

# TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 50,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 43rd year | No. 14073 | Thursday | NOVEMBER 4, 2021 | Aban 13, 1400 | Rabi' Al awwal 28, 1443

# On the Verge of Victory in Maarib

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## Interview

## Great hypocrisy in idea of 'alliance of the democracy': Austrian professor

By Ali A. Jenabzadeh

TEHRAN – In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, Austrian Professor Heinz Gartners says “there is a lot of hypocrisy involved in the idea of the alliance of the democracy.”

Gartners also notes that the Abraham Accords underlines the tendency towards a world with new alliances with a new polarization.

The following is the full text of the interview.

**What are the implications of the AUKUS agreement in the relationship between Europe and the other three countries?**

Let me start with saying that the international media is mainly focusing on the dispute between France and the three countries of AUKUS. I don't think that is the most important thing. France feels betrayed, therefore France is angry. From a global perspective the broken agreement between France and Australia is mainly a side issue. When France is selling its arms it time and again breaks agreements and sells the weapons to somebody else. So this is basically normal.

More important is that the present world is moving towards the building of alliances. AUKUS is one regional alliance but there are all kinds of attempts to build alliances. It goes without saying that there are traditional alliances like NATO, but President Biden is also trying to shape an “alliance of democracies”. What he has in mind are countries that oppose the autocracies China or Russia. He has no problem to include non-democracies as partners, like communist Vietnam, or president Duterte's Philippines or even Shri Modi's India. ► Page 2

## Iran to pursue lifting of sanctions at UN climate summit

TEHRAN – Iran will pursue the issue of lifting sanctions at the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) so that the country can act more effectively to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Given that Iran is affected by climate change, barriers to reducing emissions must be removed, Elham Azizi, head of climate change group of the Department of Environment, said on Wednesday, ISNA reported.

An Iranian delegation headed by Ali Salajegheh, Department of Environment chief, will attend the COP26, which is being held in Glasgow, Scotland, from October 31 to November 12.

The COP26 summit will bring parties together to accelerate action towards the goals of the Paris Agreement and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Given that we have produced more greenhouse gases than the earth's capacity, the industrial activity of the countries should be directed towards reducing the emission. At the Paris Summit in 2015, countries agreed to work to reduce global warming and emissions, Azizi added.

According to the International Committee on Climate Change, even if all countries meet their emission reduction commitments, we cannot achieve the goal of reducing global warming to 2.5 degrees Celsius, so we cannot hope that industrialized countries can achieve the goal of reducing temperatures by 1.5 degrees Celsius. ► Page 6

## U.S. hit-and-run move thwarted



TEHRAN – In a major act of defiance, Iran announced Wednesday that it had foiled a U.S. attempt to confiscate Iranian oil in the Sea of Oman, setting the stage for further Iranian defensive acts to protect its oil exports in the face of growing threats from the U.S. to restrict Iran's oil trade.

The naval forces of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) have launched a daring operation to protect Iran's oil export after American forces confiscated a giant Iranian oil tanker in the Sea of Oman and transshipped its oil shipment to another oil tanker, the Iranian state media

said on Wednesday.

According to Iran's state-run TV, the IRGC navy forces conducted a heliborne operation to return the seized oil cargo to Iran. the IRGC troops landed onboard the oil tanker carrying the seized oil and led it into Iran's territorial waters. ► Page 3

## ICCIMA holds Iran-Algeria trade webinar

TEHRAN – Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has held an Iran-Algeria trade webinar in collaboration with the Algerian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (ACCI) to explore ways of expanding economic ties between the two countries.

The online event was chaired by the ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie and the Head of ACCI Shabab Tayib, the ICCIMA portal reported on Wednesday.

ICCIMA Deputy Head for International Affairs Mohammad Reza Karbasi, Iranian Ambassador to Algeria Hossein Mashalchi-Zadeh, and Algeria's Commercial Attaché in Tehran Ayash Vahwa, as well as representatives of Iran's provincial chambers of commerce and the private sectors of the two countries were also among the attendees of the mentioned meeting.

Using barter trading between the two countries, cooperation in the field of tourism,

the introduction of joint projects, exchange of trade delegations, and revival of the two countries' trade council were some of the major issues discussed during the event.

Opening the meeting, Shafeie stated that despite the historical and cultural similarities between Iran and Algeria and the expansion of relations at different levels, the economic relations between the two countries are not proportionate to the capacities and capabilities of both nations. ► Page 4

## Tehran gallery to showcase COVID-era works by top calligrapher Mohammad Ehsai

TEHRAN – A collection of works created by the celebrated calligrapher Mohammad Ehsai at home during the coronavirus quarantine will go on view in an exhibition at Tehran's Golestan Gallery on Friday.

This collection contains the master's works in siah mashq, a style of nastaliq script which is primarily focused on technique and shape rather than meaning.

In a statement published on Tuesday, the gallery said that the collection is the result of Ehsai's practice to exercise his hand for nastaliq script after his long time work on the calligraphy of a copy of the Holy Quran he wrote in mohaqqaq script, another style of Islamic calligraphy. ► Page 8



## President Raisi meets pupils' union

TEHRAN — Representatives of pupils' unions met President Ebrahim Raisi on Wednesday. The pupils expressed their views on the educational system and political and cultural issues in the country. The meeting took place on the eve of Nov. 4, a date marking the seizure of the U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1980. Nov. 4 is known as Pupil Day.

## Cabinet approves plans to develop sustainable coastal, forest tourism

TEHRAN – Iranian cabinet has approved plans to develop sustainable tourism in the northern and northwest forests of the country as well as the Zagros region, and on the northern and southern coastlines with a particular focus on the Makran coasts.

The decision was made during a cabinet meeting on Sunday headed by President Ebrahim Raisi, CHTN reported.

During the meeting, the plan's objectives, policies, and actions were discussed, the report added.

Based on the plans, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts is pledged to develop cultural awareness and commitment to the principles of sustainable tourism development in coastal and forest areas and prepare public education programs with a re-

sponsible travel approach.

The tourism ministry is also required to establish and update the coastal and forest tourism data and information network in the ministry's information database in collaboration with the Department of Environment (DOE), and all relevant organizations are expected to cooperate in sharing information. ► Page 6

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## Expert says JCPOA-2 and JCPOA-3 scenarios have been neutralized

TEHRAN — A faculty member of the University of Tehran says attempts by the U.S. and its European allies to include Iran's defense missile program and Iran's regional influence in a possible revitalization of the 2015 nuclear deal, which he describes as JCPOA-2 and JCPOA 3, have been nullified.

"The U.S. and Europe tried" to "add missile and regional issues to this deal, as complementary parts of the JCPOA, or so-called JCPOA-2 and 3," Mohammad Sadeq Koushki said in an interview with the Mehr news agency on Wednesday.

Koushki added, "They sought to reduce all areas of our authority to a minimum and even to the point of destruction."

Regarding the statement by the European troika (Germany, France and Britain) and the United States against Iran on October 30, he said "the condition for advancing the negotiations" should be based on a "goodwill" by the European parties.

However, he said, issuing "threatening statements" against Iran is not "compatible with goodwill".

The analyst went on to say that after the formation of the new Ebrahim Raisi administration, sanctions against Iran have gradually lost their effectiveness.

"The thirteenth administration will link the country's economy to national production, and sanctions will not have their effect. On the other hand, the Islamic Republic's insistence on full implementation of the JCPOA and commitments of the United States and Europe has completely neutralized their idea of forcing our country to accept JCPOA-2 and 3," the political expert highlighted.

He added: "Now our nuclear power has not reached zero and we have no desire for JCPOA-2 and 3 and we also consider the acceptance of the missiles and regional issues in the JCPOA contrary to national security and national interests." ► Page 2

## Iran down Japan at Intercontinental Beach Soccer Cup

TEHRAN – Iran crashed Japan 6-1 in Group B of the 2021 Intercontinental Beach Soccer Cup on Wednesday.

Mohammad Mokhtari, Mehdi Shirmohammadi, Mostafa Kiani, Movahed Mohammadpour, Ali Mirshekari and Hassan Abdollahi were on target for Iran.

Mansouri Okuyama scored for Japan.

Iran had started the campaign in Dubai, the UAE with a 8-6 win over Paraguay.

Iran will meet world champions Russia Thursday to decide the group winners.

Iran side will be the competition's most decorated team if they win the title for the fourth time.

Brazil and Russia have won the title three times each as well.



## Great hypocrisy in idea of ‘alliance of the democracy’: Austrian professor

From page 1 ► President Biden talked before the NATO summit about the “alliance of democracies” and he stressed the common values. At the same time the European Union criticizes the NATO members Tukey, Hungary and Poland because they do not meet the European values. There is a lot of hypocrisy involved in the idea of the “alliance of the democracy”.

The “alliance of democracies is very vaguely defined. It is a geopolitical alliance underpinned by value arguments in order to have an ideology behind it. Similarly, the “Abraham Accords” are a geopolitical anti-Iranian alliance underpinned by presumed common Arab-Israeli values. Therefore, they have economic and cultural implications. It goes without saying, that one of the logical consequences is that it has to ignore the interests of the Palestinians. One should not forget that it was Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and U.S. President Trump who were the architects of the “Abraham Accords”. A historical analogy might be the Treaty of St. Petersburg of 1907 which led to the Anglo-Russian division of sphere of interests in Iran.

The attempt to form an alliance against Iran might be weakened by the new relations between Iran and Arab countries. These “Abraham Accords” might be a side issue but it underlines the tendency towards a world with new alliances with a new polarization. It has all the features of a new Cold War. The old Cold War was the conflict between capitalism and communism, market economy and state economy, but was geopolitical in nature. Today's polarization appears as conflict between democracies and non-democracies but it is also geopolitical. So today's Cold War mirrors part of the old Cold War.

There is a debate in the European Union about the so-called “strategic autonomy” which is basically a French idea to be a little more autonomous from the U.S. The focus of the debate is on how the European Union can achieve more military capacities. Also, the debate about the “strategic compass” of the European Union to be published in 2022 will be dominated by the question on how the European Union could become more militarily capable. The first reaction of EU officials to the U.S. withdrawal from the Afghanistan was similar, that the European Union must have its own military capacities and that it cannot rely entirely on the U.S. This is paradoxical because the 20- and 30-years interventions in Afghanistan of the Soviet Union, the U.S., NATO did not bring the expected changes. In contrast, the European Union must play first and foremost a diplomatic role. It should remember the Helsinki Final Document of 1975, the beginning of the process of the “Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe” (CSCE), which later became the OSCE. It was a wonderful concept at the height of the Cold War. The document stressed cooperation and co-existence and the idea of common security instead of conflict. The document of 1975 did not mention the expressions “enemy, foe, rival, competitor”. Those appear in most of today's security strategies and doctrines.

In the European Union there is an argument that it would not have diplomatic influence if it does not have military capacities. This argument has been proven wrong by the example of Qatar. Qatar is a small Persian Gulf country who is becoming a center of diplomatic activities when it comes to Afghanistan. Qatar has not much military capacities but it is able to organize diplomatic initiatives. Why shouldn't the European Unions be able to do same without huge military capacities. It was not the EU who set up follow-up conferences, but Moscow and Tehran.

It goes without saying that Europe needs some military capabilities for peace



missions but the attempt to play a big geopolitical role is a wrong approach. The European citizens have a more reasonable view. According to a survey of the European Council on Foreign Relations a majority of 65 percent of the Europeans say that, when it comes to a conflict between China and the U.S., the Europeans should stay neutral. It goes without saying, that the European will not side with China in a military conflict. But Europeans should think twice to side with the U.S. in a conflict and even war, which will not be in their own interests but may be in a framework of an alliance policy. European citizens are smarter than the politicians!

**Are we actually talking about a new form of relationship between the Europeans and the U.S. in which trust does not exist as before because it was not the first time that the U.S. betrayed the European countries?**

**“Europeans could give a guarantee to keep up economic ties with Iran and not to participate in new sanctions, if the U.S. withdrew.”**

The governments, including France, try to have strong transatlantic bonds but especially Germany independently of the incumbent government. Of course, the EU debates the strategic autonomy because they know they cannot rely entirely on the U.S., but it will not be a rift. Basically, until the Iraq war of 2003 the Europeans were silent and accepted everything the U.S. did, including the atrocities of the U.S. in the Vietnam War. 2003 was a different case. There was some suspicion on the part of the French but also the Germans regarding their interests. In the Libyan case the German delegation abstained in the UN Security Council. In many ways German officials regret this decision today because it deviated from the transatlantic solidarity. But I don't think there is a big rift. There will be differences maybe more than before.

The Europe Union is an economic power but it does not play the role of an economic power. For example, the EU should request from the U.S. to lift the secondary sanctions so that they can act more independently and do businesses with Iran without being punished.

Regarding the JCPOA, Iran wants to get a guarantee from the U.S. that they would not withdraw from it again. This is not possible because the U.S. political system does not allow that the incumbent American president to give the guarantee for the next president. But the Europeans could give a guarantee to keep up economic relations with Iran and not to participate in new sanctions, if the U.S. withdrew.

**Question: What are the effects of the AUKUS deal on the NPT. Does it violate it?**

There are some ambiguities here we don't know really. I do not have enough information whether the participants of this deal have notified the IAEA. Nevertheless, nuclear driven submarines can be classified as nuclear weapons, what would violate the NPT, since Australia is a non-nuclear weapon state. Highly enriched uranium is used. If push comes to shove, nuclear missiles will be deployed on these submarines. They are capable of carrying nuclear weapons. Then this pact would become a nuclear weapons pact.

# On the verge of victory in Maarib

TEHRAN — In a series of tweets posted on Tuesday, Yahya Saree, Yemeni Armed Forces spokesman, elaborated on the second phase of the Rabi Al Nasr (Spring of Victory) Operation, explaining that almost 70% of the strategic governorate of Maarib is in control of Ansarallah.

In the tweets, Saree announced that only the city of Maarib and the Valley of Dhana are still under the control of the Saudi-led coalition, and Yemeni armed forces are in control of the province.

He added that Al-Juba and Jabal Murad districts in Maarib governorate were liberated in the second phase of the Rabi Al Nasr Operation.

A total area of 1100 km2 was liberated, according to the spokesman.

Saree also unraveled the details of the second phase of the operation, in which a reported 159 airstrikes were carried out.

“Most of these raids targeted Juba, Rahba and Harib districts. Our air defense succeeded in carrying out 86 confrontation operations,” he added.

In the tweets, he outlined the results of the operation, saying that at least 200 coalition troops were killed in the second phase of the operation, while reportedly 550 others were injured. Large quantities of medium and light weapons were also purportedly seized.

Several local tribes in Maarib province have agreed to relinquish and allow the liberation of the oil-rich province, which is considered the last base of the Saudi-led coalition.

A strategic city, rich with oil and gas, Maarib's liberation is a key point in advantage of the Ansarallah movement, as it clearly indicates that the resistance not only has not been weakened after 6 years, but also, it has gained more power.

Various demonstrations have been held in Yemen in support of Ansarallah, showing their strong position by defying the war against fellow citizens.

Experts believe that the Yemeni armed forces have now reached the doorsteps of the city of Maarib, and the fall of the Saudi-led coalition is not far away.

The occupation troops find themselves in a dilemma, as they are now surrounded, unable to recapture the thousands of square kilometers liberated by the advancing army.

“According to strategic and military implications ... we declare today to the whole world that international aggression against Yemen has already been defeated,” Yemeni Defense Minister Mohammad Al-Atefi told Lebanese media on October 27.

### Sour losers

The Yemen war led by the Saudis is reaching to an end,



while the victory is impending for the Ansarallah. Perhaps, this explains the Saudis' anger over the recent remarks of the Lebanese Information Minister, George Kordahi.

In an interview that was conducted on August 5, before Kordahi's nomination for information minister, he said that in his personal view, the 7-year war in Yemen was “futile.”

He also said that the Ansarallah movement was merely “defending their country.”

Saudi Arabia invited Walid Bukhari, its envoy to Beirut, for further consultation on the matter. Then, on October 27, the Saudi Foreign Ministry summoned the Lebanese ambassador to Riyadh and issued a warning. Kuwait, Bahrain, and the UAE also summoned the Lebanese ambassadors. They heard the explanations, and seemingly, tensions were de-escalated.

On October 29, Saudi Arabia gave a 48-hour notice to the Lebanese envoy to leave Riyadh. According to the statement issued by the Saudi Foreign Ministry, the kingdom also banned imports from Lebanon.

The suit was immediately followed by Kuwait, Bahrain and the UAE. They all gave a 48-hour notice to the Lebanese envoys to leave their capitals. The UAE also imposed a ban on its citizens traveling to Lebanon.

On November 2, Lebanon's Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib said that the Saudis are dictating “impossible terms.”

In an exclusive interview with Reuters, the minister said that “if they just want Hezbollah's head on a plate, we can't give them that,” adding that “Hezbollah is a component of politics in Lebanon. It has a regional armed dimension, yes, but this is beyond what we can resolve.”

Experts believe that the hysterical reaction to Kordahi's remarks is a part of a Saudi plot to bring Lebanon to its knees and topple the government, as Faisal Bin Farhan, the Saudi Foreign Minister, told CNBC on October 31 that the Saudis have reached a conclusion that they cannot converse with the current government in Lebanon.

“I think we have come to the conclusion that dealing with Lebanon and its current government is not productive and not helpful with Hezbollah's continuing dominance of the political scene, and with what we perceive as a continuing reluctance by this government and Lebanese political leaders in general to enact the necessary reforms, the necessary actions to push Lebanon in the direction of real change,” Faisal said.

Losing the war in Yemen is the knockout punch that Saudis will receive. The punch will stun them for years.

## Iran's IRGC aborts U.S. move to steal Iranian oil in Oman Sea

TEHRAN – The national TV announced on Wednesday at noon time that the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Navy reclaimed a cargo of oil that U.S. forces had stolen from a tanker carrying Iranian oil in the Sea of Oman.

U.S. forces confiscated the oil tanker, transferred its cargo to another tanker, and directed it towards an unknown destination.

Servicemen from the IRGC Navy took the control of the oil tanker by landing on the tanker's dock in a heliborne operation and redirected it to the Iranian territorial waters.

U.S. forces, using helicopters and warships, tried hard to redirect the ship but they failed as they faced bravery demonstrated by the IRGC personnel, the TV said.

In another attempt, U.S. forces tried to change the route of the ship by blocking its path through warships but they failed again.

The tanker is now in the Iranian waters in the Sea of Oman.

Reportedly, the incident happened on October 25.

Late on Wednesday, the IRGC released detailed footage of its confrontation against the act of piracy.

The footage depicts the incident in great detail, first showing the IRGC Navy's intelligence command and intelligence gathering network detecting the vessel laden with the stolen crude.

The IRGC Navy is subsequently seen dispatching its rapid reaction units to the area to seize back the cargo.

The commandos then engage in a heliborne operation, which features their aircraft landing on the second vessel.

The Navy's drone units, speedboats, and other vessels are, meanwhile, seen assisting the operation, Press TV reported.

USS The Sullivans (DDG-68) and USS Michael Murphy (DDG-112), two American destroyers, are then seen approaching second tanker to prevent its recapture, but are warned away by the IRGC Navy.

The footage relayed from the operation, meanwhile, depicts the involved American

vessels and their crew in striking detail.

A statement issued by the IRGC public relations office said after the heliborne operation, the U.S. forces started pursuing the second vessel using several helicopters and warships. They, however, stopped short of capturing it.

The U.S. forces then dispatched more warships to block the vessel that was carrying the stolen crude. “The Americans [though] decided against continuing the operation and left the area after understanding the brave and ardent fighters of the IRGC Navy's readiness and resolve for confronting whatever adventurism and threat against the interests of the Iranian nation,” the statement added.

Thanking the IRGC for the successful operation, Oil Minister Javad Owji said “Iran's enemies” had resorted to the act of piracy after realizing that the Islamic Republic was determined to export its fuel, despite the United States' sanctions targeting the country.

## Expert says JCPOA-2 and JCPOA-3 scenarios have been neutralized

From page 1 ► Obviously, all the efforts made by the United States and the Europeans over the last eight years are now being neutralized and this has angered them, he maintained.

Of course, Koushki said, like all previous times they claimed in their statement that Iran is seeking to produce nuclear weapons.

The professor went on to say that since they are not able to challenge the pillars of the Iranian

power, they raise the nuclear issue and hope that with this political and propaganda pressure, as well as by adding to the list of sanctions, they would be able to activate a protest movement inside Iran which can derail the policy that the current administration has adopted and somehow return the country to the negotiating table and accept American and European demands.

The international affairs analyst added: “In the current situation,

the first point that our negotiating team should take into account is to warn the European parties that if they want to divert the negotiation path with propaganda and political moves like this statement, naturally negotiations cannot go ahead.”

Koushki added: “If they do not have the goodwill to negotiate and are trying to proceed with psychological warfare and diplomatic pressure, there will be

no need to negotiate.”

Iran is set to announce that the date for the resumption of the Vienna nuclear talks in the current week. Iran's new chief nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri announced on October 27 that the talks will begin before the end of November. He made the announcement in a tweet after his meeting in Brussels with Enrique Mora, the European Union's political director who acts as coordinator of the nuclear talks.

## ‘Threats have never worked against Iran, U.S. to blame for JCPOA state’

Iran's Foreign Ministry says the use of threats against the country has never worked and what the United States refers to as options against Tehran have already resulted in Washington's “catastrophic” defeats in the region and across the world.

Saeed Khatibzadeh, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman, made the remark in a tweet on Tuesday after U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken warned

that Washington would turn to “other options” if diplomacy over Iran's nuclear program fails.

“Threats have never worked against Iran,” Khatibzadeh wrote. “The supposed U.S. ‘options’ have already been tested in our region. Resulting catastrophic U.S. defeats & the mess left for others to address are evident for all to see.”

The most recent case in point was the hasty withdrawal of U.S. troops from Afghanistan in

August after a two-decade-long invasion of the war-torn country.

The U.S.-led invasion of Afghanistan on the pretext of the so-called war on terror removed the Taliban from power 20 years ago, but it worsened the security situation in the country.

The invasion claimed thousands of lives and left as many injured on both sides.

(Press TV)



# U.S. hit-and-run move thwarted

From Page 1 ► In the meantime, U.S. forces sent several helicopters and destroyers in a bid to retake the oil tanker but the IRGC navy prevented them from doing so, according to Iranian media.

The U.S. made another effort to prevent Iran from taking the oil tanker but failed.

The oil tanker is now in Iran's territorial waters. Iranian media offered no further detail as to when the encounter happened and which country the seized oil tanker belongs to.

The IRGC media office confirmed the encounter in a statement on Wednesday and said the oil tanker has docked at a Bandar Abbas port. The statement described the U.S. move as “robbery.”

As of this writing, the United States has remained silent on Iran's announcement. Of course, a U.S. military official to Al-Jazeera that “the allegations of the Revolutionary Guard Corps about the Iranian oil tanker are not true.”

But the IRGC said it had “clear, telling, and undeniable images of the encounter” that would be shared with mass media.

The episode marked the first time Iran and the U.S. engaged in a tense encounter since Joe Biden took office nearly a year ago. It also came against a backdrop of



heightened tensions between Iran and the West over when to resume the stalled Vienna nuclear talks on how to revive a 2015 nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

On October 27, Iran said the Vienna talks will begin before the end of November. It also said on Monday the exact date for resuming the talks will be announced this week.

While Iran's return to Vienna remains under consideration, Washington and allies in Europe and the region ramped up their pressures on Iran both diplomatically and now economically.

On the other hand, Iran called

on the U.S. to provide “objective guarantees” that Washington won't renege on its commitments under a revived nuclear deal with Iran again.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh described U.S. administrations as “rogue regimes” that are not reliable to work with.

“Onus is on @POTUS to convince int'l community—incl all JCPOA participants—that his signature means something. For that, 'objective guarantees' needed. No one would accept anything less,” Khatibzadeh said on Twitter.

But it seems that the U.S. has refrained from offering such guarantees. The secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Ali Shamkhani, likened the current

state of play between Iran and the U.S. to the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s.

“The attacks from Saddam were in progress / the sanctions continue. Part of Iran was under the enemy's occupation / the Iranian nation's economy has been held hostage. The combatants were defending (Iran) in the front line / The scientists proceed with the legal nuclear activities,” he said on Twitter.

Just as Saddam Hussein when he offered to hold negotiations with Iran, Shamkhani continued, President Biden too, is not repentant for his policy on Iran. And he is not willing to offer guarantees, the top Iranian security official added.

“In case the current situation does not change, the result of negotiations would be clear in advance,” he warned.

Shamkhani's remarks, along with reports of a hike in Iran's oil exports in recent months that seem to be the main reason behind the latest encounter, were the latest sign that the resumption of negotiations between Iran and the West won't affect Iran's active resistance policy adopted after former U.S. President Donald Trump launched his “maximum pressure” campaign against Tehran.

## Iran says ready to work with UN on Yemen

TEHRAN – Two Iranian officials have expressed Tehran's readiness to work with the United Nations on Yemen in order to put an end to the war in the Arab country.

Head of the Iranian Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee Vahid Jalalzadeh and Ali Asghar Khaji, a senior advisor to Iran's foreign minister in special political affairs, have met with the United Nations Secretary-General's Special Envoy for Yemen, Hans Grundberg, in Tehran.

Jalalzadeh said Iran is always ready to help end the war in Yemen, encourage political talks, and decrease the pains and sorrows of the oppressed and defenseless Yemeni people in collaboration with Yemen and regional countries, Iran's state news agency IRNA reported.

“Seven years have passed since the beginning of the crisis in Yemen, throughout which the world has on each day been witness to the massacring of the defenseless, innocent and civilian Yemeni women and children, which is a sample of crimes against mankind, amid the silence, and sometimes collaboration of some world powers,” Jalalzadeh lamented.

He said that Iran's official stand, ever since the outbreak of the Yemen crisis, has been an insistence on the need for Yemeni-Yemeni negotiations, that is among the entire groups there, free from foreign interventions or military aggression.

The head of parliamentary committee said that the UN special envoy had better focus its entire efforts aimed at ending the inhumane siege of Yemen, brokering an immediate ceasefire and arrange for the beginning of political negotiations in Yemen, aimed at establishment of sustainable peace in Yemen.

Hans Grundberg, too, initially appreciated Iran's positive and constructive role aimed at boosting the regional peace and stability, especially in Yemen, arguing that feeling of responsibility by different countries and their support for the UN efforts aimed at brokering peace and stability in Yemen are important factors that can contribute to ending the Yemen crisis.

The UN official evaluated his talks with Iranian officials as positive, expressing hope that the entire efforts aimed at ending the war in Yemen will end well and UN's efforts in that respect will bear fruit.

“Mistrust is an obstacle to end Yemen conflict”

Khaji and Grundberg discussed the different aspects of the Yemeni crisis and the latest developments in the country, the Iranian foreign ministry said.

In the meeting, the senior advisor to Iran's foreign minister noted that the final decision as to the fate of Yemen lies with the Yemeni people. Khaji suggested that the first step toward resolving the Yemen crisis through political means is a lifting of the oppressive

siege on the country.

Khaji also spoke about the UN's role in Yemen. He said the current mistrust is the missing link of progress in negotiations aimed at ending the Yemen conflict. The senior advisor also underlined that rebuilding confidence must be accompanied by practical measures, particularly in humanitarian affairs.

Khaji reaffirmed Iran's support for any fair effort by the UN to resolve the Yemen crisis. Meanwhile, the UN chief's special envoy for Yemen reiterated that only the Yemeni people can decide their future. Grundberg however described the role of regional countries in supporting the peace process in Yemen as highly important. He added that backing by Iran in this regard is a key issue.

Grundberg also underscored that time is now for assessing different viewpoints regarding the Yemen crisis. He pointed out that he intends to take account of the concerns of different Yemeni factions in his future plans and to advance his short-term priorities within the framework of his long-term objectives.

The meeting came amid escalating tensions between the Sanaa-based government and Saudi allies in Yemen. Over the last few days, major developments have taken place in the strategically important province of Marib, where influential tribes started parting ways with Saudi Arabia and siding with Sanaa.

according to Fars News.

A senior Taliban commander has been killed in the deadly attack on the military hospital.

Hamdullah Mokhles, the first Taliban commander to enter Afghanistan's presidential palace after the group's presence in Kabul and became a symbol the Taliban's takeover of Afghanistan, was killed in the Tuesday attacks.

Mukhlis was the first Taliban commander to enter the presidential palace amid the escape of former Afghan President Ashraf Ghani and announce the fall of Kabul in an interview with Al-Jazeera.

bodies, highlighting that the achievements of the ministry should be respected as a valuable treasure.

Jalalzadeh, who represents Urmia in the parliament, underlined that the ministry has a special role in promoting the national defense capability.

He said due to the importance of defense and security, the parliament has formed “strategic”, “planning and budget”, “logistics” and “Protection” councils at the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, which shows “the support of the Majlis for the Armed Forces and the Ministry of Defense.”

# IRAN IN FOCUS

NOVEMBER 3, 2021

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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## SPORTS

### Gholizadeh pens three-year extension with Charleroi

TEHRAN – Iranian winger Ali Gholizadeh has extended his contract with Charleroi for three more years.

The 25-year-old player has extended his contract until June 2025.

Gholizadeh joined the Belgian top flight club in 2018 and has established himself as a key player in the team.

With five points behind Union Saint-Gilloise, the Zebras are the favorites to win the Belgian First Division A for the first time ever.

### Shahrdari Sirjan to represent Iran at 2021 AFC Women's Club C'ship

TEHRAN – Iran's Shahrdari Sirjan departed Tehran for Amman, Jordan to participate at the 2021 AFC Women's Club Championship.

Shahrdari will start the campaign with a match against Bunyodkor of Uzbekistan on November 7.

Shahrdari will also meet Indian Gokulam Kerala and Amman SC of Jordan on November 10 and 13, respectively.

The AFC Women's Club Championship, also known as the FIFA–AFC Pilot Women's Club Championship, is an international women's football competition. It involves the top clubs from the countries affiliated with the AFC.

The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) will trial the Video Assistant Referee (VAR) at the AFC Women's Club Championship 2021 – Pilot Tournament (West).

The concept of an Asian women's club competition was recommended in 2018. This was held as a round-robin tournament in November 2019, with only four teams taking part: the respective domestic league champions of Australia, China, Japan and South Korea.

### 2022 WCQ: Lebanon to play Iran in empty stadium

TEHRAN – The match between Lebanon football team and Iran will be held in an empty stadium, the Lebanese Football Association (LFA) announced on Wednesday.

The match will be held on November 11 in Group A of the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification at the Saida Municipal Stadium in Sidon.

The LFA had already announced that the fans would be allowed to seat 60 percent capacity of the 22,000-seat stadium.

Iran lead Group A with 10 points, while Lebanon sits third with five points.

Ivan Hašek's team will be the favorites if they beat Iran.

### Three Iranian strikers shortlisted for AFC International Player of the Week

TEHRAN – Iranian forwards Mehdi Taremi, Sardar Azmoun and Allahyar Sayyadmanesh stole the show once again in their respect European clubs.

With goals, saves and assists by the hatful, Asia's stars outside the continent continued their fine form with several fine performances in Europe.

**\*Mehdi Taremi (FC Porto, Iran)**

*34 minutes, 1 goal, 3 shots at goal (1-3 v Santa Clara)*

*75 minutes, 2 assists, 88% pass accuracy (4-1 v Boavista)*

Even when he doesn't start, and even when Porto aren't at their best, bank on Mehdi Taremi to leave his mark on a football match.

He scored to give his side a fighting chance in its eventual League Cup defeat to Santa Clara, then set up two goals against Alireza Beiranvand's Boavista in another outstanding week for the Iranian striker.

**\*Sardar Azmoun (Zenit, Iran)**

*90 minutes, 1 assist, 81% pass accuracy, 14 duels won (4-1 v Dinamo Moscow)*

Taremi's national team strike partner, Sardar Azmoun, continued his own stellar form in Europe, although his contribution this week was as a provider rather than scorer of goals, playing a pivotal role as Zenit cruised past Dinamo Moscow in the Russian Premier League.

**\*Allahyar Sayyadmanesh (Zorya Luhansk, Iran)**

*78 minutes, 2 goals, 2 secondary assists, 83% pass accuracy (6-1 Metalist Kharkiv)*

With four goals in three matches over 11 days, Allahyar Sayyadmenesh is rapidly turning from star of the future to star of the present.

The 20-year-old scored twice, including an unstoppable second-half thunderbolt, as Zorya piled on six against Metalist Kharkiv ahead of Thursday's UEFA Europa Conference League clash with CSKA Sofia.

### Iran win five medals on first day of U23 Wrestling World Championships finals

TEHRAN – Iranian Greco-Roman wrestlers claimed five medals on the first day of finals at the United World Wrestling Under-23 World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia on Tuesday.

Amin Mirzazadeh, who missed the World Championships in Oslo last month with coronavirus, beat Armenian David Ovasapyan 2-1 in the 130kg final bout.

Pouya Dadmarz and Amin Kaviyaninejad in the 55kg and 72kg won two silver medals.

Dadmarz lost to Russian Mavlud Rizmanov 3-1. And Kaviyaninejad was defeated against Tamas Levai of Hungary 5-1.

Alireza Nejati and Naser Alizadeh also took two bronze medals at the 63kg and 87kg categories.

Nejati defeated Georgij Tibilov of Russia 8-0 and Alizadeh beat Temuri Tchkuaselidze of Georgia by superiority 15-7.

### Azmoun scores as Zenit lose to Juventus

TEHRAN – Russian football team Zenit lost to Juventus 4-2 in Group H of this season's Champions League.

Captain Paulo Dybala netted a brace while Federico Chiesa (penalty) and Alvaro Morata scored for the Turin side

Juve kept up their 100 percent record in Group H, which they top by three points from European champions Chelsea, who were the 1-0 winners at Malmo in Sweden earlier.

Juventus Leonardo Bonucci scored an own goal and Iran's Sardar Azmoun then pulled one back in stoppage time for Zenit, who still maintain a slim chance of pipping Chelsea to second place.

TEHRAN — The head of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Parliament has described the achievements of the Defense Ministry as a valuable treasure.

“The Ministry of Defense is a symbol of ‘we can’, zeal and self-confidence of the Iranian people,” Vahid Jalalzadeh said as he and other representatives sitting on the parliamentary committee met with Defense Minister Brigadier General Mohammad Reza Ashtiani on Tuesday.

Jalalzadeh praised the efforts of the defense industry, especially its highly professional staff such

as martyr Mohsen Fakhrizadeh.

The senior MP said the Defense Ministry has acted as driving force and model of progress in the country by taking the necessary measures and providing the necessary infrastructure in various fields of defense and security.

“The Ministry of Defense has mastered modern knowledge and the know-how with the efforts of defense officials, which has put it on the edge of technology,” Jalalzadeh noted.

The MP stressed that the ministry's progress could be an objective model for many government

## MP calls Defense Ministry symbol of Iranians’ self-confidence





ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie (C), ICCIMA Deputy Head for International Affairs Mohammad Reza Karbasi (R) and Iranian Ambassador to Algeria Hossein Mashalchi-Zadeh

## ICCIMA holds Iran-Algeria trade webinar

From page 1 ▶ “The value of trade between Iran and Algeria in 2020 was reported at about \$124 million, while the potential for cooperation between the two countries could exceed these figures,” Shafeie regretted.

According to the official, by removing some trade barriers facing the traders of the two countries, including banking and transportation barriers in the short term, the volume of exchanges can be increased to more than \$500 million and with coherent long-term planning to more than two billion dollars.

Emphasizing that the Iranian private sector is seriously interested in expanding economic relations with African countries, especially Algeria, he said: “Iran and Algeria each have

a significant geopolitical position and great potential in West Asia and North Africa and can be the pioneers of economic relations between these two regions.”

Further in the meeting, Tayib stated that Iran's economy is one of the top economies in West Asia and, like the Algerian economy, is based on oil, gas, and petrochemical exports.

“We seek to remove trade barriers between the two countries, considering the privileged political relations between Iran and Algeria. Algeria has plans to expand trade between the two countries. We are also looking to have joint projects with Iranian companies, especially in the fields of agriculture and health,” he said.

TEHRAN – Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian has said his ministry plans to construct and put into operation 21 new power plant units by the next summer's peak consumption period (Iranian calendar's summer begins on June 22), the Energy Ministry Portal Paven reported on Tuesday.

According to Mehrabian, his ministry is following a comprehensive program for adding 30,000 megawatts (MW) to the country's power generation capacity by the end of the current government incumbency.

Speaking in a meeting with the members of the Parliament Energy Committee on Tuesday evening, the minister said: “According to the plan submitted to the parliament, the Ministry of Energy will increase the capacity of the country's power plants by 30,000 megawatts.”

“Currently, for the next year's summer peak [consumption period], we are taking the necessary measures to bring 21 new [power plant] units on stream; Of course, the exact schedule for the operation of these units is prepared and will be provided in the form of weekly reports,” he added.

He further noted that the construction of 10,000 MW capacity of power plants has also been started by various industrial sectors, saying: “four major industries have started their work in the field of power plant construction. Based on the contract concluded with

# 21 new power plant units to come on stream by late June 2022



these industries, the said industries will not be provided with electricity from the national grid if they cannot deliver the power plants based on the specified schedule.”

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

In this regard, the Energy Ministry has been following new programs to meet the country's power demand during peak periods and to prevent outages.

Constructing new units in the country's power plants and also building new power plants for major industries are among the mentioned programs that are being pursued seriously by the ministry in collaboration with other related government entities.

Back in July, Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Saeed Zarendi had announced the signing of an MOU with the Energy Ministry for constructing power plants for big industries.

“Since earlier this year, the Industry Ministry, on behalf of the industrial sector, started seeking a permit for building 13 power plants. We held several meetings with Tavanir [Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company] and the Energy Ministry and proposed to sign a memorandum of understanding with the ministry. We also sent a letter to the Energy Ministry last week to expedite the issuance of the permit,” the official explained.

According to Zarendi, the mentioned power plants are financed by 12 investors from various industrial sectors and will be constructed within 2.5-3 years.

One of the main goals of this program is to provide reliable and sustainable electricity to high-consuming industries and the country's industrial parks in order to reduce the pressure imposed on the national grid in the industry and mining sector, according to Zarendi.

“If these power plants are built, a significant load will be removed from the national electricity distribution network,” he stressed.

The official further noted that in case of any surplus electricity generation, the industrial units can sell the surplus electricity to the Energy Ministry.

## Iran ready to expand agricultural ties with Norway

TEHRAN – Iranian Agriculture Minister Javad Sadati-Nejad has said the Islamic Republic is ready for expanding agricultural and fishery cooperation with Norway, IRNA reported.

Speaking in a meeting with Norway's new Ambassador to Tehran Sigvald Tomin Hauge on Tuesday, Sadati-Nejad said: “The history of cooperation between Iran and Norway reaches more than 90 years, which shows the depth of relations between the two countries.”

According to the minister, Iran and Norway have previously cooperated in the fields of the fishery, forestry, and rangeland management, and the bases are provided for the expansion of collaborations in such areas.

Sadati-Nejad further said the

transfer of technology in the field of fisheries and fish farming in cages can be one of the areas of cooperation between the two countries, adding: “Iran has many beaches that are prone to aquaculture and considering Norway's experiences in this regard, we invite the country's investors for establishing joint ventures, especially on the southern coasts of Iran.”

“In the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, we have a capacity of producing 3.6 million tons of fish in cages; we just need the investment and the two sides can cooperate in this field,” Sadati-Nejad said.

Elsewhere in his remarks the minister expressed dissatisfaction with the current level of trade between the two countries and noted that despite the long history



Iranian Agriculture Minister Javad Sadati-Nejad (1st L) holds talks with Norway's new Ambassador to Tehran Sigvald Tomin Hauge (1st R) on Tuesday.

of economic cooperation between the two sides the level of trade exchanges has been following a downward trade after the U.S. sanctions.

He further underlined some of potential areas for trade cooperation and mentioned the exports of fruits and vegetables as

an example.

“Per capita consumption of fruits and vegetables in Norway is 120 kilograms, a quarter of which is produced in Norway, and considering Iran's great capacities in this area, we can work together to supply fruits and vegetables to Norway,” the official said.

“We also have dried fruit products that are currently exported and we can export them to Norway as well; the export of Iranian organic products to Norway can also be considered,” he added.

Further in the meeting, Hauge for his part expressed hope for the expansion of cooperation with Iran in various fields, saying: “Iran is a country that has high goals in the field of agriculture in the region, and we hope to be able to cooperate in the field of fisheries, aquaculture, and agriculture.”

“We know that the U.S. sanctions have created problems for Iran and we hope that the talks [on the nuclear deal] in Vienna will resume and end well... however, problems should not stop cooperation between Iran and Norway,” he stressed.

## Over \$785m of facilities paid for agricultural mechanization since late Mar.

TEHRAN – Head of Iran's Agricultural Mechanization Development Center Kambiz Abbasi has said over 33 trillion rials (about \$785.7 million) of facilities have been paid to farmers for agricultural mechanization since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21).

According to Abbasi, investment in the field of agricultural mechanization has doubled in the current Iranian calendar year compared to the previous year, IRNA reported.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the 4th International Agricultural Exhibition (Ifarm), Abbasi said: “Yesterday, seven trillion rials (about \$166.6 million) of additional facilities have been allocated for agricultural

mechanization to be provided to farmers in various provinces across the country.”

The official noted that the approach of the Agricultural Mechanization Development Center is to move towards sustainability, adding: “We need to have production sustainability alongside the development of technology and equipment.”

Back in October, Abbasi had announced that up to 95 percent of agricultural machinery in Iran is manufactured domestically.

According to the official, the country's agricultural production has increased by 350 percent due to the implementation of the Agriculture Ministry's mechanization programs.

During the past week, the indices of Isfahan Refining Company, National Iranian Copper Industries Company, Mobarakheh Steel Company, Iran Khodro, and Sabzevar Pars Steel Complex, and Arian Chimia Tech Industrial Group were the most widely followed ones.

Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi hosted a meeting with the representatives of over 30 major companies active in the capital market on Monday to exchange ideas for resolving issues and developing the economy.

## Over 500,000 TV sets manufactured in H1

TEHRAN– As announced by Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry, 555,000 TV sets have been manufactured in the country during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22).

The ministry's data show that the TV manufacturing has fallen 10.9 percent in the six-month period of this year, from that of the previous year.

Home appliances manufacturing has increased 78 percent to stand at 15 million sets in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

Rise in home appliances manufacturing and export has been also planned for the current year.

Manufacturing of home appliances in Iran has risen 9.7 percent during the first half of the present year.

Last year, the industry was able to achieve 78 percent growth despite the restrictions on the manufacturing sector, Deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki has said, adding, “While foreign brands left Iran, manufacturers were able to achieve this leap by relying on domestic capacities.”

Back in April, the official had said that considering the Iranian home appliance industry's infrastructure and capacities, the country will be able to become an exporter of such products in the near future because most

of the raw materials needed by the mentioned sector are produced domestically.

Stating that the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry will definitely support domestic manufacturers and national brands, the official added: “Today we have the necessary manpower, knowledge, and infrastructure in the field, so there is no reason to look for foreign sources to meet the country's demands.”

Over the past few years, the Iranian government has been following a new strategy for supporting domestic production to neutralize the impacts of the U.S. sanctions while reducing the reliance of the economy on oil revenues.

The home appliances sector has been one of the pioneers in this regard and like many other areas, the production of home appliances has witnessed a significant rise in the past two years so that this industry's production capacity increased by 24 percent in the past Iranian year, and by 10 percent in its preceding year.

In early April, the secretary of the Association of Industries of Household Appliances of Iran said, “We expected to produce about 12 million units, including small and large appliances in the previous year, however, the figure increased to about 15 million by the yearend, registering a 24 percent growth compared to the preceding



year.”

“We also had good growth in after-sales service, product quality improvement, indigenization and exports, so that last year \$345 million worth of home appliance products were exported,” Abbas Hashemi added.

Pointing to the advantages of home appliance industry in Iran, the official said: “Production of home appliances in the country is an advantage considering cheap energy and workforce and the country's geographical situation,” he noted.

“This industry should be more supported,” he stressed.

Regarding the return of foreign brands to the country, Hashemi said: “we should prevent the imports of foreign finished products into the country in order to support domestic producers.”

He further noted that foreign companies can invest in this industry and co-produce their products with local manufacturers.

## TEDPIX gains 22,000 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 22,349 points to 1.398 million on Wednesday.

As reported, over 5.342 billion securities worth 42.474 trillion rials (about \$1.011 billion) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 21,322 points, and the second market's index gained 29,451 points.

TEDPIX lost 43,000 points, or three percent, to 1.393 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).



TEHRAN - Once again, this year, the American drug manufacturer Pfizer has significantly raised its revenue forecast by cashing in on Covid-19 vaccines and triggering calls by rights groups to stop putting profit ahead of human lives.

The company says it is now expected to generate \$36bn in sales from covid jabs more than doubling its forecast in comparison with its initial estimates. It is also predicting another \$29bn for next year with the sale of booster shots and the distribution of jabs for children. It's a big jump from February when the American drug maker was anticipating its sales in 2021 to the tune of \$15bn.

Western nations such as the U.S., the UK and Germany have placed orders for booster jabs (a third shot), which has proven controversial because only 3.7% of people living in low-income countries have been administered with at least one coronavirus vaccine.

Pfizer vaccines have flooded countries, but because they are so expensive, Pfizer jabs have only flooded wealthy countries.

There is anger that during an extremely deadly pandemic, rich pharmaceutical companies are selfishly saving the lives of only those who can afford to buy their vaccines instead of sharing information on how to make the vaccine with poorer nations.

Human rights organizations such as the Global Justice Now accused Pfizer of "making a killing out of the most lucrative medicine ever produced," while "most of the world has been locked out of this vaccine."

The campaign group adds, "Just 1% of Pfizer's supplies have been sold to the international distribution mechanism COVAX, as the company has put sales of third and fourth doses in wealthy markets ahead of selling doses to where they're most needed" before adding "this will undoubtedly prolong the pandemic."

It has drawn the ire of Amnesty International which says Pfizer is "hurting the chances of millions to get vaccinated." The international rights organization says "that Pfizer has been able to earn billions of dollars in revenue in the last three months alone, while failing to provide vaccines to billions of people, is a failure of catastrophic proportions."

According to Amnesty International "not only has the vast majority of its vaccines gone to high and upper-middle-income countries but Pfizer has also consistently refused to waive its intellectual property rights and share vaccine technology, while at the same time benefitting from billions of dollars in government funding and advance orders from wealthy countries."

The rights group argues that this is prolonging the global crisis as the "apparently unquenchable thirst for profits of big pharmaceutical companies, like Pfizer, is fueling an unprecedented human rights crisis. If left unchecked, the rights of billions of people around the world to life and to health will continue to be in jeopardy." Its own research has found that Pfizer and



BioNTech have so far delivered nine times more vaccines to Sweden than to all low-income countries combined.

At the end of this month, World Health Organization members will meet in Geneva to discuss a waiver to temporarily lift intellectual property rights, which will potentially expand the world's manufacturing capacity of Covid-19 vaccines. Something major western pharmaceutical companies have opposed. But rights groups say "big pharma must stop lobbying against the waiver so that world production can be boosted and diversified, and every person on the planet can get a shot at these life-saving vaccines."

Late last month, the Amnesty accused six pharmaceutical companies that have developed Covid-19 vaccines of fueling a global human rights crisis, citing their refusal to sufficiently waive intellectual property rights, share vaccine technology and boost global vaccine supply.

After assessing the performance of six Covid-19 vaccine developers; Pfizer and BioNTech, Moderna, Johnson & Johnson, AstraZeneca and Novavax, Amnesty International said that all are failing to uphold their own human rights commitments and warned they should not be putting profit before the lives of people in the world's poorest countries.

According to its research Pfizer has said that, "fair and equitable distribution was our North Star from day one," BioNTech has said that it aims to make its vaccines "available worldwide as quickly as possible," and Moderna has committed to "provide effective and affordable vaccines and therapeutics to all populations." Yet Pfizer/ BioNTech and Moderna have allocated almost all of their vaccines so far delivered to higher income countries. At the beginning of September, 98% of Pfizer/BioNTech deliveries have been allocated to high and upper-middle-income countries. This is also the case for 88% of Moderna's deliveries to date.

For Johnson & Johnson, 79% of its deliveries to date have been to high- and upper-middle-income countries, though planned deliveries to COVAX and the African Union means that it is orders for the year are more balanced at 53%, if it meets its commitments. In contrast, for AstraZeneca some 34% of its deliveries went to high- and upper-middle-income countries.

Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna have so far delivered small percentages of their current production into the COVAX Facility. Most doses currently pledged will only be delivered in 2022 -

well after many poorer regions have been wracked by further deadly Covid-19 outbreaks. Just 3.4% of Moderna's 2021 production and 8% of Pfizer/BioNTech's is due to go COVAX. Novavax has taken a more responsible approach, with over 60% of their agreed sales to date allocated to COVAX.

One of the major obstacles to ensuring fair access to Covid-19 vaccines is lack of transparency, which makes contracts, pricing, technology and knowledge transfer impossible to accurately map and optimize. Yet no company assessed has fully disclosed the actual costs of production, individual cost items, sources of external funding, prices charged in different countries, contractual terms and conditions, or information about discounting, donations and advance order guarantees.

While the vaccine developers claim to respect human rights, all of them - to differing degrees - have failed to meet their responsibilities. Through their actions and omissions, they have ended up causing or contributing to human rights harms suffered by billions of people lacking access to the Covid-19 vaccine. Companies have caused human rights harms through their decisions not to share intellectual property and technology and contributed to violations of the rights to life and health by repeatedly selling most of their scarce stock to wealthier countries, often at significant profit.

Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna have charged high prices for their vaccines and allocated almost all

of vaccines so far delivered (as opposed to pledged) to high-income countries, putting profits before access to essential medicines. Despite the huge potential of Johnson & Johnson's single-dose vaccine for reaching poorer parts of the world, the company has been slow to move beyond high- and upper-income markets, and has actively obstructed efforts to license its technology.

Former UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions, Agnes Callamard, says, "Big pharma's intentional blocking of knowledge transfer and their wheeling and dealing in favour of wealthy states has brewed an utterly devastating vaccine scarcity for so many others." She argues "[These companies'] actions are plunging parts of Latin America, Africa and Asia into renewed crises, pushing weakened health systems to the very brink and causing tens of thousands of preventable deaths every week."

However, experts say U.S. made Pfizer is the corporation that has profited most from Covid-19 vaccines to date arguing that the company uses its power to aggressively defend and extend its patents. Unlike other the other companies Pfizer, which sells a single dose at almost \$20 has explicitly said it will profit throughout the pandemic.

But even that's not enough. Pfizer's CFO, Frank D'Amelio, told Wall Street analysts "That's not a normal price, like we typically get for a vaccine, \$150, \$175 per dose... let's go beyond a pandemic pricing environment, the environment we're currently in: Obviously, we're going to get more on price."

Governments in some wealthy western countries must talk a share of the blame as well by not pressuring Pfizer; instead encouraging the firm by purchasing hundreds of millions of its covid jabs.

The solution may be found by who Pfizer's CFO spoke with about increasing the price: Wall Street analysts.

In the case of China, it appears that Biden is following in the footsteps of Donald Trump.

escalated recently over Chinese military flights, as well as increased U.S. military support for Taiwan.

Even in death, Palestinians suffer obscene indignities

By Andrew Mitrovica

Even in death, Palestinians, it seems, have no respite from Israeli officials intent on stripping them of their dignity and humanity.

The latest desecration is taking place at al-Yusufiyah cemetery, a centuries-old Muslim graveyard in occupied Jerusalem.

Last week, Israeli machinery began razing the ground in and adjacent to the cemetery to make way for a so-called "Biblical Trail," a string of theme parks in the south of the Old City.

This past Sunday, an Israeli court upheld the "clearance" work. This, despite the remains - reportedly of Jordanian soldiers - having already been disturbed and exposed in a section of the cemetery Israeli authorities have claimed is "unauthorized" - whatever that means.

That sordid violation triggered understandable panic among Palestinians that their interred loved ones would suffer the same obscene fate.

Israeli assurances that "authorized burial sites" - whatever that means - would not be harmed have done little to mollify Palestinian fears.

Sheikh Muhammad Hussein, Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, told the Reuters news agency that the park, scheduled to open in mid-2022, is a sacrilegious assault on the ancient cemetery.

"The graves of human beings cannot be violated no matter the gender, nationality or religion," he said.

Pictures and video from the scene show digger trucks busy levelling land within the shadow of the "authorized" Muslim gravesites.

One Palestinian mother was having none of it.

Dressed in black, Ola Nababteh, draped herself over her son's grave like a human shroud. It was, at once, an act of defiance and resistance, fuelled by a mother's love and instinct to protect a son she lost four years ago and still mourns.

"They keep threatening to bulldoze the graves," Nababteh said. "This is the pinnacle of brutality."

Predictably, Nababteh's determination to protect the sanctity of her son's grave was met with overwhelming force. Scores of well-armed Israeli police surrounded Nababteh as she sobbed while holding tight onto her son's gravestone, a red tin filled with dried flowers at the head of the white marker. All the while, bulldozers hovered nearby.

A young Palestinian woman tried to console Nababteh and intervene. She was brushed aside as Israeli police wrested Nababteh's arms from her son's large, plain tomb.

Nababteh defied police as best she could, resting her body, for a time, against the gravestone. Later, she stood. A police officer grabbed her by the neck and throat, and pushed her away. Wielding batons, police also fired stun grenades and skunk water cannon to disperse worried Palestinians who had gathered close by.

Nababteh is undeterred.

"I will continue to stay with my son 24 hours a day," she said. "Even if they kill me, I will not leave here. I will not allow my son's grave to be removed."

Ultimately, the state of Israel will decide the fate of Nababteh and her son's resting place - international law, human rights codes and decency be damned.

Imprisoned Palestinians exercise little, if any, agency over their lives and futures, including, apparently, where they can and cannot be buried.

But, of course, Arie King, deputy mayor of Jerusalem, does not see it that way. He told Reuters that police forcibly removed Nababteh for her own safety and implied that she should be grateful for the excavations at and near the cemetery since the new park will provide Palestinians easier access to the Old City.

This is the same King that the Israeli newspaper, Haaretz, described as being "best known" for having "been accused of racism" after - among other detestable things - his election campaign signs compared the Muslim call to prayer with a rooster's crow and



for ejecting Palestinian families from their old, beloved homes in the besieged Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood.

I suspect that Nababteh and the other Palestinian families whose kin are buried at al-Yusufiyah cemetery know that, given King's ugly record, the deputy mayor does not have their safety at heart and are unlikely to express gratitude for his, uh, hospitality and a park.

The threats and coercion facing Palestinians watching over al-Yusufiyah cemetery are a microcosm of the "present circumstances" in occupied Palestine that Irish author, Sally Rooney, alluded to when she decided last month not to permit her latest work of fiction to be translated by an Israeli publisher into Hebrew.

It is one of a litany of losses, threats, indignities and obscenities that Palestinians have long had to endure.

Rooney's small but considered expression of solidarity with Palestinians like Nababteh prompted her quick-draw detractors to rush to print and the airwaves to belittle her, to deride her, to ridicule her and to condemn her with a kind of adolescent glee usually reserved for delinquent prime ministers and presidents, not accomplished 30-year-old authors.

Rooney's resolve to make visible the too-often invisible pain and suffering of Palestinians and the reaction to it attracted a lot of attention because she is a somebody.

Nababteh is a nobody - a Palestinian nobody, to boot. Outside Al Jazeera, Reuters and a few Middle East-based news sites, what happened to her inside al-Yusufiyah cemetery did not register a jot among the news and opinion page editors who unleashed an army of reporters and rabid columnists to dissect and largely eviscerate Rooney (a somebody) for standing by - metaphorically-speaking - Nababteh (a nobody).

In their obnoxious calculus, Rooney's gesture of support for Palestinians "in their struggle for freedom, justice and equality" warrants their wrath and disapproval and not the losses, threats, indignities and obscenities that triggered it.

Israel will always be innocent. Sally Rooney will always be a foolish dupe for even mildly challenging Israel's "innocence". And Ola Nababteh, a Palestinian, will always be a forgettable nobody.

Silent and absent, too, are the glib politicians who have remained so expectedly mum after Israel announced last week that several Palestinian human rights groups - who have documented the outrages and abuses visited again and again and again on Palestinians - are havens for "terrorists".

Slowly, unmistakably, Israel is, in effect, declaring any Palestinian who does anything, at any time to expose, record or resist the state-sanctioned persecution of Palestinians in occupied Palestine to be a "terrorist" who can be raided, arrested and jailed for as long as Israel wants to lock them up - often in solitary confinement.

I am surprised Nababteh was not arrested as a "terrorist" for daring to save her son's grave from possible demolition.

She, like every Palestinian family with a loved one entombed at al-Yusufiyah cemetery, will have to rely on the word of an accused "racist" deputy mayor with a fondness for kicking out Palestinians from their homes to make room for a lot of intransigent settlers and a state that, more or less, considers most Palestinians to be "terrorists" that the graveyard will go untouched - for the time being.

Call me a foolish dupe or worse if you must, but Ola Nababteh and other grieving Palestinian families have good reason to remain unconvinced and on guard.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

Biden tries to redefine US-China ties

US President Joe Biden says he is not concerned about the possibility of a "physical conflict" with China.

"Am I worried about an armed conflict or something happening accidentally with China? No, I'm not," the Democratic leader said at his closing press conference at the COP26 summit in Edinburgh, Scotland

He made the comments amid tensions between Washington and Beijing over a range of issues, including the Chinese Taipei, the South China Sea, cyber security, etc.

The U.S. president asserted that he had made the idea clear to his American counterpart, Xi Jinping.

"There's no reason there need to be conflict. But I've also indicated to him, so I'm not reluctant to say it publicly, that we expect him to play by the rules of the road," Biden said.

The United States and China have in recent months escalated their war of words over the Chinese Taipei.

The U.S. has recently deployed a fleet of B1 bombers and 200 airmen to its notorious base at

Diego Garcia in the Indian Ocean, the first such deployment to the island in 15 years.

Biden has repeatedly vowed to re-engage with the international community, marking a departure from his predecessor Donald Trump's foreign policy.

In the case of China, however, it appears that he is following in the footsteps of Donald Trump and his America first stance against Beijing.

China considers Taiwan as being a part of its territory, and has warned against any of its independence bids. Tensions



## Special exhibit featuring Iranian, German studies on ancient mining opens in Tehran



TEHRAN – On Wednesday, a special exhibition featuring Iranian and German studies on ancient mining and relevant objects was officially inaugurated at the National Museum of Iran.

“Highlights of Ancient Mining from Deutsches Bergbau-Museum Bochum”, and “Death by Salt” will be running from November 3 to January 14, 2022, at the major museum, which is located in downtown Tehran.

The exhibit puts the spotlight on the appropriation of humans to mineral resources and the development of the history of human experiences and achievements in mining, which led to the development of technologies, the formation of professions, trade, and specialization of industries.

The event showcases arrays of personal objects, tools, and corpses once belonging to the famed Iranian salt mummies discovered in the Chehrabad Salt Mine of Zanjan province.

According to Jebrael Nokandeh, the director of the National Museum, the museum and the German Mining Museum in Bochum have made considerable cooperation in line with an agreement they signed in 2017, based on which the two institutions are set to hold exhibitions of each other’s historical and cultural artifacts related to the subject of ancient mining.

It is worth mentioning that similar loan exhibitions featuring ancient mining and relevant documents were already staged in Iran and Germany.

Last year, a team of experts from the two countries started a project for purifying, cleansing, and restoring garments and personal belongings of the mummies which were first found in the salt mine in 1993.

What was a catastrophe for the ancient miners has become a sensation for science. Sporting a long white beard, iron knives, and a single gold earring, the first salt mummy was discovered in 1993. He is estimated to be trapped in the mine in ca. 300 CE. In 2004 another mummy was discovered only 50 feet away, followed by another in 2005 and a “teenage” boy mummy later that year.

## Saffron festival to be held in southern Iran

TEHRAN – A saffron festival is planned to be held on November 12, in Zarand county of Kerman province, a local tourism official has announced.

There are plans to conduct the festival simultaneously in three villages of the county, which have the best and most extensive saffron cultivation in the southern province, Mohammad Eslami said on Tuesday.

Some 30,000 tourists are expected to attend and visit the festival that will display handicrafts and natural products, as well as local food and souvenirs, the official added.

Iranian saffron is known as the “red gold”. Saffron is a magical ingredient in Persian culture, from aromatic foods and colorful deserts to physical and spiritual medicine. Every year, the saffron harvest season begins in early November. While most other vegetation is

In 1993, miners in the Douzlakh Salt Mine, near Hamzehli and Chehrabad villages, accidentally came across a mummified head. The head was very well preserved, to the extent that his pierced ear was still holding the gold earring. The hair, beard, and mustaches were reddish, and his impressive leather boot still contained parts of his leg and foot, according to Ancient History Encyclopedia.

The first mummy, dubbed the “Saltman”, is on display in the National Museum of Iran in Tehran. He still looks very impressive. The third, fourth, and fifth “saltmen” were also carbon dated. The third body was dated and placed in 2337 BP, the fourth body in 2301 BP, and the fifth mummy was dated to 2286 BP, placing them all in the Achaemenid period.

The isotopic analysis of the human remains revealed where these miners were from. Some of them were from the Tehran-Qazvin plain, which is relatively local to the mine’s locality, while others were from north-eastern Iran and the coastal areas around the Caspian Sea, and a few from as far away as Central Asia.

Furthermore, the archaeozoological finds, such as animal bones found within the context of the saltmen, showed that the miners might have eaten sheep, goats, and probably pigs and cattle, as well. The archaeobotanical finds recorded showed different cultivated plants were eaten, indicating an agricultural establishment in the vicinity of the mine.

The wealth of fabric and other organic material (leather) worn by the saltmen have allowed a thorough analysis to be undertaken, detailing the resources used to make the fabrics, the processing, the dyes used to color the fibers of the garments, and not least they offer an excellent overview of the changes in cloth types, patterns of weaving, and the changes of the fibers through time.

Saltman No. 5 had tapeworm eggs from the Taenia sp. genus in his system. These were identified during the study of his remains. The find indicates the consumption of raw or undercooked meat, and this is the first case of this parasite in ancient Iran and the earliest evidence of ancient intestinal parasites in the area. The best preserved and probably the most harrowing of the saltmen is Saltman No. 4. A sixteen-year-old miner, caught in the moment of death, crushed by a cave-in.

The oldest-known mine on archaeological record is believed to be the Ngwenya Mine in Eswatini (Swaziland), which radiocarbon dating shows to be about 43,000 years old. At this site, Paleolithic humans mined hematite to make the red pigment ochre. Moreover, mines of a similar age in Hungary are believed to be sites where Neanderthals may have mined flint for weapons and tools.

gone, the bright purple flowers cover the fields and create an outstanding landscape in dry regions in Iran.

Major saffron producers of Iran are located on the east side of the country. If you would like to see the biggest market, head to Mashhad, which is also known for its religious importance.

Big and sprawling Kerman province is something of a cultural melting pot, blending various regional cultures over time. It is also home to rich tourist spots and historical sites including bazaars, mosques, caravanserais, and ruins of ancient urban areas.

Kerman province is bounded by the provinces of Fars on the west, Yazd on the north, South Khorasan on the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan on the east, and Hormozgan on the south. It includes the southern part of the central Iranian desert, the Dasht-e Lut.

TEHRAN – A total of 32 historical relics have recently been discovered in the city of Mayamey, north-central Semnan province, Mayamey’s tourism chief has announced.

The relics, which are estimated to date back to the Islamic era, were recovered from an abandoned car near a village following reports from locals, Seyyed Mohammad-Sadeq Razavian said on Wednesday.

The recovered collection includes pillar base, jar,

# Cabinet approves plans to develop sustainable coastal, forest tourism

From page 1 ► **Forest tourism**

Iran has a great share of valuable old-growth forests, some of which, especially in Zagros, age over 300-400 years, he highlighted, implying that these forests are not comparable to the young reforested areas.

In 2019, the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization designated Iran’s vast Hyrcanian Forest as a World Heritage site, making it the second such Iranian natural site after Lut Desert, which was granted the tag in 2016.

Spanning from the south of Azerbaijan to about 850 km eastward to the provinces of Gilan, Mazandaran, and Golestan, the Hyrcanian Forests are witnesses of the ancient forests of the world estimated to be survived for a long period spanning 35 and 50 million years.

### Coastal and maritime tourism

Over the past couple of years, the Islamic Republic has made various efforts to exploit maritime tourism potential by developing hospitality infrastructures, diversifying sea routes, and drawing private sector investors along its vast southern coasts.

Prosperous maritime tourism could help the county to meet its ambitious target of attracting 20 million annual tourists by 2025. It also keeps an eye on



tourism developments in the Caspian Sea in the north.

Back in February, the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to develop maritime tourism and make the best use of its potential in the southern and northern coasts of the country.

Promoting the culture of using the sea as a tool to increase social vitality, development of coastal activities in the form of environmentally-friendly plans and programs, and creating the necessary grounds for cooperation and exchange of knowledge and information was also among the topics of the agreement.

### Makran coasts

Makran coasts are all about its rugged rock formations,

dramatic dunes, and relentless waves crashing upon jagged boulders, which are perfect in winter.

The coasts of Makran or Makuran – as it is pronounced by the local people – is a region comprising about 1,500 km of shoreline along the Sea of Oman and the Indian Ocean, which is stretched from Iran’s Hormozgan, and Sistan-Baluchestan provinces to Pakistan’s Balochistan province.

It offers visitors a dramatic setting to discover one of the most breathtaking, and arguably more scenic, sandy stretches in southern Iran.

Iranian tourism officials and experts believe that the natural and historical attractions of the Makran coastal strip hold considerable potential to be regis-

tered on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Makran coasts embrace some unique attractions such as Darak village, Martian Mountains, pristine beaches of Chabahar, and sacred fig trees to name a few.

The Makran coast starts from Alkoh region north of Iran’s Mina port and is considered an Iranian coast until it reaches the border between Iran and Pakistan in Gwatar Bay in Iran’s Sistan-Baluchestan province.

The narrow coastal plain rises rapidly into several mountain ranges. The climate is dry with little rainfall. Makran is very sparsely inhabited, with much of the population concentrated in a string of small ports including Chabahar, Gwatar, Jiwani, Jask, Sirik, Gwadar (not to be confused with Gwatar), Pasni, Ormara, and many smaller fishing villages.

Makran, the ancient Gedrosia of the Persian and Macedonian empires and the scene of Alexander the Great’s retreat from India (325 BC), has been strategically significant in the history of Iran and India, according to Britannica.

The etymology of the name is uncertain, chiefly regarded either as a corruption of Mahi Khuran (Fish Eaters), identified with the Ichthyophagoi (now represented by the Meds) mentioned in the Indica of the 2nd century CE.

## UNESCO-designated garden to find its pools dredged

TEHRAN – A dredging project is planned to be commenced on the pools of the UNESCO-tagged Shazdeh Garden, which is an enigmatic green oasis in the heart of a harsh desert in the southern Kerman province, the director of the World Heritage site has announced.

“The garden’s pools are dredged twice a year, and this project has different stages, which are completed at the end of the project by opening the fountains and re-watering the pools”, Fuzieh Farahbakhsh said on Wednesday.

The water in the garden is supplied by the Tigran qanat through the year, which is itself sourced from the Jupar mountains, she added.

When the pools are being dredged, the water is diverted to diversion canals, the official explained.

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

The garden was constructed under the command of Mohammad Hassan Khan, the ruler of Kerman during the Qajar era (1789–1925). Apart from the beauties of the garden, two-storey mansions in the western and



eastern parts of the garden perfectly represent Persian architecture. The main material used in them is brick and the art of tiling is easy to recognize.

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

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

For millennia, Iranian gardens have com-

bined the magic of nature with the aesthetic qualities of art and architecture to create a symbolic representation of paradise on Earth.

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

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

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Kerman province is bounded by the provinces of Fars on the west, Yazd on the north, South Khorasan on the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan on the east, and Hormozgan on the south. It includes the southern part of the central Iranian desert, the Dasht-e Lut.

# Giant Sassanid urn recovered in Bushehr

TEHRAN – Iranian police have recently recovered a giant clay urn, which was used to carry liquids on voyages in the Sassanid era (224–651 CE).

“This torpedo-tipped urn was kept as a decorative object in a restaurant located in [the port city of] Ganaveh [in Bushehr province]. And the owner [of the restauranr] was unaware of its antiquity. . . the object was finally handed over to the cultural heritage directorate of the province,” the provincial tourism chief Hamzeh Bahagiri said on Wednesday.

Based on research, this urn was previously found in fishermen’s net, the official added.

The Sasanians played an import-



ant role in the trade of Asia. The “Silk Route” from China to the Mediterranean Sea passed through the Sasanian territory and the Sasanians thus controlled one of the most lucrative trade routes in Asia.

According to an article by David Whitehouse and Andrew Williamson, the evidence for this overland trade has been discussed on many

occasions. Contact between the Mediterranean, Iran and the Far East led to repeated exchanges of ideas, techniques, and decorative motifs. The Sasanians made a determined and largely successful effort to control the Persian Gulf almost from the moment they came to power; and that in the fifth and sixth centuries the Sasanians were a leading force—perhaps the leading force in the western half of the Indian Ocean.

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

id eras.

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

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

## Ancient relics discovered from an abandoned car in Semnan

vase, and potteries, the official added.

The term Islamic art not only describes the art created specifically in the service of the Muslim faith (for example, a mosque and its furnishings) but also characterizes the art and architecture historically produced in the lands ruled by Muslims, produced for Muslim patrons, or created by Muslim artists. As it is not only a religion but a way of life, Islam fostered the development of a distinctive culture with its own unique artistic language

that is reflected in art and architecture throughout the Muslim world.

The historical structure of Mayamey includes several caravanserais, natural sights, and historical sites such as Shah-Abbasi caravanserai, Aqaiyan Mosque, Aqaiyan Mansion, Aqaiyan bathhouse, and Emarat cistern.

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

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



# Court indicts U.S. for sanctions on EB patients

TEHRAN – A court was held in Tehran on Wednesday indicting 30 U.S. officials and entities for harsh sanctions against Iran which are threatening the lives of hundreds of epidermolysis bullosa (EB) patients in the country.

A lawsuit has been filed by 295 EB patients and their families against 30 individuals and entities, including the U.S. government, over the consequences of the medicine sanctions, Judge Salman Pourmori said.

“So, we have filed a lawsuit against the U.S. government, former President Donald Trump, Mike Pompeo, Brian Hook, and other individuals and entities directly and indirectly involved in the imposition of sanctions, and we seek compensation,” he explained.

The criminal policy of the United States government has caused the death of 15 EB patients from 2010 to 2018 when the Swedish bandage maker has decided to halt shipments to Iran due to fear of second-

ary sanctions as part of over-compliance.

These patients suffer from epidermolysis bullosa, a severe and life-threatening skin condition, which causes extremely painful wounds. Many are children, who are often referred to as “butterfly kids” because of their fragile skin.

Across the country, 950 people have been diagnosed with EB, but considering that EB is estimated to occur in 1 new-born per 50,000 live births, it is suggested that in Iran 1,200 people are suffering EB.

Without the bandages, they face difficulties even in their daily routine, including walking, eating, or even breathing, and unfortunately, there is no alternative treatment for such pain.



“All over the world, the patients use a special dressing and have no other medicine to reduce the disease process, and over 80 countries of the world use the same dressing, which is produced only by a Swedish company.

We also asked Turkey and India to purchase more bandages, but because the number of patients is already known, the Swedish company realized and refused to sell more,” he stated.

Votes will be issued within a week after the submission of ad-

ditional bills, he further concluded.

Exemptions for humanitarian trade (such as food, medicine, and medical equipment) have not been effective in protecting Iranian patients from access to imported medicine.

**Sanctions hurting Iran’s ‘butterfly kids’: UN**

Over-compliance with United States-imposed sanctions against Iran is harming the right to health, and people with rare skin disease are among those affected, many of them children, experts appointed by the UN Human Rights Council said on October 20.

As a result, EB patients in Iran can no longer enjoy the right to health, said the experts.

## The criminal policy of the United States government has caused the death of 15 EB patients from 2010 to 2018.

## Drought reduces water release into Lake Urmia

TEHRAN – A shortage of water caused by drought across West Azarbaijan province reduced Lake Urmia’s water intake by 400 million cubic meters during the last water year (September 2020–September 2021), IRNA reported on Wednesday.

Last water year, it was predicted that 620 million cubic meters of water would be released into the Lake, of which only 222 cubic meters was achieved, Yaser Rahbardin, head of West Azarbaijan Province’s Regional Water Company, said.

Pointing out that West Azarbaijan’s dams are currently filled by only 30 percent, he stated that 50 percent reduction in snow reserves, lack of rainfall, warmer weather along with the arrival of irrigation time for agricultural lands ahead of schedule caused the water release to stop.

Over the past two water years, when 700 million cubic meters were allocated to the Lake. Due to good rainfall and snow storage, 2.4 billion cubic meters of water were provided, he stated.

### Lake Urmia shrinks

Lake Urmia level has decreased by about 61 cm compared to last [Iranian calendar] year (March 2020–March 2021), Mehran Nazari, West



Azarbaijan province’s department of environment chief, said on October 16.

In other words, 1423 square kilometers of the Lake’s surface has been reduced, losing 2 billion cubic meters of water, he added.

He went on to say that this environmental problem has increased the risk of salt dust storms in the region, which can have adverse effects on human communities and the lakeshore.

Shared between West Azarbaijan and East Azarbaijan provinces in northwestern Iran, Lake Urmia, was once the largest salt-water lake in West Asia. It was home to many migratory and indigenous animals including flamingos, pelicans, egrets, and ducks, and attracted hundreds

of tourists every year who had bathed in the water to take advantage of the therapeutic properties of the lake.

However, decades of long-standing drought spells and elevated hot summer temperatures that speed up evaporation as well as increased water demands in the agriculture sector shrank the lake drastically. In 1999 the volume of water which was at 30 billion cubic meters drastically decreased to half a billion cubic meters in 2013. Moreover, the lake surface area of 5,000 square kilometers in 1997 shrunk to one-tenth of that to 500 square kilometers in 2013.

Lake’s surface area reached up to 2,917 square kilometers, indicating 1,582 square kilometers increase in comparison to 2013 when the Lake Urmia Restoration Program began.

The level of Lake Urmia has reached 1,271 meters, which indicates an increase of over 1.39 meters compared to the lowest volume recorded. However, it still needs 9.5 billion cubic meters of water to reach its ecological level.

The above normal levels of rain came to help conservation measures to preserve Lake Urmia, but, this year, the drought and low rainfall are threatening the lake again.

## Iranian woman nominated for Global Teacher Prize 2021

TEHRAN – Soraya Motahamia, an Iranian teacher, has been placed among the top 10 nominees for the Global Teacher Prize 2021.

Motahamia, an outstanding teacher of mathematics, Persian language, art, science, and theology, has been praised in Iran for helping the most vulnerable students in rural parts of the country.

She helps students in need of medical treatment and multiple special surgeries and provides financial assistance to hundreds of poor students.

Motahamia, who has been teach-

ing for 30 years, says that studying, caring for the weak, and wanting to play a role in promoting her society as three major forces have consistently pushed her forward throughout her life, namely, studying, taking care of the weak, and the desire to play a role in promoting her society.

Shortly after graduating from college, she was assigned a teaching post in a remote village near Sanandaj, the capital of western Kordestan Province. It was the start of an endless journey of teaching and helping poor students in different locations in his home province

and beyond.

Her own parents’ encouragement motivated her to establish a charity, helping 1,100 students who had medical and educational problems and providing jobs for women with marriage difficulties and divorce. Her caring crusade has extended to collecting money for earthquake victims in Kermanshah province and flood-stricken people in Lorestan province.

She believes her biggest achievement was decreasing the number of school dropouts to near zero. A string of awards, including being declared the best teacher in Iran

for two consecutive years, have followed the acclaim for all her efforts.

The Global Teacher Prize, now in its seventh year and organized by the Varkey Foundation in partnership with UNESCO, aims to recognize outstanding teachers around the world and has attracted for the current year more than 8,000 nominations and nominations from 121 countries, with a prize of \$1 million.

The Prize was set up to recognize one exceptional teacher who has made an outstanding contribution to the profession as well as to shine a spotlight on the important role teachers play in society.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### World’s first ‘subway library’ to open in Tehran

For the first time in the underground transportation system worldwide, a public library will be opened in Tehran subway, Farnoush Nobakht, director of Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Operations Company, said.

According to the memorandum signed between the Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Operations Company and the Tehran public libraries foundation, libraries will be launched in seven selected stations, first of which will be inaugurated on August 12, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

The library, called “Metro Book”, is in line with the cultural programs to promote the culture of reading and increase per capita reading among subway passengers during intra-city trips, the library with a capacity of more than 5,000 books provides services continuously from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., she explained.

### افتتاح کتابخانه عمومی در متروی تهران برای اولین بار در جهان

مدیرعامل شرکت بهره برداری متروی تهران و حومه گفت: برای اولین بار در سامانه حمل و نقل متروهای جهان، کتابخانه عمومی در متروی تهران افتتاح می شود.

به گزارش ایسنا، فریاد نوبخت اظهار داشت: قرار است طبق تفاهم نامه منعقد شده بین شرکت بهره برداری متروی تهران و حومه و نهاد کتابخانه های عمومی استان تهران در هفت ایستگاه منتخب «مترو کتاب» راه اندازی شود.

مدیرعامل شرکت بهره برداری متروی تهران و حومه گفت: این کتابخانه در راستای برنامه های فرهنگی معاونت امور فرهنگی اجتماعی شرکت بهره برداری متروی تهران مبنی بر ترویج فرهنگ کتابخوانی و افزایش سرائه مطالعه در میان مسافران مترو هنگام سفرهای درون شهری این کتابخانه با ظرفیت بیش از ۵۰۰۰ عنوان کتاب به صورت فیزیکی از ساعت ۸ صبح تا ۲۰ به طور مستمر به ارائه خدمات می دهد.

## Iran to pursue lifting of sanctions at UN climate summit

From page 1 ► “Countries will present their reports at the COP26, taking into account domestic conditions and their approach to reducing greenhouse gas emissions. The Summit’s Scientific and Working Committees review various aspects of the countries’ reports and discuss issues such as the commitment of developed countries to provide financial resources to developing countries.

Iran has so far submitted three national reports to the Secretariat of the Conference and the third report has been registered in 2018,” she explained.

In fact, this summit is an opportunity for the countries to express their demands.

At present, we have no international commitment to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and we can take action based on the national laws and policies to reform energy consumption patterns, she stated, ISNA reported on Wednesday.

Regarding obstacles to reducing greenhouse gas emissions, Azizi stressed that “Iran has a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions according to the low-carbon economy program, and if sanctions are lifted and funding is provided, there will be no obstacle to the realization of these programs.”

Our country is one of the most vulnerable countries in terms of climate change. Iran receives one-third of the average global rainfall annually, but water evaporation is three times that of other countries, so the intensification of climate change can reduce the diversity of agricultural products, migration, depletion of water resources, and sand and dust storms.

### Climate change impact

Increasing consumption of fossil fuels by humans, especially after the Industrial Revolution, has led to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions and ultimately climate change, and



now tackling this phenomenon has become one of the most important concerns worldwide.

Climate change is one of the most important problems in Iran that can exacerbate drought and water stress, so it is necessary to make serious plans at the national level to address the phenomena.

Based on research and assessments conducted by Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) adopted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and using scenarios proposed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), if the concentration of carbon dioxide doubles by 2100, Iran’s average temperature will increase by 1.5 to 4.5 degrees Celsius.

Temperature change, sea-level rise, coastal degradation, destruction of agricultural and food products, deforestation, depletion of freshwater resources, regional climate change in the high and northern hemispheres, changes in rainfall and wind direction, rising natural disasters such as tornadoes and floods, intensifying droughts and developing desert areas, increasing air pollution due to rising hot winds and the potential impact on the spread of diseases such as malaria are some of the known consequences of climate change.

According to scientists, global warming due to climate change is one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century.

## Cop26: Leaders promise to halt deforestation by 2030

More than 100 national leaders will make a promise during the Cop26 summit to stop deforestation and begin restoring the world’s forests by 2030, the UK government has said.

Leaders representing countries that are home to 85 per cent of the planet’s forests – including Brazil – will commit to “halt and reverse” deforestation by the end of the decade at an event convened by Boris Johnson in Glasgow on Tuesday.

Downing Street said the pledge was backed by \$12bn (£8.75bn) of public funding from governments aimed at restoring ripped-up land, with a further \$7.2bn (£5.3bn) coming from private investment.

It includes \$2bn (£1.47bn) from Amazon founder Jeff Bezos for land restoration in Africa, double what he previously committed just a day earlier at an event with the Prince of Wales.

The commitment has been largely welcomed by climate campaigners – but they warned that change was needed immediately to stop new logging from taking place, as well as delivering

on the restoration of forests.

Greenpeace was critical of the lack of a binding timetable for the measures – claiming the announcement amounted to a “green light for another decade of forest destruction”.

Carolina Pasquali, executive director at Greenpeace Brazil, said: “There’s a very good reason [president] Jair Bolsonaro felt comfortable signing on to this new deal. It allows another decade of forest destruction and isn’t binding.”

She added: “Meanwhile the Amazon is already on the brink and can’t survive years more deforestation. Indigenous peoples are calling for 80 per cent of the Amazon to be protected by 2025, and they’re right, that’s what’s needed. The climate and the natural world can’t afford this deal.”

The land covered by the agreement includes the tropical rainforests of Brazil, Colombia, Indonesia and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), as well as the northern forests of Canada and Russia – an area of more than 13 million square miles.

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON NOVEMBER 3

New cases	10,363
New deaths	147
Total cases	5,954,962
Total deaths	126,763
New hospitalized patients	1,344
Patients in critical condition	3,789
Total recovered patients	5,547,349
Diagnostic tests conducted	35,834,812
Doses of vaccine injected	90,068,665



