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## Interview

### Without Karbala, there would be no true Islam: German activist

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – Pointing to the position of Imam Hussein in Islam, Jurgen Grassmann, a Shia German peace activist based in Berlin, says that without Karbala, there would be no true Islam.

"The unique and outstanding importance of Imam Hussein is undisputed among Sunnis and Shias. Without Karbala, there would be no true Islam," Grassmann tells the Tehran Times.

Many Islamic scholars believe that message of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) was an including and not an exclusive.

But a distortion in the leadership of Ummah led to suppression of true Islam and the catastrophe of Karbala in which Imam Hussein and his family were martyred. "Because of non-Islamic political leaders in Islamic countries. Wahhabism and Salafism have misled Muslims with money," Grassmann remarks.

Following is the text of the interview:

#### How would you describe the position of Imam Hussein among Muslims, Sunnis, and Shias?

The unique and outstanding importance of Imam Hussein is undisputed among Sunnis and Shias. Without Karbala, there would be no true Islam. Yes, not even a belief in a single God (Allah). ▶ Page 5

### Leader names Payman Jebelli new director of IRIB

TEHRAN – Payman Jebelli has been announced as the new managing director of Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB).

The appointment was announced on Wednesday in a decree issued by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. Jebelli, 55, replaced Abolali Ali-Askari who held the position in IRIB, also called "national medium" in Iran, since May 2016.

Jebelli was the former director of the IRIB World Service.

In the decree, the Leader urged the new IRIB director to provide a focus for "raising public awareness and knowledge" and "cultural guidance."

He also emphasized the need "to raise the national and revolutionary spirit and identity" and help hope and joy of life surge inside society.

Ayatollah Khamenei also urged the production of programs promoting the Islamic-Iranian lifestyle.

Senior officials, including President Ebrahim Raisi, Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf and Judiciary Chief Gholam-Hossein Mohseni Ejei, have congratulated Jebelli on his appointment as IRIB managing director. Based on the Constitution of Iran, the managing director of IRIB is selected by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution for a term of four years.

In his meeting in 2019 with the literati, Ayatollah Khamenei criticized Persian media and IRIB for their disregard of the standard language, using "faceless language" and foreign terms and words, and addressing the cultural officials and literati, warned, "Don't let the Persian language fall into decay and ruin."

Photo: New managing director of Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting, Payman Jebelli, in an undated photo.

# Let's Talk About Power

 STAY UPDATED #UKFuelShortage



TEHRAN — With the winter season arriving, the United Kingdom is now struggling with an immense fuel shortage crisis. Long lines are snaking down streets across the UK as drivers struggle to fill up their cars, causing widespread traffic misery and worries over whether the emergency services can do their work.

The UK has put the British army in charge of helping out with the shortage, but very little help has been carried out. The most embarrassing part is that the government is blaming the people for panicking. But how did the crisis start in the first place?

In recent months, many companies have reported shortages, including fast-food chains KFC, McDonald's and Nando's. Supermarket shelves have also run dry. At first, people shrugged off the shortage, as they thought of it as inconvenience that could hardly shake the economy.

News from oil giants BP and ExxonMobil that they were having to close some gas stations as a result of a truck driver shortage changed that perception.

The process of keeping the country's petrol stations flowing involves the seamless interaction of a number of activities. So when one or more aspects of the process are out of kilter, the whole system can grind to a halt.

Critics say Prime Minister Boris Johnson is also to blame for failing to address the issue of lack of truckers – he has been warned for months that there is a shortage of around 100,000 drivers across the trucking sector overall.

Johnson likes to play down the fact that there is a lack of drivers due to the exodus of Britain from the EU bloc.

When the country left the economic orbit of the EU at the start of this year, one of the bloc's main tenets ceased to apply – the freedom of people to move within the UK to find work. With Brexit, tens of thousands of drivers left the UK to go back to their homes in the EU, further pressuring an industry already facing long-term staffing issues.

The coronavirus pandemic and series of lockdowns also played a major part in the matter. Lockdown restrictions led to difficulties in training and testing new home-grown drivers to replace those who left.

In addition, the pandemic accelerated the number of British drivers, many of whom were nearing retirement age, calling it a day. Relatively low pay, changes in the way truck drivers' incomes are taxed and a paucity of facilities – toilets and showers, for example – have also diminished the job's appeal to younger workers. In short, it's been a perfect storm. ▶ Page 2

### Iranian gas network expanding by 1,700 km

TEHRAN – Head of National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) Majid Chegeni has said over 1,700 kilometers of high-pressure gas pipelines are currently under construction across the country, Shana reported.

Speaking in a meeting with Bahram Salavati, the head of the Iranian Gas Engineering and Development Company (IGEDC), Chegeni said: "The implementation of more than 1700 kilometers of high-pressure transmission lines including Bidboland - Ahvaz, Qom - Mohammadieh - Parchin, Rasht - Chelvand, Laft - Gourzin - Bandar Abbas and Bidboland - Gachsaran shows NIGC's determination for completing underway projects on schedule."

"Implementation of projects on time, in accordance with the current standards and regulations of the Oil Ministry, will lead to further development of the country's gas industry," he added.

The official noted that his company has put strengthening the gas infrastructure on the agenda as one of its main priorities of the company in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21). ▶ Page 4

### Leader orders banning import of home appliances from South Korea

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution on Thursday endorsed a call by local producers to ban the import of home appliances from two South Korean companies – LG and Samsung – to Iran.

The order by Ayatollah Khamenei followed after a number of local producers of home appliances said reports have surfaced about allowing import of home appliances from South Korean companies, and sought the Leader's help in this regard.

The request comes as in recent years the Leader of the Islamic Revolution has been insisting on the importance of local production and banning the import of goods that their kinds are made at home.

Endorsing the local producers' request, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution wrote a letter to President Ebrahim Raisi in which he asked if the report about imports from the two Korea companies is ▶ Page 2

### Yazdani aims to end losing streak against Taylor

TEHRAN – Iran's Hassan Yazdani hopes to break a three-game losing streak against his American rival David Taylor in the 2021 World Wrestling Championships.

The competition will be held from Oct. 2 to 10 in Oslo, Norway. The 2021 World Championships will take place less than three months after the rescheduled 2020 Summer Olympics, where Yazdani lost to Taylor in the 86kg final bout for the third time in a row.

Yazdani and Taylor first met at the 2017 Wrestling World Cup in Kermanshah, Iran. Despite Yazdani getting out to a 3-0 lead, Taylor stormed back and was ahead 8-4 before eventually pinned Yazdani.

A year later in the 2018 World Championships, Yazdani was up 6-2 before Taylor came back to win 11-6.

And in the 2020 Olympic Games final, Yazdani was ahead 3-2 with only 18 seconds left in the match before Taylor scored the winning takedown.

The Iranian wrestler, nicknamed "The Greatest", has seemingly closed the gap against Taylor but has failed to win each time.

Yazdani is determined to end the losing streak in their fourth meeting in Oslo.

### Army to test four new military equipment in northwest Iran

TEHRAN — On the sidelines of a military drill in northwest Iran on Friday morning, commander of the Army Ground Force Kioumars Heydari said that Iran will test four new weaponries in the drill.

There was no word how long the drill will last.

Heydari also said that Iran will not tolerate foreign presence in the northwest region of the country.

"The overt and covert presence of the Zionist regime's proxies and the possibility of a significant number of Daesh terrorists in regional countries add to the importance of this exercise," Brigadier General Haydari said.

Daesh militants were brought into the region at the height of the 2020 Nagorno-Karabakh conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan, he said.

"Since we are not sure whether they have departed the area, the drill will convey a message to them. They and the Zionists must know they have no place in the region, and that the armed forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran are fairly sensitive to them and will deal with them wherever they see

## Report

### Take the crisis seriously: Iran's elderly population to triple in 50 years

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – Over the last 5 decades, the elderly's population has increased from about 5 to 10 percent, and it is predicted that this rate will triple in the next 50 years so that it is vital to take the aging phenomenon seriously.

Farshad Sharifi, research deputy of the Elderly Health Research Center, on the eve of the International Day of Older Persons, called education and preparation of the elderly for adaptation to digital life an important necessity and said that Iran is one of the fastest aging communities.

On 14 December 1990, the United Nations General Assembly designated October 1st as the International Day of Older Persons. The 2021 theme "Digital Equity for All Ages" affirms the need for access and meaningful participation in the digital world by older persons.

Over the next three decades, the number of older persons worldwide is projected to more than double, reaching more than 1.5 billion persons in 2050. All regions will see an increase in the size of the older population between 2019 and 2050.

The largest increase (312 million) is projected to occur in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia, growing from 261 million in 2019 to 573 million in 2050. The fastest increase in the number of older persons is expected in North Africa and West Asia, rising from 29 million in 2019 to 96 million in 2050 (an increase of 226 percent). ▶ Page 7

### Historical sites in Bushehr unaffected by quake

TEHRAN –A magnitude 5.2 earthquake rattled parts of the city of Bandar Ganaveh, Bushehr province on Friday, however, it caused no damage to historical sites across the southwestern province.

Based on field visits by experts of the province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department, no damage to historical relics and monuments has been reported so far, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

This natural phenomenon has been happening in this region continuously since the beginning of the Iranian new year 1400 (started March 21), Nasrollah Ebrahimi announced, CHTN reported on Friday.

The province has made efforts to stabilize and restore most of its historic monuments, but the continued earthquakes may pose a threat to these structures, which will require technical planning, and this matter will be discussed by the province's cultural heritage department, the official added.

With over 6,000 years of history and significant monuments from the Elamite, Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras, Bushehr is one of Iran's most important historical centers.

Besides its cultural heritage, beautiful beaches and lush palm groves make it an attractive destination for world travelers.

The historical and architectural monuments of Bushehr include Islamic buildings like mosques and praying centers, mansions, old towers, castles, as well as gardens.

When it comes to cultural attractions, there are many historical mounds in Bushehr including Tall-e Khandaq with Sassanid architectural style, Tall-e Marv located near an Achaemenid Palace, and Qajar era Malek al-Tojar Mansion. Qajar era Kazeruni Mansion, which has been inscribed on the World Heritage List, is another attraction that world travelers love to see among various ancient sites.

them," the senior commander stressed, according to Press TV.

He went on to say that various types of home-grown military equipment manufactured by the Islamic Republic of Iran Army and its Ground Forces will be used during the exercise.

Brigadier General Haydari highlighted that four new indigenous military equipment, including a long-endurance drone which can hit its targets with pinpoint accuracy, electronic warfare systems that can be very effective in defense and offense, and two anti-tank rifles will be tested, and their range and accuracy measured during the maneuvers.

"We will also evaluate the caliber of indigenous smart artillery shells during the exercise," he noted.

The Army Ground Force has started a military exercise in the northwestern part of Iran. It is testing armored, artillery, drone, and electronic warfare units under air cover provided by helicopter gunships. ▶ Page 2





## Amir Abdollahian says Iran will never forget China as ‘friend of difficult days’



TEHRAN – Writing on his Twitter page in the Chinese language on Friday, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said Iran “will bear in mind the friends of difficult days forever”.

The tweet by Iran’s chief diplomat comes as China is celebrating the 72nd anniversary of the People’s Republic of China.

Abdollahian also said Iran is a partner in this national celebration.

He also said joint efforts in the campaign against the Coronavirus pandemic, advancing the One-Belt and One-Road initiative coupled with the implementation of 25-year partnership are in line mutual cooperation between the two countries’ civilizations.

“Once again, we congratulate the birth (national

day) of China,” the Iranian foreign minister tweeted.

China held a flag-raising ceremony to mark the 72nd anniversary of the founding of the PRC at Tian’anmen Square in Beijing on Friday. Local residents and tourists from across China witnessed the event.

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government also held a ceremony at Golden Bauhinia Square on Friday morning to celebrate the event. The national flag and the flag of the HKSAR were raised in the presence of government officials and other representatives.

Also on Friday, the Macao Special Administrative Region government held a flag-raising ceremony at Golden Lotus Square to celebrate the national day.

## Leader orders banning import of home appliances from South Korea

From page 1 ► “true it means breaking the back of domestic home appliance companies which have newly been able to stand on their own foot to some degree.”

“Halt the emergence of this problem,” Ayatollah Khamenei insisted in the letter.

Following the letter, the president ordered the industry and commerce minister to prevent import of home appliance from the two companies.

Reports of import from South Korea come as Seoul has been freezing about 7 billion dollars of the Iranian assets in the recent years upon an illegal request by the United States.

Moreover, Samsung and LG left Iran at the time

illegal sanctions were introduced on Iran, leaving a bad memory of themselves in the minds of the Iranian citizens.

Prior to the order by the Leader, some people and officials in the country said those companies which left Iran alone in difficult days should not be allowed to return to the country even if sanctions are lifted.

In the first sanctions that dated before the 2015 nuclear deal – JCPOA – LG and Samsung did not leave Iran.

Banning the two South Korean companies from the 85-million Iranian market will be felt strongly by the East Asian country.

## Army to test four new military equipment in northwest Iran



From page 1 ► The drill, codenamed Fatehan-e Khaybar (Conquerors of Khaybar), kicked off during a ceremony on Friday, with General Heydari and representatives of the General Staff of the Armed Forces in attendance.

Iranian unmanned aerial vehicles initially flew

over the zone, conducted a surveillance and transmitted aerial photographs of the area to the command center, before the 25th Rapid Reaction Brigade and the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF) helicopters carried out a mock air assault.

Army artillery units then fired a series of rounds at designated targets, and subsequently armored units carried out strike force operations.

Throughout the Conquerors of Khaybar drills, IRIAF Bell AH-1 Cobra attack helicopters will reportedly provide air support to operating units.

Iran’s Armed Forces regularly hold military maneuvers to elevate their preparedness and military prowess.

The drills serve as a warning message to the enemies against any act of aggression against the Islamic Republic.

## Raisi continues provincial visits

TEHRAN— After entering Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province, the President visited the construction site of the Tang Sorkh Dam and looked into the construction process.

Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi was accompanied by the Minister of Energy during his visit to Tang Sorkh Dam, and was informed about the details of the construction of the dam by the explanations of engineers and staff.

The Tang Sorkh embankment dam, which is being built with clay core in the province, will be 66.5 meters high and 917 meters long in the Taj area, and has a storage capacity of 125 million cubic meters of water.

After visiting the construction process of Tang Sorkh Dam, Ayatollah Raisi delivered a short speech to the workers and engineers working in the project, saying, “Unfortunately, the implementation of this project is about 10 years behind schedule,

but the spirit I saw in you today gives this hope that this delay will be made up in a short period of time.”

Raisi added that faster operation of this dam could have benefited a lot of people of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province and even the northern parts of Fars province.

He asked workers and engineers, to advance the construction of this dam with “double strength and speed.”

The President also responded to the remarks of some workers active in the project about delays in the payment of salaries and benefits, saying that he will definitely put an emphasis on the matter for the managers that they must not allow any of the workers’ rights to be abolished.

“We will definitely seek to create a framework so that the rights of no worker are abolished anywhere in the country,” the president underlined.



Raisi stated that the workers and engineers must view their efforts in this field as war on the fronts of the Holy Defense and redouble their efforts to develop the country and be sure that the government will not allow any of their rights to be violated.

The President also met with the people of the region as he was leaving the construction site of the Tang Sorkh Dam and talked to them for minutes, stressing that the public relations of his office

# Dragging Israel into Persian Gulf will lead to tension and more insecurity, Iran warns Bahrain

*“Stigma of normalizing ties with Israel will remain with Bahrain rulers”*

TEHRAN – The Iranian Foreign Ministry on Friday reacted to a visit by the Israeli foreign minister to Bahrain to open an Israeli embassy in Manama, warning any move to pave the ground for the “destructive presence” of this regime in the Persian Gulf region is in line with “creating tension and more insecurity”.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh once again reminded the Bahraini rulers in normalizing ties with Israel and said their “self-humiliating” behavior in welcoming of the Israeli foreign minister is against the “will and the vote of the noble people of Bahrain”.

Khatibzadeh expressed regret that the Bahraini rulers are ignoring the

“daily crimes of the Zionist regime against the oppressed but resistance people of Palestine” and said such moves will not give legitimacy to the Zionist regime and have no effect on the move to liberate the holy Quds as the first qibla of Muslims in the world.

The spokesman said the “stigma” of normalizing ties with Israel will remain with the Bahraini rulers, adding, “The people of the region will remain opposed to the process of normalizing relations with the Zionist regime.”

One year after a U.S.-brokered normalization of ties between Israel and Bahrain, Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid marked his visit to Bahrain by opening an embassy in Manama.



“We have officially opened the Israeli embassy in Bahrain,” tweeted Lapid. “We agreed that by the end of the year, there will be the opening of the Bahraini embassy in Israel.”

On Thursday, Lapid touched down at Manama airport just over an hour before a Gulf Air flight took off in the opposite direction to Ben Gurion airport, marking the first commercial flight between the two countries.

Lapid met King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa, Al Jazeera reported.

Former U.S. President Donald Trump forged normalization agreements under the so-called “Abraham Accords” between Israel,

the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain in September 2020.

Additional agreements were reached to include Morocco in December and Sudan in January this year.

Lapid also toured the Bahrain headquarters of the U.S. Navy’s Fifth Fleet, which has faced off Iranian vessels.

The accords have been denounced by Palestinians as abandoning a unified position under which Arab states would make peace only if Israel gave up the occupied land.

In Gaza, Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said the visit represented “an encouragement” that he described as Israeli “crimes against our people”.

## Let’s Talk about Power

From page 1 ► The UK is not the first country that faced a fuel crisis this year. Lebanon is also struggling with fuel crisis for over a year.

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

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

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

Since the start of the recent economic crisis, the value of the Lebanese national currency has fallen by about 90%, and unemployment has risen sharply, until a sanctioned Iran came to the rescue.

Iran has sent seven fuel tankers to Lebanon, a country that consumes 12 million liters of fuel on a daily basis, at the request of Hezbollah.

After careful consideration, the Secretary-General of Hezbollah, Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, and other high-ranking officials in the movement decided to purchase oil from Iran.

The Hezbollah chief says after being told of possible sanctions or other measures by the United States that could hurt the government if the tankers docked in Lebanon, it decided to dock the first vessel in neighboring Syria and take the cargo by land across the border with Syria through trucks.

**A powerful country is not just powerful in words. It’s the actions that make you powerful.**

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on August 23 that Iran cannot witness the “planned” suffering of the Lebanese.

“As a country subjected to oppressive U.S. sanctions, we know some countries are addicted to sanctioning others and use their pains for their gains,” he highlighted.

The senior diplomat added that Iran sells oil and fuel upon the request of “its friends and allies.”

“We announce readiness for exporting fuel to Lebanon upon their request,” he emphasized.

A delegation of four U.S. senators said in September 1, that America is looking to help Lebanon overcome fuel shortages that have paralyzed the country. But they warned the import of Iranian oil into the crisis-hit country could have “severely damaging consequences.”

“It is inexcusable that in the middle of this life-

threatening crisis, the political leaders in Lebanon have refused to make the tough choices in order to form a government,” Sen. Chris Murphy of Connecticut told reporters. He said Lebanon needs a government that can negotiate with the International Monetary Fund and start reforms to reduce corruption that is widespread in the Mediterranean nation, without saying that the United States stalled Lebanon’s request for providing fuel.

Nasrallah asked Iran for help, after Lebanon’s Western and Arab allies neglected Lebanon’s cry for help.

While many observers in Lebanon and beyond projected a total collapse of order in the Mediterranean Arab country, the Hezbollah secretary-general opened a new pathway for Lebanon to break free from a U.S.-led economic straitjacket.

This isn’t the first time that Iran has shown off its power. On May 2020, Iran sold five shipments of oil to Venezuela despite receiving threats from Washington. The Iranian fuel tankers began arriving in Venezuela under the protection of Venezuelan military forces.

“Venezuela has the right to buy in the world whatever it wants to buy,” Maduro said in a speech back in the time. “Fortunately, Venezuela has more friends than what people can imagine.”

A powerful country is not just powerful in words. It’s the actions that make you powerful.

## Iran FM seeks ‘quick access’ to frozen assets in South Korea

TEHRAN – Iran’s foreign minister on Thursday asked South Korea provide the Islamic Republic with “quick access” to Tehran’s funds that Seoul has been withholding under the banner of abiding by U.S. sanctions.

Hossein Amir Abdollahian made the remarks during a telephone conversation on Thursday with his Korean counterpart Chung Eui-yong.

Amir-Abdollahian expressed “strong criticism” of the continued freezing of the Iranian funds at South Korea’s banks, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said.

“The Iranian people are seriously displeased with the situation” that has been brought about as a result of cessation of trade activities between the countries, Amir-Abdollahian told the Korean official.

The foreign ministers of Iran and South Korea also discussed efforts to restore the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement, officially known as the JCPOA, the Korean Foreign Ministry said.

The talks came as Seoul seeks to maintain close relations with the administration of new Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, which was launched last month, Yonhap reported.

In response to Abdollahian’s request for South Korea to redouble efforts to address the issue of Tehran’s frozen funds, Chung said that Seoul has made best possible efforts, including using part of the money to pay off Iran’s UN dues and engage in humanitarian trade.

According to the Iranian Foreign Ministry, Abdollahian told the Korean

side that the Islamic Republic wants to use the funds to import medicine and other essential good.

“Minister Chung stressed ... such efforts will continue going forward,” the Korean ministry said in a press release.

Chung also pledged that South Korea will actively explore ways to cooperate with Iran to help the country overcome the ongoing humanitarian crisis stemming from the COVID-19 pandemic.

In addition, the South Korean minister expressed support for the negotiations over the restoration of the JCPOA.

Chung and Abdollahian shared the need for the two countries to work together to deepen bilateral

cooperation, particularly as they mark the 60th anniversary next year of the establishment of their relations.

Meanwhile, Chung expressed concern about a decision by the Islamic Republic to ban import of home appliances from South Korea.

In a decree on Thursday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei banned the import of home appliances from South Korea. The order by the Leader came after local producers sought Leader’s help in this regard.

Bowing to illegal pressure by the United States, South Korea has not only been withholding about 8.5 billion dollars of Iranian oil revenues, it two famous in producing home appliances – LG and Samsung – also left the Iranian market.

## Israeli dreams in the region won’t be realized, says Iranian envoy to Baku

TEHRAN – The Iranian ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan has tweeted that the “dreams of the Zionist regime” in the South Caucasus region “will never be interpreted”

Ambassador Seyyed Abbas Mousavi made the remarks in response to a tweet by the Zionist regime’s ambassador to Baku who had claimed Iran “oppresses its religious and ethnic minorities and targets Jews in other countries.”

Mousavi said, “We have special respect for all Jews, Christians and other followers of the divine religions; but we

are sure that the Republic of Azerbaijan and Palestine will remain Islamic countries forever. The dreams of Zionism for this region will never be interpreted.”

In a separate tweet on Wednesday, Ambassador Mousavi said he had held separate talks on Wednesday and Tuesday with the ambassadors of Poland, Belgium and Serbia to the Republic of Azerbaijan during which they reviewed bilateral relations and also exchanged views about the latest developments in the region with the aim of achieving a “just and sustainable peace” in the South Caucasus.

## Ambassador protests provocative act against Iranian embassy in Baku

TEHRAN — Iranian Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan Abbas Mousavi on Friday strongly slammed provocative acts by some people against the Iranian Embassy in Baku on Thursday night.

Following the event, four protestors were detained by the diplomatic police as well as the Ministry of Internal Affairs of Azerbaijan.

Mousavi noted that the Iranian embassy will pursue all legal actions to achieve the desired result.

In recent weeks, the Azeri police and customs officials have begun imposing a “road tax” on Iranian trucks shipping fuel and other goods to neighboring Armenia, causing a strained atmosphere in relations between Tehran and Baku.

Aliyev has claimed that Iran had ignored Azerbaijan’s calls for many years to stop transporting goods to Nagorno-Karabakh, an ethnic Armenian enclave that’s internationally recognized as Azerbaijani territory. He said no



Iranian truck has entered Nagorno-Karabakh since Azerbaijan started imposing taxes.



# Iran-Australia parliamentary co-op is prelude to strengthening diplomatic ties: MP

TEHRAN – The head of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian Parliament has said that no country can ignore the effective role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the fight against terrorism in the region, the IRIB reported on Friday.

Vahid Jalalzadeh made the remarks in a meeting with Lyndall Sachs, the Australian Ambassador to Tehran.

At the beginning of the meeting, Jalalzadeh referred to the decades-long history of Australia's relations with Iran and said: "The history of half a century of relations between the two countries shows the existence of many economic and political interests between the two countries."

The MP noted that relations between the two countries have been going through ups and downs due to global developments including the oppressive U.S. sanctions against Iran.

The Majlis committee chief said the parliamentary cooperation between Iran and Australia is a prelude to strengthening diplomatic and government-to-government interactions.

"Strengthening parliamentary relations by specialized committees and parliamentary friendship groups... will contribute to the development of political, economic and cultural relations between the two sides."

Elsewhere in his remarks, the senior parliamentarian referred to regional developments and the advisory assistance of Iran to Iraq and Syria in their fight against terrorism, underscoring: "The policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is to restore stability and peace in the region and welcomes any measure in this regard."

"No country can ignore the effective role of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the fight against terrorism in the region," Jalalzadeh stressed.

The MP was referring to Iran's help to Iraq and Syria in their campaign against



terrorist groups including Daesh.

**"Iran seeking inclusive government in Afghanistan"**

The senior lawmaker also discussed developments in Afghanistan with the Australian ambassador in Tehran.

"Regarding the issue of Afghanistan, Iran's principled position is formation of an inclusive government with the involvement of all ethnic groups in Afghanistan without violence against women and children," the MP pointed out.

Iran has been pushing for an inclusive government in Afghanistan and it is going to host a conference of the countries neighboring Afghanistan.

Jalalzadeh also expressed dissatisfaction with the presence and intervention of foreign countries in the region, noting the countries of the region have reached that degree of political maturity to resolve issues between themselves.

He said the U.S. presence in Iraq and Afghanistan "has led to the continuation of the crisis and lack of peace in these two countries."

The U.S. left Afghanistan in late August in a way that looked like escape from Vietnam in the 1975. The U.S. exit in Afghanistan left its regional and European allies in disarray.

The MP also lamented the violation of

the 2015 nuclear deal by U.S., reiterating Tehran's position that a possible return of the U.S. to the multilateral deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, must be verified in a concrete way.

"A U.S. return to the JCPOA needs to be verified and lifting of U.S. sanctions will be the first step for the Islamic Republic of Iran to return to its obligations to the deal," the MP asserted.

Six rounds of talks in Vienna between Iran and the remaining nuclear deal parties – three European countries of Britain, France, and Germany plus China and Russia – failed to bear fruit as the U.S., which was participating in the talks indirectly, raised new issues not related to the original JCPOA. Such an approach has forced officials in Tehran to say that the Joe Biden administration if following the Trump policies toward Iran.

The MP said European countries and Australia cooperated with the U.S. in its illegal sanctions policy against Iran to the detriment of their economies, stressing these countries should keep their independence from the wrong, irrational and unilateral U.S. policies.

Two senior political analysts have called on the Biden administration to separate talks on a revival of the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran from security issues in West Asia.

In an article in Foreign Policy published recently, Professor Vali Nasr from Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies and Hossein Mousavian, a West Asia security and nuclear policy specialist at Princeton University, warned that insisting on a package deal could permanently derail nuclear talks, warned.

U.S. allies in West Asia have already taken the initiative on regional issues, the two analysts wrote.

Fareed Zakaria, a Washington Post columnist, has also recently expressed surprise at Biden normalizing Trump's foreign policy in many areas, including the 2015 nuclear deal.

**"Australia wants to increase economic cooperation with Iran"**

Ambassador Sachs, for her part, underlined the history of relations between the two countries and said: "Australia seeks to strengthen relations and cooperation in various fields with the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The top diplomat pointed to the effective role of parliamentary cooperation in enhancing the level of interaction between the two countries.

"Parliamentary relations and cooperation between the Australian and Iranian joint committees are important in strengthening cooperation, and Australia has always considered it as important to pay attention to parliamentary relations," Sachs remarked.

Highlighting the importance of strengthening interactions and investment by private sectors, the ambassador added: "Australia wants to increase the level of economic cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran."

At the end of the meeting, the Australian ambassador called for strengthening political and cultural ties with Iran and expressed hope that by lifting U.S. sanctions against Iran, Australia would expand its economic relations with Iran.

## IRAN IN FOCUS

OCTOBER 2, 2021

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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## SPORTS

### Iran learn fate at 2022 FIVB World Championship

TEHRAN – Iran discovered their opponents at the FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship Russia 2022.

The Persians have been drawn along with Argentina, Netherlands and Egypt in Pool F.



The 24 participating teams were drawn into six pools of four each for the preliminary phase of the competition.

**Pools:**

Pool A in Moscow: VFR, Serbia, Tunisia, Puerto Rico

Pool B in Kemerovo: Brazil, Japan, Cuba, Qatar

Pool C in Novosibirsk: Poland, the U.S., Mexico, Bulgaria

Pool D in Ufa: France, Slovenia, Germany, Cameroon

Pool E in Yekaterinburg: Italy, Canada, Turkey, China

Pool F in Krasnoyarsk: Argentina, Iran, Netherlands, Egypt

The 2022 World Championship runs from Aug. 26 to Sept. 11 across a total of ten cities (Kazan, Kaliningrad and Yaroslavl joining in later rounds those already set to host the first phase).

### Esteghlal eye Rouzbeh Cheshmi

TEHRAN – Free agent defender Rouzbeh Cheshmi has been linked with a move to Esteghlal football club.

The 28-year-old defender joined Qatari club Umm Salal from Esteghlal in 2020 but didn't extend his contract with the QSL side at the end of the season.

Local media reports suggest that Esteghlal are going to re-sign Cheshmi.

Cheshmi has reportedly received offers from Qatari teams.

### AFC praises Iran's women captain Behnaz Taherkhani

TEHRAN – Asian Football Confederation (AFC) lauded Iran women's football captain Behnaz Taherkhani in the AFC Women's Asian Cup qualifying, helping the team to book a place at the 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup.

Iran were the other big story of this qualifying window, stunning 2018 host Jordan to win Group G on a tie-breaking penalty shootout and reach the Finals for the very first time.

Leading the way, in more ways than one, was Iranian captain Behnaz Taherkhani.

Over the course of the week she converted three penalties – two in the 5-0 win over Bangladesh, and the crucial first kick in the shootout against Jordan – proving herself to be a true on-field leader, stepping up in the big moments to help her team to a ground-breaking milestone in the women's game.

### Saipa lose to Supreme Chonburi at Asian Women's Club Volleyball C'ship

TEHRAN – Saipa of Iran were defeated against Thailand's Supreme Chonburi 3-1 (25-23, 22-25,

25-13, 25-13) at the 2021 Asian Women's Club Volleyball Championship on Friday.

Saipa will meet Kazakhstan's Altay and Rebisco of Philippines in Pool B on Saturday and Sunday, respectively.

"It has been two years that we were away from the international arenas due to COVID-19. We have just met our rivals here and we do not know them very well," Maryam Hashemi said ahead of the competition.

"I have many experienced players and I expect them to try to be among the top four teams. I know many teams are coming with their national players. The level of the event is high and we will have tough matches ahead of us," she stated.

"We have to focus on the matches day by day. We could not get help from our legionnaires and they are now playing with their teams outside Iran and could not come to give us helping hand," Hashemi added.

Pool A consists of Nakhon Ratchasima QminC of Thailand, Zhetysay of Kazakhstan and Philippine's Choco Mucho.

The competition is being held in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand, from October 1 to 7.

The winners of the tournament will book their place at the 2021 FIVB Volleyball Women's Club World Championship.

### UAE defender Al-Menhali misses match against Iran

TEHRAN – UAE football team defender Mohammed Al-Menhali is reportedly absent against Iran due to the foot injury.

The 30-year-old full back has sustained a muscle injury and will be sidelined up to three weeks.

UAE will host Iran in Group A of the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification Round 3 on Oct.7.

The match will be held at Zabeel Stadium in Dubai.

Iran sit top of the group with six points, while the UAE are third with two points.

### Taremi shortlisted for AFC International Player of the Week

TEHRAN – Following his eye-catching goal in 2-1 win against Gil Vicente, Taremi has been shortlisted for the AFC International Player of the Week.

The Iranian forward will have to vie with Takumi Minamino (Liverpool, Japan), Takehiro Tomiyasu (Arsenal, Japan), Son Heung-min (Tottenham Hotspur, Korea Republic), Sam Kerr (Chelsea, Australia), Tameka Yallop (West Ham, Australia), Yukinari Sugawara (AZ Alkmaar, Japan), Hwang Ui-jo (Bordeaux, Korea Republic), Cameron Devlin (Heart of Midlothian, Australia) and Shakhzod Ubaydullaev (Energetik-BGU Minsk, Uzbekistan) to be voted as the Player of the Week.

Of the many goals scored by Taremi in the past two years, few were better than this one.

His electric interception followed by a sensational 45-yard clip had to be seen to be believed, and was the mark of a striker at the peak of his powers.

### Iran to play Turkey at World Deaf Volleyball C'ship fifth place match

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Bulgaria 3-1 (25-19, 20-25, 25-12, 25-22) at World Deaf Volleyball Championship on Thursday.

Iran will meet Turkey for the competition's fifth place.

Iran is 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.

## Raisi not seeking to limit foreign policy dynamism, MP says

TEHRAN – The spokesman for the presiding board of the Iranian Parliament says contrary to the claims of some people, the Raisi administration does not seek to limit foreign policy dynamism and the nuclear negotiations with the hope of revitalizing the 2015 nuclear deal will be pursued based on national dignity.

"In his remarks during the election campaign, President Ebrahim Raisi explicitly stated that the way he and his administration will solve the country's problems is different from the previous administration," MP Seyyed Nezamuddin Mousavi told the Mehr News Agency on Friday, while pointing to the mechanism of the Raisi administration for negotiations.

Mousavi said the new administration "comprehensively examines the country's problems and issues" and presents a "fundamental solution" for addressing them.

The MP stated that since Raisi and many of his supporters are seriously critical of Rouhani's approach to running the country, which has led to many current problems, a new approach should naturally be taken in various areas in regard to negotiations.

**"Administration is using foreign policy capabilities"**

The MP from the Tehran constituency noted, "This does not mean that we should not use the positive experiences of the past. Some people promote this impression that the Raisi administration does not intend to use the capacities of foreign policy or seeks to limit the foreign policy dynamism, which is not the case at all."

The MP pointed out that the current administration would definitely use the foreign policy capacities to solve problems and create new capacities for the country.



"The difference between the Raisi administration's approach in foreign policy and previous administrations is that we will be active and innovative in foreign policy, and we will not be passive and we will not wait for others to impose their will."

Certainly, the Islamic Republic will take the initiative and be active in the field of foreign policy, Mousavi highlighted.

"On the other hand, we do not limit the field of foreign policy to a few specific countries, and the field of foreign policy in the Raisi administration's will be comprehensive."

The new Iranian foreign minister, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, has said in the new administration Iran will seek a balanced foreign policy.

**"Iran seeks to strengthen ties with neighbors"**

The spokesman of the Presiding board of the Parliament emphasized that the Islamic Republic's relationship with regional countries, neighbors and the Eastern bloc would increase, predicting such a foreign policy approach will create serious openings

for Iran in economic interactions.

"Iran's permanent accession to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization will also have a positive impact on Iran's economic and industrial sectors, and it is a very good capacity," Mousavi reiterated.

Iran officially accepted as a member of the Shanghai organization in September 17. Analysts predicted it will create a new economic opportunity for Iran.

The MP also said Iran would continue its relationship with the Westerners as long as it was based on the dignity of the country.

"The next important point is that the root of most of our country's problems is that we did not use our internal capacities properly. We need to make use of the most of our internal potential."

Mousavi claimed: "In the previous government, wrong approaches were taken in the economic fields and many capacities that could have been used to solve economic problems were not considered."

Mousavi stated that the current administration, rather than limiting the foreign policy entanglements to a few specific countries, seeks to use domestic capacities to find good solutions to the country's problems.

Hossein Askari, the Iran professor emeritus of international business and international affairs, tells the Tehran Times that "Iran needs more effective institutions, whose three pillars are more freedom, the rule of law and the sanctity of contracts."

Askari, who taught at the George Washington University, also says the only country that could resist U.S. sanctions against Iran is China.

“The root of most of our country’s problems is that we did not use our internal capacities properly.”

## FM: Iran upset over Azeri improper treatment toward Iranian truck drivers

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian on Thursday expressed disappointment over the inappropriate treatment toward Iranian truck drivers and the arrest of two of them by Azeri border guards.

Foreign Minister Abdollahian made the complaint while receiving a copy of credentials from new Republic of Azerbaijan's new ambassador to Tehran Ali Alizadeh.

While wishing the Azeri envoy success during his mission in Tehran and underlining the importance of relations between Tehran and Baku, Abdollahian also described as "surprising" and "regrettable" the recent negative comments by Azerbaijan Republic's officials.

The Iranian foreign minister also said military drills by any country within its territory are a sovereign right, an open reference to the drill by the Iranian Army in northwest Iran.

He also referred to the Zionist regime's recent movements near Iran's

“Iran won’t tolerate Israel’s presence along its borders and will take necessary measures against its activities”

The new Azerbaijani ambassador, for his part, underscored good and deep relations between Azerbaijan and Iran as a dearly and brotherly neighbor. He also expressed hope that the recent issues will be resolved soon through consultations

northwestern borders, saying the Islamic Republic will not tolerate the Zionist regime's presence along its borders and will take necessary measures against the regime's activities.

between officials of the two countries.

**Khatibzadeh: Military drills are exercising right to sovereignty**

Reacting to Azerbaijan's criticism, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said the Islamic Republic has only been exercising its right to sovereignty by holding the drills, which began on Friday.

Saeed Khatibzadeh called the event "a matter of sovereignty," and underlined that the exercises had taken place towards contribution to "the entire region's calm and stability."

Moreover, the Iranian ambassador to Baku, Abbas Mousavi, said the exercises "can't be seen as a threat to our friends," and that Azerbaijan had been informed about them months earlier.

Iran's Armed Forces regularly hold military maneuvers to elevate their preparedness and military prowess. The drills serve as a warning message to the enemies against any act of aggression



## Iranian gas network expanding by 1,700 km



From page 1 ► Operating the largest natural gas network in West Asia, NIGC continues to expand this network into the country's most remote areas so that currently over 95 percent of the country's population enjoys natural gas through this huge network.

Overall, about 98.4 percent of the country's urban population is currently enjoying natural gas through the gas network while the figure stands at 84 percent for the rural population, the report showed.

This level of access is unprecedented in the world since based on the International Energy Agency (IEA) Energy Access Outlook even in the world's advanced countries the average access to natural gas through the pipeline is nearly 75 percent.

## Parliament, TCCIMA industrial committees hold talks to resolve issues

TEHRAN – A joint meeting of the two committees of "Industry and Mining" and "Improving the business environment and removing barriers to production" of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) was held with Ezatollah Akbari Talarposhti, the chairman of the Parliament Industry and Mining Committee, on Wednesday in which the attendees explored issues in the mentioned sector.

With a total length of over 36,000 kilometers, Iran's gas network is also among the world's most modern networks and it enjoys the most modern and update measuring, transmission, and pressure boosting instruments and equipment.

This vast network of pipelines is growing bigger and bigger every year as NIGC tries to increase the coverage of the national network to nearly 100 percent.

Over the past few years, every year more than 3,000 villages have been connected to the national gas network, based on NIGC data.

According to the former NIGC Head Hassan Montazer Torbati, by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (starts in March 2025), the total length of the national network is expected to reach 45,000 km.

Although in many countries due to the outbreak of the coronavirus development projects came to a halt, in Iran the projects for supplying natural gas to the country's rural areas continued under restrict safety protocols along with many other development projects.

According to NIGC data, Iran is currently producing over 810 mcm of natural gas daily which is mostly used inside the country for the domestic sector and also as fuel for the power plants, and a small portion is also exported to the neighboring countries like Iraq and Turkey.

At the meeting, representatives of the private sector raised issues regarding the business environment and called for the attention of parliament, especially the Industry and Mining Committee, to address these challenges, the TCCIMA portal reported.

Akbari for his part expressed readiness to cooperate with private sector and suggested the TCCIMA representatives to attend relevant committee meetings in the parliament.

## Over 121,000 tons of copper cathode produced in 5 months

TEHRAN- Iran produced 121,800 tons of copper cathode in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), the data released by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry indicated.

As reported, the figure shows 1.4 percent growth as compared to the copper cathode output in the first five months of the previous year.

The periodical reports and statistics indicate that Iran's metals sector is progressing both in terms of production and export despite the limitations imposed by the U.S. sanctions.

The country's copper industry is moving forward noticeably, as some outstanding projects are implemented.

The country has posted outstanding figures in terms of copper cathode production and export.

Copper cathode is the primary raw material input for the production of copper rod for the wire and cable industry.



In early April, the managing director of National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICIC) announced the discovery of one billion tons of new copper reserves in the country.

NICIC carried out 101,000 meters of deep drilling to identify new copper reserves across the country in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), which resulted in the discovery of one billion tons of new reserves, Ardeshir Sa'd-Mohammadi said in a press conference.

Sa'd-Mohammadi put the value of the discovered reserves at 350 trillion rials (about \$8.3 billion).

According to the official, NICIC

has also discovered 523 million tons of copper reserves across the country during the Iranian calendar year 1398 (March 2019-March 2020).

Considering the new discoveries, NICIC's total copper reserves across the country have currently surpassed eight billion tons.

The official put the country's total copper reserves at 40 billion tons, saying that Iran currently has the world's seventh-largest copper reserves, and hopefully the country will climb to sixth place in the current Iranian calendar year.

Sa'd-Mohammadi further mentioned the new record achieved in the country's copper cathode production and noted that over 280,000 tons of the mentioned product were produced in the country during the previous year which was 12 percent more than the preceding

year.

Pointing to the NICIC's new projects for the current year, the official noted that three major copper-related projects will go operational in the current year which is going to add more than 400,000 tons to the country's copper concentrate output, boosting the company's annual incomes by \$800 million.

According to Sa'd-Mohammadi, NICIC has defined more than \$2.4 billion plus 300 trillion rials (about \$7.1 billion) worth of projects to be implemented over the next four years, which will increase the company's total copper concentrate capacity to 2.3 million tons.

He further noted that the country's copper exports increased in the previous year despite the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and the U.S. sanctions.



this market's role in funding and economic growth.

The status of the parallel markets such as forex, housing, and gold markets has also made stock market a more attractive place for the people to invest in.

Meanwhile, the government's policy of lowering the interest rate of the bank deposits has redirected a huge amount of people's investment to the stock market.

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

Increasing the role of the capital market in financing production companies and projects, diversifying financial instruments in the capital market, eliminating unnecessary regulations and barriers, facilitating the entry of companies into the stock market, reducing the cost of issuing bonds by facilitating relevant regulations, canceling monopolies and facilitating licensing for stock market-related services such as portfolio management, marketing, and brokerage, reforming corporate governance to manage conflict of interest between major and minor stakeholders and finally providing incentives for people to invest indirectly in the capital market have been mentioned as the major programs that the economy ministry is going to pursue in order to improve the capital market.

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

# Iran, Kenya explore avenues of mutual economic co-op

TEHRAN – Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) hosted a meeting with a Kenyan trade delegation on Thursday to explore ways for expanding economic cooperation between the two countries, especially in the agricultural sector.

The meeting was attended by ICCIMA Deputy Head for International Affair Mohammadreza Karbasi and Governor of Kenya's Bomet state Hillary Barchook, as well as heads of specialized committees, export unions, and businessmen and company representatives from the two sides.

Speaking in the meeting Karbasi pointed to Kenya's significant position in East Africa, and said: "This country is one of the top industrialized countries in East Africa and one of the influential members of the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA)."

"Considering its crucial and strategic port of Mombasa and its port infrastructure, Kenya can



ICCIMA Deputy Head for International Affairs Mohammadreza Karbasi (R) and Governor of Kenya's Bomet state Hillary Barchook

facilitate maritime transport for economic operators in the East African region," Karbasi added.

Given the current conditions and capacities of Kenya in various sectors such as overseas agriculture, food processing, as well as livestock and meat production, there is a very good opportunity for economic

cooperation between Iran and Kenya, the official stated.

Karbasi put the two countries' trade in 2020 at about \$60 million, noting that considering the two sides' great capacities it is possible to increase the level of trade up to \$500 million next year.

According to the official, Iran can

meet Kenya's needs in the fields of oil derivatives and bitumen, petrochemical products, health tourism, medicine, and food; Kenya, on the other hand, can meet the needs of the Iranian market in the field of cocoa, coffee, tea, grains, as well as food and livestock products.

"Given the good cooperation capacity between Iran and Kenya, a ceiling of \$6 billion is projected for the economic exchanges between the two countries, but its realization requires a long-term view of the officials of the two countries and the necessary bedrock for the activities of traders in Iran and Kenya," he added.

Further in the meeting, Barchook who headed the trade delegation, pointed to the good progress in economic relations between the two countries since the last meeting of the Iranian and Kenyan delegations last November, saying: "Fortunately, Iran has had significant imports of tea from Kenya and we are also planning to launch a joint venture in the field of tea in Lahijan during this visit."

## Iran negotiating ways of unblocking frozen funds in Japan

TEHRAN – The chairman of the Iran-Japan Joint Trade Committee has said the senior Iranian officials are currently negotiating ways for unblocking Iran's frozen oil money in Japan, ILNA reported.

According to Bahram Shakouri, Iranian ambassador to Japan and President Reisi are seriously following up on the issue so reach an agreement with the Japanese side for the Islamic Republic to be able to use its assets in some way.

"Our blocked money in Japan is about \$3 billion, and the new government is working to release this money. Our advice was that the blocked money could be used to purchase covid-19 vaccine, the vaccine was bought, but I do not know if the frozen assets were used to do so," Shakouri told ILNA.

The official noted that the government must take all the necessary measures to free the country's frozen funds, for example the money



can be used for the imports of machinery, equipment and technological products from the Asian country.

"Japan is a country that has all the up-to-date world technologies. The country has everything we were looking for in Europe and the United

States, so if we can import equipment, machinery and technology using our blocked money, it can be a great help to the country. For example, mining machinery in the field of drilling and exploration can be imported from Japan."

He further mentioned the level of trade between the two countries and said: "The volume of our trade with Japan is so small that can actually be ignored. In some cases, we have exchanges with Japan, but because we cannot trade directly due to the U.S. sanctions, this happens through third countries, so there are no exact statistics."

"Our trade with Japan has significantly fallen as our oil exports have been halted. The export of our other products has also decreased due to sanctions, and our imports from this country, mostly including machinery, have the same trend; In fact, other countries such as China have replaced Japan in this regard," he said.

## Steel products output drops 10%

TEHRAN- Production of steel products in Iran fell 10.6 percent in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the data released by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry indicate.

The ministry's data put the country's five-month steel products output at 9.856 million tons.

Although as announced by the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA), the country's export of steel products increased 88 percent during the first five months of the present year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Based on the data released by the ISPA, 1.399 million tons of steel products was exported in the five-month period of this year, while the figure was 774,000 tons in the same time span of the previous year, Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) reported.

Iran's import of the steel products has risen one percent to 338,000 tons in the first five months of the present year from 336,000 tons of the past year's same period.

In early May, Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry issued a three-month waiver for some approved steel production units to be able to export steel products especially long sections.

The ministry had restricted the exports of steel products and obliged all steel producers to offer their products at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME).

Iran's export of steel during the previous Iranian calendar year 1399 (ended on March 20) declined 13.1 percent compared to the figure for the preceding year, data released by the Iranian Steel Producers Association showed.

Based on the mentioned data, over 2.839



million tons of steel products were exported in the mentioned year, registering an 18-percent decline year on year.

As ISPA data indicated, the exports of steel products, intermediate steel, and sponge iron all declined last year, and despite significant output growth and the demand decline in the domestic construction sector, the exports of the mentioned products did not increase due to the pandemic.

Iran is currently the tenth largest steelmaker in the world and is estimated to climb to seventh place by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025).

According to the latest data released by the World Steel Association (WSA), production of crude steel in Iran reached 17.8 million tons during January-July, 2021 to register a 9.9 percent growth year on year.

Iran's monthly crude steel output stood at 2.6 million tons in July 2021, rising nine percent compared to the figure for July 2020.

The Iranian Steel industry has been constantly developing over the past years against all the pressures and obstacles created by outside forces like the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus outbreak that has severely affected the performance of the world's top producers.

## TSE's main index rises 3.6% in a week

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 3.6 percent in the past Iranian calendar week.

The index closed at 14,377 million points on Wednesday (the last working day of the week).

During the past week, the indices of Social Security Investment Company, Bandar Abbas Refinery, National Iranian Copper Industries Company, Sepid Makian Company, and Barekat Pharmaceutical Group were the most widely followed ones.

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

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

It's over two years that stock

market in Iran has been playing an outstanding role in the attraction of the people's investment.

Iranian people, who used to invest their money in some traditional ways such as buying gold, or deposit money in the banks, have taken a new approach for investment over the past two years, as they have been investing more and more in the stock market.

The rising number of new shareholders in Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), which is Iran's major stock exchange, is an indication of this new approach.

Different factors have created such condition, among them it could be referred to the efforts made by the stock market to attract people's more investment through laying the proper ground, for example via introducing new financial instruments, and also by making people more acquainted with this market.

The other factor is the government's policy and new approach toward the stock market, and putting emphasis on



TEHRAN – Iran's 28th International Exhibition of Printing, Packing, and Related Machinery kicked off on Friday at the Tehran Permanent International Fairground, IRIB reported.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition was attended by senior officials including Deputy

Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Yasser Ahmadvand.

More than 223 domestic and foreign companies from India, Italy, Japan, and Turkey are showcasing their latest products and services during the four-day event.

The exhibition covers a variety of areas including printing machines, packaging machines, encoders and devices, export products sealing machines, and etc.

The number of exhibitors in this year's exhibition has increased by 30 percent compared to the previous year's event which was open only for businessmen, experts, and scholars due to the coronavirus pandemic.

The exhibition aims to provide a platform to showcase the latest services and products to support domestic production and transfer knowledge and technology.



# Without Karbala, there would be no true Islam: German activist

From page 1 ► This foundation of faith strengthens and unites Muslims' thinking and thus has a direct impact on the political life of the Islamic Ummah.

**How would you describe the position of Imam Hussein among Muslims, Sunnis, and Shias?**

The unique and outstanding importance of Imam Hussein is undisputed among Sunnis and Shias. Without Karbala, there would be no true Islam. Yes, not even a belief in a single God (Allah).

This foundation of faith strengthens and unites Muslims' thinking and thus has a direct impact on the political life of the Islamic Ummah.

**How did Imam Hussein remain in the minds of Muslims in the past centuries, when there was still no media?**

The Shias have preserved Imam Hussein's legacy. The other Islamic law schools recognize his father (Imam Ali) as the 4th caliph. True Islam, which unites all Muslims, has been suppressed by non-Islamic political leaders in Islamic countries. Wahhabism and Salafism have misled Muslims with money. The real meaning of Imam Hussein has become more conscious of the Muslims through the media (new virtual world).



**What effect does the Hussein movement have on the resistance movements in the region, from Palestine and Lebanon and Yemen? What lessons did the resistance learn from the rise of Imam Hussein?**

The resistance movements in Palestine, Lebanon, Iraq, and generally in the entire region have their ideology from Imam Hussein. We will come out victorious even if the enemies kill us.

**Can America counter the Hussein ideology of resistance movements**

through arms and occupation?

America can never succeed against the Hussein ideology.

**Do you expect the Arab Spring to expand to other dimensions in the coming years and decades (i.e., after the pandemic in Islamic countries has been contained)? Can it also affect Sunni Muslims?**

The world is changing faster than ever. The Arab Spring marches after the

so-called "pandemic" (which in reality is not a pandemic) will attract more Muslims, which includes Sunni Muslims.

**"The resistance movements in the entire region have their ideology from Imam Hussein."**

## Stop being naive and assert independence from the U.S.: Macron

TEHRAN – Amid escalating tensions between France and allies over the AUKUS pact, the French president has reiterated the need for asserting defense independence from the United States.

Emmanuel Macron has said that Europe must stop being naive and build up its military capabilities to defend the continent.

Macron made the remarks on Tuesday after Greece agreed to purchase French warships worth at least \$3.5 billion. The two countries will also pursue a joint defense partnership.

France has entered an unprecedented diplomatic crisis with the three countries following the signing of a tripartite security agreement between the United States, Australia, and Britain in recent weeks, which led to the termination of the Paris-Canberra agreement on the sale of nuclear submarines.

Macron, who spoke Tuesday at a news conference with Greek Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis, took the opportunity to call for European independence from the United States amid Washington's focus on China and the Indo-Pacific.

"For a bit over 10 years now, the United States has been very focused on itself and has strategic interests that are being reoriented towards China and the Pacific," he said.

"It's in their right to do so," he added, but "we would be naive, or rather we would make a terrible mistake, to not want to draw the consequences."

Only last week, Macron and Biden spoke in a phone call requested by the White House. Following the phone call, France said it would send its



envoy back to the U.S.

In a joint statement, Macron and Biden stated the United States "recognizes the importance of a stronger and more capable European defense, that contributes positively to transatlantic and global security and is complementary to NATO."

Macron mentioned that statement Tuesday, saying the United States is "a great historical ally and an ally in terms of values. And that'll remain the case." Seeking European independence in defense would be complementary and not constitute an "alternative to our alliance with the United States," he added that it would occur "within the framework of NATO."

Macron first came up with the idea of forming an independent European Army during the presidency of former U.S. President Donald Trump, when the rift between the two Atlantic states became more apparent.

In a blunt interview with The Economist on

November 7, 2019, Macron said, "What we are currently experiencing is the brain death of NATO." Europe stands on "the edge of a precipice," he added.

He then said, "If we don't wake up [...] there's a considerable risk that in the long run, we will disappear geopolitically, or at least that we will no longer be in control of our destiny. I believe that very deeply."

That year, the French president stressed that extremist nationalism and foreign forces threaten Europe's territorial integrity and that he seeks an independent Europe with multilateral relations.

In response to Macron's remarks, the U.S. then President Donald Trump called the idea insulting and called for France to play a more serious role in NATO and pay its share of the alliance.

In the years since World War II, the idea of forming an independent army in Europe, especially in Western Europe, has occupied the minds of the leaders of the Green Continent. After World War II, when Europe was in ruins, the task of governing Europe was transferred to the Soviet Union and the United States by the resolutions of the Yalta Conference, leaving a marginal role to Britain and France.

Of course, the formation of a united European army also has its opponents. Since Britain's absence, the German and French armies will be the most powerful European armies, the European army will practically become a Franco-German plan.

Alongside this, an independent European military force will be in direct competition with NATO, with a solid and staunch opponent called the United States, which is strongly opposed to the formation and strengthening of multilateralism in the international system.

the status quo and preventing the success of any popular uprisings.

In this context one may justifiably condemn Bahrain's gross insensitivity and abject abdication of Palestine's freedom struggle as treacherous.

Showcasing Israeli war criminal Lapid's visit to Manama where he is set to open the embassy flying Israel's flag is utterly outrageous. This follows the opening of a Zionist embassy in Abu Dhabi and will likely be establishing one in Rabat. Sudan thus far has reportedly said that it has no plans yet to open an embassy in Khartoum.

Not surprising therefore that the Arab street across these capitals have vowed to end "normalization". The iron-fisted grip held by Arab despots notwithstanding, human rights movements (many banned and leaders exiled) have declared their outright rejection of America's much-vaunted Abraham Accords.

Stirrings in Sudan are becoming more vocal despite Khartoum's attempts to silence critics. In Bahrain the main opposition group, al-Wefaq National Islamic Society declared Lapid's trip as a "threat", saying, "This is provocative news and this trip is completely rejected, and he (Lapid) should not set foot on Bahraini soil."

Their message is clear: "Any (Israeli) presence on Bahraini soil means incitement"

*Iqbal Jassat is an executive at the Johannesburg-based Media Review Network (MRN), a socio-political advocacy group that concerns itself with media and political analysis.*

## U.S. Police violence on the frontline with an alarming new study

In what is likely to add fuel to the fire of an ongoing debate over systemic racism in the U.S., new research reveals that more than half of police killings have not been reported in official data, and African Americans are 3.5 times more likely than white Americans to be the victim.

The new figures have been published as efforts to reform policing in the wake of the murder of George Floyd collapsed after failing to win support on Capitol Hill. The new study also reports "the burden of fatal police violence is an urgent public health crisis in the U.S."

According to the peer-reviewed study by a group of more than 90 collaborators that have been published in one of the world's oldest and most prestigious medical journals, The Lancet, an estimated 55% of deaths from police violence from 1980 to 2018 were misclassified or unreported in official vital statistics.

There have been studies conducted before that have found similar underreporting rates, but the new research is one of the most significant data reviewed to date.

The Researchers compared data from the U.S. National Vital Statistics System. This inter-governmental system collects and combines all death certificates with three open-source databases on fatal police violence. These are 1. Fatal Encounters 2. The Counted and 3. Mapping Police Violence. These databases collect and document information from public record requests as well as news reports.

The study found official government data did not report an estimated 17,100 deaths from police violence out of 30,800 total deaths during the nearly 40-year period. It notes the gap between the study and the official data due to insidious intentions and a mixture of clerical errors.

During this time frame, non-Hispanic Black Americans were estimated to be 3.5 times more likely to be killed from police violence than non-Hispanic white Americans. In official government data, nearly 60% of these murders had been misclassified, which means they are not attributed to police violence.

Perhaps not surprising to some, the research indicates corruption within police departments, saying some coroners or medical examiners may feel "substantial conflicts of interest" that discourage them from pointing the finger at police officer's involvement in a death, as many work for or are embedded within police departments. Many feel "political or occupational pressure to disguise police culpability."

The researchers referred to a 2011 survey of National Association of Medical Examiners members that found 22% of respondents reported having been pressured by an elected official or appointee to "change cause or manner of death on a certificate."

Fabina Sharara, one of the lead authors and a researcher at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation at the University of Washington School of Medicine, told American media that the U.S. National Vital Statistics System reports are often used to inform health policy. She says inaccurate data minimizes the issue of police violence and limits justice for the victims and accountability for the police.

In a press release, she also said, "recent high-profile police killings of Black people have drawn worldwide attention to this urgent public health crisis, but the magnitude of this problem can't be fully understood without reliable data... Inaccurately reporting or misclassifying these deaths further obscures the larger issue of systemic racism that is embedded in many U.S. institutions, including law enforcement."

The study found that the official government data also misclassified 50% of deaths of Hispanic people, 56% of deaths of non-Hispanic white people, and 33% of deaths of non-Hispanic people of other races. Similar to previous studies, the researchers found that non-Hispanic Black people, non-Hispanic Indigenous people were killed by police at a higher rate than other groups. Non-Hispanic Indigenous people were estimated to be 1.8 times more likely to die from police violence than non-Hispanic white people, the researchers found.

The researchers also found that from the 1980s to the 2010s, rates of police violence increased by 38% for all races.

Eve Wool is a leading author and a researcher at the Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation. He warned the rise in the U.S. police brutality is further evidence that any steps taken to supposedly prevent police violence and address systemic racist discrimination, such as body-worn cameras and de-escalation as well as implicit bias training for officers, have "largely been ineffective."

The research found that Oklahoma, Wyoming, Alabama, Louisiana, and Nebraska are the top five states with the highest underreporting rates. The states with the highest mortality rate of police violence were Oklahoma, Washington, D.C., Arizona, Alaska, Nevada, and Wyoming.

Meanwhile, killings attributed to police violence were significantly higher for men than women, with 30,600 deaths in men and 1,420 deaths in women from 1980 to 2019.

The researchers suggested the underreporting is related to "several factors" and offered solutions

for collecting more accurate data and, ultimately, eliminating police violence. However, it remains to be seen if that advice will be considered as previous similar research did not yield any tangible results. This is while lawmakers have yet to pass any significant police reforms as they continue to bicker among themselves about the problem on Capitol Hill.

The study has called for improved urgent training and more precise instructions on documenting police violence on death certificates which could improve reporting tactics. It also suggests that forensic pathologists work independently from the police and should be awarded whistleblower protection.

"Currently, the same governance responsible for this violence is also responsible for reporting on it... open-sourced data is a more reliable and comprehensive resource to help inform policies that can prevent police violence and save lives."

The research notes America's history of systemic racism and militarized police forces among the fundamental reasons for the high rates of police violence in the U.S. The study says, "to respond to this public health crisis; the U.S. must replace militarized policing with evidenced-based support for communities, prioritize the safety of the public, and value Black lives."

It highlights other nations that do not arm all police officers or only arm select officers, saying, "the difference these practices have on loss of life is staggering: no one died from police violence in Norway in 2019."

It should be noted that the study was limited in scope; for example, it did not calculate nonfatal injuries attributed to police violence, police violence in U.S. territories, or residents who military police may have harmed in the U.S. or abroad. And every state was missing some ethnic data.

Nevertheless, civil rights advocates say the findings do not come as a surprise to them. For example, Civil rights activist Toni Jaramilla tells

"The police, the district attorneys, the judges are all intertwined, and they can be hesitant about reporting a death at the hands of police."

She added that "there needs to be law enforcement reform with some separation in terms of keeping police accountable, where investigators are specially assigned to investigate police misconduct."

In the aftermath of the murder of black American George Floyd at the hands of a White police officer, the issue of police violence in America has been more widely documented than ever before. But the country has a long way to go before the problem of police racism disappears.

## EU postpones trade talks with Australia over submarine deal row

A round of trade talks between Australia and the European Union has been postponed amid a row over Canberra's decision to scrap a multi-billion-dollar submarine deal with France in favor of a US and British deal.

Australian Trade Minister Dan Tehan confirmed on Friday that the 12th long-planned round of free trade talks between the two sides has been postponed for a month.

"I will meet with my EU counterpart Valdis Dombrovskis next week to discuss the 12th negotiating round, which will now take place in November rather than October," Tehan said in a statement.

However, he declined to comment on the role the cancelled French submarine contract had played in delaying negotiations.

Miriam Garcia Ferrer, the EU commission spokesperson in charge of trade, also confirmed the decision, without giving any specific reason for the postponement.

In early September, the US, Britain, and Australia established a security alliance – dubbed AUKUS – to protect what they called their shared interests and help Australia acquire American nuclear-powered submarines.

The new security pact effectively scuttled a previous \$40 billion deal between France and Australia that was signed in 2016 to supply French-designed conventional diesel-electric submarines to the Australians.

Under the new partnership, the three countries have agreed to enhance the development of joint capabilities and technology sharing, and foster deeper integration of security and defense-related science, technology, industrial bases and supply chains.

The security pact instantly drew condemnation from France which accused longtime allies Canberra and Washington of lying about the deal.

The move, which Paris called a "stab in the back", also prompted Elysée Palace to recall its ambassadors from Washington and Canberra.

European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen also took aim at the AUKUS, calling the treatment of France by the trio as "not acceptable."

In solidarity with France, she also questioned whether the EU could strike a trade deal with Australia.

The EU launched negotiations for a trade agreement with Australia in 2018. The 12th round of talks was scheduled to take place later this month via video conference.

(Source: Press TV)



## Ways to foster tourism in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad to be explored, Iranian president says



*Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi visits a host of nomads during his visit to Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad on October 1, 2021.*

TEHRAN – On Friday, Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi paid a visit to Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad where he issued a decree to examine ways to develop the tourism industry of the southwestern province.

Raisi referred to reports about the problems and capacities of the province in the field of agriculture, oil, gas, tourism, promising to tackle the problems with the cooperation of the relevant officials, Mehr reported.

The province enjoys great capacities such as efficient and young manpower who can play a significant role in the development of agriculture, tourism, oil, and gas sectors, the president said.

Upon his arrival, Raisi visited the construction site of the Tang-e Sorkh Dam, inspecting the construction process. He was scheduled to meet with the elites of the province and a number of the locals and nomadic people.

Underway, 41 tourism projects such as hotels, eco-lodge units, and water parks are underway

across the province estimated to generate more than 600 jobs when completed.

Last September, a provincial tourism department announced that over one trillion rials (some \$24 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) was allocated to nine tourism projects in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad.

The lesser-known province is home to various nomads and is a top destination for those interested in visiting in person the nomadic life. Sightseers may live with a nomadic or rural family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, their agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.

Before the coronavirus pandemic, the province attracted over four million people, mostly domestic travelers, during the Iranian year 1397 (ended March 2019), according to data announced by the provincial tourism department.

## Cultural heritage museum to make debut in Saveh



TEHRAN – The ancient Iranian city of Saveh will be embracing its first-ever cultural heritage museum in near future.

A historical house is set to be repurposed to a “modern” museum of cultural heritage in Saveh based on an agreement reached between the governor’s office of the city and the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, IRNA reported.

Soaked in history and culture, Saveh is situated in the north of Markazi province at a height of 995 meters above sea level. The

climate of this city is warm and semi-arid in the east by vicinity to desert and cold in the mountainous region of the west.

Iran is home to one of the world’s oldest continuous major civilizations, embracing settlements dating back to 4000 BC. It also hosts some of the world’s oldest cultural monuments including bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, gardens, rich natural, rural landscapes as well as 26 UNESCO World Heritage sites.

The name of Iran, formerly known as Persia, mostly conjures up the first Persian Empire, ruled by the Achaemenids (ca. 550 – 330 BC) and sites such as Pasargadae and Persepolis. However, there are tens of prehistorical sites as the Burnt City in Sistan-Baluchestan, Tepe Sialk in Kashan, Susa, and Tchogha Zanbil in the Khuzestan province, and Ecbatana in Hamedan which predate the Achaemenid period.

From a wider point of view, Iranian history can be divided into Pre-Islamic and Islamic eras. The Medes unified Iran as a nation and empire in 625 BC. The Islamic conquest of Persia (633–656) that put an end to the mighty Sassanid Empire (224–651) was a turning point in the history of the nation.



festivals have contributed to the level of handicrafts sales since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic, he added.

Travel-related businesses were also severely damaged when the province was hit hard by catastrophic floods during the Iranian New Year holidays in March 2019, he mentioned.

Golestan is reportedly embracing some 2,500 historical and natural sites, with UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus – a one-millennium-old brick tower – amongst its most famous. Narratives say the tower has influenced various subsequent

# Tourism prevents Iranophobia, experts say

TEHRAN – Domestic tourism experts believe that Iranophobia across the world can be mitigated with tourism, IRNA reported on Friday.

Using the power of diplomacy to combat Iranophobia is the main task of the new tourism minister and the government, said Ali Akbar Abdolmaleki who is in charge of tourism affairs at Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA).

Ezzatollah Zarghami, the new Iranian tourism minister, is well aware of the power of the media, which can show the world the real face of the Islamic Republic, he explained.

It is not possible to wait until the coronavirus outbreak has completely disappeared before starting tourism; it is necessary to deal with the current situation and keep the business going, he added.

He also noted that Iran’s oil revenue should go to the development of its



tourism infrastructure.

If the proceeds from Iran’s oil sales are used to boost tourism, it is likely to boost the country’s welfare, Mohammadreza Majidi, another expert in this field announced.

In spite of the fact that tourism is

a great source of income, the country has been relying solely on oil revenue for years, he noted.

Moreover, he believes that tourism could contribute to social justice by channeling income towards deprived areas and less well-known tourist

attractions.

Iran is potentially a booming destination for travelers seeking cultural attractions, breathtaking sceneries, and numerous UNESCO-registered sites. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

Even before the pandemic, Iran’s tourism was already grappling with some challenges, on top of those Western “media propaganda” aimed at scaring potential travelers away from the Islamic Republic. Some experts believe Iran is still somehow “unknown” for many potential travelers due to such a “media war”.

They, however, consider bright prospects for the tourism sector of the country if it vigorously pursues comprehensive strategies to counter U.S.-led propaganda and strict sanctions, yet does its best to loosen tough travel regulations.

## Iran wants collective UNESCO recognition for 56 of its old caravansaries

TEHRAN – Iran has put forward a selection of 56 caravansaries as a candidate for a collective inclusion in UNESCO’S cultural heritage list, a senior advisor to the tourism minister has said.

“After three years of following the case, a dossier for 56 caravansaries [which have been selected] from 24 provinces was submitted to UNESCO for a [possible] registration on the World Heritage list,” Mohammad-Hassan Talebian announced on Wednesday.

The caravanserais date from various eras from the Sassanid (224 CE–651) to the Qajar epoch (1789–1925), the advisor stated.

The [UNESCO] assessors are scheduled to arrive in Iran on Saturday (October 2) for field visits, which is expected to take at least three months, he said.

Caravanserai is a compound word combining “caravan” with “serai” (or “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.

A time travel to forgotten ages

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.

Cozy chambers that are meticulously laid out around a vast courtyard may easily evoke spirits of the past.

Such roadside inns were once constructed 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.

Cozy chambers that are meticulously laid out around a vast courtyard may easily evoke spirits of the past. It’s not hard to fancy the hustle and bustle of merchants bargaining on prices, recounting their arduous journeys to one another while their camels chewing hay! You can also conceive the idea of local architectural style and material in its heyday.

It’s not hard to fancy the hustle and bustle of merchants bargaining on prices, recounting their arduous journeys to one another while their



camels chewing hay!

Passing major roads in the country, one may see crumbling caravanserais many of which were abandoned for ages. In the Information Age, such guest houses have largely lost their actual usage.

However, a couple of years ago, the Iran tourism ministry introduced a scheme to keep them alive and profitable; tens of caravanserais are ceded to the private investors for better maintenance. Now, some are exclusively renovated, repurposed into boutique hotels and tourist lodgings.

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.

## Lesser-known destinations to gain footholds on tourism map

TEHRAN – Much more attention will be devoted to various destinations in the west side of Iran, the ones which are generally lesser-known to potential sightseers and vacationers, an official with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts has said.

“Introducing the lesser-known or less-favored travel destinations is part of the ministry’s policies, and paying more attention to the western axis of the country is in line with those strategies,” Mohammad Qasemi said on Thursday.

“The west axis is our concern for tourism, which we intend to raise at [various] international tourism conferences,” the official stated.

Qasemi added off-the-beaten-



track destinations are becoming more popular as a new trend worldwide. “Tourism has diversified and different excursions can be offered to tourists, so we have to introduce new tourism routes.”

Earlier in July, UNESCO registered Iran’s Uramanat cultural landscape to its list of world heritage sites. Stretched

on the slopes of Sarvabad county, and shared between the provinces of Kordestan and Kermanshah in western Iran, the scenic landscape embraces hundreds of villages, 106,000 hectares of land, and 303,000 hectares of surrounding properties.

It boasts dense and step-like rows of houses in a way that the roof of each house forms the yard of the upper one, a feature that adds to its charm and attractiveness.

Over the past couple of years, western Iranian provinces have held several meetings to discuss ways to expand tourism, bringing together local officials, hoteliers, travel agents, and tour operators from provinces of Lorestan, Ilam, Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari,

Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, Kermanshah, Kordestan, Hamedan, Zanjan and East Azarbaijan, amongst others.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025. The latest available data show eight million tourists visited the Islamic Republic during the first ten months of the past Iranian calendar year (ended March 20).

## Coronavirus causes \$167m damage to Golestan’s tourism

TEHRAN – The tourism industry of the northern province of Golestan has taken some seven trillion rials (about \$167 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) hit from the coronavirus outbreak over the past two years.

The pandemic halted domestic and foreign travels to the province during Noruz (the Iranian new year holiday) and the summer, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

As a result, various tourism units, such as travel agencies, eco-lodges, traditional restaurants, guesthouses, and agritourism farms in the province had to close or stagnate, Yasser Qandehari announced on Friday.

Over 450 accommodation centers including hotels, apartment hotels, guest houses, eco-lodge units, and tourist complexes are currently operating in the province, supporting over 3,500 jobs, the official added.

Earlier in May, provincial tourism chief Ahmad Tajari announced that to compensate for pandemic damages the Iranian government paid some 147 billion rials (\$3.5 million) in loans to the tourism businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic as well as floods in the province.

Furthermore, the changing scene of tourism, ceremonies, exhibitions, and

designers of tomb towers and other cylindrical commemorative structures both in the region and beyond. The UNESCO comments that the tower bears testimony to the cultural exchange between Central Asian nomads and the ancient civilization of Iran.

**Government’s care and support packages**

In October 2020, the tourism ministry proclaimed that a new support package was approved to pay loans to businesses affected by the coronavirus pandemic.

Depending on the type and activity of the businesses, they could benefit from at least 160 million rials (\$3,800 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) to nine billion rials (\$214,000) of bank loans with a 12-percent interest rate.

The loans were allocated to tourist guides, travel agencies, tourism transport companies, tourism educational institutions, eco-lodges and traditional accommodations, hotels, apartment hotels, motels, and guesthouses as well as traditional accommodation centers, tourism complexes, and recreational centers.

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

## Private sector invests \$40.8m in tourism of Markazi province



TEHRAN – The private sector invested 1.7 trillion rials (some \$40.8 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) in the tourism sector of the central province of Markazi over the last year, CHTN reported on Wednesday.

This investment flow created over 1750 tourism-related jobs across the province, the report added.

Last November, the former Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan announced that investment in the tourism sector and boosting tourism infrastructure hasn’t stopped despite the outbreak of the coronavirus in the country.

Over the past years, a large number of tourism projects have been commenced across the country, some of which have come on stream, he noted.

This volume of investment indicates that investors have high hopes for the future of this industry in the post-coronavirus era and for the next years to come, he said.

Markazi province is considered as the industrial capital of the country. It is rich in natural, historical, cultural and religious attractions.

Hand-woven carpets and klms, made in its cities including Farahan, Sarugh, Lilivan, Senejan and Vafs are known internationally.



# Jobless population on the rise

TEHRAN – The latest employment report released by the Statistical Center reflects the growing trend of unemployment in Iran.

This summer (June 22-September 22), the working population amounted to 62,976,422 people (all people between 15 and 65 years old), which shows that their number has increased by about 709,000 compared to last summer.

However, the active population accounted for 25,900,000 people, whose number has decreased by 0.7 percent compared to last summer. Among the active population, more than 23.4 million people were employed, which has declined by 0.6 percent compared to last summer, a difference of more than 130,000 employees.

In 2020, Iran's unemployment rate was estimated at 10.96 percent of the total labor force.

There were 2,496,086 unemployed people in the country during summer, showing an increase of 0.1 percent compared to last summer when the number of unemployed was 2,477,350. So, the unemployment rate has risen from 9.5 to 9.6 percent.

During the spring (March 21-June 21), the active population was estimated at 25,967,000 people, the unemployed were about 2,291,604 people and the unemployment rate was 8.8 percent. Also, the number of employees was 23,676,000, demonstrating an increase of 713,000 people.

Overall, what has happened shows a decrease in the active population over the last two years.

Iran's unemployment rate has been above 10 percent for the last 10 years, and this rate is es-



timated to have peaked in 2014, when estimates reached 14 percent, according to Statista website.

In 2020, Iran's unemployment rate was estimated to amount to 10.96 percent of the total labor force.

The country's economy has also been in a recession, which has exacerbated the difficulties to meet the employment demands of its inhabitants.

In times of a struggling economy, it is typically more difficult to create jobs and introduce people to the labor force.

Between 2019 and 2020, the number of unemployed people worldwide increased from 187.3 million to 220.3 million, the biggest annual increase in unemployment in this provided time period. In 2021, the number of people unemployed increased slightly to almost 220.5 million but is expected to fall to 205 million in 2022.

## Air pollution likely cause of up to 6m premature births, study finds

Air pollution is likely to have been responsible for up to 6 million premature births and 3 million underweight babies worldwide every year, re-search shows.

The analysis, which combines the results of multiple scientific studies, is the first to calculate the total global burden of outdoor and indoor air pollution combined.

Indoor pollution, mostly from cooking stoves burning solid fuel such as coal or wood, made up almost two-thirds of the total pollution burden on pregnancies in 2019, according to the latest findings. This is especially true in developing ar-eas, such as in some parts of south-east Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

“At an individual level, indoor air pollution exposure appears to carry a much higher burden compared to outdoor levels,” said Rakesh Ghosh, an epidemiologist at University of California, San Francisco and lead researcher on the paper, published in the journal Plos Medicine. “So, minimising household pollution exposure, to the extent possible, should be part of the message during pre-natal care, especially where household pollution is prevalent.”

Air pollution is usually measured according to exposure to particulate matter smaller than 2.5 microns: once inhaled, the minuscule size of these particles allows them to be absorbed deep into the bloodstream, potentially causing far-reaching health problems.

More than 92% of the global population lives in areas where the outdoor air quality is below recommended limits set by the World Health Organization, and about 49% are exposed to equally high levels of indoor air pollution.

Regions such as south and east Asia are the most polluted, with Bangladesh, China, India and Pakistan home to 49 of the 50 of the most polluted cities worldwide. In recent years wildfires, agricultural



fires and dust storms have also caused extensive air pollution.

The cost of air pollution to the global economy is estimated at more than \$2.9tn each year, in addition to serious damage to public health.

For this study, Ghosh's team examined 108 re-search papers on indoor and outdoor pollution in correlation with four main pregnancy risks – ges-tational age at birth, reduction in birthweight, low birth weight, and premature birth – for 204 coun-tries.

After controlling for risk factors such as preg-nancy weight, smoking and alcohol use and nu-trition, the researchers found air pollution was a leading cause of low birth weight and premature birth. The latter is a main cause of the 15 million newborn deaths worldwide each year.

The findings build on previous research by Ghosh and colleagues, which calculated that air pollution contributed to the deaths of 500,000 newborns globally in 2019.

By minimising air pollution in south-east Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, the study calculated that the number of premature births and babies with low birth weight could be reduced by almost 78% globally.

## Door-to-door vaccination to help curb COVID-19



TEHRAN – The Ministry of Health is to start a home-to-home program with the aim of vaccinating the whole population against coronavirus, ISNA reported on Friday.

Fortunately, over 80 million doses of vaccine have been imported and more than 54 million doses have been injected, which is planned to inoculate 70 percent of

the population in the near future, Health Minister Bahram Einollahi said.

He further expressed hope that Iran can be among the countries with the highest vaccination rate in the world, adding, fortunately, we are already ahead of several countries.

Vaccination alone does not con-

trol the disease but helps reduce the incidence and mortality of COVID-19, so that, health protocols should continue to be followed after vaccination.

Einollahi went on to say that the medical universities are tasked with inoculation of people with disabilities or those who cannot refer to vaccination centers, and suggested a door-to-door plan to ensure the whole population receives the vaccine.

It is planned to inoculate 70 percent of the population in the near future.

doses of vaccine are injected daily in the country, and many age groups of the elderly, rare diseases patients, teachers, university professors, health professionals, veterans, etc. have been vaccinated and now the process of vaccinating students is under-way.

Vaccination reduced the mortality rate among the elderly aging 60 or above by 30 percent, and the trend is declining.

Studies show that people who are not vaccinated are 4.5 times more likely to develop COVID-19 than those who are fully vaccinated, and 10 and 11 times more likely to be hospitalized and die, respectively.

## Take the crisis seriously: Iran's elderly population to triple in 50 years

From page 1 ► Sharifi went on to say that these rapid demographic changes need serious attention to the need for health care, and can affect all elements of society, even the production cycle in the country.

Pointing out that learning digital technologies has an effective role in meeting the daily needs of the elderly, he added that teaching technology to the elderly, especially during the coronavirus pandemic, can provide conditions for the elderly to feel useful.

The elderly is more vulnerable to the pandemic as it affected many different aspects of their lives, such as social interactions, health care, severe trauma caused by social isolation, so that the policymakers have decided to reconsider their views on various areas of the elderly health, he explained.

**Iran is aging rapidly**

Seyed Hasan Mousavi-Chalak, the head of the Iranian Social Workers Association, said that the country's elderly population is growing rapidly, and in the meantime, the most important concern of old age is living in perfect health.

The elderly, whose population is increasing every day, are facing all kinds of different problems, and if we do not think of a solution, we will certainly face the crisis of “old life” in near future.

Of course, in the last few years, coordination made to compile national documents for the elderly after about twenty years, he noted.

The document thoroughly focuses on various aspects of the elderly's lives by meeting six prime



objectives of income and livelihood, health, training and employment, and building an empowering environment, promoting the cultural level of society in the field of aging, and developing the infrastructure required for aging.

According to the document, life expectancy at birth in the world has risen from 64.2 in 1990 to 72.6 in 2019 and is expected to surpass 77.1 in 2050. In 2019, one in 11 people in the world is 65 and older (9%), while this figure is projected to reach one in six (16%) by 2050.

Iran is also one of the countries with the highest pace of aging in the world.

In demography, the population under the age of 15 is called “young”. In 1977, 46 percent of the people were young, while now 23 percent of the population are below 15 years of age.

Iran has achieved a demographic window of opportunity which in all other countries led to economic prosperity so that Iran must seize the opportunity now before its working-age population

starts to shrink and get older in the 2050s.

Awareness of population age changes and political-economic planning based on it can be very important in the success of programs and policies. Comprehensive policy-making and planning should be tailored to the overall characteristics of this age group, he explained.

**Issues to deal with premature aging**

Saleh Ghasemi, a demographer, referring to the consequences of aging, stressed that all responsible institutions and organizations should be ready to deal with premature aging in Iran.

In the face of this crisis, the responsible organizations must think of a solution for the labor force, as some Western countries have been forced to accept immigrants due to labor shortages, he highlighted.

He went on to note that with the arrival of immigrants in the country, the culture of families and the level of social employment will be affected.

Stating that the elderly needs the most services and infrastructure in terms of social, economic, and health services, he said that it also threatens the country's security, and the elderly population growth needs more welfare and social institutions, which affects the policies and capacities of the country.

If the trend continues, a huge amount of funds is needed to provide the population with insurance pension and two related organizations will be bankrupt, he lamented, adding that serious planning is needed to deal with the crisis.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### Cabinet disapproves production of carbureted motorcycles

While the ministries of industry and interior have demanded the cabinet to reconsider its decision to ban the production of carbureted motorcycles and allow issuance of license plates, the cabinet of ministers rejected the proposal on June 17, ISNA reported on Friday.

Resuming the production of carbureted-motorcycles and issuing license for carburetor motorcycles is against the law, Tehran city councilor Zahra Sadr-Azam Nouri has said.

Referring to the fact that the interior and industry ministers' request was against the law, she said it seems that supporting the private sector and manufacturers as well as employment and income generation is prioritized over public health.

### تولید مجدد موتورسیکلت‌های کاربراتوری خلاف قانون است

به گزارش روز جمعه خبرگزاری ایسنا با وجود درخواست به وزیر کشور و وزیر صنعت و معدن مبنی بر تولید موتورسیکلت‌های کاربراتوری هیات دولت هفته ی گذشته شماره‌گذاری این موتورسیکلت را ممنوع اعلام کرد.

زهرآ صدر اعظم نوری رئیس کمیسیون سلامت شورای اسلامی شهر تهران با اشاره به مصوبه هیات وزیران مبنی بر ممنوعیت تولید و شماره‌گذاری موتورسیکلت‌های کاربراتوری، گفت: تولید مجدد موتورسیکلت‌های کاربراتوری خلاف قانون است.

وی با اشاره به اینکه درخواستی که وزیر کشور و وزیر صنعت و معدن در این زمینه از هیات دولت دارد خلاف قانون و مصوب هیات دولت است و نباید مجوز داده شود، گفت: بیشتر نگاه حمایت از بخش خصوصی و تولیدکنندگان است و به نظر می رسد اشتغال و درآمدزایی بر مباحث سلامت افراد ارجح است.

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON OCTOBER 2

New cases	14,525
New deaths	235
Total cases	5,601,565
Total deaths	120,663
New hospitalized patients	2,123
Patients in critical condition	6,016
Total recovered patients	5,053,551
Diagnostic tests conducted	32,306,789
Doses of vaccine injected	55,827,275



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OCTOBER 2, 2021

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

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

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:54    Evening: 18:05    Dawn: 4:27 (tomorrow)    Sunrise: 6:01 (tomorrow)

## What’s in Tehran art galleries



Drawing

\* Drawings by Mina Mohseni are currently on view in an exhibition entitled “And the Walls and the Bars” at Etemad Gallery 2.

Etemad Gallery 1 is also playing host to an exhibition of drawings by Sanaz Alavi.

The exhibitions will be running until October 19 at the gallery located at 25 Shirudi Alley, Mofatteh St., near Haft-e Tir Square.

Painting

\* Homa Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Sadeq Fazl.

The exhibit named “Balthus Laboratory” will continue until October 12 at the gallery located at No. 8, Fourth Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.



Painting Exhibition by Zeinab Movahed

\* Zeinab Movahed is showcasing her latest paintings in an exhibition at Shirin Gallery 1.

The exhibit will run until October 19 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Ave.

\* An exhibition of paintings by Hadi Alijani is currently underway at Asar Gallery.

The exhibit entitled “In Search of the Lost Space” will run until October 21 at the gallery located at No. 16 Barforushan St., Iranshahr St.



Painting Exhibition by Shima Shoghi

\* Shalman Gallery is hanging paintings by Shima Shoghi in an exhibition entitled “Self Instant”.

The showcase will run until October 6 at the gallery located at 27 Kavusi Alley, West Rudbar St., off Mirdamad Blvd.

\* Marjan Pudat is hanging her latest paintings in an exhibition at Golhaye Davudi Gallery.

The exhibition named “Nations” will be running until October 6 at the gallery located at 263 near Nejatollahi St., Taleqani Ave.



Painting Exhibition by Abolfazl Amin Biddokhti

\* Paintings by Abolfazl Amin Biddokhti are currently on view in an exhibition at Outsider Inn Gallery.

The exhibit will run until October 17 at the gallery located at 11 Farrokhi Alley, near Vali-e Asr Square.

\* Nian Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Hossein Shirahmadi.

The exhibition entitled “Rhyparography” will be running until October 15 at the gallery located at 5 Abhari Alley, Vafai St. off Tur St. off South Mofatteh St.



Painting Exhibition by Maryam Kuhestani

\* Inja Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of sculptures by Maryam Kuhestani.

The exhibit entitled “Within Flesh and Bones” will run until October 15 at the gallery located at 4 Pedram Alley, Neauphle-le-Chateau St.

\* A collection of sculptures by Jaleh Akhlaqi is on display in an exhibition at Haft Samar Gallery.

The exhibition “The Other Sides of Destiny” will be running until October 12 at the gallery that can be found at No. 8, Fifth Alley, Kuh-e Nur St., Motahari Ave.



Sculpture Exhibition by Roxana Fazeli

\* Roxana Fazeli is showcasing her latest sculptures in an exhibition at Shirin Gallery 2.

The exhibit will run until October 19 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Ave.

# Producer Mohammad Khazaei appointed new CEO of Cinema Organization of Iran

TEHRAN – Mohammad Khazaei, producer of acclaimed movies such as “Emperor of Hell” and “Damascus Time”, has been appointed the new director of the Cinema Organization of Iran (COI).

The appointment was announced on Wednesday evening by Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili, who has asked Khazaei to focus on twelve issues in his new mission.

One of the issues is “making plans to protect teachings, values and achievements of the Islamic Revolution through producing movies and documentaries for distribution across the world.”

He also asked Khazaei to establish rules for the screening of Iranian films at foreign international festivals.

Khazaei has also been asked to introduce new regulations for purchasing foreign films for screening in the country.

Esmaeili has also ordered the new

New director of the Cinema Organization of Iran, Mohammad Khazaei, in an undated photo.

director of the Cinema Organization of Iran to assume control of series and movies produced for the home entertainment network.

45-year-old Khazaei is the producer of “Emperor of Hell”, written directed by Parviz Sheikhtadi on the key role of Saudi muftis in the rise of ISIS.

He also worked in director and writer Ebrahim Hatamikia’s drama “Damascus Time” on ISIS.

However, he is most famous for producing the controversial 2012 movie “The Golden Collars” directed by Abolqasem Talebi about a conspiracy orchestrated by the British intelligence service to instigate riots in the aftermath of the 2009 Iran presidential elections with the help of a group of Iranian expatriates recruited mainly from the Mojahedin-e-Khalq terrorist organization.

Khazaei also served as presidents of the 15th International Resistance Film Festival in 2018 and the 30th Fajr International Film Festival in 2011.

## Psychoanalyst Thomas Ogden’s novel “The Parts Left Out” published in Persian

TEHRAN – American psychoanalyst Thomas Ogden’s novel “The Parts Left Out” has been published in Persian.

Elham Zolqadr is the translator of the book published by the Hanuz publishing house in Tehran.

“The Parts Left Out” is a suspenseful story of a poor Kansas wheat-farming family, in which each generation holds the next in its deadly grip until murderous opposition explodes.

The beautifully drawn characters, all sympathetic in their own ways, are determined to escape the fate that has been dealt them, and some seem close to doing so.

Antonino Ferro, the president of the Italian Psychoanalytic Association, has said, “Ogden, who is perhaps the most renowned psychoanalyst writing today, demonstrates his prowess as a writer of fiction in his stunning debut novel, ‘The Parts Left Out’.”

“His keen eye for the complexity of human relationships and human frailties makes the characters so real and compelling that they seem to step out of the page.

“Ogden’s novel confirms that the truest concepts developed in psychoanalysis have already appeared in the insight of the artist.

“This story takes hold of the reader in its opening paragraphs and does not let go until its heart-wrenching ending has been told. I found this book almost impossible to put down.”

Ogden is a supervising and personal analyst at the Psychoanalytic Institute of Northern California.

He received a BA from Amherst College, MA, and an MD from Yale, where he also completed a psychiatric residency.

He served for a year as an associate psychiatrist at the Tavistock Clinic in London, and did his psychoanalytic training at the San Francisco Psychoanalytic Institute, where he has remained on the faculty.

For more than 25 years he has served as director of the Center for the Advanced Study of the Psychoses. He has also been a member of the North American Editorial Board for the International Journal of Psychoanalysis, and Psychoanalytic Dialogues.

Front cover of the Persian translation of Thomas Ogden’s novel “The Parts Left Out”.

## “Any Day Now” actor Shahab Hosseini honored at Beijing festival

TEHRAN – Iranian actor Shahab Hosseini has won the award for best supporting actor at the 11th Beijing International Film Festival.

He received the award for his portrayal of Bahman in “Any Day Now” directed by Iranian-Finish director Hamy Ramezan.

The film is about Ramin Mehdipour, a 13-year-old boy and his Iranian family, all of whom have been living in a refugee center in Finland. Just as Ramin starts to enjoy the school holidays, the family receives the terrible news their asylum application has been denied. The Mehdipurs file a final appeal, and they continue with their everyday lives, trying to keep a positive attitude despite the looming danger of deportation. As Ramin starts the new school year, every moment, every friendship will be more precious than ever.

It also received the best music award. Tuomas Nikkinen has collaborated in this film as a composer.

The winners of the Chinese festival were honored during a ceremony on Thursday as the group of actors in the Chinese drama “Beyond the Skies” won the award for best actor.

Directed by Liu Zhihai, “Beyond the Skies” was also selected as best film. It also brought Fu Xinjun the award for best cinematographer.

The war tells a heart-breaking story of a patriotic military mission in 1935 as Chinese soldiers sacrificed their lives for the historical mission with

their sense of a calling of the heart.

Andrey Zaytsev from Russia was named best director for “A Siege Diary”.

The film tells about the longest siege in the whole history of mankind. This is the siege of Leningrad by the Nazis during the Second World War. About 1 million civilians died within that period, mostly out of hunger.

Noee Abita won the award for best actress for her role “Slalom”, a France-Belgium co-production directed by Charlene Favier.

The award for best supporting actress went to Nanna Skaarup Voss for her role in the Danish drama “The Pact” directed by Bille August.

The film written by Christian Torpe also won the award for best screenplay.

## Iranian languages and scripts: Documentation

Part 5

Georg Morgenstierne’s survey in Handbuch is useful, but was severely curtailed by length restrictions. The articles in Osnovy are on the whole more comprehensive and also have space for historical analyses, while those in the CLI cover all known dialects, but are of varying quality, also mainly due to restrictions on the available space.

**Far northwest**

Ossetic is spoken mainly in Ossetia in the southern Caucasus in two main variants, Digoron (the more archaic) and Iron, with subvariants. Publications in Ossetic began to appear in the late 18th century, and especially Iron became a literary language in the 20th century. Oral traditions, notably the Nart epics, have also been published.

Ossetic is today written in Cyrillic script, but, in the past, the Georgian and Latin alphabets were also used.

The earliest studies of Ossetic date to the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries, and a complete description based on the available material by Wsewolod Miller was included in the Grundriss as a supplement to vol. I.

Modern descriptions are found in Osnovy and the CLI, which also include bibliographies to date. Practical grammars include Abaev, 1959, 1964; Bagaev, 1965–82.

Dictionaries include Miller (published by Freiman in 1927–34) and Abaev (1958–89). Recent studies include Cheung. On the current language situation in Southern Ossetia, see Kambolov. Alain Christol is a brief introduction from an historical perspective.

**Northwestern and north central areas**

The dialects of the northwest were first studied in the mid-19th century and received a fair amount of attention throughout the 20th century. Early publications include Dorn and Schafy (1860–

66) and others. All this material was used by Geiger in Grundriss. The following groups can be distinguished:

Tati is spoken in two variants, a northern in far northeastern Azerbaijan and in Dagestan (Judeo-Tati) and a southern in the northeastern Republic of (former Soviet) Azerbaijan, including the peninsula of Apsheron (Abshe-ron).

Taleshi is spoken in several local variants along the Caspian coast south to Gilan, in the Republic of Azerbaijan and in Iran. Azari (also called “Tati”) is spoken in several local variants: northwestern (in Harzand and Dezmar), northeastern (in khalkhal and Tarom), southern (south of Qazvin), southwestern (kho’ini, etc.), and southeastern (Rudbari, etc.).

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued