, to keep Iran from reaping the benefits of sanctions removal.

“It’s important to note that the violations began under Obama, and then President Trump,” he said, saying that banks and energy companies pulled back from signing deals even when the agreement was in place.

The New York Times said Abdollahian was right. It said many companies feared the rules would change again after the 2016 presidential election. That fear proved warranted, as Trump rescinded the deal and imposed new sanctions.

The same could happen again, Abdollahian said, so Iran is learning how to live in a world of sanctions. “We will not tie the fate of our nation to the JCPOA,” he said.

“We will return to the negotiations and will do so very quickly,” he told The Times. “But if our counterparts don’t change their behavior we may not reach the required result.”

In an interview with NBC News on Thursday, the top Iranian diplomat also said Biden

needed to back up his talk of diplomacy with concrete actions to show Iran that Washington is serious about restoring the nuclear deal.

Addressing the annual UN General Assembly on Tuesday, Biden claimed his willingness to rejoin the JCPOA and resolve the issue with Iran over its nuclear program.

The U.S. president said Washington was “working” with China, France, Russia, Britain and Germany to “engage Iran diplomatically and to seek a return to” the JCPOA.

“We’re prepared to return to full compliance if Iran does the same,” he said, according to Press TV.

However, Farid Zakaria, a Washington Post columnist, has recently expressed surprise at Biden normalizing Trump’s foreign policy in many areas, including the JCPOA.

“After almost eight months of watching policies, rhetoric and crises, many foreign observers have been surprised — even shocked — to discover that, in area after area, Biden’s foreign policy is a faithful continuation of Donald Trump’s and a repudiation of Barack Obama’s,” Zakaria wrote in an opinion piece for the Washington Post.

Zakaria were understandably surprised at the continuation of Trump’s policies by Biden. “Another striking example of Biden’s surprisingly Trumpian foreign policy is the Iran deal, one of the landmark accomplishments of the Obama administration. 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. His national security adviser, Jake Sullivan, described Trump’s reimposing of secondary sanctions against Tehran despite opposition from U.S. allies as ‘predatory unilateralism,’” he noted, adding, “But since he took office, Biden has failed to return to the deal and has even extended some sanctions. Having long argued against trying to renegotiate the deal, Biden officials now want to ‘lengthen and strengthen’ it. So far, this Trump-Biden strategy has not worked.”

## New Iranian FM says “the standard for us will be one to watch the action of U.S. officials and judge based on actions taken by Biden.”

## Amir Abdollahian discusses Syria with UN special envoy

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has discussed the situation in Syria with UN Special Envoy on Syria Geir Pederson during a meeting on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly.

During the meeting, held on Friday, the Iranian foreign minister expressed support for

the work done by the United Nations and the special envoy to help end the crisis in Syria, and at the same time called for the world body’s attention to all aspects of the crisis in the country.

Abdollahian also condemned the United States’ sanctions against Syria, stressing that

the UN is expected to play a more active role to help remove the cruel sanctions, which have targeted the people of Syria.

He noted that occupation, military presence and intervention by some countries, against the will of the government and people of Syria, have further prolonged the crisis

in the country.

The foreign minister once more reiterated support for the territorial integrity and the will of the people of Syria as a fundamental policy of Iran.

The UN special envoy also briefed the minister on the latest developments in Syria and the UN measures in the country.

## Tehran vows tough response against U.S., Israeli bases in Iraqi Kurdistan



TEHRAN – Iranian Intelligence Minister Esmail Khatib has warned U.S. and Israeli bases in Iraq’s semi-autonomous Kurdistan region that they will receive an “active and aggressive” action if they try to stoke insecurity in the Islamic Republic.

“All counterrevolutionary elements and their supporters in the region must know that in case of disrupting security of the Islamic Republic of Iran, they will face a decisive response from the Armed Forces and security apparatus,” Khatib said on Friday, Press TV reported.

He urged Iraqi officials to expel the elements in the Kurdistan region and disarm them at the earliest.

Earlier this month, anti-Iran armed terrorists made some activity in the northwestern border areas. That prompted warnings from senior Iranian military officials.

Last week, Iranian Armed Forces Chiefs of Staff Major General Mohammad Bagheri warned about the activities of anti-Iran terrorist groups in Iraq’s Kurdistan region, emphasizing they will be fully dismantled in case they carry out mischievous acts.

In remarks on September 6, IRG Ground Force Commander Mohammad Pakpour said armed terrorist groups use the northern territory in northern Iraq as a base to sow insecurity in border regions with Iran, warning that “continuation of this situation is not tolerable for us and we will give the necessary response to terrorists.”

On September 10, the IRGC Ground Force used suicide and combat drones as well as smart and precision-guided artillery to target the terrorists in the semi-autonomous region’s rugged mountains.

General Pakpour noted that Iran has frequently warned and informed the KRG officials about the moves by armed terrorist groups in northern Iraq to penetrate into Iran and threaten the country’s security.

In his September 6 warning, General Pakpour said these groups are affiliated to the imperialist front and foreign intelligence services.

He warned of a crushing response and asked the inhabitants of the region to distance themselves from the terrorists’ positions so that they remain safe.

In September 2018, an Iranian missile strike on the terrorist headquarters in Iraq’s

Kurdish region killed 15 militants. Also in July 2019, the IRGC attacked suspected terrorists in Iraqi Kurdistan, killing and wounding several gunmen.

#### “Illegal meeting”

The warning by Iran comes as more than 300 Iraqis, including tribal leaders, attended a conference in autonomous Kurdistan organized by a U.S. think-tank demanding a normalization of relations between Baghdad and Israel, organizers claimed on Saturday.

The conference took place on Friday and was organized by the so-called Center for Peace Communications (CPC) that is headquarters is in New York.

The CPC advocates for normalizing relations between Israel and Arab countries.

Iraqi Kurdistan maintains cordial contacts with Israel, but the federal government in Baghdad does not have diplomatic ties with the regime.

“We demand our integration into the Abraham Accords,” said Sahar al-Tai, one of the attendees, reading a closing statement in a conference room at a hotel in the Kurdish regional capital Erbil.

“Just as these agreements provide for diplomatic relations between the signatories and Israel, we also want normal relations with Israel,” she said, according to AFP.

“No force, local or foreign, has the right to prevent this call,” added Tai, head of research at the Iraqi federal government’s culture ministry.

However, Iraq’s federal government rejected the conference’s call for normalization in a statement on Saturday and dismissed the gathering as an “illegal meeting”.

The conference “was not representative of the population’s (opinion) and that of residents in Iraqi cities, in whose name these individuals purported to speak,” the statement said.

The 300 participants at the conference came from across Iraq, according to CPC founder Joseph Braude, a U.S. citizen of Iraqi Jewish origin.

They included Sunni and Shiite representatives from “six governorates: Baghdad, Mosul, Salaheddin, Al-Anbar, Diyala and Babylon,” extending to tribal chiefs and “intellectuals and writers”, he told AFP by phone.

Other speakers at the conference included Chemi Peres, the head of an Israeli foundation established by his father, president Shimon Peres.

“Normalization with Israel is now a necessity,” said Sheikh Rissan al-Halboussi, an attendee from Anbar province, citing the examples of Morocco and the UAE.

Kurdish Iraqi leaders have repeatedly visited Israel over the decades and local politicians have openly demanded Iraq normalize ties with the Zionist regime, which itself backed a 2017 independence referendum in the autonomous region.



# Iranian ambassador: Tehran-Baku Ties are strong

From Page 1 ► Mousavi said Iran and Azerbaijan know that this game was designed by some people who are unhappy with the relationship between the two countries based on respect and proximity.

On the recent tripartite meeting of the study centers of Azerbaijan, Iran and Turkey in Baku, he said: "In this meeting, we examined all these issues and we all realized that the third parties are involved."

The people of Iran and Azerbaijan are "close relatives" and there are many families living on both sides of the Aras River, the diplomat noted, adding the "obscene" words spoken by others against the two nations will soon fade away.

Mousavi pointed to his two recent meetings with Hikmet Hajiyev, assistant to the Azeri President and chief of the Foreign Policy Department of the Office of the President and negotiations on various bilateral political, economic and cultural issues.



"In the second meeting, the Azeri official conveyed good messages from the President of Azerbaijan Ilham Aliyev to the President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Ebrahim Raisi, which are very friendly, and carry very strategic messages," the diplomat stated.

Also speaking to reporters about the arrival of Iranian fuel trucks in Karabakh, Mousavi highlighted: "This

issue was reviewed and it was found that some transport companies acted arbitrarily in this regard and therefore they were warned of respecting the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan."

About the Islamic Republic's opposition to any occupation, the Iranian ambassador to Baku said: "We adhere to the principles and values according to which any occupation

and separatism are condemned in our view."

The diplomat highlighted Iran's support for the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and underlined that Ayatollah Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, explicitly stated last year that the territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan must be preserved and respected and all territories occupied by Armenia must return to the Republic of Azerbaijan.

He also stressed that the Islamic Republic was the first country to welcome the initiatives of the President of Azerbaijan for six-party regional cooperation and considered it in the interest of all countries in the region and the world.

In conclusion, Mousavi said the new Raisi administration's policy is to expand cooperation with neighbors, and therefore the highest level of relations between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan is expected.

## Amir Abdollahian says concerns about Iran's nuclear progress are unwarranted



From Page 1 ► Iran took remedial measures in response to the U.S. abrogation of the JCPOA in May 2018 and an inaction on the part of the Europeans to compensate Iran for the U.S. sanctions.

Iran started to gradually remove ban on its nuclear activities one year after the U.S. quit the JCPOA. Iran's moves were based on paragraph 36 of the JCPOA.

(Paragraph 36 provided a mechanism to resolve disputes and allows one side, under certain circumstances, to stop complying with the deal if the other side is out of compliance.)

Former U.S. President Donald Trump not only returned sanctions lifted under the JCPOA it also introduced new ones under his "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran. Trump also introduced a total ban on Iran's oil export, the main source of the country's income.

Under the JCPOA Iran was obliged to put limits on its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of economic and financial sanctions.

The U.S. violated UN Security Council Resolution 2231 that endorsed the 2015 nuclear deal.

Late last year the Iranian parliament also approved a

legislation obliging the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) to accelerate nuclear activities. It tasked the AEOI to increase the purity of nuclear enrichment, install advanced centrifuges, etc. The legislation explains if the sanctions against Iran are lifted in a verifiable manner Iran will reverse its decisions.

"They express baseless concern about the progress we have in our nuclear program, and their insistence for Iran to return to the talks is that they think we may reach a stage in our nuclear progress that is worrying in their opinion," Abdollahian commented.

Referring to his meetings with European officials during his stay in New York, the Foreign Minister said: "I told them frankly, first we have a religious fatwa on this issue, and secondly, we are talking about Iran's peaceful nuclear program."

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, has issued a fatwa (religious decree) banning production, stockpiling and use of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear arms, as haram (religiously for bidden).

Abdollahian said Iran has proven that there has never been any deviation in its nuclear plan, and reports from the International Atomic Energy Agency have confirmed this.

But, Amir Abdollahian said, most of JCPOA parties are insisting that the new Iranian administration enter the negotiating table soon.

"For us, the important point is that we will definitely resume the negotiations as soon as possible when our studies are completed, but the negotiations for negotiations will not be useful for our country and nation, and we will consider negotiations that have a tangible result."

While in New York, Abdollahian has so far met bilaterally with German, British and French counterparts, whose countries are signatory to the JCPOA. Abdollahian has also met with European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, whose deputy was leading the Vienna talks before they were suspended due to the presidential election in Iran.

"We will return to the talks as soon as our examinations are completed, but we told the foreign parties to use this opportunity and prove your intention to us in a real and practical sense that you intend to return to your obligations and that you intend to respect the rights and interests of the Iranian people in full and in return meet the rights and interests of the Iranian people," Iran's new chief diplomat highlighted.

Earlier Abdollahian had said: "God willing, we will return to the negotiating table in due time, but a negotiation table that is fruitful and yield tangible results."

He added, "We are not negotiating with the P4+1 (the four permanent members of the UN Security Council – France, Britain, Russia, China – plus Germany) at the moment. We have talked to different parties individually and bilaterally. When the examinations of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the study of the JCPOA case are completed, the views will be exchanged at the negotiating table."

However, the Foreign Minister stated "one of the red lines of Mr. Raisi's administration is that we do not want to tie the country to the nuclear deal, tie the country to the Vienna talks."

The foreign minister said "if in line with this purpose the Vienna and JCPOA talks reach a conclusion, it is better, because it will become a catalyst, and our relations and economic progress will accelerate."

## FM continues consultations in New York

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and his opposite number from Ivory Coast Kandia Camara met on the sidelines of the annual conference of the UN General Assembly exchanging views on mutual political and economic relations.

In the meeting, the top Ivorian diplomat conveyed a message from her country's president to senior Iranian authorities, and said the Ivory Coast is set to strengthen relations with Iran.

Camara described ties between the two sides as respectful and said there exists great potential for the expansion of mutual relationship, which has remained untapped.

She appreciated Iran's support for her country, especially in international circles, adding Ivory Coast stands ready to forge closer relations with Iran in different areas, particularly in the area of exporting cocoa and other raw materials to Iran.

The Iranian foreign minister, in turn, said many documents have been signed between the two countries which need to

be followed up.

He described Tehran's relations with Yamoussoukro as important and recalled that Iran's embassy in Ivory Coast is open and actively operating.

He said Iran is prepared to upgrade its relations with Ivory Coast and touched upon growing trade ties between the two sides.

He said abundant potential exists for the promotion of ties on different fronts, namely in industrial, health, agricultural and technological areas.

Abdollahian also invited his Ivorian counterpart to visit Tehran.

**Iran FM, Swedish counterpart discuss ties, regional situation**

In another meeting, Abdollahian and his Swedish counterpart Ann Linde held talks on bilateral ties and regional issues, including the situation in Yemen and Afghanistan.

During their meeting on the sidelines of the UN conference on Friday, the Swedish foreign minister referred

to the 400-year history of relations between the two countries and praised the Iranian expatriates living in Sweden as well-educated.

Linde also said she has personally visited Iran.

She noted that Sweden seeks close ties with Iran and proposed a meeting of the joint political committee of the two countries to be held in Tehran in the near future.

She also touched on the crisis in Yemen, saying her country is committed to help end the crisis. The top diplomat added that Sweden is in contact with all sides in Yemen and considers consultations with Iran in this regard as essential.

The Iranian foreign minister also said the volume of economic ties between the two countries is currently not at a favorable level. He called for measures to upgrade trade exchanges between the two countries, including through facilitation of the ties between private sectors, establishment of direct flights and easing of travel

decision on Iran's full membership following analysis of a wide array of factors. Therefore, we see eye to eye with our partners."

Khakimov said Russia believes Iran's SCO membership can effectively contribute to the fight against terrorism and drug trafficking, and contribute to the establishment of stability and security in the region.

"One hand, Iran is an active party to China's Belt and Road Initiative, and a member of the International North-South Transport Corridor on the other. Its well-developed transport infrastructure will enormously contribute to transport security. Iran is prepared to help ensure food and nutrition security as well," the Russian diplomat said.

Raisi has described the approval of Iran's permanent membership in the SCO as a "diplomatic achievement," calling on the Iranian Foreign Ministry and other relevant ministries to take this new opportunity to connect to major Asian economic resources.

"Iran's permanent membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which took place at the Tajikistan summit, was a diplomatic success," he said on Saturday upon returning from a three-day visit to Tajikistan, where he attended the 21st SCO summit.

On September 17, the SCO approved documents for Iran's full membership at the SCO at its 21st summit in Tajikistan's capital of Dushanbe.

(Source: Press TV)

## IRAN IN FOCUS

SEPTEMBER 26, 2021

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

3

## SPORTS

### Iran advance to 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Jordan in penalty shootout to book a place at the 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup.

Following a goalless draw at the Bunyodkor Stadium in Tashkent, Uzbekistan, Iran defeated Jordan 4-2 on penalties in Group G.

Maryam Irandoust's girls had already defeated Bangladesh 5-0 in the group and qualified for the final round with six points.



Iran's women's football team have booked their place at the AFC Women's Asian Cup for the first time.

The result, a milestone for Iranian women's football, also keeps them alive in the race for a spot in the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup in Australia and New Zealand.

The AFC Women's Asian Cup will be held in India from Jan. 20 to Feb. 6 2020.

### Taremi scores superb goal against Gil Vicente

TEHRAN – Iranian Porto striker Mehdi Taremi stood out on Friday with a superb goal against Gil Vicente.

Porto won the match 2-1 at Stadio Cidade de Barcelos thanks to goals from Taremi and Sergio Oliveira.

Taremi scored from 40 meters to give his team a lead in the ninth minute. Samuel Lino leveled the tie for the host but Oliveira scored the winner with a brilliant free-kick in the 89th minute.

With another three points secured for Sergio Coneicao's team, Porto currently sit in 2nd place in the standings after seven rounds.

### Iran defeat Bulgaria at World Deaf Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Bulgaria 3-1 (26-28, 25-18, 25-15, 25-10) at the 4th World Deaf Volleyball Championship on Saturday.

Iran will play hosts Italy on Sunday.

Iran had started the competition with a 3-0 loss against Russia on Friday.

Iran are headed by Mohammad Torkashvand in the competition.

The 2021 World Deaf Volleyball Championship is being held in Chianciano Terme, Italy from September 23 to October 2.

### Mostafa Ajorloo named Esteghlal GM

TEHRAN – Mostafa Ajorloo has been named as new general manager of Esteghlal football club on Friday.

He replaced Ahmad Madadi, who stepped down from his position last week.

Ajorloo has previously worked as general manager in three Iranian clubs Pas, Steel Azin and Tractor.

Iran's Sports Ministry will also appoint Persepolis general manager within the next few days.

Esteghlal and Persepolis are owned by Iran's Sports Ministry.

### Iran finish fourth in 2021 Asian Women's Handball C'ship

TEHRAN – Iran lost to Kazakhstan 38-33 in the 2021 Asian Women's Handball Championship third-place match on Saturday.

The Iranian team have already booked their place at the 2021 World Women's Handball Championship in Spain as one of the top six Asian teams.

Iran suffered a loss against Japan in their opening match but earned four successive wins against Palestine, Kuwait, Jordan and Syria and qualified for last four.

Iran failed to advance to the final after being defeated against South Korea in the semifinals.

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.

### Iran attackers at Real Madrid level: Skocic

TEHRAN – Head coach Dragan Skocic says attackers of the Iranian national team are at the top level as Real Madrid will not regret their acquisition.

Skocic's success with the Iranian team in the past year has attracted the attention of newspapers in Croatia and Eastern Europe. He has held several interviews with Croatian media these days, lauding the performance of the staff and players.

In one of his recent interviews with 'Nivi List' newspaper, Skocic praised the performance of the team's attackers who are playing in European teams.

"We have an attacking line that is almost worldwide, maybe it's even better than that of the Croatian national team. We have the best player of Porto, Mehdi Taremi, Sarder Azmoun, player of FC Zenit, three years of the best scorer of Russia, then Alireza Jahanbakhsh who plays in Feyenoord. There are even some other players who are not in the foreground, who play in AEK, Charleroi ... These are players that Real Madrid would not be ashamed of either," said Skocic.

Elsewhere, he described Iranians as football-crazy, noting the people become euphoric with victories and brokenhearted with losses.

Skocic was appointed as Iran coach in February 2020 as Marc Wilmots's replacement. The Croat started his career with Iran with three wins over Uzbekistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Syria in three friendly matches, PLDC wrote.

Skocic made history with Iran in the 2022 World Cup qualification Round 2, beating Hong Kong, Cambodia, Bahrain and Iraq in four must-win matches.

He added two more wins to his tally in the matches against Syria and Iraq in the 2022 World Cup qualification Round 3.

Iran will have to meet the UAE on Oct. 7 and a win against Bert van Marwijk's team will be Skocic's 10th win in a row.

### Ex-Persepolis midfielder Abdi optimistic about Al Hilal match

From Page 1 ► They have done superbly in every season in the last editions, and this can pave the way for them as they are more experienced than before," Abdi told Tehran Times .

"Al Hilal have always been one of the Asian heavyweights with a lot of trophies in their cabinet. They are looking to claim the AFC Champions League trophy that they won in 2019. They have big names in their squad and have spent a lot of money to make their team stronger.

"Moreover, they have a vast support base in their country, and the bad news for us is that they host the games in the next round. It's an important advantage for them," he added.

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 the Korea Republic and the West Region matches and Final hosted in Saudi Arabia.

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

"Against Esteghlal – in Round of 16- Al Hilal showed their football class in some minutes, but in general, they also had some weaknesses in their play. Esteghlal were unlucky that their forwards couldn't find back of the net of the Saudi's team," said the former player of Persepolis.

When asked about the changes in the squad of Persepolis, Abdi said: "Persepolis have lost great players and also have signed some good players as well. They have faced some changes in the club's management level. In my opinion, these changes are more important and can affect the team more," Abdi said.



## Iranian oil industry shining bright despite sanctions shadow



From page 1 ► This year, evaluation of various international projects based on the IPMA PEB model was carried out virtually by six international evaluators from Poland, the United Kingdom, the Netherlands, Kazakhstan, Nepal, and China.

Achieving this success is an indication of the Islamic republic's potential and capacities in the oil and gas sector and shows how far the country can rise despite the weight of harsh sanctions pulling it down.

Azar, one of the joint fields shared with Iraq, spans an overall area of 482 square kilometers in southeast of Mehran town in the western Iranian province of Ilam.

The field is estimated to hold 2.5 billion barrels of oil in place. The volume of possible oil reserves to be extracted from the Azar field is estimated to be around 400 million barrels.

Back in July 2017, Russia's Gazprom signed a co-operation agreement with Iran's Oil Industries Engineering and Construction Company (OIEC) over the development of the oil field. In December 2017, the two companies submitted their joint plan to the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) to develop the field. The Russian company, however, left the proj-

ect in early 2018, and OIEC took over.

As there are still no processing facilities installed at the place of this field, its output is going to be sent to the processing facilities of Dehloran oil field through a 120-km pipeline.

In January, the OIEC Managing Director Gholamreza Manouchehri said the field reached its full capacity in the first development phase, producing 65,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil. Under the first phase plan, 18 wells have been drilled in the field.

Pointing to the Azar field's complex geological conditions, the official had said: "The complexity of the field had made its development very difficult, and international companies that had previously done the exploration work in this field, believed that only they would be able to develop this field."

"However, domestic companies took over the development of the field, and both financing and implementation were successfully done by capable Iranian companies."

According to Manouchehri, the production from the field began in February 2017 with a daily production of 15,000 barrels.

"This figure reached 30,000 barrels per day in 2018, and now the production of this joint field has reached 65,000 barrels per day, which is very significant"

The major part of the project's financial resources from the National Development Fund (NDF) and the rest was supplied by OIEC, he said.

Manouchehri mentioned the conducting of performance tests in this field, saying all the wells and facilities of the field's first development phase have been put into operation since December 14, 2020, to be tested for potential problems.

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- Secure investment is always one of the concerns of individuals in society. For a long time, people have been looking to make the best use of their savings and market resources, so that while maintaining its value against inflationary shocks, they can benefit from the growth of their capital by creating value.

Since economics includes all activities and equations related to the people livelihood, addressing economic concepts has a positive effect on providing economic analysis to individuals and changing the lifestyle of all sections of society.

One of the issues that lead to the development of social justice and increase of welfare in societies is raising public awareness of the realities of society and developing a culture of investment-making and paying attention to savings and investment through stock market.

The irreplaceable role of the stock and securities sector in business development and the relationship between this sector and the various productive, economic and social sectors reinforces the belief that making investment in the stock market is one of the main pillars of the economy and trade and is an unrivaled factor in increasing social welfare.

As culture has long played a key role in socio-economic activities, and the success of planning and economic policies is inconceivable regardless of the components of culture; so, given the influential role of the capital market in macroeconomic indicators, promoting the culture of investment-making and shareholding in this market is a necessity.

Now, due to the development and growth of the capital market in recent years, the development of such culture has become more necessary.

**Culture for avoiding emotional behaviors**

A prerequisite for the growth of the stock market is the development of an investment-making culture based on knowledge and awareness



## Promoting shareholder culture to elevate capital market's role

of economic conditions in the world and the country. By identifying investment condition and opportunities, people in the community can make rational decisions to maintain and increase their capital and avoid emotional behaviors.

By developing a shareholder culture, emotional behaviors in the market can be controlled while providing a better understanding of recognizing investment opportunities.

With the development of such culture in society, the growth of investment in the stock market and subsequent national production will certainly lead to a boom, which in turn will increase the wealth of the people, expand public welfare, reduce poverty and create employment.

A clear example for when the promotion of shareholder culture and economic knowledge is weak would

be emotional and knowledgeable influx into the capital market during the boom and emotional exit during the recession.

**Role of socio-economic beliefs**

The existence of fundamental beliefs among shareholders is part of the shareholding culture, as the fundamental beliefs in the minds of people in society are considered as the driving force in human activities.

Economic activity in the capital market for a shareholder requires the internalization of a set of socio-economic beliefs that play an accelerating role in achieving economic goals.

The required economic beliefs derived from the cultural context of society such as fundamental attitudes about the economic categories of money, profit, interest, capital and so on are among the basic require-

ments of activity in the capital market and their implementation will pave the way for the formation of the proper shareholder culture.

**Elevating capital market's share in national economy**

Taking all the above-mentioned issues, the promotion of shareholder culture in the capital market by the related organizations (Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) as the major one), and drawing citizens' attention to the fact that investing in the stock sector is one of the techniques of business development and increasing income, will increase the capital market share in the national economy.

The study of the successful trend of sustainable economic development in general and the capital market in particular in some countries in recent years, which occurred under the direct influence of cultural elements, shows the importance and place of culture in creating economic development and more generally in the sustainable development process.

**Social justice, public welfare**

The capital market is one of the most important pillars of the economy, which is also called the thermometer of the economy. This market is much wider than the monetary market and has a greater variety of instruments.

If with the promotion of shareholder culture, investment in the capital market increases, national production will flourish, and if national production increases in a country, economic development will take place in that country. The results of economic growth and development are increasing the wealth of the people, developing the public welfare, poverty alleviation, and job creation.

These factors are in the direction of social justice and the implementation of welfare programs and protection of citizens against economic and social crises, income security and hope for the future for each individual, especially vulnerable groups.

## Nearly 700,00 TEUs of commodities loaded, unloaded at Shahid Rajaei port in 5 months

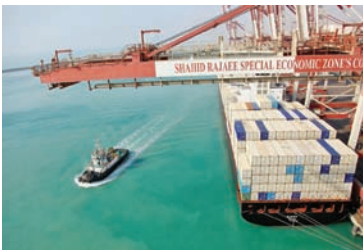
TEHRAN- As announced by an official with Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), 694,450 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of commodities have been loaded and unloaded at Shahid Rajaei port, in the south of country, during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22).

Farhad Montaser Kouhsari, the PMO's deputy Head for Ports and Economic Affairs, said that Shahid Rajaei port (Iran's most equipped and largest container port) accounted for the highest amount (87 percent) of container operation conducted in the ports of country during the five-month period.

As the official has stated, container operation has increased 13 percent in the ports of Iran during the first five months of the current calendar year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

He has announced that 906,218 TEUs of container goods have been unloaded and loaded in the country's ports.

"This growth rate occurred while most of the country's ports were facing the situation of red indicator of coronavirus infection, but with the planning and observance of health procedures, we saw an increase in container performance in the country's maritime sector," he highlighted.



Referring to the important measures taken by the Ports and Maritime Organization to increase container operation, Kouhsari said: "Increasing container operation in the country's ports is one of the most important issues considered by the PMO."

In this regard, the completion and operation of the third phase of the container terminal of Shahid Rajaei port is one of the measures that with its operation, the capacity of this port will increase from 6.5 million TEUs to 8.5 million TEUs, he added.

Meanwhile, loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran rose 14 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year, as compared to the same period of the previous year, the portal of the Ports and Maritime Organization has previously reported.

According to PMO's Ports Affairs Director Ravanbakhsh Behzadian, loading

and unloading of goods at the country's commercial ports reached 58.99 million tons in the mentioned period, while the figure stood at 51.73 million tons in the past year's same five months.

During the said five months, unloading and loading operations in the container sector reached 8.66 million tons, for dry bulk the figure stood at 17.77 million tons, in liquid bulk the figure was 1.94 million tons, while for general cargo (general and miscellaneous goods) it was 8.37 million tons and for the petroleum products loading and unloading volume amounted to 22.24 million tons, Behzadian said.

He noted that the loading and unloading operations in the dry bulk sector grew by six percent in the mentioned period compared to the last year's same time span, while in the liquid bulk sector the figure increased by 47.9 percent, in the general cargo sector the growth was 19.4 Percent and the petroleum sector also experienced a growth of 22.6 percent compared to the same period last year.

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilat-

eral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play some significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition, to facilitate loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

It is worth mentioning that PMO has defined a high number of projects to develop and improve the country's ports, as the country aims to double the capacity of its ports in a course of five years.

Meanwhile, as Kouhsari announced two weeks ago, the PMO plans to modify the financial framework of its operational contracts.

Given that the framework of PMO contracts has been drafted in the past, there is a need to quickly review and update existing contracts to address the recent challenges posed by sanctions and rising

exchange rates, the official said.

"The private sector has been investing in ports in the face of sanctions and the outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic, and it is therefore necessary to pay serious attention to their problems and issues," he added.

He emphasized that one of the programs of the Ports and Maritime Organization is to change and upgrade the existing contracts of the current port operators at Shahid Rajaei port from short-term management contracts to long-term investment and BOT contracts that would be proportional to the amount of investment.

"If the contract is short-term, port operators will not have a proper security margin," he said.

According to the official, the operators of the mentioned port have contracts that expire in the Iranian calendar year 1402 (begins in March 2023) and PMO expects them to renew their contracts.

"By modifying and reviewing port contracts and optimal management of them, monitoring the implementation of investment companies' obligations, especially in providing non-strategic equipment and supplying equipment shortages in ports will be eliminated," Kouhsari said.

## Govt., private sector explore ways to improve industrial parks infrastructure



TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari (2nd R) and Governor-General of Tehran Province Anushirvan Mohseni (2nd L) at the TCCIMA meeting on Saturday.

TEHRAN - The 79th meeting of the dialogue council of the government and the Tehran Province's private sector was held on Saturday, in which the attendees explored the ways for removing barriers to the development of the country's industrial parks.

The meeting was attended by the Governor-General of Tehran Province Anushirvan Mohseni, the Head of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) Masoud Khansari, the Head of Iran's Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO)'s Tehran office Saber Parniyan, and the representatives of the province private sector, the TCCIMA portal reported.

During the meeting, major challenges and issues pertaining to the development of the country's industrial parks were raised and suggestions were made for removing the barriers in the way of improving the infrastructure in these parks.

Speaking in the meeting, Parniyan criticized the parliament's decision for overruling the regulation for allocating the one percent of the paid added-value tax (VAT) of the units located in these parks for improving the infrastructure in these parks and stated that with this decision, there are no resources that should be spent on improving and developing the infrastructure of industrial towns.

Following the approval of the VAT law in the parliament in July, this article was eliminated from the law of the Sixth National Development Plan and practically the major source of revenue for the country's industrial parks was cut off, the official said.

Back in June, ISIPO Deputy Head Fath-Ali Mohammadzadeh announced that 60 percent of the country's industrial parks were more than 15 years old and need to be renovated.

Making the remarks in a meeting between MPs and owners of industrial units on June 29, Mohammadzadeh noted that more than 1,011 industrial parks and zones are established across the country, 830 of which are currently active.

He emphasized that ISIPO needs more authority to effectively maintain the country's industrial areas as the heart of the country's economy, saying: "Many problems will be solved if one percent of the added value that industrialists pay to the government is spent on industrial parks and zones."

## CBI offers support for Iran-Sri Lanka trade ties

TEHRAN - The governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has said the bank is ready to provide necessary financial mechanisms for financing trade transactions between Iran and Sri Lanka, the CBI portal reported.

Making the remarks in a meeting with Sri Lanka's energy minister in Tehran on Saturday Akbar Komeijani said: "The expansion of trade and banking relations between Iran and Sri Lanka is possible based on the financing of exports and imports between the two countries and the provision of direct and indirect payment mechanisms."

Welcoming the expansion of trade between the two countries and referring to the history of trade relations between Iran and Sri Lanka, the official said: "Sri Lanka is expected to support Iran's interests in international arenas as an independent country."

Emphasizing the Central Bank's support for trade between the two countries, Komeijani added: "Expanding trade relations and mutual exports and imports, as well as resolving financial issues between the two countries based

on understandings and negotiations are on the agenda, and this meeting can be the first step for the development of trade and banking relations between the two countries."

The CBI governor suggested that a working group comprised of Sri Lankan and CBI experts, businessmen, and other economic actors be set up to provide ways to expand cooperation between the two countries and to resolve debt settlement issues.

The Sri Lankan official for his part expressed his country's willingness for the expansion of cooperation with Iran despite the U.S. sanctions.

"Despite the limitations, we are interested in expanding mutual trade and using all available capacities to advance the interests of both parties; Sri Lanka welcomes all proposals and operational solutions in this regard," he said.

The Sri Lankan official also welcomed the central bank's proposals to increase trade cooperation and noted that Sri Lanka will be by Iran's side in difficult international situations and will support its interests.

## TEDPIX climbs 35,600 points on Saturday

TEHRAN- After several days of drops, TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 35,652 points to 1.422 million on Saturday, which is the first day of Iranian calendar week).

As reported, over 6.907 billion securities worth 61.362 trillion rials (about \$1.461 billion) were traded at the TSE on Saturday.

The first market's index gained 31,987 points, and the second market's index rose 53,571 points.

TEDPIX fell 7.3 percent in the past Iranian calendar week.

The index closed at 1.386 million points on Wednesday (the last working day of the week).

During the past week, the indices of Social Security

Investment Company, Iran Khodro Company, Saipa Company, Sepid Makian Company, Mobarakeh Steel Company, and Barekat Pharmaceutical Group were the most widely followed ones.

It's over two years that stock market in Iran has been playing an outstanding role in the attraction of the people's investment.





## The U.S’ recalibration towards the Asia-Pacific might stabilize West Asia

By Andrew Korybko

America is visibly in the process of geostrategically recalibrating its focus towards the Asia-Pacific as evidenced by several relevant developments that will impact on West Asian affairs. First, U.S. President Joe Biden remained committed to his predecessor’s decision to militarily withdraw from Afghanistan. He then announced that combat troops will depart from Iraq by the end of the year, which is being done in accordance with the will of that country’s parliament. Finally, the American leader withdrew Patriot air defense systems from Saudi Arabia.

These actions are being undertaken due to the US’ finite means to “contain” China, which necessitates certain military compromises in other theaters such as the so-called “Greater Middle East” that aren’t as important to it as the Asia-Pacific is nowadays. Nevertheless, the optics of these moves are in Iran’s soft power favor since its leadership previously promised that America’s withdrawal from the region would be the country’s real revenge for former U.S. President Donald Trump’s assassination of Major General Qassem Soleimani in January 2020.

To be clear, the U.S. isn’t completely withdrawing from the “Greater Middle East” since the headquarters of its Central Command (CENTCOM) will still remain in the Qatari capital of Doha. What’s happening is therefore a recalibration, though one which greatly affects West Asia. As it stands, these developments stand to improve the regional security situation for Iran. Its leadership won’t have to worry about America directly threatening them from either Afghanistan or Iraq, and Saudi Arabia might provoke the Islamic Republic less too.

In fact, it’s Saudi Arabia that should be the most concerned by these trends. Although it boasts an expensive military and is the among the world’s top arms purchasers, the Kingdom’s forces have failed to defeat Yemen’s Ansarullah despite six years of unrestricted warfare against them. Riyadh relies heavily on Washington’s assistance in order to advance what its leadership subjectively regards as their national security interests, which is why the US’ geostrategic recalibration to the Asia-Pacific is the cause of so much worry.

Crown Prince Mohammed Bin Salman (MBS), who’s widely considered to be the Kingdom’s de facto ruler, will therefore be compelled to recalibrate his country’s own policies in response otherwise he risks dramatically worsening its regional security situation if he continues his counterproductive course. Saber-rattling against Iran and refusing to seriously countenance a political solution to the War on Yemen which would necessitate certain



compromise on his country’s part are no longer viable policy options without American backing.

The rumored talks between Saudi Arabia and Iran suggest that MBS might finally be realizing his mistakes. It seems that what he needed was to be abandoned by his country’s American ally in order to become more clearly aware of the need to enact his own long-overdue geostrategic recalibration. The young ruler mustn’t remain blinded by ego and continue unintentionally harming his Kingdom’s objective national security interests by stubbornly remaining committed to the failed policies that he’s been responsible for since rising to power.

Provoking Iran does nothing to improve Saudi Arabia’s security. To the contrary, it only worsens regional tensions and thus compels the Kingdom to invest more in arms instead of redirecting those funds towards MBS’ ambitious Vision 2030 reforms for restructuring its energy-dependent economy. Refusing to politically resolve the War on Yemen has directly resulted in the Ansarullah symmetrically responding to Saudi strikes by launching their own ones against that country’s military and oil facilities in recent years.

With these factors in mind, it’s obvious that MBS should seriously explore a rapprochement with Iran in order to safeguard his country’s objective interests in light of America abandoning his Kingdom. The U.S. might even be indirectly pushing him towards that end through these means as part of the more comprehensive regional deal that it’s speculated to be interested in clinching with Iran, of which the ongoing nuclear negotiations are only a part. For these reasons, the US’ recalibration towards the Asia-Pacific might therefore stabilize West Asia.

*Andrew Korybko is a political author, journalist and a regular contributor to several online journals, as well as a member of the expert council for the Institute of Strategic Studies and Predictions at the People’s Friendship University of Russia. He has published various works in the field of Hybrid Wars, including “Hybrid Wars: The Indirect Adaptive Approach to Regime Change” and “The Law of Hybrid War: Eastern Hemisphere”*

# A monster mulls its options



From page 1 ► But, proud of the destruction it has caused, America may yet find an excuse to stay. America is also apparently mulling extricating itself from Syria but, again, nobody should bet on it.

One way of explaining the situation is that America is in two minds. On the one hand, it wants to leave. There is now some evidence of this – anti-missile batteries in Saudi Arabia are being withdrawn and sent to the South China Sea. On the other hand, surely America will never give up its obsession with Iran which, by expelling the American occupation 42 years ago, inflicted one of the humiliations in America’s history.

But America is now claiming it wants peace with Iran via a return to the JCPOA nuclear agreement. However, there is a problem – nobody who is sane will ever again trust an America which breaks its word and betrays its allies. Thus, at one moment America could lift all sanctions on Iran whereon, the next moment, it could impose them again and help Israel to make an attack.

Those things said, there is evidence of an American desire to concentrate on East Asia. Indeed, America has made an agreement with Anglo-Saxon chums UK and

Australia to really show the Chinese what-is-what and who-is-who. In its essence the agreement is proposing a military challenge in China’s backyard (and think what would happen if China or Russia did the same thing in the Gulf of Mexico!).

The real problem is that the American mindset is governed by hubris and insensitivity as to how its actions are perceived (and suffered) by others. An example is the recent visit of Vice-President Kamala Harris to Vietnam. Gaily forgetting the American napalm and bombs which killed two/three million people and the Agent Orange which killed or maimed 400,000 people with 500,000 children being born with defects, Vice-President Harris proudly announced that America Is Back!

Even more astonishingly, in Vietnam there is a memorial on the site where an American pilot (future Senator John McCain who did 23 bombing runs) was shot down i.e., the memorial commemorates the capture of a killer. But, showing she is tone deaf and a blithering idiot, Harris visited the memorial and said, “We commemorate his sacrifice in Vietnam as well as the sacrifice of all our men and women in service.”

Because of its insufferable

arrogance, America is forgetting that its overall situation is weaker than at first appears. For example, the U.S.-UK-Australia submarine deal, scotching an agreement with the French, has fractured NATO. Furthermore, the callous betrayal of allies in Afghanistan reminds everybody that the USA cannot be trusted (and even the Saudi elite is now sleeping less soundly in its bed at night).

Above all, America does not appear to have noticed that the Shanghai Co-o-p-e-r-a-t-i-o-n Organization has just welcomed a new member – Iran. The accession of Iran to the SCO is not surprising particularly given the assassination of General Qassim Soleimani and the withdrawal of America and Europe from the JCPOA nuclear deal. Indeed, Iran has seen where its future lies –

after suffering the consequences of a uni-polar world dominated by Zionist America, it now looks forward to a multi-polar world of co-operating countries. Moreover, this world contains a crucial aspect – the involvement of local powers (rather than external ones) in solving regional problems.

But what of Israel? Is it not America committed to everlasting support of the apartheid regime? Yes and no. Yes, because the USA and Israel are locked into

The real problem is that the American mindset is governed by hubris and insensitivity as to how its actions are perceived (and suffered) by others.

## Germany set to vote in most unpredictable elections in years

Germany’s vote on Sunday marks the end of Chancellor Angela Merkel’s 16 years in office.

For the first time in well over a decade, German voters will enter polling booths for federal elections on Sunday with no clear idea which party will win, who will be the next chancellor, or what governing coalition will be formed.

Only a razor’s edge separates the center-left Social Democratic Party (SPD) from the conservative Christian Democratic Union (CDU) and its Bavarian sister party, the Christian Social Union (CSU), according to the latest poll by the Allensbach Institute, which puts the archrivals at 26 percent and 25 percent, respectively.

Other polls released in recent days put the SPD’s lead at two to four points, with a margin of error of about 3 percent.

Experts have urged caution when interpreting polling data due to the uncertain influence of an historically high number of undecided voters, as well as an expected surge in postal voting.

Exit polls will be released when voting ends at 6pm local time (16:00 GMT) on Sunday, and results will emerge throughout the night.

### Unpredictable campaign

Angela Merkel’s decision to depart as chancellor after 16 years has upended German politics and led to the most unpredictable race in years. At various points in the campaign, the SPD, CDU/CSU and the Greens have each been leading the polls.

Climate change has dominated party programs and televised debates more than any other issue.

On Friday, more than 100,000 protesters joined a Fridays for Future demonstration outside the German parliament building in Berlin, where activist Greta Thunberg told crowds that “no political party is doing even close to enough” to avoid climate disaster.

Other points of debate included social welfare spending and raising the minimum wage, overhauling Germany’s rickety digital infrastructure, and the country’s role in the NATO alliance.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

## British “war crimes” in Afghanistan emerge

TEHRAN - New figures have revealed that British forces had been involved in the murder of nearly 300 Afghan civilians, which include at least 86 children and more than 200 adult civilians during the 20-year war in Afghanistan.

The number obtained by the London-based charity group Action on Armed Violence is a small fraction of what advocate organizations believe is a much higher level of war crimes committed by British soldiers.

For the civilians killed, the UK Ministry of Defense paid compensation of just £2,380 on average for every civilian life lost.

In other words, for the UK, the life of an Afghan civilian during the war was worth “on average” only £2,380.

But these are just some of the figures released, and the actual number of civilians killed at the hands of British forces during the war in Afghanistan is unclear.

Also, that is the “average” amount of money paid to the families of the victims who had been murdered. In many cases, the money given in compensation for killing Afghan civilians had been much less. The death toll and balance paid out have been documented in official Ministry of Defense compensation logs and obtained by the Action on Armed Violence.

According to the data, the youngest civilian victim recorded was just three years old.

One of the most severe incidents listed in the records is the compensation of £4,233.60 to a family following the death of four children who were alleged “mistakenly shot and killed” in an incident in December 2009. Many military experts would be questioning exactly how four children of the same family can be “mistakenly shot and killed”.

Experts say London is covering up the crimes British forces have conducted in

Afghanistan and only reveals them when the government comes under immense pressure. Nevertheless, no military figures have been held accountable for the murders and executions committed by its soldiers in Afghanistan and elsewhere.

Some of the payments amounted to less than a few hundred pounds.

In February 2008, one family received £104.17 following a confirmed fatality and damage to a property in Helmand province. At the same time, another was compensated £586.42 for the death of their 10-year-old son in December 2009.

The data by the London-based charity examined the logs to coincide with the withdrawal of U.S.-led western forces from Afghanistan last month, culminating in the chaotic airlift from Kabul international airport. There is a renewed focus on civilian casualties in Afghanistan after the U.S. was forced to admit that a drone strike last month killed ten civilians, including seven children. Not what Washington claimed were members from the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group first narrated.

Following heavy pressure, General Kenneth McKenzie, the commander of U.S. Central Command, said a “terrible mistake” was made. The U.S. Central Command investigation found that an aid worker and nine family members, including seven children, died in the 29 August strike instead. The youngest child, Sumaya, was just two years old.

The deadly strike happened days after a terror attack at Kabul airport, amid a frenzied evacuation effort following the Taliban’s sudden return to power. It was one of the U.S. military’s final acts in Afghanistan before ending its 20-year war and occupation.

U.S. Central Command General Kenneth McKenzie admitted that U.S. intelligence had tracked the civilian aid worker’s car for eight hours, believing it was linked to Daesh affiliated terrorists. The incident added to the stain of U.S.



intelligence; that has come under the spotlight for all the wrong reasons in West Asia over the past twenty years, from Iraq to Afghanistan to Yemen as well as Muslim African countries.

In the British logs, many of the incidents are recorded only briefly. Murray Jones, the author of the research, says, “these files do not make for easy reading. The banality of language means hundreds of tragic deaths, including dozens of children, read more like an inventory.”

Action on Armed Violence estimates 20,390 civilians were killed or injured by international and U.S.-trained Afghan forces during the 20-year war. A total of 457 British soldiers also died during the period, while the UK had spent about £21 billion from 2001 to 2014. The precise cost for the remaining seven years has not been published.

Overall, the compensation logs show £688,000 was paid out by the UK military for incidents involving 289 deaths between 2006 and 2013, the last year of British combat operations in the country, meaning the average compensation paid by the Ministry of Defense per civilian killed was £2,380.

Payments recorded also relate to

operations involving the SAS, which has been accused of being involved in the execution of civilians during the war. The family of three Afghan farmers allegedly killed in cold blood in 2012 received £3,634 three weeks after the incident. The logs describe the money as an “assistance payment to be made to calm the local atmosphere.”

Anti-war campaigners have called for the executions and other potential war crimes committed by British forces to be investigated by an international tribunal.

They say compensation does not go far enough, and the UK should be held to account under international law like every other country in the world.

In some cases, payments for property damage were more significant than those recorded for the loss of human life. For example, during 2009-10, the Ministry of Defense awarded £873 for a damaged crane and £662 for the death of six donkeys “when they wandered on to the rifle range.”

The payout data is one of the few ways to establish how many civilians were likely to have been killed by British forces in Afghanistan, as the Ministry of Defense has said in response to other freedom of information requests that “it

In the British logs, many of the incidents are recorded only briefly.



## Time to ‘fully develop’ tourism economy in Ilam province, Iranian president says



From page 1 ► The lesser-known province is located on the foothills of the Zagros Mountains in the western region of Iran. Unlike The north and northwest part of this province which is mountainous, the west and southwest are flat. It is a suitable place for nomad life since the geographical conditions are favorable for summer

and winter relocation.

The common handicrafts of this province include carpet, rug, drugget, felt, and coarse blanket weaving. The majority of the people in Ilam are Kurds, Laks, and Lurs, they speak in Laki, Kurdish, and Luri. Based on the archeological excavations in Ali Kosh ancient area, the civilization of this province dates back to New Stone Age circa 8000 BC.

The land which is called Ilam now was a part of the ancient Elamite civilization that was formed circa 3000 BC and was destroyed by Assyrian King Ashurbanipal in 640 BC.

Elam was an ancient pre-Iranian civilization centered in the far west and south-west of what is now modern-day Iran, stretching from the lowlands of what is now Khuzestan and Ilam provinces as well as a small part of southern Iraq.

## Over 100 tourism projects inaugurated in eastern Iran

TEHRAN – A total of 105 tourism-related projects were implemented across South Khorasan province during the previous Iranian calendar year 1399(ended on March 20), the provincial tourism chief has announced.

The government section carried out 36 projects, while 69 projects were funded by the private sector, Hassan Ramezani said on Thursday.

A majority of the projects involved eco-lodge unites, traditional restaurants, and travel agencies, the official added.

Aside from boosting tourism infrastructures, other projects included setting up hotels, tourist camps, and tourism complexes, he explained.

Some 900 billion rials (\$21.4 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) were invested in the projects by the private sector, he noted.

During the previous Iranian year, 11 eco-lodges were built in the province's rural areas, the official said in another part of his remarks.

"It is certain that the arrival of tourists in these eco-lodges leads to the export of the cultural

identity of the region through the advertising of local products, food, clothing, handicrafts, and so on."

He also noted that some 85 billion rials (over \$2 million) in loans were paid to tourism and handicraft businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic in the province during the mentioned time.

Over 100,000 domestic travelers visited the province last year but it hosted only 20 foreign tourists because of the outbreak of coronavirus, he mentioned.

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

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

### Underway tourism-related projects across Iran

Last September, the former Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan said that over 2,400 tourism-related projects are currently being implemented across

# Qom's crafters to take part at Dubai Expo



TEHRAN – A number of handicrafts masters and artisans from the central Iranian province of Qom are planned to participate at the Dubai Expo, which will be held from October 1 to March 31, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

During the expo, artisans will showcase their works in the fields of handmade rings, miniatures, statues, and wood carving through live performances, Alireza Arjmandi said on Saturday.

It is also an opportunity for Sohan producers, the most famous souvenir of the province, to reach the required market with the proper packaging and quality, as

well as live baking of Sohan during the expo, the official explained.

Sohan is traditional saffron brittle toffee, which is mainly produced in the city of Qom. Made from flour, sugar, wheat sprout, egg yolks, butter, rose water, saffron, cardamom, and slivered pistachios or almonds, Sohan comes in different shapes, flavors, and qualities and is distributed across the country.

Qom has been designated as the national city of handmade rings as almost 1,200 crafters and artisans are active in the production of handmade jewelry and rings in workshops across the province.

The semi-precious stone mines, which are scattered across the province, are also one of Qom's potential to be developed in this field of handicrafts. Besides domestic travelers, foreign tourists, who are mostly from Arab countries and the Persian Gulf littoral states, are traditionally the main customers of these handmade products.

The second-holiest city of the country after Mashhad, Qom is home to both the magnificent shrine of Hazrat-e Masumeh (SA) and the major religious madrasas (schools). Apart from sightseers and pilgrims who visit Qom to pay homage at the holy shrine, the city is also a top destination for Shiite

scholars and students who come from across the world to learn Islamic studies at its madrasas and browse through eminent religious bookshops.

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

Expo 2020 originally was scheduled for October 20, 2020 –April 10, 2021, but due to the outbreaks of the coronavirus, the event has been postponed. However, the organizers keep the name Expo 2020 for marketing and branding purposes.

## Tourism has unique ability to make sure nobody is left behind: UNWTO

TEHRAN – On the occasion of World Tourism Day, the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has ensured every part of the sector has a say in its future – including communities, minorities, youth, and those who would otherwise be at risk of being left behind.

"Tourism has a unique ability to make sure nobody is left behind, as recognized in the Year of Tourism for Inclusive Development and World Tourism Day 2021," the UN body has said.

The UNWTO as the United Nations specialized agency for responsible and sustainable tourism has designated World Tourism Day 2021 as a day to focus on tourism for inclusive growth aimed to grasp an opportunity to look beyond tourism statistics and acknowledge, saying "behind every number, there is a person".

To achieve the goal, the organization has invited its member states, as well as non-members, sister UN agencies, businesses, and individuals to celebrate tourism's unique

ability to ensure that nobody is left behind as the world begins to open up again and look to the future.

World Tourism Day, celebrated each year on September 27, is the global observance day fostering awareness of tourism's social, cultural, political, and economic value and the contribution that the sector can make towards reaching sustainable development goals.

Needless to say that the COVID-19 pandemic has had a massive social and economic impact on both developed and developing economies.

Tourism is one of the world's major economic sectors. It is the third-largest export category (after fuels and chemicals) and in 2019 accounted for 7% of global trade.

Moreover, as many as 100 million direct tourism jobs have been at risk, in addition to sectors associated with tourism such as labor-intensive accommodation and food services industries that employ 144 million workers worldwide.

## Ahovan caravanserais in Semnan getting ready to welcome UNESCO assessors

TEHRAN – Two historical caravanserais situated in the Ahovan region of Semnan province are planned to be evaluated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization for inclusion on the list of World Heritage sites, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

The UNESCO assessors are projected to visit stone caravanserai of Anushirvan and mud-brick caravanserai of Shah Soleiman, locally known as Ahovan caravanserais, to evaluate them as a part of a shortlist of Iranian historical caravanserais for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list, Hamidreza Dustmohammadi said on Friday.

In order to prepare for the visit as soon as possible, the caravanserais have undergone some rehabilitation work, the official explained.

As a part of the project, weeds are removed from inside the structures as well as columns and foundations are strengthened, and damaged parts are repaired, he noted.

The two Ahovan caravanserais on the Silk Road are 100 meters apart and one dates back to the Sassanid era (224 CE–651), while the other dates from the Safavid era (1501-1736).

The main population centers of Semnan province lie along the ancient Silk Road (and modern-day Imam Reza Expressway), linking Rey (Tehran) with



Khorasan (Mashhad). While few visitors spend much time in the area, driving through you can easily seek out several well-preserved caravanserais (notably Dehnamak and Ahovan), cisterns (the Cafe Abenbar in Garmsar is a special treat), and ruined mud citadels (Padeh is lumpy but fascinating). The large, bustling cities of Semnan, Damghan, and Shahrud (Bastam) all have a small selection of historic buildings and Semnan has a fine old covered bazaar.

### Iranian caravanserais being ready for collective UNESCO tag

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

In 2019, the tourism ministry announced that Iran is developing a dossier for a selection of its historical caravanseries

for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list. In this regard, cultural heritage experts are assessing such monuments that are scattered across the country to make a shortlist in terms of their architecture, historical and cultural values.

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

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

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

For many travelers to Iran, staying in or even visiting a centuries-old caravanserai, can be a wide experience; they have an opportunity to feel the past, a time travel back into a forgotten age!

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.

The public exhibit will be running through October 9.



prices are diverse, therefore you can either spend a lot or little money on these special pieces of art.

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

## Exquisite works of enamel on show at Tehran exhibit

TEHRAN – Exquisite works of enamel have been put on show at the headquarters of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts in Tehran.

The exhibition features 150 Minakari (enamel) works that have been handcrafted over the past 50 years by various Iranian masters some of whom have now sadly passed away, CHTN reported on Saturday.

Minakari is an ancient art of painting natural motifs such as flowers and birds on the surface of metals, mostly copper.

Over the ages, the art of Minakari has fascinated many famed people including French traveler Jean Chardin and American orientalist Arthur Pope. Isfahan is one of the traditional hubs of the craft in the Iranian plateau. The

First Announcement



IN THE NAME OF GOD  
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

## INTERNATIONAL TENDER No: 1400/108-53/03

### Tender Holder:

ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

### Subject of Tender :

Broadcasting the TV network of JAME JAM 2 on Galaxy 19 Satellite in accordance with the technical specification and other terms and conditions mentioned in the tender documents.

### Deadline and how to receive the tender documents:

From **Sunday 26 Sep 2021 (1400/07/04)** until **Wednesday 29 Sep 2021 (1400/07/07)** by **12:00 p.m** with presentation of introductory letter by company or its representative and the receipt of paying the documents fee.

### Place of receiving the tender document:

Interested participants may refer to purchasing (KALA) Dept. ,4<sup>th</sup> Floor of IRIB Administration Complex ,Hotel Esteghlal St. Vali –Assr Ave,Tehran, Iran

### The fee of the tender documents and how to deposit it:

Submission of payment receipt for the amount of 1,000,000 Rials to account 4101029171204273 with BIC No.IR 310100004101029171204273 IRAN Central Bank in the name of IRIB.

### Type and amount of guarantee for participation to tender:

The amount of deposit for participating in tender is USD 37200 fixed or its equivalent in Rials 9300000000 which should be in the form of Bank Guarantee.

### Time and place of delivering Bidding Envelopes:

The sealed (A,B&C) packages/envelopes and the qualification evaluation package/envelope separately packed , should be submitted no later than **09:00 a.m. on Saturday 30 of Oct 2021 (1400/08/08)** at the address mentioned in 4<sup>th</sup> clause.

- Time and place of opening Qualification Evaluation envelopes:

The date of opening the Qualification Evaluation envelopes is on Saturday 30 of **Oct 2021 (1400/08/08)** at **10:00 a.m** in the office of International Purchasing Dept.

### Time and place of opening Envelopes:

The envelopes A of those eligible participants who meet the qualification criterion and approval of Technical and Commercial committee will be opened on **Sunday 31 Oct 2021 at 03:00 p.m (1400/08/09)** in the office of Financial Vice President .In case of complete content in the envelopes A the envelopes of B and C of eligible participants will be opened at the same time and place.

The participant must be qualified by the competent authorities.

Fore more information please see :

www.iriboffice.ir/tenders and http://iets.mporg.ir/ Tel: 00982122167053

Purchasing (Kala) Dept.,IRIB



# School bells ring again as pandemic eases

TEHRAN –Educational spaces nationwide have been living in bitter silence for about 18 months due to the coronavirus pandemic, but school bells rang again on Saturday as signs of the deadly disease are going to diminish across the country.

Each year, Iranian students start the school year on September 23, which marks the first day of autumn on the Iranian calendar, after three-month summer vacation.

The back-to-school ceremony is officially inaugurated by the president each year, as he rings the bells in a symbolic gesture at a chosen school.

Today, in different parts of the country and in the schools that were ready to receive students, the back-to-school bell rang so that the educational units could officially start their activities.

In Tehran, the ceremony was held in the presence of President Ebrahim Raeisi at a school in Shahr-e Rey, the southern part of Tehran.

Due to the vaccination and the reduction of transmission, schools are gradually reopened since September, and about 15 million students across the country can benefit from face-to-face education with strict observance of health protocols during school hours.



Considering that there are currently 94,449 state-run schools in the country, of which 44,363 have less than 75 students, it is possible to open schools with a limited number of students.

Education in schools with high student density and populated classrooms are also supposed to be followed both online and in-person so that on special days and with the necessary restrictions in accordance with

the health protocols, classes are held in person.

Alireza Kazemi, caretaker of the Ministry of Education, said that the new school year has started with the three slogans of “Continuing Education, Improving Quality and Ensuring Health” and all the necessary planning has been done for a gradual reopening with healthy students and teachers.

With the start of school opera-

tions, principals have been tasked with deciding how first-graders should attend school, which include 1,634,383 this year.

## Iran Television School

All educational centers in Iran have been closed since February 2020.

In order for students to keep in touch with their studies, the Ministry of Education launched a homegrown mobile application on April 9, called SHAD, providing students with distance learning programs. More than 60 percent of students and 94 percent of teachers attended 64 percent of classes through the SHAD app, whose acronym in Persian translates as the Students Education Network.

Moreover, the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) also began to broadcast televised educational programs on a daily basis after school closures.

The reopening bell of “Iran Television School “ also rang at the beginning of the academic year.

Teaching in the TV school is one of the best and strongest presentations, despite the most experienced teachers, and it can be said that one of the best things done during the pandemic was to “establish educational justice” through creating a “TV school”.

## 400,000 foreign nationals living in Iran vaccinated

TEHRAN – Iran has vaccinated 400,000 foreign nationals against coronavirus over the past few days, Karim Hemmati, head of Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) said on Saturday.

Registered foreign nationals are vaccinated just like Iranian nationals, so far, more than 400,000 of whom have been vaccinated, he stated.

It was decided to issue a temporary identity card for undocumented foreign nationals, for which the International Credit Federation has considered an amount of budget, Hemmati noted.

Due to the long borders and the new political situation in Afghanistan, more refugees may enter Iran, and the IRCS is ready to vaccinate people at the borders, he announced.

## UN appreciates Iran for vaccinating foreign nationals

On May 24, Indrika Ratwatte, Director of the Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific at the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), said that Iran has generously considered refugees over the age of 75 for vaccination against coronavirus, appreciating Iran for over four decades of hosting refugees.

## Iran hosting world's fourth-largest refugee community

Iran is hosting the world's fourth-largest refugee community. The country has generously hosted approximately 1 million refugees for the past 30 years. The majority, which mainly came from Afghanistan and Iraq, live in urban areas. Approximately 31,000 of the most vulnerable refugees living in 20 settlements located throughout the country.



Based on the latest statistics, over 3 million Afghans are living in Iran – some 780,000 Afghan refugees, over 2 million undocumented Afghans, and another 600,000 Afghan passport-holders with Iranian visas.

However, in light of the pandemic, all refugees, even those undocumented, benefited from access to free primary health services and free COVID-19 related testing, treatment, and hospitalization, just like Iranian nationals.

The same happened for the vaccination when the country has generously considered refugees over the age of 75 for vaccination against coronavirus.

In order to support the refugees living in the country, the seventh phase of the health insurance plan will cover 120,000 vulnerable refugees through a memorandum of understanding signed between the Health Insurance Organization and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

In Iran, UNHCR is seeking \$16.2 million for its COVID-19 emergency, while requires an additional \$98.7 million to support Iran in maintaining and sustaining its commendable inclusive refugee policies, under the umbrella of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR).

## Iran is hosting the world's fourth-largest refugee community.

## Iran attends HONLEA Asia-Pacific meeting

TEHRAN – The Iranian anti-narcotics police chief participated in the extraordinary session of the National Drug Law Enforcement Agencies, Asia and the Pacific (HONLEA) which was held through video conference at the UN Headquarters in Vienna on Thursday.

Attended by representatives of more than 70 countries, the event discussed key issues such as increasing links between drug trafficking and other forms of organized crime, COVID-19, and the misuse of information technology in illegal activities and crimes related to increased money laundering caused by drug trafficking.

Majid Karimi, Iran's anti-narcotics police chief, stressed the need for countries to seriously combat drug trafficking as an international threat, IRNA reported.

As the production and trafficking of narcotics around the world have become a lucrative business and have undermined the sovereignty of governments in various economic, social, and cultural dimensions, it is necessary to address the ominous phenomenon as a transnational and international threat to deal with it comprehensively, he highlighted.

Drug trafficking is considered an organized crime that is closely related to other crimes such as gunrunning, human trafficking, money laundering, and terrorism, and despite the efforts of governments and the international community, unfortunately, is now increasing, he lamented.

Pointing to the increase in drug production and traf-



ficking in Afghanistan and the concerns of neighboring countries in this regard, he said that today, drugs have become a major threat to countries, especially in the region, and is a major source of funding for terrorist groups and drug traffickers.

Despite the coronavirus restrictions and the imposition of harsh sanctions, Iran, with sincere efforts, managed to seize an unprecedented record of more than 1140 tons of narcotics in 2020, which compared to 2019, shows a 41 percent increase in discoveries.

Expressing readiness to enhance cooperation with other countries in this regard, he noted that increasing interaction and cooperation in areas such as on-line exchange of information related to the main drug trafficking

networks, police experience, knowledge related to new detection equipment and etc., with the aim of identifying the property of smugglers and damaging their financial and economic foundations, can greatly

help control smuggling at the international and regional levels.

## Iran forerunner in fight against narcotics

Iran is the leading country in the fight against narcotics worldwide; despite its proximity to Afghanistan, which is the largest producer of narcotics.

According to the UN Office, the Islamic Republic's continuous efforts to combat narcotics trafficking came up with the seizure of more than 90 percent of opium, 70 percent of morphine, and 20 percent of world heroin.

Despite the conditions caused by the coronavirus outbreak and the imposition of harsh sanctions against the country, fortunately, with the efforts of anti-narcotics police in 2020, drug detection increased by 41 percent.

After the Islamic Revolution (in 1979), 3,800 were martyred, 12,000 were wounded and disabled in the fight against drug trafficking.

The UNODC has praised Iran's efforts to fight against narcotics trafficking on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The organization also officially announced that the world's first place in the discovery of opium, heroin, and morphine belongs to Iran.

According to UNODC, Iran remains one of the major transit routes for drug trafficking from Afghanistan to European countries and has had a leading role at the global level in drug-control campaigns.

UNODC World Drug Report 2020 estimates that in 2018, 91 percent of world opium, 48 percent of the world morphine, and 26 percent of the world heroin were seized by Iran.

## Iran seized an unprecedented record of over 1,140 tons of narcotics in 2020.

## Nation mourns loss of ‘self-sacrificing’ student

From page 1 ► After the incident, Ali was hospitalized in Taleqani Hospital of Ahvaz with severe third-degree burns, affecting 91 percent of his body, he was later transferred to Imam Musa Kazem Hospital in Isfahan.

However, he lost his life in the early hours of Friday morning after days of intensive care in the hospital.

Paying tributes to the young devoted boy, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, conveyed condolences and sympathy to the be-

reaved family of Ali.

President Ebrahim Raisi hailed him as a “national hero” and said his “story of selflessness” must be narrated through generations.

Many national officials had also lined up to laud his courageous actions while extending sympathies to the bereaved family.

History repeated itself once again in Iran, as many national heroes have sacrificed their lives to save others and the story of their selfless devotion is

being narrated from one generation to another.

Much like, villager Riz Ali Khajavi who saved the lives of passengers of a train in the Iranian calendar year 1341 (March 1962-March 1963) when a landslide brought down rocks from overlooking mountains on a railroad.

Our dedicated environmental enthusiast, Alborz Zare’ei, a 38-year-old mountain climber, who was helping extinguish a wildfire in the southwestern part of the country, lost his life after 18



days of suffering from a burn wound infection in June 2020.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## %20 of areas in Iran at high risk of flood

Twenty percent of areas across Iran are highly prone to flooding, Khosro Shahbazi, head of the Forests, Range, and Watershed Management Organization (FRWMO), has said.

“Precipitation in Iran is one-third of the world's average, as the country is located in a dry and fragile region where we experience 11 millimeters decrease in precipitation each 10 years and an increase in evaporation of more than 50 millimeters every year,” he explained, ISNA reported.

Rainfall fluctuations usually lead to flood and devastation, so a comprehensive planning for watershed management and flood control is required, he noted.

Since most of the water supply is extracted from groundwater resources, the country is in a critical condition in terms of groundwater resources, he stated, highlighting, because perception is less than water withdrawal from the aquifers, so the best way to store rainwater is watershed and aquifer projects.

## بیست درصد ایران جزو مناطق با خطر سیل خیزی بالا است

سرپرست سازمان جنگلها، مراتع و آبخیزداری می گوید ۲۰ درصد ایران جزو مناطق با خطر سیل خیزی بالا است.

به گزارش روز جمعه ایسنا، خسرو شهبازی افزود: میزان بارش در کشور ما یک سوم متوسط آن در دنیا است و از نظر جغرافیایی در منطقه ای خشک و شکننده واقع شده‌ایم که هر ۱۰ سال با ۱۱ میلیمتر کاهش بارش و بیش از ۵۰ میلیمتر افزایش تبخیر و تعرق مواجه هستیم که همه منجر به این شده که بارش‌ها در منطقه ما سیلابی و ویرانگر باشد، به همین خاطر نیازمند برنامه ریزی جامع برای مدیریت حوضه‌های آبخیز و کنترل سیلاب‌ها هستیم.

به گفته شهبازی از آنجایی که بیشتر آب مورد استفاده در کشور از آبهای زیرزمینی تامین می‌شود جزو کشورهای بحرانی و فوق بحرانی از نظر منابع آب زیرزمینی بوده و چون برداشت ما از سفره‌ها بیش از ورودی آب به آنهاست و بهترین راهکار برای ذخیره این آب‌ها انجام پروژه‌های آبخیزداری و آبخوانداری است.

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON SEPTEMBER 25

New cases	10,834
New deaths	280
Total cases	5,519,728
Total deaths	119,072
New hospitalized patients	1,567
Patients in critical condition	6,411
Total recovered patients	4,920,976
Diagnostic tests conducted	31,653,798
Doses of vaccine injected	49,789,504







## Arabeen, a manifestation of eternal bonds

TEHRAN – In the days leading up to this year's Day of Arbaeen, Iranian and Iraqi officials made many preparations for holding the ritual in the best way possible, suggesting that this Day can be an example of how the two countries are able to boost bilateral relations using their deeply rooted cultural bonds.

During the recent visit by Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi was keen to underline the importance of these bonds between the Iranian and Iraqi nations.

Speaking at a meeting with al-Kadhimi, Ayatollah Raisi said the two nations have broad and deep historical, cultural and religious commonalities. "The relations between the two nations are beyond geographical level and neighborliness, and no factor can damage the inseparable bond between the two nations," he added.

The Day of Arbaeen, which is observed by millions of Iranians and Iraqis every year, has been the biggest epitome of the strong cultural commonalities between the two nations. It has played a major role in boosting people-to-people interactions between two countries that were at war with each other for eight years.

Arbaeen has not been a new ritual. Its roots date back to centuries ago. But commemorating it at the levels seen over the past few years is absolutely a new phenomenon. During Saddam Hussein's rule, the Iraqi Shiites were banned from commemorating Arbaeen in large numbers.

They were not able to stage the Great Walk of Arbaeen. But after the overthrow of Saddam, the number of Iraqis observing Arbaeen grew steadily. In the years before the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic, the number of Arbaeen pilgrims reached millions, with the large participation of Iranians.

The Day of Arbaeen rolls around 40 days after the Day of Ashura, which marks the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the grandson of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) who was martyred in the Battle of Karbala on October 10, 680 (Muharram 10, 61 AH), nearly 14 centuries ago.

Over the past decade, the Iranian and Iraqi people have begun participating in what came to be known as the Great Walk of Arbaeen, a procession during which millions of Iranians and Iraqis travel on foot to the shrine city of Karbala, south of Iraq.

During their stint in Iraq, the Arbaeen pilgrims, including the Iranians, are usually accommodated in the personal houses of ordinary Iraqis, which has served as an occasion for the two peoples to know each other more and break away from the past with all its emotional baggage.

But over the past years, some difficulties have stood in the way of this cultural interconnection. The presence of American troops in Iraq and its attendant implications regarding the provocation of terrorist groups such as Daesh have created insecurity along the roads trodden by the Arbaeen pilgrims in Iraq. This may be the reason why the

Iraqi parliament has passed a law obligating the Iraqi government to accelerate the withdrawal of the U.S. troops from Iraq.

During al-Kadhimi's recent visit, Ayatollah Raisi told the Iraqi prime minister that the presence of American troops in Iraq is detrimental to security of the country.

"The presence of foreign forces, especially Americans, in any of the countries in the region is detrimental to security and stability in the region and the implementation of the Iraqi parliament's law on expelling American forces from the country can be useful in this regard," the Iranian president noted.

This year's Arbaeen rolls around at a time when many Iranian and Iraqi officials are doubling down on their efforts to get the American troop to leave Iraq as soon as possible.

U.S. President Joe Biden said in late July that U.S. forces will end their combat mission in Iraq by the end of this year. There are currently 2,500 U.S. troops stationed in Iraq, the Arab press has reported that Washington intends to transfer the Ain al-Assad base from Anbar to Jordan, and the Harir base from Erbil to Kuwait, in preparation for withdrawing its forces from Iraq at the end of this year.

But Biden had said that a group of American troops will stay in Iraq to "train and advise" the Iraqi military, a move that has been widely seen as a way to prolong the U.S. military presence in Iraq, though under different pretexts.

## America cannot confront Hussein ideology: political activist

By M. M. Farahani

TEHRAN – A Lebanese political activist says that America and its allies cannot confront Hussein ideology of resistance movement.

"The resistance movements are endorsed with the authentic Islamic thought, learnt from the Prophet, may God bless him and his family, and the infallible imams, may God's peace be upon them," Hussein al-Dirani tells the Tehran Times.

"It is not possible for America or any other force to confront the resistance ideology; they have nothing but moral decay and social and family disintegration," al-Dirani notes.

U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan after a twenty-year war showed that military dominance could not determine the fate of wars if a nation chooses resistance.

Now many observers can expect U.S. exit from Iraq and the region in its entirety.

"What they possess of military power proved its failure in the face of peoples, as the last defeat we witnessed for the Americans was Afghanistan, where they fled and went off their tails between their legs," the Lebanese activist argues.

Al-Dirani adds, "Previously, we witnessed such a scene in Lebanon when the American troops fled after resistance axis' strikes that made them take the sea as a way to run away. We will see his escape from Syria, Iraq and Yemen very soon."

Following is the text of the interview:

**How do you see the impact of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein on the memory and political life of the Islamic Ummah?**

The martyrdom of Imam Hussein (peace be upon him), his family, and his companions on the tenth of the month of Muharram in the year 61 AH in Karbala was the biggest tragic catastrophe in human history to this day.

The personality of Imam Al-Hussein has a special characteristic for all Muslims, as he was the grandson

of the Messenger of God, as he said: "Hussein is of me and I am of Hussein."

As mentioned in the hadith of his grandfather Prophet Mohammed (Peace be upon him): "Al-Hasan and Al-Hussein are the masters of the youth of Paradise."

As it came in another hadith, he is the Imam: "Al-Hasan and Al-Hussein are two Imams, rising or sitting." He is the son of Imam Ali; may God's peace be upon him.

Therefore, Imam Hussein, peace be upon him, was an icon of revolution, the voice of the oppressed people, and the refuge of the weary. He showed us the path of resistance and represented the conscience of all humanity.

**How did the name of Hussein remain in the minds of Muslims and Shias during the past centuries when there were no media?**

The mourning ceremonies for Imam Hussein, peace be upon him, that was established since the first day of his martyrdom kept and revived his memory in the minds of Muslims and Shias.

Another element was the presence of Imam Hussein's sister, Zainab, as of steadfast resistant woman when she arrived in the Levant and the palace of the then caliph, Yazid, besides Imam Ali bin al-Hussein Zain al-Abidin, peace be upon him.

These two figures played a media role to spread the injustice of Yazid, and the oppression of Imam Hussein, his father, and his family, where he gave his well-known speech in the Yazid Palace.

Yazid felt the speech might overthrow his rule when the present people in the palace started crying in for the grandson of the Prophet.

Organizing Hussein ceremonies and revival of rituals in different countries, among various nationalities and ethnicities were the main source of the sustainability of this revolution emotionally, culturally, and in the media.

**What is the impact of the Hussein uprising on the resistance movements in the region from**

**Palestine and Lebanon to Yemen? What are the lessons learned by the resistance from the direction established by Imam Hussein?**

There is no doubt that Imam Hussein's uprising, peace be upon him, and his revolution against unfairness was a torch that cast the light on the right path where the free revolutionaries are inspired by in their fights.

In Lebanon, Imam Musa al-Sadr mobilized the Lebanese people to resist the occupation and the Zionist rule, to alleviate the pain of the deprived people and defend them since the seventies of the last century.

He was impressed by the revolution of Imam Hussein, peace be upon him, adopting it as a model, a path, and a practical approach in all his jihadist and political movements and orientations.

Thus, the resistance course continued and achieved great victories on all fronts with the Zionist enemy to this day.

A well the resistance axis has successfully fought the new takfiri enemy created by the global arrogance front represented by the racist, terrorist American administration and its mercenaries in the region.

Suffices to reflect a little on the slogans raised by the resistance forces in Lebanon, Palestine, Yemen, Iraq, and the rest of the Arab and Islamic countries during their public and private celebrations: especially their perpetual slogan:

Ibn Ziad (Imam's enemy) left two choices for us; war or humiliation. But no way for humiliations, because God and His Messenger have forbidden us to prefer obedience to mean people over the honorable."

This is what the resistance learned Imam Hussein's movement, peace be upon him, not to surrender and acquiesce to tyrants, but to resist injustice, aggression, oppression, and occupation without fear until defeat the enemy or martyrdom. In both cases, we will achieve eternal life, honor, and dignity.

**Can America confront the Hussein ideology of the resistance axis through military ways and**



**occupation? It seems that Imam Hussein's behavior can be interpreted as a "soft influence" because their teachings infiltrated the hearts and minds of people. Is America able to confront such an influence?**

The Hussein thought is a religious belief firmly rooted in the hearts of the Muslims. No force in the world can resist and defeat such an established belief, no matter how militarily and financially powerful it may be.

Yes, the U.S. administration spends a massive budget on research centers and strategic and media studies to discredit those who belong to this authentic Hussein and revolutionary thought. It does not hesitate to continue the military, intelligence, and media war against the resistance movements.

## The spirit of battle againsts evil

By Zahra Salimi

TEHRAN – An Indonesian film director says that everyone should pay attention to the message of Ashura.

Dede Kaswar, the director of the short documentary, who won an award at the 5th Arbaeen international festival, shared us his experience about Arbaeen walk.

"Anyone outside the Shia community should pay attention because the battle of Imam Hussain vs Yazids army was a symbol of battle between good and evil."

"Western powers want Muslim countries to be submitted and to serve their agenda."

"I had many memories during my trip. The one that impressed me much was the atmosphere of love I felt coming from people I met during my journey."

Following is the text of the interview:

**What does Arbaeen walk has that makes it important?**

Arbaeen walk is important because it commemorate the struggle and martyrdom of Hussain ibn Ali, grandson of prophet Muhammad, against the oppression of Yazid ibn Muawiyah. And the gatherings of millions of pilgrims toward Imam Hussain tomb in Karbala give strong emphasis and message to the world about who Imam Hussain was and history behind his death.

**Why should anyone outside the Shia community really pay attention?**

Anyone outside the Shia community should pay attention because the battle of Imam Hussain vs Yazids army was a symbol of battle between good and evil. And battle between good and evil will last forever. Therefore, what happened in Karbala will always be relevant with our life.

**What was your purpose when you started Arbaeen walk?**

I first learned about martyrdom of Imam Hussain when I was in high school in 1998. From that moment I studied and read a lot about history of Battle of Karbala. The more I know what happened in Karbala the more I wanted to visit Imam Hussain tomb in Karbala. Until by Allah's will I had the chance to take part in Arbaeen walk in 2018.

**What attracted you about the Arbaeen?**

What attracted me the most about Arbaeen was the spirit of the people from different places and different countries who took hundreds even thousands of miles journey voluntarily to visit tomb of Imam Hussain.

**Do you have any interesting memories of Arbaeen that you want to share with us?**

I had many memories during my trip. The one that impressed me much was the atmosphere of love I felt coming from people I met during my journey. Everyone was helping and serving everybody. It touched my emotions. I have been to mecca 3 times to umrah and hajj but I have never found spirit of love between people like I found in Arbaeen walk.

**What impressions do you think the Arbaeen walk has on different state of affairs of the current world?**

I think Arbaeen walk can be a strong message to the world about peace. Because people who took the Arbaeen walk came from various country and background. Not just Shia, Sunni, even Christians, and people from other religions who know about Imam Hussein walked together with love and respect. Sadly, Arbaeen walk hasn't been given fair portion by the

world mainstream media. So even Arbaeen walk is the biggest yearly human gathering in the world, not many people around the world know about it. In my country Indonesia if I asked 10 people about Arbaeen walk, most likely all 10 will answer: no idea.

**What do you think about military presence of foreign powers in Muslim countries? And what is your opinion about their departure from the West Asia?**

I think military presence of western powers in Muslim countries is for geopolitical purposes. They want Muslim countries to be submitted and to serve their agenda. Their agenda is oil, safety of Israel, and sale of weapons. I think their departure from middle east (West Asia) is a must but I think it will not happen. If they left middle east (West Asia), how do they get cheap oil and keep Israel safe? And their weapon business will lose their biggest consumers: Arab Countries.



## Pivot to irrelevance



By Prof. David N. Yaghoubian

In his lofty September 21, 2021 address to the UN General Assembly, U.S. President Joe Biden remarkably asserted that for the first time in two decades the United States was “not at war,” and posited a new era of diplomacy and partnerships to address perceived threats and an end to the de rigueur use of military force. Biden also explicitly stated that the U.S. does not seek “a new Cold War” or a world divided into blocs. It is a fact that the United States has finally ended its nearly 20-year occupation of Afghanistan and the gravy train it sustained for the military-industrial complex, which according to the Brown University Costs of War Project, achieved none of its stated objectives at a sickening and shameful price of one quarter million lives, millions of refugees, and 2.3 trillion dollars.

However, at present, both the 2001 Authorization for Use of Military Force (AUMF) as well as the 2002 AUMF remain in effect, and with the U.S.-enabled genocidal war on Yemen still raging, recent U.S. bombing of Somalia, thousands of American troops still occupying Iraq and Syria, ongoing U.S. military involvement in Niger, and the maintenance of over 800 American military bases abroad the claim that the United States is no longer at war is deeply problematic. So too are Biden's assertions that the United States is embracing a new era of diplomacy and does not seek a new Cold War or a global division of rigid blocs. In light of the overt strategic “pivot to Asia” and blatant, ongoing efforts by the United States to generate Cold War 2.0, most recently advanced by the AUKUS nuclear submarine deal, Biden's words ring hollow. This is certainly not the first time a U.S. president has attempted to gaslight the international community in a United Nations address and will likely not be the last.

In reality, despite the continual slaughter of civilians by the U.S. military—most recently in the drone strike that killed aid worker Zamara Ahmad, two relatives and seven children from his family in Kabul—and the desperate attempt by the US to secure “over the horizon” bombing capabilities to ensure its ability to massacre still more Afghan innocents, the ongoing U.S. withdrawal from West Asia, ingloriously completed in Afghanistan and soon to be followed by Iraq and Syria bodes well for peace and stability the region.

As anticipated, a dramatic increase in regional diplomatic activity and initiatives pursuing cooperation and dialogue, and a corresponding decrease in inflammatory and threatening official statements and actions from U.S. allies in the Persian Gulf has paralleled the American military drawdown. Irrespective of whether this new diplomatic trajectory is related in part to the U.S. decision to remove Patriot and THAAD anti-missile batteries from littoral Arab States, these are positive developments for Iran and its neighbors. The slap in the face of imperial arrogance delivered by the IRGC at al-Asad airbase in response to the cowardly and criminal assassination of General Soleimani, Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, and their colleagues is being followed up with the promised ejection of U.S. military

forces from West Asia. Securing peace and stability regionally will be the most fitting revenge against a perpetually warmongering empire and its death economy.

And yet, despite President Biden's rhetoric at the United Nations, the U.S. empire, guided by the bi-partisan Washington consensus for eternal conflict, belligerence, and public debt-based “defense” sector and personal profit will continue on autopilot to pivot to Asia, and thus to subsequent bankruptcy and dissolution. What President Biden means when he states that the U.S. does not seek a new Cold War and favors diplomacy going forward is that the global community must recognize that the United States under his leadership is “back” and fall in line with the so-called “rules-based order” (not to be confused with international law or U.N. Security Council resolutions) that only serves American hegemonic interests and those of its scowling minions such as apartheid Israel.

While Chinese diplomats have accurately and forcefully pointed out that the United States is in no position of power to dictate to China, the combined afflictions of American exceptionalism and greed leads sociopathic American political elites to interpret this as yet another profitable opportunity to pursue Full Spectrum Dominance.

In the short term the United States will double down on hybrid warfare, and especially economic sanctions directed against China, Russia, Iran, Venezuela, Cuba, Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, and any other nations that oppose U.S. unilateralism, dollar supremacy, and/or global hegemony. Simultaneously the U.S. will continue to increase its already absurd level of “defense” spending (at present in total more than the next eleven largest national military budgets combined) by printing still more dollars, pushing the national debt—now nearing \$29 trillion—to new heights as military contractors continue to feed at a trough ostensibly paid for by future generations.

In the long term, the American addiction to unnecessary military spending and economic sanctions in pursuit of global hegemony will result in three interrelated outcomes: the sharp decline of the dollar as global reserve currency as a growing number of nations creates viable alternatives to the dollar and SWIFT, domestic hyperinflation, and the eventual bankruptcy of the U.S. economy. Printing trillions of dollars to support foreign wars and occupations will no longer be sustainable. Without a dramatic course correction this outcome can be illustrated with mathematical certitude. Put simply, the shortsighted and hubristic pivot to Asia will ultimately constitute a welcome pivot to irrelevance for the American empire.

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## Mortal wound

By Dariush Sajjadi

On Tuesday, September 11, 20 years ago, at 7 a.m. in the western United States, I received a phone call from a friend informing me of a suicide attack on a tower in Manhattan, New York. The story became the subject of significant changes in the world. The most obvious was the U.S. military campaign in West Asia under the pretext of the global fight against terrorism.

The U.S. War on Terror started with the bold cry of George W. Bush and his roar, addressed to the world, “Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists.” But that roar, although it frightened the world, it was only Iran that “did not fear” as usual and threatened Bush: “We're not neither with you, nor with the terrorists!”

However, seven years later, when General Wesley Clark, the former U.S. commander in NATO, revealed the hidden intent of the U.S. adventure under the pretext of terrorism, it became clear that the neocons were pursuing a grand Middle East plan to destroy seven countries: Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Lebanon, Somalia, Sudan, and Iran.

However, amid a world frightened by American militancy, the only country not afraid of the United States entered the fray (General Soleimani).

The result of that knight's wisdom and the forces under his command was that after 20 years, The U.S. is leaving the region with Iran not only not being destroyed but more potent than before. Also, Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon, which western powers wanted to cut their ties to Tehran, by General Soleimani's tact, those countries became Iran's strategic allies.

According to Nietzsche, “a blow that does not kill us makes us stronger.”

By dodging promptly, Iran deftly turned the “wound” it was about to destroy the country into a means of increasing its sophistication, meaning, and authority.

By Ali A. Jenabzadeh

TEHRAN – A Lebanese political researcher says that since the Islamic Revolution in Iran in 1979, the U.S. has failed to realize its military ambitions in the region.

“The Hussein thought is embodied in armed confrontation, sacrifices, and achieving victories,” Hadi Kobeisi tells the Tehran Times.

“Since the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1979, based on the Hussein teachings and the Karbala experience, America has failed to achieve any military victory against the forces of resistance.”

Stressing that the model present by Imam Hossein inspires Iranian Revolution, Kobeisi adds, “This model allows us to imagine what we can do for humanity and for divine goals on the social level.”

Following is the text of the interview:

**How do you see Arbāeen's impact on Muslims' political life?**

The revolution of Imam Hussein, peace be upon him, introduced us to a perfect model and a unique experience of sacrifice and generosity.

This model allows us to imagine what we can do for humanity and divine goals on the social level.

It also shows us the level of sacrifice that a person can offer to please God Almighty on the individual level.

It is impossible to be successful at the political level without this individual level, which is deeply intertwined.

With this culture, we can face the significant challenges that stand in the way of the liberation of the oppressed people. Thus every free honorable person who follows the divine teachings must stand by the powerless people.

The material capabilities will be less than those of the significant and tyrannical powers, and therefore we inevitably need a strategy to confront all forms of superiority, and here comes the Hussein School as a road map in the path of salvation.

**What is the secret of the immortality of Imam Hussein's name while he had no media to promote his message?**

Whoever experiences Karbala and opens his heart and for one time towards divine values and remember Imam Hussein and his family in the Karbala desert will taste a special spirituality and a unique psychological, emotional connection with eternity that is indescribable in the world.

Therefore, longing, yearning and love become deeply rooted in the hearts and in the minds, where the lovers automatically rush to cherish and remember Hussein's memory because these rituals lead to the rebirth of the soul every year and on every occasion.

We also do not lose sight of the role of visiting the holy shrines that have a special impact in building that deep moral bond with the Imam on the lovers of Ahl ul-Bait.

**What is the impact of the Hussein uprising on the resistance movements in Islamic countries and the world in its entirety? What lessons are learned from Imam Hussein's uprising?**

The Hussein ideology is the core of these movements; it has functioned as their spirit, emotional, and intellectual essence of resistance movements.

These movements are different and various expressions of Karbala's experience, and they are a reproduction of that event, but in different forms and in another time.

With regard to Ashura's lessons, there is an important word for Imam Khomeini, who said, “it is Muharram and Safar that has kept Islam.”

I think that Imam Khomeini's remark has not been entirely conceived because Ashura is an incident full of meaning and values; it is an embodiment of Sharia and the core of religion on the stage of history.

Through Ashura, we can touch the core of the Sharia by our hearts, minds, feelings, and conscience, where

## American withdrawal from West Asia: When the U.S. has to pay the price of General Soleimani's martyrdom

By Driss Addar

After 20 years of the American occupation of Afghanistan under the pretext of fighting terrorism and Al-Qaeda, it had to withdraw its forces in a humiliating manner, and left everything behind, including military vehicles still in use. American forces even abandoned the trained dogs they used in the incursions, and equated them with those who were cooperating with them.

In West Asia, the United States of America announced the transfer of the Patriot missile system from four Arab countries: Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Jordan and Iraq. In addition to the Iraqi parliament's decision that the U.S. forces should withdraw, it is an embarrassing decision for the government, which has become obligated to implement it, before it is imposed on the ground by the resistance forces.

The United States of America is trying to portray its withdrawal as a result of achieving its goals and objectives in the region; but this is not true, and it is a justification similar to what happened to France when it withdrew from Africa under the strikes of the national movements in these countries. This was portrayed as the mighty work of General De Gaulle, who was described as the liberator of the peoples, while he is one of the leaders of colonialism, but he is the one who led the process of changing the colonial color. Instead of the military presence, the soft presence was achieved through many means.

The American withdrawal from the region today is presented as an American conviction, and that the situation no longer requires an American military presence in the region. However, the reality is that the American occupation and this presence in violation of international law is practicing a soft fleeing process under the cover of darkness, so as not to appear defeated in the battle for influence in the region.

America knows that the decision of the alliance of resistance to revenge the martyr Qassem Soleimani is effective and will not abandon it. This is a comprehensive decision for all the resistance forces, and as the Iranian leaders expressed it, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah summed it up in his famous phrase, “Qassem Soleimani's shoes are more honorable than Trump's head ... Therefore, the price of this crime is the American exit from the region.”



## Since the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, U.S. failed to achieve its goals in the region: researcher

divine concepts and values can be conveyed in the movements of Muharram mourning ceremonies.

The resistance movements originally relied primarily on sacrifice and fighting oppression without looking at the direct results because their central and main reference was in Karbala.

With its achievements, values, and success in resisting arrogance, this vision was extended to large areas of the Islamic world that were not familiar with the Ashura culture.

But Hussein's message was transferred all around the Islamic world due to those successes and the raising Hussein strategy in the face of arrogance. As a result of this culture and attitude, the Islamic world has witnessed successive victories.

**Do you think Western powers are able to undermine Hussein's ideology that feeds resistance movements?**

The Hussein thought is embodied in armed confrontation, sacrifices, and achieving victories. Since the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran in 1979, based on the Hussein teachings and the Karbala experience, America has failed to achieve any military victory against the forces of resistance.

But we shouldn't lose sight of that the soft penetration through people who are disguising behind the rituals and religious superficial and raising the banner of Hussein while their purpose is to reduce the Karbala cause into mourning ceremony.

They are diverting the public from understanding its responsibility towards reproducing Hussein values and considering Imam Hussein as an example and role

model.

They want to distort the concept of revenge for the blood of Imam Hussein to evade the path Imam Hussein followed and faced tragedies for that. This is a pretext to absolve us from doing what it entails towards this great divine trust.

Such a penetration could cause damage to the course of the real Islam and revival of the Karbala cause.

**Do you expect the Arbāeen march to impact other religions and cultures as a global message?**

It is necessary to pay attention to an important phenomenon in some Sunni countries that are outside the Arab world, especially in Pakistan and part of Afghanistan, where Sunni Muslims there commemorate Imam Hussein's martyrdom.

It is very important to the point that the organizers of mourning ceremonies in Pakistan are Sunni; this is an important phenomenon unfortunate nobody casts light on it up to now.

I believe that it can open new chapters to successive changes in peoples' attitudes who think that Ashura inclusively belongs to Shia, especially in the Arab world, so that Ashura becomes a trans-sectarian occasion and a general Islamic ritual.

Of course, this requires enormous efforts, favorable conditions and time, but that is not impossible.

As for the return of the Arbāeen marches, I think that the demise of the pandemic will open the door to huge participation for all those who did not attend in the past years, and I think that the numbers will be double at that time.



The country that knows the Resistance alliance better than others is the United States of America. It tried by all means to bring it down and eliminate it by all means, and it failed by all measures. It tried the economic blockade, media rumors, intellectual warfare, and the use of terrorism, but all of this was in the interest of the resistance forces, which gained experience in confrontation that the Americans did not consider. In fact, the American is different from the rest of the opponents of the resistance.

This American withdrawal today is incomplete because it is trying to change the color of the occupation through a non-military presence through the use of its functional tools. However, it collides with the growing awareness of the Axis of Resistance, which today, in addition to military power, has great power to absorb transformations and deal with them with the necessary choices.

America knows that its survival in the region is very costly, because it will remain under the strikes of the Axis of Resistance, which has grown and gained great

influence during the last ten years, meaning that the American presence is no longer without cost, but rather the price will rise if it insists on staying.

The American has grown up under the influence of pragmatic philosophy. The right thing for it is what achieves the interest, and the latter is the criterion of truth. There is nothing right unless it will achieve the interest, and America's flight from the region is that it is convinced that the rising power cannot be confronted because it has a different philosophy. It is based on sacrifice, and it is not possible to compare between those who seek an interest and those who seek spiritual advancement through their sacrifices without waiting for compensation.

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# Arbaeen- a pilgrimage to the heart of Islam and shared humanity

## Arbaeen in the eyes of Western media

By Zainab Kirsteen James

It would be wrong to say that there is a total media blackout regarding Arbaeen in the Western media, but what we can observe is that there is a relative dearth of reporting on what is considered one of the greatest, if not the greatest, peaceful gathering of people from all over the world. The Western news channels that do write on this topic resolutely describe this pilgrimage as one for Shia Muslims. It has been described inter alia[ZK1] as the “Shiite holiday of Arbaeen” (New York Times, 2020), and as the “Shiite Muslim pilgrimage” (Independent, 2020). What is also striking is the language that is used to describe the walk in some of these editorials, as if it is an event which is mainly a theatrical display of exaggerated mourning practices. The imagery used in some of these reports insinuates exactly that, with scenes of black clothes and flags pitted against the red, of people seemingly driven to ecstasy by their mourning. In one fell swoop, a report such as this can debunk the whole of Arbaeen and the pilgrims as merely passionate and irrational followers of their faith.

Arbaeen is nothing like that though; Arbaeen must always be seen through the lens of the believer, or of a participant from a non-Muslim background. When considered in this way, we see the heart of Islam on display in this outpouring of love and mourning for the grandson of Prophet Muhammad.

### What Arbaeen means to Muslims

Historically speaking, Arbaeen commemorates the end of the 40-day mourning period for Imam Hussain, his family and companions, after the battle of Karbala in 61 AH (680 CE). On the day of Arbaeen, pilgrims from all over the world congregate in the city of Karbala in Iraq, and especially in the Bayn al-Haramayn, the courtyard between the famous Holy Shrines of Imam Hussain and his half-brother Abulfazl Al-Abbas.

The first pilgrimage to the grave of Imam Hussain took place 40 days after the battle of Karbala in 61 AH. The family members, mainly women and children, who had survived both the fateful day of the battle, and the long march to Damascus as prisoners shackled by Yazid's men[ZK2], visited him after their release. The pilgrimage to his grave continued for several more years, but then ceased. Around one hundred years ago, Iraqi pilgrims again started the annual walk, but this was fraught with great danger under the regime of Saddam Hussain, and had to be done in the dark of night in great secrecy. After the fall of the Baath regime in Iraq, the annual pilgrimage became a more viable event, and continued even through the years of the Daesh in Iraq. In recent years, prior to the pandemic, more than 20 million people would typically attend.

**Arbaeen showcases not just the unity of Muslims, but the humanity of all peoples**



Reporting on Arbaeen in the news channels of the Islamic ummah far [ZK3]and wide focuses on the central elements of the pilgrimage: the hospitality of the Iraqi people, which has won UNESCO world heritage status; the gathering of many different nations and religions; the recognition of Hussain, the grandson of Prophet Muhammad, as the saviour of Islam in the face of a tyrant. Pilgrimage groups from all over the world are organised and invited to attend Arbaeen; Shia Muslims and Sunni Muslims take part, also non-Muslims are invited, for example Christians and Zoroastrians and even non-religious people flock there.

In the light of fearmongering and warmongering to which parts of the Western world has succumbed, Arbaeen is akin to a harbinger[ZK4] of hope for our malaised societies. The kindness, selflessness and generosity particularly of the impoverished sections of Iraqi society, who nonetheless do all they can to cater for the pilgrims, reminds of a hadith by Imam Baqir (as): in it, he describes the time when (Imam) Mahdi (aj) comes, that sincere and strong brotherhood will also arrive, and that a brother who needs money will put his hand into the pocket of his brother and his brother will not stop him. (Bihar ul-Anwar, vol. 52, p. 372).

Arbaeen shows us in the here and now the kind of society we can create: one in which we walk in friendship, love and brotherhood and sisterhood alongside each other, irrespective of our nationality, financial status and ethnic or religious background. At Arbaeen the physically able assist those who are weak, at times even physically carrying them to the destination. People welcome strangers into their houses and give them

shelter and food. Despite the threat of terrorist attacks by Daesh cells, the pilgrim feels immense peace[ZK5], trust and safety.

We should view Arbaeen as a model for our societies; the historical events of the battle of Karbala and the fortieth day visit to Imam Hussain needs to have a bearing on our current lives, and should not be viewed as an event in the distant past. The kindness, mercy and fearlessness in the face of oppressors, qualities that pour from the heart of Islam, are practices that can be implemented in our modern lives, as witnessed in Arbaeen.

### Arbaeen and the foreign powers in West Asia

The presence of foreign powers in West Asia is said to be to provide security, and to assist in defeating terrorist cells, however the region has observed a deterioration in the security situation in several countries despite their presence, and also increasing polarizations as well as sectarianism.

The security for Arbaeen is provided by Iraqi[ZK6], the organisation of the event is done partly in cooperation with Iran, so as to facilitate the processing of large numbers of pilgrims across the borders, and the volunteering is mainly Iraqi. The foreign powers do not assist, and one wonders what they must make of it, apart from the over-emphasis in their media that it is a Shia pilgrimage. It is certainly impossible to marginalise this “migration” on such a large scale, that despite covid and albeit much smaller numbers has continued. Likewise, it is impossible to marginalise Islam and its message for humanity, and Arbaeen is one place where we can all find the realisation of this message.

## Arbaeen shows us in the here and now the kind of society we can create.

DAESH into Syria, Iraq and elsewhere. A resistance that was led by the Islamic Republic of Iran, and more specifically, under the instructions of Imam Khamenei, by Hajj Qassem Soleimani.

Hajj Qassem united multiple tribes and peoples. He was pivotal in the creation of the PMU forces that have protected and continue to protect Iraq, as well as his advice and guidance, strategic support and more to Syria and Hizbullah in defeating the U.S. project of DAESH.

Let us be very clear about one important fact. While the U.S. media constantly screams that it has ‘defeated DAESH’; this is purely for public consumption and is little more than a lie. To suggest that the U.S. ‘defeated DAESH’; would be to suggest that the U.S. decided to amputate its right hand, then put some sauce on it, barbeque it and eat it for breakfast! It is a ludicrous and ignorant claim, but one that the West continues to make.

But moving on from that; the West and the Western media are famous for their lies; and if we were to discuss that, this paper would become excessively lengthy, and remain incomplete!

Onwards to today.

Following the murder of Hajj Qassem, following the Day of Allah (Yawm Allah) of January 2, 2020; the movement gained a new impetus; to ensure that the U.S. regime and its minions leave the region.

Such a departure by the U.S. will ensure that the tumour that the British injected, and that the Americans nurtured (and continues to nurture) in the West Asia region; nay the world; the Zionist entity occupying Palestine, is removed and the land of Palestine is liberated.

Liberated and free for all the Jews, Christians and Muslims of the world to visit, honor and worship in. Free such that every Palestinian who has been exiled illegally by the Zionist project can return, and claim every grain of sand stolen from them. This is a reality that is going to happen; there is no doubt in this.

We saw the start of this movement in 1979, when the great supporter of the Zionist entity, the now dead, Shah of Iran, was evicted from his “Peacock Throne” by the heroic people of Iran, under the leadership of Imam Khomeini; another phase of this was in 1988; when the Islamic Republic of Iran stood firm and refused capitulation in the face of the eight-year imposed war; known as the Sacred Defence.

It was furthered in 2000 when the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon evicted the Zionists from the South of Lebanon. An eviction wherein the Zionists placed their tail firmly between their legs, and in the dark of night ran away, declaring that Lebanon had become “a hell” for them.

## “Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said that the U.S. has a choice to leave the region, either vertically or horizontally”

The pace then gathered; as the Empire began to further its games and make the invasions that I have mentioned earlier; in 2006, another adventure by the Zionists against Lebanon was thwarted; and the defeat of the US-Zionist Axis was repeated. A defeat so profound, that to this day, the Zionist tremble at the mere thought of looking in the direction of Lebanon (though they try to maintain a façade of bravado using their media. However, let it be understood saying something, and it being a reality, are not synonymous).

Onto 2021, less than 20 years after it invaded and occupied Afghanistan under manufactured pretences; the U.S. was forced to leave, just like the Zionists; tail between its legs. What is more interesting is that the U.S. didn't care for those who it had corrupted in Afghanistan to help in its occupation; it abandoned them. An important lesson and example to those who choose to ally themselves with illegal occupiers.

In today's world, the U.S. is less and less relevant; as we see the Islamic Republic of Iran, the most sanctioned country in history, still standing tall, and being able to break any sanctions, by sending support and aid, oil and medicines, to both Venezuela and more recently, to Lebanon, by way of Syria; another monumental event that renders U.S. sanctions completely impotent.

The U.S. sanctions only have value; if the U.S. is considered an entity of trust, of credibility; a notion that is rapidly fading; the U.S. is a universally despised entity; its regime is known as being unreliable; even by its allies. The recent move to side-line France in supplying submarines to Australia is an important example of this.

The U.S. media is known to be operated and populated by pathological liars, who portray fiction as fact, and fact as fiction; and much more besides.

As the U.S. fades into irrelevance, we can see the world moving to a true and fairer order; one where the Islamic Republic of Iran, as well as the Resistance Axis, are front and centre.

The U.S. can make all the claims it wants; it's paid liars from the mainstream media, can say what they want, their platforms can block all that they want; the reality is that the game is up; the Truth is unstoppable; and as we say in an important supplication, recited every morning, as well as in the Holy Quran: “Is not the dawn very close” (Surah Hud (11), Verse 81) and “They see it as far, but we know it as near” (Surah al-Ma'arij (70), Verses 6-7).

And from Him alone is all ability and He has authority over all things.

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# A POETRY IN MOTION

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Special Issue

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## No weapon in this world can remove the love of Imam Hussein: ex-Lebanese minister

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – pointing to the importance of the Arbaeen march, the former Lebanese labor minister says that no force in the world can remove the love of Imam Hussein.

“No weapon in this world can remove the love of Imam Hussein and his sons the hearts of millions of Shias or from the history of humanity,” Tarad Hamadeh tells the Tehran Times.

“This is what the Hussein revolution did to the

course of human history with successive generations.

Neither global arrogance nor America or anyone else can barricade Hussein and his Shia.

The love of Hussein is firmly in the hearts of his lovers and he teaches the revolutionaries lessons in the resistance.

These lessons are reflected in Martyrdom for the sake of God, supporting the truth, and resisting aggressive policies in this world ruled by the arrogant and those who oppose the revolution and the Hussein



human mind; it created values related to transcendent principles that cannot be eliminated from the human heart, neither by solid war with weapons or by soft war through multiple means.”

Hamadeh adds, “The strength of the Hussein revolution is derived from the divine values and preserved in the human soul by its nature, as it cannot be removed from the minds and hearts.”

Following is the text of the interview:

**How can the commemoration of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein, especially the Arbaeen march, be linked to our political life?**

Commemorating martyrdom of Imam Hussein is a religious duty for all Muslims. It is based on hadiths and remarks from the imams and Ahl al-Bayt who preached at us to revive their memory. This is from a religious point of view.

From a socio-political point of view, the commemoration of Imam's name reminds the human soul of all the Hussein values that were embodied in Ashura; resistance to oppression, reform in the Ummah of Muhammad and the victory of blood over the sword.

These values are represented in standing with the truth, applying the word of God on earth, martyrdom for the sake of God, and refusing to pledge allegiance to the oppressors. The values of Ashura are values for all humanity.

**Why haven't Muslims forget Imam Hussein's uprising after several centuries?**

Arbaeen march represents an occasion to visit the holy shrine of Imam Hussein, to show love for Hussein. This is a march towards the shrine in the path of Hussein.

It is a path to transcendent love and a march gets people to fall in line with Imam Hussein's teachings and approaches to resisting the oppressors.

It is a school for learning jihad, combating tyranny, deviation, terrorism and all forms of injustice in order to establish a state of justice.

**What is the impact of Imam Hussein on the resistance movements in the region?**

The world stands stunned in front of the great Arbaeen marches; an incident that is going to enter the

approach.

But this movement and approach are steady, firm, and continuous while the slogan of Hussein's lovers is “we never leave you, Hussein, no matter what the pressures of America and others are.” Nobody will be able to extinguish the flame of Hussein's love and his teachings in the hearts of the revolutionaries.

**Do you think the Hussein thoughts and teachings can be undermined in the modern era?**

The Hussein memorial will continue to exist and expand with time until the uprising of Imam Mahdi to retaliate and fills the earth with equity and justice after it was fraught with injustice and oppression.

Therefore, we find that every year the number of participants in this annual pilgrimage increases. Millions of lovers from all sides of the world trot down to Karbala on their feet to cherish the bravery and valor of Imam Hussein.

**Do you expect that the U.S. can confront Imam Hussein's teachings?**

No weapon in this world can remove the love of

Imam Hussein and his sons from the hearts of millions of Shias or from the history of humanity. This is what the Hussein revolution did to the human mind; it created values related to high principles that cannot be eliminated from the human heart, neither by solid war with weapons or by soft war through multiple means.

The strength of the Hussein revolution is derived from the divine values and preserved in the human soul by its nature, as it cannot be removed from the minds and hearts.

The Shia imams had pointed to this fact, so the Shia, all Muslims, and the free people of the world are inspired by their remarks.

Accordingly, the fruits of the Hussein revolution are reaped in the uprising of Imam Mahdi, where a pure Islamic state is formed to save humankind. Only God's vicegerent can establish a state of equity and justice.

We are confident of God's promise. We hope to see him soon, God willing.





# The revenge of West Asia for the assassination of General Soleimani



Do we still remember the coward and brutal assassination of General Qassim Soleimani? Iran said they would take revenge on this barbaric act and the world was waiting for an answer, but to the disappointment of many in the Western world, this revenge was delayed and many thought it was just words, but they were mistaken. Also, many people (Western) immediately thought of war, weapons and missiles. But Iran, knowing all too well that weapons and missiles are not the answer, decided tactically to wait for the right moment and the right time to give an answer to the U.S. and its allies.

The answer is not war and weapons but to make the enemy, the U.S. and its Western allies, withdraw from large parts of West Asia. In January 2020, the process of withdrawal from West Asia and in this case, Iraq, the people of Iraq suffered a long war and occupation by the U.S. and its allies NATO, started. The people of Iraq finally realized that the occupation, assassinations with drones, killings and looting of their resources must really stop, so they adopted a resolution in their parliament stating that the U.S. and its allies should withdraw from Iraq. The killing of General Soleimani and not to forget Abu Mahdi al-Mohandas, they were both assassinated in Baghdad by U.S. drones, might have been the trigger of what we are experiencing today.

The hasty retreat of Afghanistan, by the U.S. and its allies NATO, the adopted resolution by Iraq and the looting of oil and gas by the U.S. and its allies from Iraq and Syria, is a situation which must also end and West Asia should be compensated for the horrible wars, which started in 2001, after the so-called "War on Terror". In 2001 U.S. President George Bush Jr. called for war, after the attack on the World Trade Centre, which was done by mainly Saudi Arabian citizens and up to today many versions as how it had happened and if it was really a terror attack, or perhaps a PSYOP, remains unclear. But Bush used it to declare war, the War on Terror and vowed to destroy seven countries in his "Axis of Evil" speech, among them: Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria and Iran were on this hit list and openly Bush and his Administration, as did many European countries, declared war on these countries. Many years of pain and suffering began for the people of West Asia.

Muslims were declared the enemy of the Western world and even in Europe, the bakermat of so-called democracy, they were no longer safe, they could be arrested for the slightest thing and sent to mainly Eastern European "black sites", or to Guantanamo Bay, the largest concentration camp for Muslims, here it didn't matter whether you were Sunni, Shia, Alawite or even Christian or something else, you were Arab, or West Asian and therefore a potential terrorist. This painful violation of human rights has been going on for twenty years already, but slowly but surely West Asia is now liberated by, in most cases, its own people, rising up and with help of Iran and Russia, like in Syria, Iraq and Lebanon taking back their independence and peace for their countries.

## Arbaeen Pilgrimage and New Equations in West Asia

The largest trigger however is the Arbaeen pilgrimage with its yearly Ashura, the 10th day of Muharram on the Islamic calendar, to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hussein. Arbaeen is one of the most important ceremonies in the Shi'ite Muslim calendar. Arbaeen means forty in Arabic as forty days is the traditional length of mourning after the death of a family member or loved one in Muslim traditions. Imam Hussein was killed at

the Battle of Karbala in Iraq on 10 October 680 AD. Hussein was seen by his followers as the rightful heir of the prophet's legacy. When he refused to pledge allegiance to the Umayyad caliphate, he was killed in the battle.

Some countries and Iraqi business owners are urging the Iraqi government to open its borders to all pilgrims who want to come to Karbala, under strict health measures. Even there is still fear of Covid-19 spreading, most of the pilgrims are not afraid, they have a strong faith and endured murder, torture and horrendous crimes from the U.S. and its allies. The Arbaeen pilgrimage can be seen as another trigger to show the world that people are united in faith and against occupation of the U.S. and its allies, they will remember the killing of General Qassim Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Mohandas and this will unite the people of West Asia in faith and the urge for freedom and independence, it will unite and make strong, perhaps a bond can be seen between Sunni and Shia.

Also, recently some footage came from Al-Alam TV that the U.S. and its allies will withdraw from large parts of Syria, which is actually already happening right now. Like in Afghanistan, but in secret, because the U.S. and its allies suffered a severe blow and a lot of Western media outlets compare the hasty retreat with the retreat in Vietnam, when the U.S. lost the war. But as many scholars and most important the Secretary-General Sayed Hassan Nasrallah of the resistance group Hezbollah on August 17, 2021, on the occasion of the commemoration of the 9th night of Ashura, two days before the martyrdom of Imam Hussein said:

"Everything that is happening in Afghanistan, even in Lebanon (and Syria) were we are absorbed by our daily problems (hunger and no power due to sanctions), must be given attention because it is the pivotal moment of the humiliation of the U.S., inhumane things have happened during the last 50 or 60 years. This will have a great impact on international policy, international relations and international alliances. Today, those who most closely observe and comment on these events are the Israelis and so-called Western experts! But the Israelis are the instigators, together with the U.S. and its European allies, they have indulged in atrocities in the name of democracy, but their time is up and regime is finished".

I will conclude by saying the words of Sayed Hassan Nasrallah and many scholars in Iran, the events as seen in Syria, Afghanistan and Iraq show that the withdrawal of Afghanistan may be the trigger. There will be a rollercoaster of events, what we will see unfolding the coming weeks and months in West Asia, the liberation and the fall of an empire which has similarities with the collapse of the Roman empire, this empire is now pursuing a world technocratic dictatorship, which can be witnessed in the Western world, a system without God and morals. But if the non-Western world, like West Asia, a continent ravaged by wars, takes its revenge, with their strong belief in God and morals, the one-world technocratic regime may fall apart. Westerners should focus on this goal and not listen to the propaganda from Western news outlets; they must realize that their "chosen" leaders and politicians over the last decades have chosen a path of war, murder and criminal acts this must now be ended, with God's help, InshaAllah!

Sonja van den Ende is an independent journalist from the Netherlands. Her expertise includes international affairs by special focus on Syria, West Asia and Russia. She is the former International Secretary at International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA - Vienna).

By Angelica Maria Rojas  
The Great March of Arbaeen, the largest human congregation in history, is a phenomenon that has recently become known to the Western world through the media. This march, which lasts three days and two nights on an 80-kilometre route between Najaf and Karbala, Iraq, takes place every year in the month of Safar in the lunar calendar. More than 20 million people of almost 60 nationalities participate in this congregation.

Hosting this large number of pilgrims is undoubtedly an enormous responsibility. All visitors are provided with food, medical services and accommodation free of charge. During the Arbaeen march, more than 700 million meals are distributed to the pilgrims by thousands of volunteers.

The Great Arbaeen march has become an inimitable school of ethics and a banner for the defense of human rights. Moreover, the tragedy of Ashura, which took place in Karbala 1400 years ago, is today an inter-religious meeting point. People of all faiths visit the shrine of Imam Hussein (peace be upon him) and pray for the healing of the sick and intercession for their needs.

Shiite Islam in Latin America had its beginnings around 30 years ago. With the arrival of immigrants from various Arab countries and Iranians, many native Spanish speakers began to recognize the presence of a practice different from what they were used to see. With the passage of time and thanks to the joint work of several brothers and sisters, the flame of fervent love for Imam Hussain ibn Ali (peace be upon him) has been spreading.

Today it is common to see men, women and children in Islamic centers commemorating different ceremonies in honor of the Lord of Martyrs. For this reason, it is incumbent upon all followers of Ahlul-Bayt (peace be upon them) to promote the legacy of the epic of the grandson of the Holy Prophet Muhammad (peace and blessings of God be upon him).

# The tables are turning against the U.S. presence in West Asia

It's always gratifying to see the bully being beaten, getting his comeuppance, or stood up to by those he has been harassing, humiliating, hurting, intimidating for so long. Sometimes that's all it takes. The most aggressive bully in West Asia and much of the world is the United States. It goes where it wants and does what it pleases. It never does it in isolation as it needs its gang members to back him up, with muscle and encouragement to massage his ego.

The gang here is its standing army and its compliant European allies in the form of NATO. But even a gang and its leader need a purpose, other than exercising simple aggression and chest beating. For the U.S. and its European allies, a major purpose in Afghanistan was to rake in trillions of dollars for the war industry, as those profits went to perpetuate its very presence in the region. If the goal was simply to punish the Taliban, that was accomplished very early on in its occupation. If it was to take out Osama Bin Laden, that allegedly occurred in 2011.

So, all that has been occurring in the past 10 + years was simply the rape of a land, and the fulfillment of Wall Street's dream of never-ending wealth for its military-industrial complex. Incidentally, when President Eisenhower coined this term, he wanted to include 'congressional' in it but balked. It would have been so fitting as our Congress works hand in hand with the Raytheon's, KBRs and Blackwaters of the world.

If General Soleimani's revenge was to see the U.S. leave West Asia then it has yet to occur. President Biden and his military command made it known that they're here to stay. Maybe not boots on the

## The U.S. withdrawing from West Asia is a new chapter for the region

By Paul Larudee  
Is the US departure from Afghanistan a victory? A cause for celebration? Certainly, for the Taliban it is. They are the ones who sacrificed their blood for 20 years to make it happen. It is also a victory for all resistance against imperialism in the same way that the victory of Vietnamese showed that the greatest imperialist power could be defeated.

Of course, not all of Vietnam's neighbors felt comfortable with the emergence of a united Vietnam that could be a threat to them, as had happened previously in the history of the region. In the same way, some Afghans and neighboring countries are not necessarily as enthusiastic about the Taliban winning as they are about the US losing.

The U.S. itself is also ambivalent. Many Americans are happy that this war is over. But amazingly, a large number who have been arguing for years that the U.S. should get out are not happy with the way it was done, and suggested that more troops should be sent in order to protect those who were leaving, rather like trying to make an omelet without breaking an egg.

In any case, it's pointless to argue about such matters. The chapter is finished and will not be rewritten.

Or will it? Let us not forget that \$9.5 billion of Afghan funds have been frozen in U.S. banks. Also, the

# Arbaeen, a paradise on earth



'Editorial el Faro Internacional' presents to its readers this publication in Spanish to bring the Spanish-speaking community closer to the march of Arbaeen. The book ARBAIN, EL PARAISO EN LA

TIERRA (ARBAEEN, A PARADISE ON EARTH) contains exclusive, high-resolution images by international photographers, which vividly illustrate this historic event.



ground but drones in the air, and likely the secretive Special Ops on assignments. The U.S. didn't leave just with its tail between its legs but on a murderous exit, with the 'accidental' droning of 10 civilians, including children. Because of the political showmanship of many who want to see political blood for the poorly executed exit, all operations, including the continuing illegal occupation of Syria, will just go on quietly.

The Iraqi government has called for the end of its occupation. In January of 2020 after the drone assassination of General Soleimani the Iraqi Parliament called for the expulsion of U.S. troops. The tables are turning against the U.S. presence in the area but the U.S. has too much at stake to abide by this vote. Even though in the U.S. sentiment against our never-ending war is growing, the political leadership is deaf to the call for an end to U.S. en-

gagements abroad. Also, now that President Biden 'lost' Afghanistan, with the 24/7 news coverage of the Fall of Kabul, it will be difficult for him, or any president, to show such "weaknesses" again.

The only hope for the U.S. war machine is to quickly pivot to the Far East, notably against China, as its next theater of war in order to maintain its military and economic empire. With America's short attention span, what happened in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Yemen, etc., will be distant history.

As there are no permanent friends or enemies in politics, there are near permanent interests. Yesterday's foes are likely tomorrow's new found friends. The rapprochement between Israel and some in the Arab world attests to this. They are uniting their political, and likely military muscle directed at their common enemy, Iran, but it is Iran that has recently had the upper

hand. Its economic ties to China and the apparent loss of the U.S. military in its region and its close ties to Iraq gives it some leeway in reestablishing the Iranian nuclear deal on more favorable terms. The US's most recent 'betrayal' of France with its nuclear deal with Australia shows once again that the U.S. acts on its own, and not always in concert with its European allies. As President Trump stood alone on this deal, Biden is just a continuation of U.S. foreign policy.

The upcoming Arbaeen Pilgrimage, September 27, would be another show of political force for the Axis of Resistance, as Shia from Arab and non-Arab lands take part. We in the West may be very unfamiliar with this annual event, but to the people of the Far West it is quite notable, as it was a motivating factor for the Iraqi Parliament to expel the U.S. occupation forces.

The 20th Century was the American century. The U.S. dominated in nearly everything: military and economic power, science and technology, and in over all public relations. That period is coming to an end. China is now seen as the dominating power for the foreseeable future. Countries in Africa, Iran, and the Pacific nations are seeing that an alliance with China is in their interests. The U.S. is stoking animosity towards China among those nations still subservient to its whims and demands, notably Australia and to a degree, Japan. Whether the U.S. proves to be the 'paper tiger' that Mao Zedong proclaimed has yet to be seen. Iran being closer to China may be its best hope for protection against U.S. imperialism.

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These developments are part of a global power realignment that is not working to the advantage of the US. As the U.S. and its smaller imperialist clone Israel use their military might indiscriminately and impose debilitating economic sanctions on nations that they wish to subdue, the objects of their fury are forging new relationships with each other that will ultimately bypass, isolate and eclipse these vestiges of colonialism and imperialism.

Of course, the U.S. will not disappear quietly. It still has a great deal of destructive power, which is the only power it knows. This is also the basis of Israeli power as well, and it is why the two are so interdependent. But in the end this is why they will destroy themselves, like heavily armed fighters chained together and sinking into soft ground, unable to save each other.

Paul Larudee is an Iranian-born American political activist who is a major figure in the pro-Palestinian movement. Based in the San Francisco Bay area, he is involved with the International Solidarity Movement and was a founder of the Free Gaza Movement and the Free Palestine Movement.