

# Consequences of Trust to U.S. in Words of Leader

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## If US is serious about nuclear talks, \$10b of Iranian assets must be unfrozen: Amir-Abdollahian

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian told a televised program on Saturday night that if the Joe Biden Administration is "serious" about reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, it should allow releasing at least \$ 10 billion dollars of the Iranian assets held in foreign banks.

"Americans tried to contact us in New York through various channels, and I told the intermediaries that if the U.S. had serious intentions, it should issue a serious signal. The serious sign is releasing at least \$ 10 billion of Iranian frozen money," Abdollahian asserted.

Abdollahian had visited the annual UN General Assembly conference in New York in September. He held dozens of meetings with foreign dignitaries, including European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell whose deputy Enrique Mora was leading the nuclear talks in Vienna during the previous Iranian administration.

The talks to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), were held between Iran and the remaining parties to the JCPOA with an indirect involvement of the U.S. ▶ Page 2

## Coronavirus: Mehregan observed online to renew friendships

TEHRAN – On Saturday, Iranian Zoroastrians in Yazd celebrated their ancient festival of Mehregan virtually over coronavirus concerns.

The religious event, however, was held a bit different from its original spirit, which traditionally arranges reunions to bring clusters of the faithful together in celebration of Mithra, an ancient goddess of friendship, affection, and love. The festivity is usually opened up with keynote speeches by Zoroastrian religious figures and officials, followed by Shahnameh recitations, exciting contests, and other joyful customaries.

"This ceremony is annually held with the presence of Zoroastrians, but in the last year and the current year it was held online in Yazd province due to the spread of the coronavirus," one of the organizers, Manouchehr Arghavani, said on Saturday.

Last year, all Mehregan celebrations were called off or gone online across the country due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Mehregan, the largest Iranian festival after Noruz, marks the autumnal equinox when day and night are equal and it dates back to ancient times when the start of autumn was highly cherished according to tradition.

It falls on the 196th day of the Iranian calendar year that usually equals October 2 in the Gregorian calendar. The festivity was used to be a traditional autumn harvest festival with several accounts of its origins.

During the Achaemenid era (c. 550–330 BC), Mehregan was observed in an extravagant style in Persepolis at a time for harvest when taxes were collected. Avestan texts divide the Iranian year into two equal parts or seasons; summer and winter. The advent of the two seasons is celebrated in Noruz and Mehregan.

A key feature for the event is large spreads in purple laden with various ingredients, dishes, and elements each on behalf of a particular belief. Fruits, vegetables, dried nuts, sweets, rosewater, grilled lamb meat, lotus seeds, and silver coins, and a scale are typically placed, the latter symbolizes autumnal equinox. ▶ Page 6

**Dear readers,**  
The next issue of the Tehran Times will be published on Saturday, October 9.



## Iranian wrestlers Yazdani, Zare win gold at Worlds

© AFP

TEHRAN – Iranian freestyle wrestlers Hassan Yazdani and Amirhossein Zare won two gold medals at the 2021 World Wrestling Championship underway in Oslo, Norway on Sunday.

Yazdani beat his American rival David Taylor 6-2

for the first time in the final match of the 86kg.

Yazdani had lost to Taylor three times.

In the 125kg weight class, Zare, a bronze medal winner at the 2020 Olympic Games, defeated three-

time world championship gold medalist Geno Petriashvili from Georgia 9-2 in the final match.

Four other Iranian wrestlers will compete for gold medals o Monday.

## Iran's export to Iraq increases 28% in H1

TEHRAN – The value of Iran's export to Iraq has risen 28 percent during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the secretary-general of Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce announced.

Jahanbakhsh Sanjabi Shirazi said that Iran exported 13.9 million tons of products valued at \$3.8 billion to its neighbor Iraq in the first half of this year, which also indicates 50 percent rise in terms of weight.

He put the country's non-oil export to Iraq at 9.3 million tons valued at \$2.971 billion in the first six months of the previous year.

Regarding Iran's competitors in the Iraqi market, Sanjabi Shirazi said: "China and Turkey are our traditional competitors in the Iraqi market, but we are witnessing the movement of countries such as Saudi Arabia and Jordan, which plan to take a last-ing share and take over the Iraqi market."

"The number of our business competitors in Iraq is increasing. In this situation, we must make good use of the opportunity of economic cooperation with Iraq by recognizing the threats and opportunities, drawing up a clear strategy with long-term interests in mind, removing obstacles, providing government support and providing the necessary incentives to the private sector, on-site production

strategies, establishing local companies, joint ventures, supplying capillary distribution networks, and starting ICT-based businesses", he further commented.

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil trade rose 47 percent during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

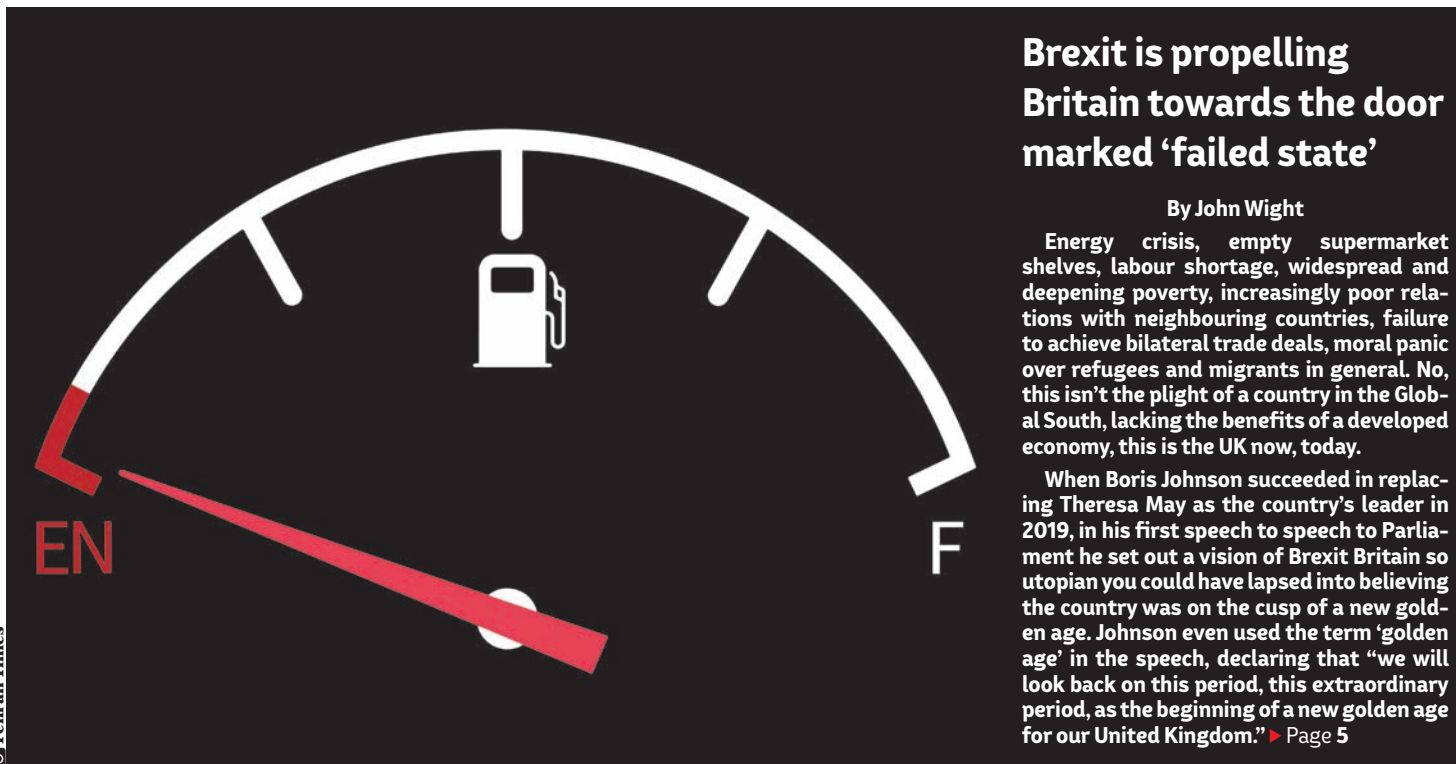
Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi said that Iran has traded 79.1 million tons of non-oil products worth \$45 billion with other countries in the mentioned period. ▶ Page 4

## Brexit is propelling Britain towards the door marked 'failed state'

By John Wight

Energy crisis, empty supermarket shelves, labour shortage, widespread and deepening poverty, increasingly poor relations with neighbouring countries, failure to achieve bilateral trade deals, moral panic over refugees and migrants in general. No, this isn't the plight of a country in the Global South, lacking the benefits of a developed economy, this is the UK now, today.

When Boris Johnson succeeded in replacing Theresa May as the country's leader in 2019, in his first speech to speech to Parliament he set out a vision of Brexit Britain so utopian you could have lapsed into believing the country was on the cusp of a new golden age. Johnson even used the term 'golden age' in the speech, declaring that "we will look back on this period, this extraordinary period, as the beginning of a new golden age for our United Kingdom." ▶ Page 5



## Life expectancy among Iranians increased in recent years

TEHRAN – The life expectancy rate in Iran increased from 64 years in 1990 to 72 years in 2019, which is still on a growing trend, Deputy Health Minister Alireza Raisi said on Sunday.

According to Raisi, the life expectancy in Iran in 1976 was equal to 57 years, and now, after 44 years, the life expectancy has reached 76 years.

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.

This number is very significant and should be planned for all the elderly population, he stated.

Raising the life expectancy in the year 2050 to 77 years shows the health system's attention to science and technology, but it should be noted that people are getting older and we need to provide the infrastructure to care for them.

Mohammad Sasanipour, a demographer, said that In Iran, the steady decline in deaths in recent

decades has led to an increase in life expectancy. But the most important issue is the decrease in the death rate of children and infants.

According to demographers, developed countries increase their life expectancy by reducing mortality among the elderly. But in developing countries like Africa, improvements in life expectancy are achieved by falling child mortality.

So, there is still room for development in this area, he emphasized. ▶ Page 7

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## Leader says security cannot be bought

TEHRAN — Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, has warned that those who seek to buy security from outside "will pay a hefty price".

"Those who think that their security will be ensured by relying on foreigners should know that they will pay a hefty price [for entrusting their security to foreigners]," the Leader told a graduation ceremony of the cadets held on Sunday morning via videoconference.

Pointing that the armed forces in Iran are a strong fortress for the nation and the country, Ayatollah Khamenei, the commander-in-chief, said, "As Imam Ali (PBUH) said, 'The army is, by the will of Allah, the fortress of the people.' [Nahjul Balaghah, Letter 53] This has been realized in our country in the true sense of the word because today, the Armed Forces organizations, the Army, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the Police Force and Basij are acting as a shield in the face of the hard threats posed by enemies inside and outside the country."

Describing the importance of security in the country, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution said, "The security of a country is the basic infrastructure for all activities directed towards progress. Security is the most important issue to consider when looking at the armed forces."

He stressed the importance of ensuring the security of the country with the help of the country's own armed forces, saying, "Those who think that by relying on others they can ensure their security should know that they will soon be struck a blow [for entrusting their security to foreigners]."

Calling the recent disputes between the Europeans and the United States an example of the importance of ensuring the security of each country by the forces of that country, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution stated, "In the recent tensions between the Europeans and the United States, in which the Europeans have declared that the Americans have stabbed them in the back, ▶ Page 2

## Iran seeks closer cooperation with Armenia on manuscript restoration

TEHRAN – The Iranian cultural attaché in the Armenian capital of Yerevan said that Iran is seeking closer cooperation with the country on the restoration of Persian manuscripts.

Hossein Tabatabai made the remarks in a recent visit to the Matenadaran, a museum and repository of manuscripts in Yerevan, Iran's Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) announced on Saturday.

Ara Philipossian, an Iranian-Armenian professor of chemical engineering at the University of Arizona, who is scheduled to finance an immense project, which includes the restoration of Persian manuscripts at the Matenadaran, accompanied Tabatabai.

They also met Matenadaran director Vahan Ter-Ghevondyan and the museum's head of the Department of International Relations, Vardi Keshishian. ▶ Page 8



## If US is serious about nuclear talks, \$10b of Iranian assets must be unfrozen: Amir-Abdollahian



From page 1 ► **“Iran won’t tolerate presence of Zionists near its borders”**

The minister of foreign affairs also said the Islamic Republic will not tolerate presence of Zionist regime near its borders.

Reportedly, Zionist regime has reinforced its presence in the Republic of Azerbaijan since the last year’s war between Azerbaijan and Armenia. The Iranian Army’s military exercises in northwestern borders were a warning to such a presence.

“We will never tolerate the presence of the fake Zionist regime near our borders,” the foreign minister emphasized.

Abdollahian added: “Our vision in the current administration is to develop cooperation with our neighbors.”

The chief diplomat went on to say that last year the Islamic Republic supported the liberation of Nagorno-Karabakh from the Armenian occupation and this is a fact that authorities in the Republic of Azerbaijan are aware of it.

However, the foreign minister said, during the liberation of Karabakh, some terrorists were brought to the area and the Zionist regime also tried to misuse the military flareup.

“During the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, at the political and security level, we expressed our concern about the presence of the Zionist regime in this country. We will never tolerate the presence of the fake Zionist regime near our borders,” Abdollahian reiterated.

He added, “We are worried that the Zionists and terrorists will pose a threat to the Republic of Azerbaijan.”

The minister also said Iran has expressed its concern via diplomatic channels to Azerbaijan about the problems that it has created for the Iranian drivers on their way to Armenia.

While underlining the Raisi administration’s willingness to develop ties with its neighbors, the top diplomat went on to say that Iran reacted to the remarks of the President of Azerbaijan through diplomatic channels. “I told the ambassador of the Republic of Azerbaijan that ‘we feel the danger of Zionism in your country,’” the minister asserted.

He also affirmed that Iran had received positive messages from the officials of the Republic of Azerbaijan through diplomatic channels and underscored, “We will talk about solving the transit problem soon and will pursue the movements closely on geopolitical issues.”

Top diplomat also highlighted that behind the changes in the region were the Zionists and terrorists who were seeking insecurity in the region.

“We don’t want the Republic of Azerbaijan to become a hotbed of Zionists.”

Elsewhere in his remarks, the top diplomat pointed to developments in the occupied territories, saying, “The reality of the Zionist regime is that the recent resistance in Gaza has become apparent.”

The minister was referring to the firing of missiles from the Gaza Strip in May at the

occupied lands in response to the violence against Palestinians in Jerusalem.

“The third and fourth generations of Palestinians moved in support of Al-Aqsa Mosque, and the Zionist regime was forced to call for a ceasefire,” Amir Abdollahian remarked.

“The Zionists seek to cover this crisis with theatrical movements. The Zionists showed that wherever they entered, they had nothing but insecurity,” he stressed, adding, “We recognize a country called Palestine with a capital called Quds.”

The foreign minister underscored that the Zionist regime would not have a place in the future of the region for various reasons and the people of the occupied territories must decide their own destiny, echoing a proposal by Leader of the Islamic Revolution for holding a referendum in the occupied territories with the participation of all people regardless of their ethnicity or religion.

Through his televised interview, the chief diplomat also referred to issue of Afghanistan and stressed, “During the meeting with various officials at the United Nations, developments in Afghanistan were one of our main topics. In the United Nations meetings, we tried to consider all aspects and issues related to Afghanistan.”

The minister said he had 18 meetings with European countries that took place in his residence, and these countries talked about economy, interaction and development of cooperation.

The Iranian official evaluated as positive the meetings. “We reached good agreements in all meetings. At the United Nations General Assembly, everyone listened carefully to the Iranian President’s speech, and based on the outputs we received, this was one of the most logical, explicit

and powerful speeches made at the United Nations.”

Amir-Abdollahian also pointed to JCPOA-related talks and said, “Our logic is the logic of negotiation and dialogue and we will return to negotiation soon but negotiation must yield desired results for us.”

The minister said upon his arrival in New York, he faced a request by the parties in the JCPOA to hold a meeting which was rejected by him.

“We are currently reviewing the cases (for resuming the nuclear talks). This year’s meeting of foreign ministers was not a normal issue. I told the foreign officials that we will not run away from the negotiating table, but we are looking for a suitable time for it.”

**“Iran will not go back to 8, 5 or 1 year ago”**

He went on to say that the new administration in Iran will not go back to 8, 5 or 1 year ago, stressing that Americans were constantly looking for communication and sending message while he was in New York.

“We told the other side that we are in favor of negotiation and action, but we are pragmatists and we will benefit from negotiations in which all the benefits of the JCPOA are implemented.”

The minister reiterated his earlier remarks that Iran would not tie the foreign policy and economy to negotiations or the JCPOA.

“If the negotiations are concluded, they will become a catalyst for the economic development plan. We have our own team for each department. Details of the negotiations and the negotiating team will be announced soon.”

Negotiations have reached a stage where the opposing parties must also have a clear understanding of the negotiating table and its tangible outcome.

From page 1 ► the main point is that the Europeans need to secure themselves with their own forces, regardless of NATO, whose main sponsor is the U.S.”

According to the Khamenei.ir, the Leader described the security of European countries as linked to or under the control of foreign powers, calling it a shortcoming for these countries, “Even developed European countries, when their security is in the hands of or dependent on a foreign force, even though that foreign force is not apparently an enemy of that country, feel that they have a serious shortcoming. The less developed countries whose armies are completely under the control of the U.S. Armed Forces and the like are even in a worse situation.”

He called the interference of foreigners in the security issues of other countries as the most catastrophic disasters for the latter group, “One of the most catastrophic disasters for countries occurs when foreigners interfere in their security issues, planning their war and peace and defining their policies. Today, even European countries that breathe under the umbrella of NATO want to move independently.”

Ayatollah Khamenei stated that the presence of foreign armies, including the U.S. army, in the region is a source of destruction and war, adding, “Everyone should try to make countries and armies independent



# Leader says security cannot be bought

and help them to rely on their own nations and to cooperate with the armies of their neighboring countries and other armies in the region. This is in the best interests of the region.”

Referring to the crimes committed by the U.S. army in Afghanistan, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution said, “The U.S. military, equipped with all

kinds of equipment—conventional and unconventional—entered our neighboring country, Afghanistan, to overthrow the Taliban government. They stayed in this country for 20 years, killing people, committing crimes, occupying everywhere, promoting addictive drugs and destroying the limited infrastructure

of Afghanistan. And after 20 years, they handed over the government to the Taliban and left.”

Ayatollah Khamenei stressed the need not to allow foreign armies to enter the region and offered this piece of advice to regional governments, “We as well as regional governments should not allow foreign armies to travel thousands of miles—with the pretext of safeguarding their national interests while these issues have nothing to do with their nation—and to interfere in the affairs of our countries and our armies and to have a military presence. The armies of regional nations can run the region on their own and you should not allow others to enter.”

Referring to the incidents in the northwestern part of Iran, the Leader stated, “The issues concerning Iran’s northwestern neighbors should be resolved wisely by relying on nations, through the cooperation of the armies of neighboring countries and by avoiding the presence of any foreign military forces.” In this regard, the Leader added, “Of course, our country and our armed forces are acting in a reasonable manner.”

At the end of his statements, he invited regional nations to act reasonably, saying: “Other governments had better act rationally as well and prevent the region from having a serious problem. Those who dig a hole for their brothers fall in it first.”

## EU’s Borrell: JCPOA implementation means U.S. must fully implement the deal

TEHRAN – European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell says all parties, including the U.S., must fully implement the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

“As coordinator of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, I have always been clear: We must go back to full implementation of the deal, which means a return of the US into the agreement with the lifting of related U.S. sanctions and Iran’s full compliance with its nuclear commitments,” Borrell said in an interview with the Arab News released on Saturday.

Borrell also said, “It is crucial to resume negotiations in Vienna as soon as possible and from where we left off on June 20.”

Iran and the remaining parties to the JCPOA started talks in April in Vienna to revive the deal from which Donald Trump withdrew and introduced the harshest sanctions in history against Iran in line with his “maximum pressure” campaign against the Islamic Republic.

The U.S., under the Joe Biden administration, was also participating in the Vienna talks indirectly.

Six rounds of talks were held until June. However, the talks failed to produce a breakthrough as the United States raised new issues not related to the original JCPOA. For example, the U.S. tried to include Iran’s missile program and its regional policies in a possible revitalization of the multilateral agreement. Moreover, the Biden administration also tried to extend the limits on Iran’s nuclear program which will be automatically lifted in the future years.

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

Borrell held talks in September with new Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian in New York, the venue of the annual United Nations General Assembly conference.

“My message to Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian in New York City was simple: Diplomacy is the solution; let’s go back to Vienna without delay,” the top European diplomat remarked.

On his view of the new Iranian government’s intention to improve relations with Persian Gulf Arab neighbors and the West, he said, “Diplomacy offers the only real path to address the open issues in the Persian Gulf and among neighbors. I cannot speak for the intentions of other governments, but I have noted more dialogue between countries in the region.”

For example, he said, “The Baghdad Conference (for Cooperation and Partnership) on August 28 and the bilateral talks between Saudi Arabia and Iran are such examples. These are welcome developments and I was happy to participate in the follow-up event to the conference in New York recently.”

Foreign Minister Abdollahian participated in the Baghdad summit in late August. The new Iranian administration has said it follows a balanced foreign policy but neighbors and regional countries are a priority.

Iran and Saudi Arabia have held at least three rounds of talks in Baghdad. The main bone of contention between the two countries is the Saudi-led war on Yemen. Iran has been pushing hard for an end to the war on Yemen since it started in March 2015.

Borrell said the EU is seeking to broker cooperation between countries bordering the Persian Gulf. He said a revitalization of the Iran



nuclear deal is crucial to realize such a goal.

“The EU is ready to support the countries in the Persian Gulf region to build a shared sense of security and cooperation. In this sense, the (Iran) nuclear deal is also crucial,” Borrell noted.

He added, “I am still convinced that if we do manage to preserve the JCPOA and ensure its full implementation, it can become a stepping stone toward addressing other shared concerns, including those related to regional security.”

Iran has proposed the Hormuz Peace Endeavor (HOPE) for the stabilizing the Persian Gulf region. Former Iranian President Hassan Rouhani proposed the Hormuz peace initiative during a speech at the UN General Assembly in September 2019.

“I should like to invite all the countries directly affected by the developments in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz to the Coalition for Hope meaning Hormuz Peace Endeavor,” Rouhani told world leaders who had gathered in New York.

In April 2021 during a visit to Qatar, former Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif tweeted “HOPE initiative is Iran’s approach to the region.” He stressed, “Neighbors are Iran’s priority.”

On the AUKUS, the recently formed trilateral security pact between Australia, the UK and the U.S, that was badly received by some in the EU, Borrell also said, “There was clear disappointment in Europe about the way this issue was handled. We are friends and allies. And friends and allies talk to each other.”

The deal was first signed between France and Australia. France called the cancellation of the deal without consultation with Paris a “stab in the back”.

“It’s a stab in the back. We had established a trusting relationship with Australia, and this trust was betrayed,” French Foreign Affairs Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said in a Franceinfo interview in mid-September. Le Drian added he was “angry and very bitter about this break up,” adding that he had spoken to his Australian counterpart days ago and received no serious indication of the move.

The EU sides with France in the showdown with the U.S. and Australia.

Since the United States is going to provide nuclear-weapons-grade nuclear fuel to Australia for construction of submarines, security and nuclear experts have warned about possible nuclear arms proliferation.

“Since the announcement of AUKUS, we have talked to our U.S. partners. I had a good meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken

last month in New York City. We now consider this situation clarified. Proof of this is the joint statement between (French) President Macron and U.S. President Biden, in which the U.S. acknowledged that the situation would have benefited from open consultations among allies,” Borrell remarked.

The European chief diplomat also said, “These recent events also clearly underline the strength of European unity and remind us once again of the need to reflect on how to build, strengthen and advance European strategic autonomy.”

He suggested “Europe must be more united in terms of security and defense. If the European Union pooled its defense capabilities, and avoided overlaps, we would be a lot more efficient in many of the world’s crises.”

The United States’ chaotic and scandalous military withdrawal from Afghanistan has created an image of the West as uncoordinated, divided and unreliable.

On a question on whether the Afghanistan fiasco proved that Europe should focus on its defense capabilities rather than relying on the U.S., he said, “Certainly, Afghanistan has shown in a striking way that deficiencies in EU capacity to act autonomously come at a price.”

Borrell also responded to major issues concerning West Asia and Central Asia, particularly those related to Yemen and Afghanistan.

“I think we all are interested in the stability, security and well-being of our own citizens and our neighbors. This should be a common objective of all our efforts and cooperation.”

He said the international community is seeking an end to the war on Yemen.

“We want to see an end to the fighting and to the suffering of the Yemeni people. I will engage thoroughly on Yemen during my (Riyadh) visit.”

Borrell, whose official title is High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy, also said Afghanistan must not become “exporter of instability, terrorism and migration flows.”

“There is a broad international consensus that the country cannot become an exporter of instability, terrorism and migration flows. And it is the countries in the region

who are affected first by any negative spillover of the situation (in Afghanistan). This is why the EU tries to engage and coordinate its engagement and activities with partners in affected regions. Big challenges can be effectively and sustainably solved only by joint efforts.”

Iran has been hosting hundreds of thousands of Afghan refugees since the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan in late 1979. Iran has been bearing the brunt of refugee floods from Afghanistan despite Iraq’s war against Iran in the 1980s when Saddam Hussein was ruling Iraq and the illegal and suffocating sanctions on the country imposed by the United States.

As a main victim of instability and war in Afghanistan, Iran has been insisting on formation of an inclusive government in the Central Asian country with the involvement of all ethnic and religious groups.

## In less than 48 hours, troops, equipment transferred to drill field in northwest Iran

TEHRAN – In less than 48 hours troops and equipment were transferred to the drill field in northwest Iran, the commander of the Army’s northwestern regional base has said, IRNA reported on Friday.

The Army started a drill, codenamed Fatehan Kheybar, in northwestern Iran on Friday.

“According to the orders we receive from the command hierarchy, we will conduct exercises in different places, and for the Fatehan Kheybar

exercise, equipment and forces were transferred to the area in less than 48 hours,” Commander Ali Hajiloo explained.

“The drill was carried out using part of the power of the major units in the northwest of the country,” he added.

Brigadier-General Hajiloo said units based in the provinces of Qazvin, Markazi and Tehran as well as Ground Force UAV unit and Army Aviation Force were deployed in the maneuver area.



Hajiloo added since exercises are a complementary stage for training and

the Army is updating its structure, equipment and knowledge, it is “necessary to practice these trainings in the field.”

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 weapons in the drill.

There was no word how long the drill will last.

Heydari also said that Iran will not tolerate presence of foreigners 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,” 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 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.



# Consequences of trust to U.S. in words of Leader

TEHRAN — In a speech delivered on Sunday morning, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution discussed the AUKUS pact, Iran-Azerbaijan disagreements, and the scandalous U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Referred to the AUKUS pact, the Leader said, “In the recent tensions between the Europeans and the United States, in which the Europeans have declared that the Americans have stabbed them in the back, the main point is that the Europeans need to secure themselves with their own forces, regardless of NATO, whose main sponsor is the U.S.”

This is in line with what Iran has been saying for three years, since the United States unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA in May 2018. The Europeans blindly trusted their ally, and this is what happened. A breach of trust.

The United States signed a trilateral partnership with the United Kingdom and Australia, dubbed AUKUS on September 15. The pact is aimed to provide Australia with nuclear-powered submarines.

The EU, and in particular France, severely protested the deal. The deal came as a heavy blow to the France, economically. They lost a major economic deal. Some say they lost over \$56 billion, some say \$66 billion, and the Guardian even said France lost a \$90 billion deal. Now, Paris has gone from viewing



Australia and the United States as a friend and ally to nations which can't be trusted.

The AUKUS pact turned the attention of political commentators and analysts to a theory first put forward in 2013, and renewed by EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell in December 2020.

“Because the world has changed. It is difficult to claim to be a ‘political union’ able to act as a ‘global player’ and as a ‘geopolitical Commission’ without being ‘autonomous.’ What are then the factors that make this concept more relevant than ever?” Borrell asked in his article titled “Why European strategic

autonomy matters”.

In the article published on the EU website, he added, “The first is that the weight of Europe in the world is shrinking. Thirty years ago, we represented a quarter of the world's wealth. It is foreseen that in 20 years, we will not represent more than 11% of world GNP, far behind China, which will represent double it, below 14% for the United States and at par with India.”

Borrell also discusses “the transformation of economic interdependence,” as the Europeans have greatly invested on, particularly through

“the defense of multilateralism”.

“Today we are in a situation where economic interdependence is becoming politically very conflictual. And what was traditionally called soft power is becoming an instrument of hard power,” he cautioned.

The theory of European strategic autonomy seems to be pursued more strictly than before, in view of Washington's betrayal of the European bloc by forming an Anglo-Saxon alliance. Washington did it without informing the EU. In the words of French Foreign Minister Le Drian it is a “breach of trust”.

It is sad to see that the European Union has reached this decision to distance itself from the United States so late. The former Iranian Foreign Minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif, repeatedly warned the EU to act independently, and not follow the U.S. blindly, yet, the Europeans decided to violate their commitments to the JCPOA.

In another part of his speech, the Leader called reliance on foreign forces for providing security as “just an illusion,” saying that those who have such imaginations will soon face “a blow.”

Iran has repeatedly made it known to its neighbors and regional countries that security cannot be purchased from outside. Maybe, it is time for the EU bloc and the West Asia region to listen to Iran.

## Iran should not be a market to any country that bows to U.S. pressure: MP

TEHRAN - The head of the Industries and Mines Committee of the Iranian Parliament has said Iran should not be a market for South Korean-made home appliance which is bowing to U.S. pressure by refusing to release the Iranian assets.

South Korea, which has filled the Iranian market with its goods, especially home appliances, has been refusing to unfreeze \$7 billion of Iranian oil revenues since the U.S. imposed illegal sanctions against Iran.

“Seoul's justification for confiscating Iranian assets under U.S. sanctions is unacceptable because the United States is not allowed to impose its domestic laws on the international trade system,” Ezatullah Akbari Talarpashti said in an interview with IRNA on Sunday.

The MP said the Islamic Republic should take the necessary measures to prevent the import of Korean goods into the country.

On a plan by the parliament to reform the car market, the MP said: “Car import can only lead to market regulation if it is well managed. The fact that organizations or individuals and legal entities act to import cars without the necessary arrangements and management, the desired result of the administration and parliament will not be achieved to reduce car prices and create a competitive environment.”

Recently, the parliamentary adopted a legislation in which it allowed import of cars under certain circumstances.

The head of the parliamentary committee went on to say that the aim of the administration and the parliament is to defend the rights of the people.

“The parliament and the administration should deal with this issue wisely and this cannot be done hastily,” he insisted.

Akbari Talarpashti stated that the provision of national interests is the goal of all projects related to exports and imports and added:

Exports related to exports and imports will be successful only if they do not conflict the law, he pointed out.

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 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 wrote a letter to President Ebrahim Raisi in which he asked if the report about imports from the two Korea companies is “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.

### MP calls on government to create competitive atmosphere for auto industry

Comparing home appliance and car markets, MP Akbari Talarpashti said the fact that car production in the country is in the hands of the administration is itself one of the barriers to production because government ownership increases costs and lowers efficiency.

“But this is not the case with home appliance production and due to the privatization of the country's home appliance manufacturing industries, there is hope for the development and prosperity of this industry, and even more support can be provided for the export of products in this field to neighboring countries and other markets.”

The MP ruled out that home appliances are expensive due to the progress of these industries in the country.

It is hoped the administration allow the private sector take the driver's seat in the car industry as in the production of home appliances, the MP remarked.

The administration's duty is to support and provide a situation for production of high-quality goods in a “competitive environment”, he added.

Akbari Talarpashti called on the Raisi administration not to continue the previous plans in car manufacturing. “The revolutionary administration should take action to privatize the car industry with an open mind, because in a competitive environment with private sector management, our country can produce high quality cars that can compete in domestic market and in regional and global markets,” he opined.

He said Iran's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) is a great opportunity for all Iranian industries to find markets for their products in the member states of the organization, he suggested.

The senior MP stressed the need to pay attention to the private sector, saying: “State-owned industries depend on cheap loans, state budgets, and facilities, and the Raisi administration must take industries out of this situation and leave it to the private sector and provide incentives for domestic and foreign investors and entrepreneurs.”

## Security chief urges neighbors to be vigilant in face of ‘foreign influence’

TEHRAN - Iran's top security official reiterated on Saturday that the Islamic Republic's “benevolent” relationship with its neighbors, calling on them to remain vigilant in the face of “fruitless foreign influence” and settle issues through cooperation.

“Powerful Iran has always been benevolent to its neighbors and never posed a threat to them,” Ali Shamkhani, secretary of the Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), wrote on his Twitter account.

He added that regional countries can resolve problems through collective cooperation.

“Any foreign influence is fruitless so we call on neighbors to be vigilant in this regard & to stay away from them,” Shamkhani tweeted, according to Press TV.

Iran is holding military drills in the country's northwestern border area, which was criticized by Azerbaijan. The military exercises started on Friday.

President Ilham Aliyev said he was “very surprised” by Iran's decision to hold drills close to his country's borders, and questioned the timing of the maneuvers.

Aliyev had also accused Iran of sending over trucks to “illegally” cross into the Nagorno-Karabakh region, which is a

matter of dispute between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

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

Tehran has been suspicious of Azerbaijan's links to the Israeli regime, whose supply of drones and other weapons helped Baku gain the upper hand in the war with Armenia last year. The war started September 27, 2020 and ended on November 10. The Republic of Azerbaijan was the initiator of the war.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said on Thursday that Tehran will not tolerate Israel's presence near the country's borders and will take due measures against the regime's activities.

Stressing that countries had the right to hold military exercises within their territories in line with safeguarding their national sovereignty, the Iranian foreign minister said, “The Islamic Republic of Iran does not tolerate the presence and activities of the Zionist regime against its national security and will take any necessary action in this regard.”

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) 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.

On Sunday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said interference of foreigners in the region is a “source of discord,” calling on the regional states to follow the example of Iran for power and rationality.

“The interference of foreigners in the region is a source of discord and damage. All issues and incidents must be resolved without foreign interference and the countries of the region should follow the example of Iran and the armed forces of the Islamic Republic for power and rationality,” the Leader said.

Ayatollah Khamenei said, “The events that are taking place in the northwest of Iran in some neighboring countries should be resolved with the same logic of avoiding giving permission to the presence of foreigners.”

The Leader went on to say “everyone should know that whoever digs a pit for his brothers shall fall therein first.”

On Saturday, Brigadier General Kiomars Heydari, commander of the Army Ground Force, also said, “The exercises of our armed forces in this region and other regions are based on detailed planning with the aim of testing weapons and equipment and assessing the combat readiness of the armed forces in every part of the borders of Iran. The timing of the exercises, the location of the exercises and the size of the forces is decided by the armed forces,” he explained.

Heydari added in this northern region there is an “uninvited and disruptive element of security” that has come from elsewhere, and that is the “illegitimate Zionist regime”.

“Since this regime came (to this region), our sensitivity to this border area has increased; their activities here are completely under our monitoring,” the commander underscored.

He added that apart from these issues, the exit of terrorist forces that have come to this region from Syria has not yet been proven to Iran.

“Iran is sensitive in this regard,” he asserted.

General Heydari went on to say that Iran is completely “sensitive” to changes in the official borders of countries in the South Caucasus region and consider it completely “unacceptable”.

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## SPORTS

### S. Korea midfielder Chang-hoon misses Iran match

TEHRAN – South Korea key midfielder Kwon Chang-hoon will be absent in the match against Iran due to the foot injury.

The 27-year-old attacking midfielder has suffered an ankle injury and has been replaced by Freiburg player Jeong Woo-yeong.

South Korea will meet Iran on Oct. 12 at the 2022 World Cup qualification in Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

Iran sit top of Group A with six points, followed by South Korea with four points.

### Ex-Iran women's basketball player Koorechian dies

TEHRAN – Mahin Koorechian, former Iran's women's basketball team player, passed away on Sunday in Tehran.

Koorechian died at the age of 70.

She represented Iran at the 1974 Asian Basketball Confederation Championship for Women in Seoul, South Korea. Iran finished in fourth place in the seven-team tournament.

Koorechian also played for Iran at the 1974 Asian Games in Tehran.

### Iran's Badiee appointed secretary general of ATTU

TEHRAN – Afshin Badiee from Iran was appointed as secretary general of the Asian Table Tennis Union (ATTU) on Sunday.

The ATTU general assembly was held on the sidelines of the Asian Table Tennis Championships.

The general assembly took place at the Lusail Sports Hall.

Badiee has also worked as a member of ATTU for 20 years.

He also served as deputy of Central Asian region for 12 years.

### Tehran derby to be held on Matchweek 8: IPL

TEHRAN – Tehran derby between Esteghlal and Persepolis will be held on Matchweek 8 of Iran Professional League.

The draw ceremony for the 2021/2022 season of the Iran Professional League was held on Oct. 2.

Esteghlal will host Persepolis on Matchweek 8 of IPL but the exact time of the match has not been revealed.

The 2021/22 season will kick off on Oct. 19.

A total of 16 teams will participate at the new season.

Persepolis are defending champions and look to win the IPL title for the sixth in a row.

Fajr Sepasi and Havadar will take part in the upcoming season as the newcomers after secured promotion to the league last season.

Machine Sazi and Saipa were also relegated from the IPL to the First Division.

Iran Professional League is the highest division of professional football in the west Asian country. It is the top-level football league in Iran since its foundation in 2001.

Since 2013, the league comprises 16 teams. The winners of IPL and Hazfi Cup automatically qualify for the AFC Champions League group stages. The runners-up and the third-place teams should participate at the AFC Champions League Play-off round.

Persepolis are the most successful club with seven titles in IPL and 14 in total.

#### Matchweek 1 Fixture:

\*Paykan – Naft Masjed Soleyman

\*Padideh – Aluminum Arak

\*Sanat Naft Abadan – Zob Ahan Isfahan

\*Foolad Khuzestan – Persepolis

\*Gol Gohar Sirjan – Tractor

\*Esteghlal – Havadar

\*Nassaji Mazandaran – Fajr Sepasi Shiraz

\*Sepahan – Mes Rafsanjan

### Mahroo Kamrani to stay Iran women taekwondo coach

TEHRAN – Iran women's taekwondo coach Mahroo Kamrani is to stay in the role despite poor results in Olympic campaign.

The Islamic Republic of Iran Taekwondo Federation (IRITF) Technical Committee made the decision to stay with Kamrani until at least the end of the year following a Tokyo 2020 debrief.

In the women's under-57kg, Nahid Kiani was eliminated at the first hurdle.

Azam Dorosti has been added to the women coaching staff.

The decisions were made in a session held in the federation's headquarters on Saturday.

Iran men's taekwondo coach Fariborz Asgari had previously extended his contract with the federation.

### Iran the most impressive side in AFC World Cup qualifiers: AFC

TEHRAN – Iran have been arguably the most impressive side in the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification Round 3 to date.

After two rounds of fixtures, the heavyweights of Iran and Korea Republic have already stamped their authority on the group, with the Iranians leading the way following back-to-back wins over Syria and Iraq, and the Koreans two points back after drawing against Iraq and beating Lebanon.

Dragan Skocic's Iran have been arguably the most impressive side in the AFC Asian Qualifiers to date, with Alireza Jahanbakhsh rediscovering his mojo since returning to the Eredivisie to join Feyenoord. The former Brighton and Hove Albion midfielder netted the only goal on Matchday One as his side edged Syria before opening the scoring in an emphatic 3-0 win over neighbor Iraq, the-afc.com wrote.

Iran will play UAE on Thursday and host South Korea in Tehran five days later.

### Saipa earn first win at 2021 Asian Women's Club Volleyball C'ship

TEHRAN – Saipa defeated Rebisco of Philippines 3-1 (26-24, 22-25, 25-13, 25-17) in Pool B on Sunday.

The Iranian team had lost to Thailand's Supreme Chonburi and Altay of Kazakhstan in the previous matches.

Saipa will play Kazakhstan's Zhetysu VC to book a place in the semifinals.

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.

### Italian forward Giovinco linked with Esteghlal

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football club of Iran have shown interest in signing former Juventus forward Sebastian Giovinco.

The 34-year-old player most recently played for Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia and is a free-agent player at the moment.

Esteghlal hope that their Italian coach Gabriel Pin can convince this player to join the team.

Giovinco started his playing career in 2006 in Juventus and played for the Serie A giant for nine years.

He has also played for Italian teams Empoli, Parma and Toronto, Tasnim reported.

The Italian has been also linked with MLS teams.





## Iran's export to Iraq increases 28% in H1

From page 1 ► The official put the six-month non-oil exports at 60 million tons valued at \$21.8 billion, with a 61-percent rise in value and a 30-percent growth in weight.

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

He said major export destinations of the Iranian non-oil goods were China with about 14.8 million tons worth \$6.5 billion, Iraq with 13.9 million tons worth \$3.8 billion, Turkey with 7.2 million tons worth \$2.3 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with 5.8 million tons worth \$2.2 billion, and Afghanistan with 2.5 million tons worth \$1.0 billion.

The official further announced that Iran has imported 19.1 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$23.1 billion in the first six months of the present year, with a 37-percent growth in value and a 15-percent rise in weight year on year.

Mir-Ashrafi named cellphones, livestock corn, sunflower oil, barley, meal, wheat, soybeans, sugar, palm oil, and rice as the main imported commodities.

The United Arab Emirates with 5.9 million tons of goods worth \$7.3 billion was the top



exporter to Iran in the said period, followed by China with 1.5 million tons of goods worth \$5.0 billion, Turkey with 2.1 million tons worth \$2.4 billion, and Switzerland with one million tons worth \$900,000, the official stated.

According to the official, out of the total 19.1 million tons of goods imported into the country in the first six months of this year, 14.3 million worth \$8.9 billion were basic goods, which constitutes 75 percent of the total imported goods.

The IRICA head has announced that the value of Iran's non-oil trade stood at \$73 billion in the past Iranian calendar year.

Mir-Ashrafi has put the weight of non-oil trade at 146.4 million tons, and said that the figure shows a 25-million-ton annual decline, which is the result of sanctions and coronavirus pandemic.

## Over 96,000 tons of alumina powder produced in 5 months



TEHRAN- Iran has produced 96,400 tons of alumina powder during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22).

As announced by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry, the figure shows six percent decline as compared to the output in the five-month period of the previous year.

Aluminum oxide, which is commonly called alumina, is an inert, odorless, white amorphous material often used in industrial ceramics.

Alumina is an important ceramic material for industrial applications. The numerous fields of

application range from construction materials, to filling materials, as well as abrasives and catalysts.

In plants and mechanical engineering, alumina ceramics are mainly used for wear and corrosion protection.

The particle size distribution largely determines the application range and the quality of an alumina powder. Reliably identifying the differences in particle size is therefore an essential requirement of the measuring instrument.

While the production of alumina powder has fallen, the production of aluminum ingot has risen 30.6 percent during the first five months of this year.

The country's aluminum ingot output stood at 222,600 tons in the five-month period of the present year.

As previously announced by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), the production of aluminum ingot in Iran rose 61 percent during the previous Iranian calendar year 1399 (ended on March 20) compared to the figure for the preceding year.

The country's aluminum ingot output stood at 446,800 tons in the previous year.

## TEDPIX gains 3,000 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 3,213 points to 1.476 million on Sunday.

As reported, over 8.225 billion securities worth 67,731 trillion rials (about \$1.612 billion) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 256 points and the second market's index gained 12,587 points.

TEDPIX rose 3.6 percent in the past Iranian calendar week.

The index closed at 1,437 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

mentioned period.

SCI has put the country's point-to-point inflation rate at 43.7 percent in the sixth month of the current Iranian calendar year (ended on September 22), which means families have paid an average of 43.7 percent more for purchasing the same package of commodities and services in the previous month, compared to the same month in the previous year.

The point-to-point inflation rate has also increased by 0.5 percent in comparison to the figure for the preceding month.

The point-to-point inflation rate for urban

# 'All export barriers to be removed by year end'

TEHRAN – Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi Amin has said all the barriers in the way of the country's exports will be removed by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (late March 2022).

The official made the remarks in the online opening ceremony of Iran's pavilion at Expo 2020 Dubai which was attended by the heads of the country's chambers of commerce as well as representatives of some export companies, IRNA reported.

"The government is pursuing the removal of export barriers in the form of 17 projects, including the establishment of trade routes with target countries and the design and implementation of value-added tax mechanisms," Fatemi Amin said.

Referring to President Raisi's emphasis on economic diplomacy and economic cooperation with neighboring countries, the official



stressed: "By the end of this year, trade processes will be facilitated in such a way that in addition to reaching our trade targets, we would also achieve new goals such as diversity of markets and job creation."

The official noted that the government is considering the elimination of some unnecessary regulations that are currently impeding the development of the country's non-oil exports.

Mentioning the presence of Iran

at EXPO 2020 Dubai, Fatemi Amin said: "The EXPO is an opportunity to introduce Iran to different countries and we have considered new incentives for traders who are interested in doing business with Iran in order to facilitate the growth of exports and imports."

Expo 2020 is a World Exposition, currently hosted by Dubai in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) from October 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022. Originally scheduled for 20 October 2020 to 10 April 2021, it was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite being postponed, organizers kept the name Expo 2020 for marketing and branding purposes. It is the first time that a World Exposition has been postponed to a later date rather than cancelled. The Bureau International des Expositions (BIE) general assembly in Paris named Dubai as the host on 27 November 2013.

## Stock market expected to be stable in Q3

TEHRAN – A capital market analyst says the Iranian stock market is expected to be stable in the third quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (September 23-December 21), IRNA reported.

"We expect to see a steady trend in market transactions in [the Iranian calendar months of] Aban and Azar (autumn months), and I suggest shareholders invest in leading industries," Salman Nasirzadeh said.

He pointed to the current risks of the stock exchange and added: "The stock market in the current situation, along with its positive movements, is associated with risks, now the most important risk that may be imposed on the market is possible macroeconomic decisions."

He emphasized the measures that can help the stock market to follow an uptrend and said: "By creating stability in the regulations, transparency of information and increasing the initial public offering in the market, it is possible to change the trend of the market."

Nasirzadeh stated that with proper knowledge of investing in stock exchange transactions, the

capital market can be considered as a positive market in the medium- and long term.

Back in July, Market Analyst Mostafa Safari had said that trades in the Iranian stock market will be much better and more reasonable in the second half of the current Iranian calendar year compared to the first half of the year.

Safari believed that reaching a possible agreement on the nuclear deal will have a positive impact on the capital market and pave the way for significant growth in the market.

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

Market Expert Reza Alavi also said in July that the inflow of liquidity into the market and the increase in the value of transactions indicate that people are once again trusting the capital market.

"At present, other markets such as gold, foreign currency, and cars are not attractive enough for investors, and stock market is still a good place



for people's investments," Alavi told IRIB.

"After the election debates, people have come to the conclusion that the stock market is one of the priorities of the new government, and for this reason, they have re-trusted this market, and as a result, the inflow of new capital into the market has increased," he said.

He further mentioned the rise in the global oil prices and the stability of the foreign currency exchange market as factors that resulted in the stability of the stock market.

## Iranian households install 4,500 rooftop PV stations

TEHRAN – The spokesman of Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (known as SATBA) said Iranian households across the country have so far installed 4,500 rooftop photovoltaic stations (PV stations) with a total capacity of 71 kilowatt-hours (KWh).

According to Jafar Mohammadnejad Sigaroudi, Kerman, Khorasan Razavi, Isfahan, Fars, and Yazd provinces have the biggest number of installed solar stations, respectively, IRIB reported.

He noted that the surplus electricity generated by these

units will be purchased by the government at a guaranteed price.

The official said those who wish to install such solar power stations should pay for the equipment and installation services themselves and then the government will guarantee the purchase of their generated electricity.

"At present, the capital required to install each kilowatt-hour capacity of such PV stations is 140 million rials (about \$3,300), which has doubled compared to the Iranian calendar year 1395 (ended in March 2017)" Mohammadnejad said.

According to SATBA's Head Mohammad Satakin, the number of small-scale solar power plants across the country which are used by households or small industries is increasing noticeably as Iranian households and small industries are embracing the new technology with open arms and investors also seem eager for more contribution in this area.

The capacity of Iran's renewable power plants currently exceeds 920 megawatts (MW) among which solar power plants with the generation of 429.79 MW in the said

month had the biggest share of electricity production.

Wind power plants with 308.74 MW of electricity production stood in second place.

Renewables, including hydropower, account for about seven percent of the country's total energy generation, versus natural gas's 90 percent share.

Overall, in the next four years, Iran is aiming for a 5,000 MW increase in renewable capacity to meet growing domestic demand and expand its presence in the regional electricity market.

## TCCIMA holds webinar on Iran-Cuba trade opportunities



TEHRAN – Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) on Sunday held a webinar on Iran-Cuba trade opportunities in collaboration with the Iranian embassy in Cuba, the portal of TCCIMA reported.

The webinar covered a variety of subjects including opportunities for developing economic and trade relations between the two countries' private sectors and the challenges and obstacles faced by the two sides' traders.

The event was attended by Iranian Ambassador in Havana Mohammad Hadi Sobhani, TCCIMA Deputy Head for International Affairs Hessamedin Hallaj, TCCIMA Secretary-General Bahman Eshqi, Cuban Ambassador to Tehran Alberto Gonzalez, and the President of the Chamber of Commerce of the Republic of Cuba Antonio Luis Carriarte Corona.

In this webinar, the participants expressed their views on the cooperation capacities of the private sectors of the two

countries.

Speaking in the online meeting, Eshqi noted that the U.S. sanctions could be considered an opportunity for Iran and Cuba to expand economic ties in line with political cooperation.

"Despite the economic differences and the geographical distance between the two countries, Iran and Cuba are facing common challenges and have been facing the problems caused by sanctions for many years and have the experience of trade under the shadow of sanctions. The private sectors of the two countries can formulate a joint plan to continue cooperation and turn it into a joint roadmap," Eshqi said.

Eshghi proposed the establishment of a virtual TCCIMA office in the Cuban Chamber of Commerce and added: "By opening this office, the information of the members of the chambers of commerce of the two countries, their services, products, and capacities can be exchanged and made available to the other side."

Further in the online event, Sobhani referred to the good political relations between Iran and Cuba over the past 42 years and noted that unfortunately, economic and trade cooperation between the two countries has not progressed in line with political cooperation.

Finally, Gonzalez for his part expressed the Cuban private sector's interest in increasing trade between Iran and Cuba.

He welcomed the Tehran Chamber's proposal to open a virtual office in the Cuban Chamber of Commerce, saying: "Such activities will be very effective in promoting economic relations between the two sides."



From page 1 ► Energy crisis, empty supermarket shelves, labour shortage, widespread and deepening poverty, increasingly poor relations with neighbouring countries, failure to achieve bilateral trade deals, moral panic over refugees and migrants in general. No, this isn't the plight of a country in the Global South, lacking the benefits of a developed economy, this is the UK now, today.

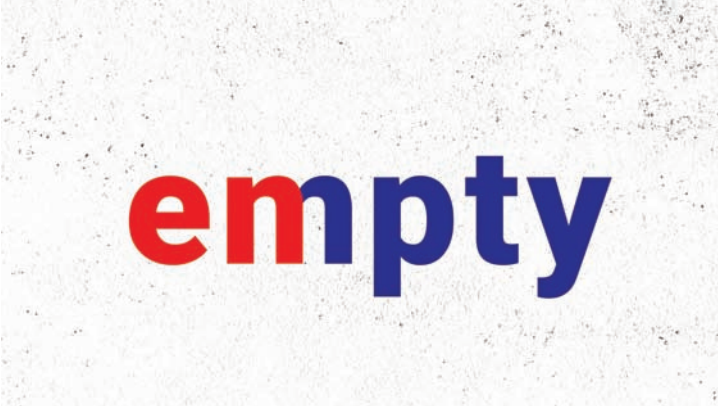
When Boris Johnson succeeded in replacing Theresa May as the country's leader in 2019, in his first speech to Parliament he set out a vision of Brexit Britain so utopian you could have lapsed into believing the country was on the cusp of a new golden age. Johnson even used the term 'golden age' in the speech, declaring that "we will look back on this period, this extraordinary period, as the beginning of a new golden age for our United Kingdom."

The extent to which Johnson's bombast was divorced from reality is measured, just over two years later, in growing shortages of certain foods, due to the interruption of frictionless trade with the rest of Europe, with some experts predicting that shortages will only get worse once the full regulatory and customs arrangements of Brexit come into force by next summer. The price of not only luxury items, but even basic items such as milk, eggs, and vegetables will rise in consequence; what with retailers guaranteed to pass on at least some of their increased costs in bureaucracy to import items from Europe and beyond.

Meanwhile, the shortage of truck drivers due to Brexit, due to EU nationals no longer being able to work and live in the UK, has reached 100,000 compared to pre-pandemic numbers. This has led to severe transportation delays with more shortages of everything from auto parts to furniture and construction materials, the result.

The energy crisis that has engulfed the UK, resulting in many energy companies going bust and the energy bills of hundreds of thousands of people going up exponentially, has a global dimension, in that countries such as China and India have increased their demand for gas as their economies have begun to bounce back after the worst of the pandemic. There is also the fact that Russia refuses

# Brexit is propelling Britain towards the door marked ‘failed state’



to increase production from the agreed level per its state energy company Gazprom's existing contract with the UK and other European markets.

Perhaps, in hindsight, it wasn't the best idea to embrace the role of America's Trojan Horse in the Europe when it came to supporting sanctions against Moscow and sabre rattling over Crimea and Ukraine.

This escalating energy crisis has been made even worse in Britain because of the unconscionable decision of Johnson's predecessor, Theresa May, to allow the closure of the country's then largest gas storage facility in 2017, thus significantly lowering the level of gas reserves the UK can store at any given time. However, the main thing this crisis reveals is that for-profit energy supply system has been a disaster for consumers since it was introduced in Britain the 1980s.

The threat to the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement threatens peace in Ireland, what with the

loyalist and Unionist community up in arms over the border down the Irish Sea that Johnson and his acolytes had pledged would not be established, bringing the UK-controlled Six Counties in the North of Ireland into the EU's trading and customs orbit in order to ensure than a hard border is not reintroduced between Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic.

As these words are being written, Boris Johnson is in Washington meeting his US counterpart, Joe Biden, who has made clear his concerns about the danger Brexit poses to peace in Ireland. At the same time, Johnson and his team have failed to make meaningful progress when it comes to striking the desperately-coveted bilateral trade deal with the US which he and other prominent Brexiteers assured the country would be straightforward.

Finally, turning to foreign policy, the recent formation of a US-UK-Australia military pact (Aukus) is a prime example of looking to the last century for

the answers to the challenges and issues of the one we happen to be living in. Formed, it is clear, with China in mind, Aukus is a desperate and futile attempt to counter China's growing assertion of global leadership.

This leadership is more than deserved. Beijing's stunning Belt and Road Initiative (BRI) is a transformational infrastructure and investment project that has successfully forged partnerships with governments all over the world. Meanwhile, the developmental model long preferred in Western capitals - establishing clients and satellites across the world at the end of bayonets with exploitation not partnership in mind - is in steep decline, unsurprisingly so given the instability and mayhem it has sown.

London's participation in Aukus is yet another act of desperation as it attempts to maintain relevancy and clout on the world stage, post-Brexit. French foreign minister, Jean-Yves le Drian, accurately described Britain's role in this new formation as 'opportunistic', and France has withdrawn from scheduled talks on defence with Britain in protest at what it views as a duplicitous attempt to undermine NATO. As for China, it has accused the powers involved of being in possession of an "outdated cold war zero sum mentality." More prosaically, a few short weeks after a humiliating and panicked departure from Afghanistan might not be the best time to be talking up the prospect of taking on China.

So now this is where the UK finds itself, crisis ridden at home and increasingly irrelevant abroad. Having made the mistake of getting drunk on British obscurantism, British society has woken up with a hangover. Brexit, the result of this bacchanalia of nationalism and nostalgia for empire, is the equivalent of a man walking backwards with his face to the future. As the 76th session of the UN General Assembly gets underway in New York, Brexit has propelled the UK not towards the new golden age promised by Prime Minister Boris Johnson, but instead towards the door marked failed state.

*John Wight is an author and political commentator based in Scotland.*

(Source: Press TV)

## US ‘sooner or later’ must recognize Taliban: Pakistan PM

Pakistan Prime Minister Imran Khan says the U.S. is in a state of 'shock and confusion' after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan.

Pakistan's Prime Minister Imran Khan has said the United States government will "sooner or later" have to recognize the Taliban, which now rules Afghanistan.

In a televised interview with the Turkish-state affiliated TRT World, Khan said on Saturday the U.S. is in a state of "shock and confusion" after the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan on August 15.

Khan also stated that the U.S. public is currently looking for a scapegoat and "unfairly targeting" U.S. President Joe Biden.

Critics have said the West-backed government collapsed following Biden's decision to pull out U.S. troops from Afghanistan. Despite intense pressure, Biden stuck to the August 31 deadline to withdraw troops, ending the US's longest war.

The U.S. troop withdrawal was part of an agreement with the Taliban signed under former President Donald Trump in 2020. The agreement signed in the Qatari capital Doha also asked the Taliban not to allow armed groups such as al-Qaeda to use Afghan soil to carry out attacks against the U.S. and its allies.

But the dramatic military takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban has prompted the U.S. and international financial



institutions to cut ties with the country. Afghan central bank assets worth more than \$9bn are frozen by the U.S. triggering a liquidity crisis.

The Pakistani prime minister stressed that if the U.S. does not unfreeze the Afghan reserves, the country could face a "chaotic situation", and that the U.S. has to come up with a solution.

Pakistan, which neighbors Afghanistan, fears that an economic and humanitarian crisis will have a spillover effect on it. It already hosts nearly 3.5 million Afghan refugees.

Islamabad is considered to have close ties with the Taliban, many of whose leadership stayed in Pakistan during the 20 years of war against the U.S. occupation. Khan's government has been calling on Western governments to deal with the Taliban.

When Khan was asked if he was "pro-Taliban", he responded that he is "anti-

military solutions" and that the only way to solve the conflict in Afghanistan is through peaceful means.

Khan went on to say that Pakistan alone recognizing Taliban would not "make much difference" but a joint recognition of regional powers and neighbors would be a better solution.

During the interview, Khan revealed that his government is currently in peace talks with some of the groups within the Pakistan Taliban, known by the acronym TTP, and he further revealed that the talks are being held in Afghanistan and if reconciliation is achieved, members of the organization would be "forgiven".

The Pakistani prime minister said the concern on human rights abuses should not be "selective" in the international community and that the lockdown of Indian-administered Kashmir by the Indian military should also be addressed.

He pointed out that Afghanistan is currently passing through a historical stage and was either moving towards stability after the wars that lasted four decades, or going in the wrong direction, chaos and a huge humanitarian and refugee crises which will affect all of Afghanistan's neighbors.

In response to the question about the relations between Pakistan and the U.S., Khan said the two countries are in constant contact with each other.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

## New Zealand's opposition leader slams the U.S. for being “foolish”

TEHRAN - Judith Collins, leader of the center-right National Party, called the United States "foolish" for withdrawing from the free trade agreement and opening the door for China to increase its presence in the Pacific region.

"If any criticism comes to New Zealand, as it often does about this close relationship with China and trade, my answer to everybody - whether they're the U.S. or UK - is: 'So where's our free trade agreement?'" she said in an interview with the Guardian.

In 2017, Former U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the Trans-Pacific Partnership trade deal (TPP) and did not join its replacement, the CPTPP. Last year New Zealand began talks with the UK on a post-Brexit free trade deal, which has not yet been made.

"What they did is that they opened up the gates for China to be even more important in the Pacific

and Indo-Pacific region. They opened that up, and they left the door open, and they were ultimately foolish to do so. And that has actually caused the issue," Collins said, criticizing the U.S. "Stop judging New Zealand by the fact that we are a little country at the bottom of the world who has to trade. That's how we do it. That's how we pay for everything we need." She

### China is New Zealand's biggest trading partner by a large margin.

## How to ensure Afghanistan isn't the graveyard of European defense



concert to confront this and other threats—from transnational terrorist groups and migration along NATO's southern flank to an increasingly provocative Russia. Growing cyber capabilities, sophisticated space and hypersonic weapons, and perfected "gray zone" activities below the threshold of armed conflict make NATO's adversaries as formidable as anything the alliance has faced since its inception.

As NATO aims to complete its new Strategic Concept by the middle of next year, its leadership would be wise to keep these dynamics in mind.

### Why cooperation is key

The world is trending toward strategic competition as advances in technology shake up international norms and behaviors, meaning the NATO Alliance must adapt to not only face modern threats but also to define and shape the world in which it operates. It must embrace its transatlantic nature and engage globally. This includes divesting from obsolete platforms, such as the Panavia Tornado combat jet, while also investing in cutting-edge technologies, such as autonomous systems and quantum communications, and ensuring through clear political will that great-power adversaries are effectively deterred through strength.

NATO should also ensure that the strengths of its individual members are amplified across the Alliance—whether it's Estonian aptitude in cyberspace, German engineering, or American power projection.

Luckily, initiatives such as the EU-led Permanent Structured Cooperation (PESCO) can serve both the needs of NATO and the EU's goal of strategic autonomy. With twenty-five of the twenty-seven EU member states and projects focused on everything from training and support functions to the application of military force across all domains of warfare, PESCO can significantly boost the EU's power projection while simultaneously enhancing NATO's operational capabilities across the continent and beyond. Among these projects, military mobility remains crucial to deploying troops and materiel in a timely manner.

In an excellent example of transatlantic cooperation between EU and NATO partners, the United States, Canada, and Norway are reportedly set to join a Dutch-led military mobility project within the PESCO framework, with significant benefits for both NATO and the EU. This move would make good on a 2018 Joint Declaration on EU-NATO Cooperation, which called for swift and demonstrable progress in military mobility, among other areas.

Such projects will improve interoperability and coordination, as well as sharpen the edge of the capabilities needed to deter, fight, and defeat the emerging threats of the twenty-first century.

As President of the European Commission Ursula von der Leyen noted in her 2021 State of the Union address, there are troubling questions within NATO that need to be addressed, but "there is simply no security and defense issue where less cooperation is the answer." In this context, the lessons of Afghanistan must be learned and applied in the future. Stronger cooperation, interoperability, and a renewed push for solidarity across NATO and the EU will serve to strengthen not only Europe and the United States, but their allies and partners across the globe.

(Source: Atlantic Council)

## Twitter allowed the Taliban to tweet, not me: Donald Trump appeals to the court

TEHRAN - Former US President Donald Trump's attorneys have appealed to a federal judge in Florida to reclaim his Twitter account. They said that the Taliban had been allowed to tweet while he had been censored.

According to Florida court documents, former US President Donald Trump recently asked a federal judge to reactivate his Twitter account.

In a lawsuit, Trump's lawyers accused Democrats in Congress and the Biden administration of refusing to allow Trump to return to Twitter by pressuring the social network.

His lawyers also claimed that the Taliban in Afghanistan

may have a media presence on Twitter but that the former US president would be banned from Twitter forever, even before the end of his presidency.

The ex-president's Twitter account was permanently suspended this year after the Capitol Hill riots on January 6. Also, other social media companies followed Twitter and took action against Donald Trump.

"Due to the ongoing tensions in the United States, and an uptick in the global conversation in regards to the people who violently stormed the Capitol on January 6, 2021, these two Tweets must be read in the context of broader

events in the country and the ways in which the President's statements can be mobilized by different audiences, including to incite violence, as well as in the context of the pattern of behavior from this account in recent weeks," Twitter said in a statement.

Trump used Twitter as the main forum to spread his words, and more than 88 million people followed him on Twitter.

His attorneys stated Twitter "exercises a degree of power and control over political discourse in this country that is immeasurable, historically unprecedented, and profoundly dangerous to open democratic debate."



## Coronavirus: Mehregan observed online to renew friendships



From page 1 ► The legend says Mehregan was a day of victory for Fereydoon and Kaveh, who overcame Zahak. They imprisoned him in Mount Damavand where he later died of his wounds. After the capture of Zahak, Fereydoon was nominated as the king and the people celebrate this occasion with great fervor. The story has been narrated in Shahnameh, a long epic poem by the illustrated Persian poet Ferdowsi (940-1020 CE).

## 80 sites in Ardestan in line for excavation

TEHRAN – A total of 80 ancient sites, scattered across Ardestan county in central Iran, need to undergo archaeological excavation, the Ardestan tourism chief said on Sunday.

It is necessary to develop appropriate plans to explore the historical sites across Ardakan examining them in terms of archaeology and human civilization, Mehdi Mashhadi said, IRNA reported.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the official referred to the Jameh Mosque of Ardestan, which is one of the earliest Islamic structures in central Iran, saying the monument will be put forward for a possible registration on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Located in Isfahan province, the two-story hypostyle mosque has a four-porquio (ivan) courtyard surrounded by encircling arcades. The place of worship is part of larger premises that also include other mudbrick structures such as a cistern, a caravanserai, a marketplace, a bathhouse, and a madrasa.

## 20,000 travelers toured lesser-known Ilam province

TEHRAN – Over 20,000 travelers toured Ilam province over the past 12 months, CHTN reported on Saturday.

Of the figure 13,936 domestic travelers and 1,335 international vacationers made overnight stays in hotels, hostels, eco-lodge unites, and guesthouses during the period, the report said.

Some experts and officials believe the lesser-known province has immense potential to be put on the tourism map.

On September 24, Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi paid a visit to Ilam where he urged his administration to make extra efforts to fully develop the tourism-related economy in the southwestern province.

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

Ilam is located on the foothills of the Zagros Mountains in the western region of Iran. Unlike The

Yazd, the cradle of Zoroastrianism, is one of the unavoidable tourist destinations in Iran. In July 2017, the historical texture of the city of Yazd was named a UNESCO World Heritage.

Wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and the southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain, the oasis city enjoys a very harmonious public-religious architecture that dates from different eras.

With its winding lanes, a forest of badgirs (wind catchers), mud-brick houses, atmospheric alleyways, and centuries of history, Yazd is a delightful place to stay, referring to as a 'don't miss' destination by almost all travel associates in the region.

Yazd Jameh Mosque, Dowlatabad Garden, the Yazd Atash Behram, also known as Atashkadeh-e Yazd, Towers of Silence, and adjacent desert landscape are among its tourist sites.

Iran seeks to register Mehriban jointly with Tajikistan on the intangible cultural heritage list of UNESCO.

Ardestan is located at the southern foothills of the Karkas mountain chain in Isfahan province. It is believed the city has been founded in Sassanian times and was strongly fortified in the 10th century.

The first well-documented evidence of human habitation in the Iranian plateau is in deposits from several excavated cave and rock-shelter sites, located mainly in the Zagros Mountains of western Iran and dated to Middle Paleolithic or Mousterian times (c. 100,000 BC).

From the Caspian in the northwest to Baluchistan in the south-east, the Iranian Plateau extends for close to 2,000 km. It encompasses the greater part of Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan west of the Indus River containing some 3,700,000 square kilometers. Despite being called a "plateau", it is far from flat but contains several mountain ranges, the highest peak being Damavand in the Alborz mountain range at 5610 meters, and the Dasht-e Lout east of Kerman in central Iran falling below 300 meters.

north and northwest part of this province which is mountainous, the west and southwest are flat. It is a suitable place for nomad life since the geographical conditions are favorable for summer and winter relocation.

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

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

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



TEHRAN-The vaccination of hoteliers and hotel staff against coronavirus has reached 70 percent to date, the head of the Association of Iranian Hoteliers has announced.

Vaccination has been widespread in most Iranian provinces, but in total, more than 70% of all hotel staff has received both vaccine doses, as well as a vaccination card, ISNA quoted Jamshid Hamzehzadeh as saying on Sunday.

Following the lifting of travel restrictions for people who were vaccinated with two doses of the vaccine, and the government's decision to resume issuing tourist visas, hotels around the country are ready to welcome domestic and foreign travelers in near future, the official added.

With the vaccination of hotel staff, the hotels are back to accepting tourists, possibly marking the start of a new era in the country's tourism industry since the beginning of the coronavirus outbreak, he explained.

There is hope that domestic and international tourism will bounce back in Iran and the hospitality industry will be compensated for some of the damages caused by the pandemic, he mentioned.

He also noted that Iranian hotels have lost 202 trillion rials (some \$4.8 billion at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) of potential revenues due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Two-thirds of the hotel staff have lost their jobs as well, he added.

Earlier in September, Hamzehzadeh announced that all employees of accommodation centers across Iran are scheduled to be vaccinated against the

# 70% of Iranian hotel employees vaccinated against coronavirus



coronavirus.

"To vaccinate staffs of all accommodation centers, including eco-lodges, apartment hotels, and guest houses, as well as hotels, more coordination with the Ministry of Health is needed," he added.

**COVID-19 causes damage to Iran tourism**

Back in July ISNA reported that the tourism industry of the country has

suffered a loss of some 320 trillion rials (\$7.6 billion at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

The pandemic has also ruined more than 44,000 jobs in a once budding travel sector of the country, the report added.

Experts believe accommodation centers suffered the most as a result of the outbreak of the coronavirus in Iran and its subsequent unemployment and

## Iranian, Turkish experts discuss ways to reinforce health tourism

TEHRAN – An expert gathering in Van, Turkey, on Saturday discussed collaborations and exchange of studies and experiences related to health tourism between Van and the Iranian city of Maragheh in East Azarbaijan province.

Experts affiliated with Maragheh Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department and their fellows from Van Yüzüncü Yil University discussed ways to enhance cooperation in health tourism in both cities, provincial tourism official Yaghub Talebi said on Sunday, CHTN reported.

"Both sides have good experiences in developing health tourism, and by exchanging them we can accelerate the development of this field," the official explained.

The beneficial mineral water and spas and pleasant climate make Maragheh a considerable destination for health tourism development, he noted.

Van University's studies in the field of medical and health tourism can provide a valuable contribution to the promotion of Maragheh's attractions, he mentioned.

Historically speaking, Maragheh and Van have long lived in the same geographical area under the Urartu Kingdom, which has caused relations between



northwestern Iran and eastern Turkey to develop over the centuries, he added.

The developing health tourism industry is one of the most important fields of Iran's travel sector, which is trying to prove its capabilities and capacities in attracting medical and health tourists to the country.

Many domestic experts believe that medical tourism in Iran is a win-win opportunity both for the country and foreign patients, as they are offered affordable yet quality treatment services and the country gains considerable foreign currency.

Iran is one of the major destinations for health tourism in the region, and patients with 55 different

nationalities, mostly from neighboring countries including Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan are seeking to use Iran's services and facilities in this field. Iran's two most popular medical tourist cities are Tehran and Mashhad, but the coronavirus outbreak has significantly reduced the number of travelers.

Iranian hospitals admitted nearly 70,000 foreign patients over the Iranian calendar year 1397 (March 2018 – March 2019) and it made an economic contribution of around \$1.2 billion to the country, according to the medical tourism department at the Ministry of Health.

In April 2018, the rotating presidency of the International Health Tourism Conference of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was handed to the Islamic Republic for a three-year term.

Mohammad Jahangiri who presides over a national center for developing health tourism said in May 2018 that Iran can annually earn \$7 billion in medical and health tourism, though the sector now brings in only one-seventh or even lesser of the sum. The Islamic Republic has set its goals to exceed its yearly medical travelers to around 2 million in the Iranian calendar year 1404.

## Iran ready to restore Syria's tourism infrastructure damaged by ISIS

TEHRAN- Iran is prepared to repair and restore Syrian historical monuments and tourism infrastructure that have been destroyed by the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria (ISIS), the deputy tourism minister Ali-Asghar Shalbafian has announced.

He made the remarks during a meeting with the Syrian Minister of Economy and Foreign Trade Mohammad Samer al-Khalil on Sunday in the Expo 2020 Dubai.

"The Iranian restorers can then exchange experiences with Syrian specialists," the official added.

He also emphasized Iran's readiness to strengthen communication and develop tourism ties between the two countries.

"Health tourism and medical tourism is one of Iran's most important strengths in the tourism sector, and we welcome Syrian tourists to make use of this opportunity," he noted.

Al-Khalil for his part said that there is an increasing interest among Syrian tourists in visiting Iran, especially its northern coasts, as well as to Iranian holy cities, so the necessary grounds need to be created.

The Expo 2020 Dubai opened on Thursday with a lavish ceremony of fireworks, music, and messaging about the power of global collaboration for a more sustainable future.

Iran's pavilion in the world fair is planned to showcase each Iranian province's strengths and assets in

tourism, cultural heritage, handicrafts, as well as its natural sites, traditional ceremonial practices, and historical significance.

Many countries and companies are also looking to the expo – the first major global event open to visitors since the coronavirus pandemic – to boost trade and investment.

According to organizers, the Expo, an exhibition of culture, technology, and architecture under the banner "Connecting Minds and Creating the Future", is expected to be a demonstration of ingenuity, and a place where global challenges such as climate change, conflict, and economic growth can be addressed together.

The Persian Gulf state has relaxed

financial losses.

The following statistics cover the period between February 2020 and the spring of 2021:

- The accommodation centers took some 280 trillion rials (\$6.6 billion) hit from the virus, while over 21,000 workers in these centers have lost their jobs over the mentioned time.

- Tourism agencies became the second most affected group in the tourism industry, with over 10 trillion rials (\$238 million) of damage and more than 6,000 unemployed people since the outbreak.

**Government 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.

## 24 handicraft training courses held in Zanjan

TEHRAN – A total of 24 handicraft training courses were conducted in various cities across the northwestern Zanjan province during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year 1400 (started March 21).

The courses were held in the fields of filigree, kilim, jajim, traditional jewelry, cutting semi-precious stones, copperware, and traditional textile, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

Over 240 people have been trained as crafters during the courses, which aimed at reviving indigenous arts, helping home-based businesses, improving the region's economy, and supporting sustainable production and employment in rural areas, Elnaz Khodafard announced on Saturday.

Earlier in August, the official announced that prisons across the province have been offering handicraft training courses in a bid to empower the inmates.

The courses, which have been held by the experienced handicrafts masters, are also intended to generate employment for inmates in the post-prison period and become a source of income for them, she added.

According to the provincial tourism



chief Amir Arjmand, handicraft products worth more than \$1.3 million were exported from Zanjan province in the previous Iranian calendar year.

Handicrafts provided a very good capacity to generate income and jobs, and led to the development of the province, he mentioned.

"Zanjan, as one of the most important provinces of metal handicrafts in the country, has a prominent position in production, and handicraft artists of the province are at the forefront of production."

He also said Zanjan's handicrafts, including knives, Giveh (kind of traditional shoe), traditional jewelry, leather products, and tapestry are mostly

exported to Iraq, the Persian Gulf littoral states, Turkey, and European countries.

Knifemaking is one of the oldest handicrafts practiced for centuries in several Iranian cities, of which the northwestern city of Zanajn is the most famous.

Knives, swords, and daggers were produced and a lot of knife-making workshops were active in these cities. But due to their design, cut, diversity, and durability, Zanjan knives have been the most successful.

Hand-made copper dishes are very popular in the central province of Isfahan and Zanjan. In addition to being useful for human health, these products can also be used as decorative pieces and are considered to be superb works of art.

Filigree consists of curling, twisting, or plating fine, pliable metal threads and soldering them at their points of contact with each other with metal groundwork.

In January 2020, Zanjan was designated as a "world city of filigree" by the World Crafts Council after the WCC assessors visited various craft workshops, stores, exhibits, and bazaars of the city in a two-day itinerary in December 2019.

### First Announcement



National Iranian Oil Company

N.I.S.O.C

### NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER No. : 08-38 -9940004

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity	unit
	SLICKLINE, SPOOLED ON IRON REEL, H2S, CO2 AND CHLORIDE ION TRIM TYPE: SUPA-75 OR SANICRO-26 MATERIAL: HIGH CROSION RESISTANCE, STAINLESS STEEL UNS N08926(AlLOY 25-6 MO) NDT TEST INCLUDING EDDY CURRENT TEST AND ALSO WRAP TEST SHOULD BE ERFORMED & DOCUMENTED DIAMETER & LENGTH AS SPECIFIED: REF. "SANDVIK (ZAP-GROUP)", "BRIDON"		
01	SIZE 0.082 INCH X 15000 FEET	47	RL

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 2., available at: [www.nisoc.ir](http://www.nisoc.ir), not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 18,523 EURO or 4,892,500,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: [www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab](http://www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab)

**ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN**  
**PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL**  
**NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID**

**FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT**  
**Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex**  
**Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran Tel. No.: 061 34 12 35 89 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37**  
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تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۱۴۰۰/۷/۱۲



# Knowledge-based firms come to meet mining industry's needs

TEHRAN – The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology will hold an event for introducing the technological needs of the mining industries to address the challenges of this field.

To be held on October 11, the event will present the technological needs of the mining industries in an innovative way to accelerate communication between idea owners, talented persons, technologists, knowledge-based companies, organizations, and industries.

Water and energy management in mining and mineral industries, new technologies in mining, digital transformation and smart functioning of mining industries, construction, and repair of mining parts and machinery, new methods of deep exploration, drilling and firefighting, extraction and processing of rare elements are among the main issues of this event.

The event provides a platform to meet the technological challenges of this sector and use the expertise of elites, universities, and scientific and research centers in this regard.

Supporting start-ups and knowledge-based and technological companies active in this field is also one of the approaches. Improving the supply and demand of technology in



the mining industry is another measure that takes place by holding this event.

### Iranian knowledge-based firms

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

The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology has paved the way for research and production of technological products by supporting 7,000 projects over the past 8 years.

There are currently 6,263 knowledge-based companies operating in the country, offering advanced products and services in various fields of technology to domestic and foreign

markets, and some of them have entered international markets, Siavash Maleki, deputy head of the Fund stated.

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

## Tackle plastic pollution urgently, scientists urge world leaders

Scientists are warning politicians that while they focus on combating climate change, they shouldn't sideline plastic pollution, as together, they're making matters worse.

They urge that instead, they should be seen together as one big issue that needs to be tackled instantly.

This is according to a study published by researchers from the Zoological Society of London and Bangor University. As a part of the study, the team highlighted three crucial ways climate change and plastic pollution are connected, India Times reported.

Firstly, they highlight that manufacturing plastic goods releases a ton of greenhouse gas emissions. This is not just causing more of the plastic waste to be generated but its process is also gradually affecting the air with emissions.

Secondly, extreme weather events such as floods, typhoons that are a result of climate change cause immense devastation. This devastation is contributing to the dispersal of plastic pollution in the sea, affecting marine life along the way.

Thirdly, they spoke about how climate change and plastic pollution is affecting the life of marine habitat. The heating of seas and oceans due to climate change is also affecting coral reefs as well as marine habitats. On the other hand, plastic is being ingested by marine animals and several habitats have been found loaded with microplastics.

The ZSL team estimates that between 2015 and 2020, plastic production has emitted 56 billion megatons of CO2. This according to them is around 10 to 13 percent of the entire global carbon budget.

Researchers are urging nations and politicians to



take both these issues together and not separately. Professor Heather Koldewey from ZSL said, "Plastic pollution is also having a global impact; from the top of Mount Everest to the deepest parts of our ocean. Both are having a detrimental effect on ocean biodiversity."

She added, "The compounding impact of both crises just exacerbates the problem. It's not a case of debating which issue is most important, it's recognising that the two crises are interconnected and require joint solutions."

Helen Ford, from Bangor University, who led the study, further explained, "I have seen how even the most remote coral reefs are experiencing widespread coral death through global warming-caused mass bleaching. Plastic pollution is yet another threat to these stressed ecosystems."

She added, "Our study shows that changes are already occurring from both plastic pollution and climate change that are affecting marine organisms across marine ecosystems and food webs, from the smallest plankton to the largest whale."

## Blame air pollution for over 6 million premature births globally, says study



Air pollution is the root cause of several health ailments and now researchers state that it is also responsible for causing premature births worldwide.

Reported first by the Guardian, this is according to the analysis of multiple scientific studies, which is the first to calculate the total global impact of outdoor and indoor air pollution, together, according to India Times.

Indoor pollution that's caused by the burning of coal, wood amounts to almost two-thirds of the total pollution burden on pregnancies in 2019. This was seen to be more prevalent in developing areas such as south-east Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.

According to Rakesh Ghosh, an epidemiologist at the University of California, San Francisco and lead researcher on the paper, at an individual level, indoor air pollution exposure can do more harm than outdoor pollution.

For the study, researchers looked at 108 research

papers on indoor and outdoor pollution in correlation with four major pregnancy risks -- gestation age at birth, reduction in birth weight, premature birth and low birth weight for a total of 204 nations.

After fine-tuning risk factors like pregnancy weight, smoking, nutrition and alcohol use, researchers found that air pollution resulted in lower birth weight and premature birth. Premature births contribute to over 15 million newborn deaths across the world each year.

Ghosh highlights that by reducing air pollution in the aforementioned developing nations, cases of premature births and low birth weight could be slashed by 78 percent.

He added, "The air pollution-attributable burden is enormous, yet with sufficient effort, it could be largely mitigated. "With this new, global and more rigorously generated evidence, air pollution should now be considered a major driver of infant morbidity and mortality, not just of chronic adult diseases."

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON OCTOBER 3

New cases	12,428
New deaths	229
Total cases	5,624,128
Total deaths	121,109
New hospitalized patients	1,667
Patients in critical condition	5,758
Total recovered patients	5,095,627
Diagnostic tests conducted	32,517,316
Doses of vaccine injected	57,677,014

## Philanthropists release 3,600 inmates in 6 months



TEHRAN – Iranian philanthropists freed 3,689 prisoners of involuntary crimes over the past six months, Asadollah Joolaei, head of Blood Money Organization, has said.

Freeing prisoners of involuntary crimes is done in three ways. The first way is granting prisoners leave and the second way is providing a number of them with loans to be paid inside the prison.

The third way of assistance is the release of unin-

tentional convicts by paying their debt.

Some 3,542 male and 147 female prisoners, who were convicts or financial crimes, have been released, he stated, adding, a total of 13 trillion rials (nearly \$309 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been the debt of the released prisoners.

Since 1990, more than 150,000 unintentional crime doers who had debts have been freed, he further noted.

Currently, there are 10,680 prisoners of unintentional crimes in the country, of whom 4,673 are eligible for assistance, he stated, adding, Tehran with 999 prisoners has the most unintentional crime prisoners, Sistan-Baluchestan with 26 and Hormozgan with 46; have the smallest prisoner population.

### 14,600 inmates freed last year

Iranian benefactors helped release a total of 14,681 inmates of unintentional crimes across the country over the past Iranian calendar year (March 2020-March 2021), Hadi Sadeghi, an official with

the Judiciary, has said.

Last year, a total of 35 trillion rials (nearly \$833 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been donated to pay the debt of the released prisoners.

As an annual tradition, benefactors come together in a ceremony to raise funds for releasing prisoners of unintentional crimes during the holy month of Ramadan (which started on April 13 this year), through which, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has donated 5 billion rials (about \$120,000).

Last year, heads of the three branches of the government and the private sector donated 6.5 billion rials (nearly \$150,000) to release prisoners who had committed involuntary crimes.

Former President Hassan Rouhani, former Parliament Speaker Ali Larijani, and former Judiciary Chief Ebrahim Raisi made a total of 3.9 billion rials (around \$92,000) in contributions to free prisoners of unintentional crimes.

## Life expectancy among Iranians increased in recent years

From page 1 ► Demographic research suggests that at the beginning of the 19th century no country in the world had a life expectancy longer than 40 years. Over the next 150 years, some parts of the world achieved substantial health improvements.

Today most people in the world can expect to live as long as those in the very richest countries in 1950. The United Nations estimates a global average life expectancy of 72.6 years for 2019 – the global average today is higher than in any country back in 1950. According to the UN estimates the country with the best health in 1950 was Norway with a life expectancy of 72.3 years.

Globally the life expectancy increased from less than 30 years to over 72



years; after two centuries of progress.

### Iran's demographic issue

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

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.

The fertility rate in Iran has been declining over the past eight years, the lowest of which was related to the past [Iranian calendar] year (March 2019- March 2020) with a birth rate of 1.2, according to the data published by the Statistics Center.

Population decline comes up with consequences, including the reduction of the working population (aged 15 to 64) and the aging population in the coming decades.

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.

## Salajeqeh appointed as new DOE chief

TEHRAN – President Ebrahim Raisi has appointed Ali Salajeqeh as the new head of the Department of Environment (DOE) for four years.

He replaced Issa Kalantari who served the position since 2017.

Salajeqeh holds a Ph.D. in Water Resources Engineering from UCF's College of Engineering and

Computer Science in Florida.

He also holds a Bachelor of Natural Resources Engineering, Watershed Management, a Master of Watershed Engineering, and a Ph.D. in River Engineering from the University of Tehran.

He was also appointed as the deputy agriculture minister and managing director of Forests, Rangelands

and Watershed Management Organization in 2010.

Director-general of the DOE office of sustainable development, secretary of the national committee for sustainable development of the DOE, director general for public participation at the DOE, and chancellor of the college of agriculture and natural resource (University of Tehran) are some of his working experiences.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### Wildfire burns 400 ha of protected areas within 3 months

Some 400 hectares of the protected areas turned into ashes due to raging wildfire, since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21), head of the Department of Environment's (DOE) protection unit has stated.

He went on to say that so far wildfires broke out in 14 provinces, mostly in areas located near the Zagros foothills, such as of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad, Chaharmahal and Bakhtiari, Lorestan, Fars, northern provinces and Tehran.

Provinces of Kalgiluyeh and Boyer Ahmad, Tehran set record highs for the wildfires, IRNA news agency quoted Jamshid Mohabbat Khani as saying on Sunday.

Mohabbat Khani also highlighted that 62 cases of wildfires caused 400 hectares of the protected areas to turn into ashes since past three months, out of which 8 cases sparked by lightning.

### وقوع آتش سوزی در ۴۰۰ هکتار مناطق محیط زیستی از ابتدای امسال

فرمانده یگان حفاظت محیط زیست خبر داد: از ابتدای امسال تاکنون حدود ۴۰۰ هکتار از مناطق تحت مدیریت سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست دچار آتش سوزی شده است. جمشید محبت‌خانی روز یکشنبه در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار علمی ایرنا افزود: در واقع از ابتدای امسال در ۱۴ استان آتش سوزی داشتیم که فراوانی مکانی آنها بیشتر در استان‌های زاگرس مانند کهگیلویه و بویراحمد، چهارمحال و بختیاری، لرستان، فارس، استان‌های شمالی و تهران در مناطق خنجر بود که استان کهگیلویه و بویراحمد و تهران به ترتیب بیشترین آتش سوزی را داشتند. محبت‌خانی گفت: بیشترین آتش سوزی را به ترتیب استان‌های کهگیلویه و بویراحمد و تهران داشتند. وی اظهار داشت: از ابتدای امسال تاکنون ۶۲ مورد آتش سوزی داشتیم که بر اثر آن حدود ۴۰۰ هکتار از مناطق تحت پوشش سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست دچار آتش سوزی شده‌اند که علت بروز ۷ تا ۸ مورد از آنها طبیعی مثلاً به علت وقوع رعد و برق بوده است.



TEHRAN TIMES





Tehrantimes79

www.tehrantimes.com

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

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

OCTOBER 4, 2021

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The best form of devotion to the service of Allah is not to make a show of it.  
**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times » Noon:11:53    Evening: 18:02    Dawn: 4:39 (tomorrow)    Sunrise: 6:02 (tomorrow)

## Art in Iran: History of Parthian art

Part 7  
**New Persian (Farsi), Judeo-Persian, Tajik, and other local varieties of Persian**

New Persian, the descendant of Middle Persian and official language of Iranian states for centuries, is today spoken widely in and outside Iran in a number of variants.

Standard New Persian is today a literary language, from which the spoken variants, for instance in the large cities, notably, Tehran, differ considerably in phonology and lexicon.

Major variants are those spoken in eastern Iran (Khorasani), Afghanistan (“Dari”), and Tajikistan and adjacent areas. Tajik Persian is in turn subdivided into several dialects, characterized among other things by varying degrees of Turkic influence.

The oldest records of Persian are the Judeo-Persian inscriptions at Tang-e Azao in Afghanistan; a Judeo-Persian document probably dating from the 2nd half of the 8th century found at Dandan Oiliq in Khotan; and the tri-lingual (Arabic, Pahlavi, Judeo-Persian) copper tablets from a Christian church in Quilon, Malabar, from ca. 824. Later inscriptions include those from Ghur in Afghanistan dating from the 12th-13th centuries.

Dating from about the same time are several Persian texts from Turfan written in the Manichean script and a fragment of the Psalms in Syriac script from Bulayiq/Turfan.

The earliest Persian court poetry dates to the 9th century, and the oldest sample of Modern Persian prose literature is the preface to the Shahnameh of Abu Mansur Mohammad ibn Abd al-Razzaq, completed in 957, while the first comprehensive literary texts are the Tarikh-e Tabari (begun in 963-64) and Tarjoma-ye Tafsir-e Tabari.

From the 10th-11th centuries there are Quran translations and commentaries (tafsir) and Judeo-Persian texts, mostly translations of the Old Testament, but also inscriptions and various secular documents, among them a law report from Ahwaz in the Bodleian Library, Oxford dated “1332,” corresponding to 1021 CE; a land sale deed in the British Library, probably dated 1010-11, but possibly 1107-08; and several manuscripts from the 11th-13th centuries discovered at Bamian, Afghanistan, some by the French Archeological Mission.

A Persian poem in Nestorian Syriac script is found in a manuscript dated to the 13th century containing a Nestorian ritual.

The earliest Persian Bible translations were several anonymous ones dating from the 13th-14th centuries and the completely preserved one by Jacob ben Joseph Tavus, which was included in the Constantinople Pentateuch from 1546. The earliest Bible commentaries are slightly earlier, even, than the translations.

The sources indicate a division into a northern and a southern dialect of Persian. The northern dialect is the basis for the later literary language, while the southern dialect (seen in the Quran-e Qods written in Sistan) exhibits features that are also found in modern dialects, as well as in certain Pazand texts.

Still unstudied are the late Pahlavi translations, for instance of the Khordeh Avesta, which exhibit numerous Modern Persian features.

Colloquial Persian and local variants, both from Iran and Afghanistan, were recorded and/or described from the mid-19th century on, e.g., Trumpp.

Early collections of prose and poetry include Browne (1895: Persian dialect poetry from Shiraz, Ray, Behbahan, including poems by Baba Taher, Sadi, Hafez); Zhukovskii; Ivanow (several collections of Khorasani Persian prose and poetry; Christensen (1930, 1935: stories in colloquial Tehrani Persian); and Lorimer (1928: Kermani). Among studies of modern

*The Gospel of Matthew in Balochi Language published by Bible Society.*

Tehrani Persian is Jahangiri.  
From Baluchistan there is a brief description of Dehvari Persian spoken in Saravan by Denis Bray.

Grierson also included specimens of Badakhshani Persian in the Linguistic Survey, and D. L. R. Lorimer studied the phonology of Badakhshani and Madaglashti Persian spoken in Afghanistan with text specimens. More recent is Rozenfeld’s study.

Persian has been written in various scripts: Arabic, Avestan (so-called Pazand), Hebrew (Judeo-Persian), Syriac, Manichean, and Cyrillic (Tajik).

**Southeastern Iran**  
There are four main groups of dialects in southeastern Iran: Larestani; dialects spoken from Jiroft and Kahnui to Bandar-e Abbas (with Hormoz); Bashkardi, North and South. Kumzari, once spoken on the Musandam peninsula across the Strait of Hormoz, appears to be intermediate between the Fars and Larestani-Bandari dialects.

The dialects of the island of Qeshm and along the coast north of Bandar-e Abbas have not yet been investigated.

The earliest studies were of Larestani and of Kumzari. Bashkardi words were first recorded by Floyer (1882).  
Minabi and Bahskardi are currently being studied by Gerardo Barbera. Work has also begun on Ilya Gershevitch’s Bahskardi material, now in the Ancient India-Iran Trust in Cambridge, UK.

**Balochi**  
Balochi (in several dialects) is spoken in eastern Iran and western Pakistan, but also in southern Afghanistan and Central Asia. Its written literature goes back to the 18th century, and it has a considerable popular literature, notably stories and ballads, which were first collected by A. Lewis (1855) and M. I. Dames (1907).

The earliest descriptions of Balochi date to the early 19th century. Up-to-date descriptions by Geiger and Grierson were included in the Grundriss and the Linguistic Survey of India. Subsequent studies include Zarubin (1932-49) and modern publications by J. Elfenbein.

Grammars and introductions to Balchi include Rastorgueva (1966), Barker and Mengal, and Collett (Kechi dialect spoken in Oman).

Balochi is written in the Pakistani variant of the Arabo-Persian script, with additional diacritics for the retroflex consonants.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica  
To be continued

From Page 1 ▶ “The Matenadaran is a major cultural and scientific center in Armenia that preserves a unique treasure trove of manuscripts in Transcaucasia,” Tabatabai said at the meeting.

“Due to the Iranian and Islamic manuscripts preserved at the Matenadaran, it is like a window on the mysterious world of Iranian art and culture, which can quench any scholar’s thirst for knowledge on manuscript issues,” he added.

The Matenadaran has recently asked Iran to organize a workshop to be given by an Iranian scholar at the museum on the restoration of manuscripts with lacquered covers.

Tabatabai said that the workshop will be held in the near future and noted, “This workshop can be a great step in the preservation of Iranian manuscripts in the museum and also help expand cultural relations between Iran and Armenia.”

Ter-Ghevondyan also expressed thanks to the Iranian Cultural Center in Yerevan over its close cooperation with the Matenadaran and said that the workshop will help improve the preservation of the Persian manuscripts in the museum.

He also announced plans to organize special exhibitions and sessions on Iranian objects being preserved at the museum and called on Tabatabai to visit the cultural programs.

The Matenadaran – Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts – home to Islamic manuscripts now contains a total of 2715 volumes, 450 of which are in Persian.

# Iran seeks closer cooperation with Armenia on manuscript restoration

*The Matenadaran – Mesrop Mashtots Institute of Ancient Manuscripts, Yerevan, Armenia.*

The museum was established in 1959 on the basis of the nationalized collection of the Armenian Church, formerly held at Etchmiadzin.

Its collection has gradually risen since its establishment, mostly from

individual donations. One of the most prominent landmarks of Yerevan, it is named after Mesrop Mashtots, the inventor of the Armenian alphabet, whose statue stands in front of the building.

The collection features a rare manuscript copy of Persian poet Abolqasem Ferdowsi’s epic masterpiece Shahnameh ordered by the Timurid prince Baysanghur ibn Shah Rukh ibn Timur (d. 1433).

## “The Wasteland”, “Sun Children” get four Asian Film Award nods

TEHRAN – Iranian movies “The Wasteland” and “Sun Children” have each received two nominations at the 15th Asian Film Awards, which will be held in Busan, South Korea.

Ahmad Bahrami has been nominated for the best new director award for his debut film “The Wasteland”.

The other contenders in this category are Harumoto Yuijro from Japan for “A Balance”, P.S. Vinothraj from India for “Pebbles”, “Yin Ruoxin from China for “Sister”, Han Shuai from China for “Summer Blur” and Hong Eui-jeong from South Korea for “Voice of Silence”.

“The Wasteland” also grabbed a nod for its director of photography, Masud Amini-Tirani, in the best cinematography category.

“Any Crybabies Around?” from Japan, “Cliff Walkers” from China, “Deliver Us from Evil” from South Korea, “Limbo” from Hong Kong and “Yellow Cat”, a co-production between Kazakhstan and France, are other films competing in this section.

“The Wasteland” depicts the mounting tensions among the ethnically diverse workers of a crumbling, archaic brick manufacturing plant seemingly removed from civilization. The story focuses on 40-year-old Lotfollah, who has lived his entire life within the building and acts as a mediator between the workers and their boss.

Ruhollah Zamani, a leading actor of director Majid Majidi’s child labor drama “Sun Children” has been nominated for the award in the best newcomer category.

Zamani has won the Marcello Mastroianni Award at the 77th Venice Film Festival for his portrayal of 12-year-old Ali in the movie.

The film depicts the rough-and-tumble streets of Tehran where Ali and his crew of adolescent street urchins are recruited by a crime boss to steal some treasure buried beneath a local school. The kids will have to enroll in the school to gain access to the tunnels underneath. With the plan set in motion, these juvenile miscreants are soon exposed to a different kind of education.

Other nominees in this category are Gong Seung-yeon for “Aloners” from South Korea, Hattori Misaki for “Midnight Swan” from Japan, Liu Haoqun for “One Second” from China and Chen Yan-Fei for “The Silent Forest” from Taiwan.

“Sun Children” has also been nominated for an award in the best editing category. The film has been edited by Hassan Hassandoost.

Iranian cinema failed to receive a nomination in the best film section.

“One Second” from China, “The Book of Fish” from South Korea, “The Disciple” India, and the Japanese films “Wheel of Fortune and Fantasy” and “Wife of a

*Ruhollah Zamani acts in a scene from “Sun Children” by Iranian director Majid Majidi.*

Spy” are contending for the best film award.  
The 15th Asian Film Awards will take place on October 8 in conjunction with the Busan International Film Festival.  
The ceremony will commence in a hybrid form, which combines on-site attendance in Busan and online participation, the organizers have announced.

## Farshad Mahdipur appointed deputy culture minister for press affairs

TEHRAN – Journalist Farshad Mahdipur has been selected as the deputy culture minister for press affairs.

His appointment was announced in a press release published on Sunday by the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Mahdipur has begun his career as a journalist with working for the Persian dailies Hamshahri, Quds, Jam-e Jam. He has also worked for the Mehr News Agency and Fars News Agency.

The Persian daily Sobhe No was founded by Mahdipur who also served as the editor-in-chief for several years.

He is the founder of the Cyberspace Study Center at the Institute for Islamic Culture and Thoughts and was the former director of the Cultural and Social Study Center of the institute.

*New Deputy Culture Minister for Press Affairs, Farshad Mahdipur, in an undated photo.*

In his decree published on Sunday, Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Mohammad-Mehdi Esmaeili called on Mahdipur “to exploit the potential of press media, news agencies and websites, online social media, to give a true image of the growth

and achievements of the Islamic Revolution and introduce the media aims of the government in Iran and outside of the country.”

He also emphasized the need for “the expansion of media relationships with regional and global organizations

regarding the cultural and media policies adopted by the popular government.”

He also asked Mahdipur “to make a revision of his office structure due to the development of cyberspace and social media.”

The winds of change are blowing through the entire Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Earlier last week, Mohammad Khazaei, producer of acclaimed movies such as “Emperor of Hell” and “Damascus Time”, was appointed the new director of the Cinema Organization of Iran.

The changes have also hit other organizations. the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, selected Payman Jebelli as the new managing director of Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) last week.

## “The Black Death” hits Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – A Persian translation of Emily Mahoney’s “The Black Death: Bubonic Plague Attacks Europe” has been published in Persian.

Translated by Parisa Sayyadi, the book was released by Qoqnu.

The Bubonic Plague terrorized Europe and North Africa in the 14th century, killing millions of people.

In “The Black Death”, readers learn many fascinating facts about what became known as the “Black Death.”

They discover that the cause of the disease was unknown for most of the epidemic, and many unlikely things were blamed, including bad smells and occult rituals.

Detailed sidebars and a comprehensive timeline augment the compelling text as it examines how the disastrous events of the plague were exacerbated

by people’s ignorance of scientific facts.

Mahoney is also the author of “American Civil Rights Movement (Civic Participation: Fighting for Rights)”.

The American Civil Rights Movement of the 1950s and 1960s marked a shift in how African Americans were treated in the United States.

This volume highlights the important events and figures that made this movement successful.

The book introduces readers to important activists who fought for civil rights by raising their voices and refusing to accept unfair laws.

Her credits also included “Attack of the Killer Bees (Animal Invaders: Destroying Native Habitats)”, “The Science of Soccer”, “20 Fun Facts about Amphibian Adaptations” and “Kate Middleton (Superwomen Role Models)”.