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Report T

UK police wounded in anti-capitalist rallies

TEHRAN - Anti-establishment protesters have poured their anger onto the streets of the British capital during a traditional annual event marking bonfire night. The unrest in London included clashes and street battles with police that left at least eight officers needing medical treatment for injuries they sustained.

Protesters had initially gathered in Central London's iconic Trafalgar Square at the now annual demonstration dubbed the Million Mask March, which began in 2012. The anti-capitalist event coincides with Guy Fawkes celebrations in the UK, with many of the protesters wearing masks resembling the face of the man behind the gunpowder plot to blow up the British parliament.

Demonstrators at this year's Guy Fawkes inspired Million Mask March through London expressed even more anger and frustration as it came on the backdrop of Covid-19 lockdowns with many descending on the city to demand a revolution. Other groups of protesters joined arms and unrest was reported at around three popular sites in Central London; Parliament Square, Trafalgar Square and Oxford Circus.

Some were later seen being frog marched away by police in riot gear, other clips have shown the demonstrators launching projectiles towards police lines, while riot gear officers were forced to set up barricades at various locations across the capital to contain the demonstrations.

One participant, who only gave his name as Richard told British media that the protest, which has taken place in early November for several years now, was a continuation of the anti-Covid marches against government lockdowns and restrictions. Last year, police arrested almost 200 people during the rally for breaching lockdown restrictions. Many of the members of the movement, known as the Million Mask March, did hold signs protesting against coronavirus restrictions. ▶ Page 5

'Comprehensive protection' essential need of Golestan forest

TEHRAN - About 3,500 hectares of unique forest reserves in northern Golestan province, as the most important habitats in the country, are facing the challenges of lack of funds, illegal logging, and inadequacy of related laws and regulations, which are expected to be resolved by protection plans.

Golestan province is covered with about 453,000 hectares of forests. Four protected areas of Golestan National Park, Jahan Nama, Afratakhteh, and Abr forest were included in the World Heritage List as part of the Hyrcanian forests with the approval of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

Forest reserves as a gene bank need comprehensive protection and support, of the total tree species in the forest reserves of Golestan, four species of Junipers, Taxus baccata, Thuja and Mediterranean cypress are endemic to the Hyrcan, that some of which date back to more than 4,000 years, and are important for medicinal purposes, in addition to protecting soil and water and preventing erosion.

Abdolrahim Lotfi, director of natural resources and watershed management of Golestan said that there are 15 biosphere reserves in the province. Normally, multi-layer protection of Golestan forest reserves is being implemented and land transfer is strictly prohibited and no license will be issued for development and tourism projects under any title. ▶ Page 7



When you don't know how to guarantee a deal

TEHRAN — As Tehran announces a date to return to the Vienna talks to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), there is more fog in Vienna's sky than before.

The Republicans have written a letter saying, "Going easy on Iran is a grave mistake that will have disastrous results. Biden

should show some backbone and ratchet up sanctions on Iran."

The letter is written by Morris Jackson "Mo" Brooks Jr., and 4 other Republican congressmen, and was sent to United States President Joe Biden on November 2.

In theory, Biden's administration has ex-

pressed a desire to return to the JCPOA, but in practice, it has imposed new sanctions on Iran just as it was negotiating with the JCPOA Joint Commission and P4+1 to set a date to return to Vienna. The unconstructive approach has raised some eyebrows in Tehran about Washington's intentions and seriousness. ▶ Page 2

Iran-Pakistan free trade agreement to be implemented within 3 months

TEHRAN - Iran and Pakistan are going to implement a free trade agreement within the next three months, Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi Amin announced on Saturday.

Fatemi Amin made the announcement on the sidelines of the ninth meeting of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee in Tehran, IRIB reported.

Co-chaired by Fatemi Amin and Pakistan's Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce and Invest-

ment Abdul Razak Dawood, the meeting was attended by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), the head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) as well as traders and businessmen from the two countries.

Banking relations, customs cooperation, border markets, barter trade, and coronavirus pandemic issues were among the subjects discussed at the meeting, after which the busi-

nessmen from the two sides held B2B meetings to explore avenues of mutual cooperation.

Speaking in the meeting, Fatemi Amin expressed Iran's readiness for removing barriers in the way of the activities of Pakistani companies in Iran, saying: "With the measures taken, the existing barriers will be removed within the next three months and the trade processes will be facilitated. Hopefully, the Pakistani government will also provide Iranian companies with the same facilities." ▶ Page 4



Cartoonist Kambiz Derambakhsh dies from COVID-19

TEHRAN - Top Iranian cartoonist Kambiz Derambakhsh, whose works were published in the world's major newspapers and magazines such as New York Times and Spiegel, passed away in a Tehran hospital on Saturday after a severe battle with COVID-19. He was 79. ▶ Page 8

House of Nima Yushij, father of modern Persian poetry, restored to former state

TEHRAN - The house of Nima Yushij (1897-1960), who is famed as the father of modern Persian poetry, has been restored to the former state.

"Protective and emergency repairs, which include strengthening the gable roof and columns of the house, have been completed. Moreover, its walls, floorings, doors, and windows have been renovated and restored as

well," the director of the Tehran Municipality's Beautification Organization said on Saturday.

Dating back to the second Pahlavi era, the house is now defined as the "Museum of Modern Iranian Poetry" and it is ready to open to the public, Reza Sayyadi said.

In 2019, Tehran Municipality purchased the house, which is situated in northern Tehran near the house of the famed Iranian couple

Iran runners-up at Intercontinental Beach Soccer Cup

TEHRAN - Iran lost to Russia 3-2 in the final match of the continental Beach Soccer Cup.

Boris Nikonov made a hat-trick for the Russians while Mohammad Mokhtari scored twice for Iran.

Earlier on the day, Senegal defeated Portugal 7-3 in bronze medal match.

Russia became the most decorated team in the Intercontinental Beach Soccer Cup, winning the title for the fourth time.

Iran and Brazil have won the title three times. The competition was held in Dubai, the UAE from Nov. 2 to 6.

The Beach Soccer Intercontinental Cup is an international beach soccer tournament which is being held in Dubai, the UAE every November as the finale of the competitive international beach soccer season.

Seyyed Jalal al-e-Ahmad and Simin Daneshvar who were novelists and short-story writers, the official explained.

Yushij began writing poetry when he was a high school student. Until the age of twelve, he lived in Yush, a village in the northern province of Mazandaran, near the Caspian Sea, where his father was a farmer. ▶ Page 6

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Interview T

Iran has every right to distrust U.S.: American foreign policy expert

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN - Pointing to U.S. unilateral policies under Donald Trump's presidency, an American foreign policy expert says Iran is very rightful in distrusting the U.S.

"Iran has every right to distrust U.S. promises after what happened under Trump," Barbara Slavin tells the Tehran Times.

"However, Iran would still benefit from sanctions relief even if it only lasts a few years and most importantly, could gain access to some \$100 billion in hard currency frozen in foreign bank accounts," Slavin says.

The nuclear talks to revitalize the JCPOA were suspended after the June 18 presidential election in Iran. The new government in Iran has been insisting that it only seeks result-oriented talks and it does not want talks for talks.

Late on Friday, Iran's new chief negotiator Ali Bagheri tweeted that the Iran will resume nuclear talks with the aim of lifting "unlawful and inhumane sanctions" against Iranians.

Bagheri made the announcement after phone talks with Enrique Mora, Deputy Secretary-General of the EU External Action Service, who serves as a coordinator of nuclear talks between Iran and the West.

Analysts say Iran is not hopeful about the result of the talks largely because President Joe Biden has refused to commit his administration to lift the sanction on Iran for the rest of his term, even if Iran fully complies with the nuclear deal.

Slavin believes Iran looks for the maximum possible sanctions relief as well as guarantee that sanctions won't return impulsively as they were under the Trump presidency. ▶ Page 5

Amir Abdollahian, Lavrov agree on Vienna talks framework

TEHRAN - On Saturday, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov discussed issues of mutual interest, including the upcoming Vienna talks and the current developments in the region.

First, Lavrov inquired about the health of his Iranian counterpart after contracting the coronavirus.

Amir Abdollahian praised Russia's constructive and positive stance on the issue of Iran's nuclear program.

Referring to the agreement reached with European Union's nuclear deal coordinator Enrique Mora on the timing of the talks with the P4+1, the chief Iranian diplomat stressed that the rapid progress of ▶ Page 2

Amir Abdollahian, Lavrov agree on Vienna talks framework

From page 1 ► the talks requires that the European and American sides avoid making post-JCPOA demands and take a realistic and constructive approach.

On November 3, Iran announced that it will return to the negotiations in Vienna on November 29 for a possible revitalization of the JCPOA.

"In a phone call with @enriquemora_, we agreed to start the negotiations aiming at removal of unlawful & inhumane sanctions on 29 November in Vienna," Ali Baqeri, Iran's chief nuclear negotiator, tweeted late on Wednesday.

Amir Abdollahian stated that Iran is studying the background and process of the previous negotiations in Vienna, and specified that Iran will pursue its demands robustly in the forthcoming negotiations.

Iran's chief diplomat pointed out that there should be no doubt in the seriousness of the Iranian side in the talks and the need for all parties to return to their obligations.

Referring to the new U.S. sanctions against Iran, Amir Abdollahian stated that although Iran is skeptical of the Americans' intentions, if they fully return to their obligations and do not make further demands, then Iran will return to its JCPOA obligations and will implement them all.

Pointing to the constructive cooperation of Iran with the International Atomic Energy

Agency, the foreign minister stressed the need for the IAEA chief to refrain from taking political positions, stressing that Iran will continue technical cooperation with the IAEA.

The Russian foreign minister also stressed the importance of reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, stressing that all parties, firstly, the United States, must return to their commitments.

Lavrov also noted that Moscow has always stressed the need to stop U.S. destructive actions against the JCPOA.

Six rounds of intensive negotiations have been held in order to revive the JCPOA, yet the illegal and illogical demands by the United States have hampered the negotiations bear fruit.

"Humanitarian aid must be sent to Afghanistan soon"

In the phone call, the two sides also agreed on the need to send humanitarian aid to Afghanistan given the approaching winter season. They also stressed the importance of forming an inclusive government in Afghanistan.

"3+3 format is beneficial to Caucasus"

Amir Abdollahian also referred to the latest developments in South Caucasus and stated that Iran supports the regional negotiations in the form of 3+3 (Iran-Russia-Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia) and other agreed formats to resolve the South Caucasus issues and expanding regional cooperation.

TEHRAN — The Director General of Foreign Affairs and Immigrants of the Iranian Interior Ministry has said Tehran expects the European countries and the international community in large, including the United Nations, to act responsibly in allocating the necessary fund and provide comprehensive support for Afghan refugees flooding into Iran.

Mehdi Mahmoudi made the remarks during a meeting with Pasi Tuominen, Director General of Consular Services of the Finnish Foreign Ministry, Finnish Ambassador to Tehran Kari Kahiluoto and the accompanying delegation.

Mahmoudi said Iran has been hosting and providing services to the Afghan refugees for more than four decades.

"Iran has been a major supporter of refugees and displaced persons and, despite economic difficulties and unfair sanctions, has provided valuable services to a large number of refugees and foreign immigrants without any discrimination in the areas of education, health, livelihood, vocational training and employment," the Interior Ministry official stated.

Stating that the government of Iran, unlike some countries, has not housed refugees in camps, Mahmoudi added despite the little aid from international organizations, Iran has provided comfortable living conditions for the refugees nationwide.

The official continued, "Undoubtedly, addressing the

Iran expects Europe to act responsibly toward refugees: official



problems of refugees is a serious and international responsibility, and the responsibility of European countries and the global community, such as the United Nations and Finland in the distribution of financial resources and comprehensive support to refugees, is also expected by the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Despite the fact that Iran has been hosting hundreds of thousands of refugees for four decades, the situation has worsened given the large number

of refugees that are flooding into Iran coupled with the economic hardship caused by the oppressive sanctions against Iran, the Interior Ministry official stressed.

He added the ability to accommodate new refugees is limited.

"Given the recent developments in Afghanistan and to deal with possible flood of refugees into the country and prevent them from entering European countries, including Finland, it is expected to enter seriously in this

area and provide the necessary funds and provide the necessary support."

For his part, Tuominen said Finland will do its best to address issues and problems related to refugees, especially refugees and asylum seekers, as soon as possible.

Regarding the problems of the Afghan people, he said Finland is trying to provide favorable conditions in Afghanistan so that they can achieve relative stability and the people can lead a normal life.

"We are interested in being able to cooperate with the Islamic Republic of Iran to solve the problems of refugees," Tuominen added.

Ambassador Kahiluoto also pledged Finland's financial assistance to the Islamic Republic in dealing with the flood of refugee.

Since the Taliban takeover in August 15, new waves of Afghan refugees are trying to enter various countries, such as Iran, Turkey, and Europe.

Turkey has reinforced its border with Iran to stop a potential arrival of Afghans fleeing the Taliban rule.

Local media report a 155-kilometre stretch of a planned 241-kilometre wall has already been erected at the border by Turkey, Euronews reported.

On November 6, Turkish security personnel arrested nearly 150 Afghan migrants on the border with Iran, media reports said on Saturday.

Saudi excuses over Kordahi's remarks aimed to overthrow Mikati cabinet, expert says

TEHRAN — Saudi Arabia's disproportionate reaction to remarks to George Kordahi long before he was appointed as information minister is aimed at overthrowing the new Lebanese government, says Hassan Hanizadeh, an expert on Arab affairs.

In August, long before he was appointed as information minister, Kordahi had criticized Saudi policies against Yemen which became an excuse for Saudi Arabia to create a new crisis and expel the Lebanese ambassador from Saudi Arabia, Hanizadeh lamented.

"This policy is aimed at overthrowing the cabinet and extortion of the cabinet in order to marginalize Hezbollah," the expert on regional affairs stated.

Kordahi had called the war on Yemen futile. The remarks at the times were made in personal capacity and as journalist.

Regrettably, Bahrain, the UAE and Kuwait followed suit by expelling the Lebanese ambassadors.

In addition, Saudi Arabia has banned imports from Lebanon. The UAE has also called on its citizens not to visit Lebanon.

Hanizadeh believes that the recent disputes between Lebanon and Saudi Arabia should be resolved through a mediation by the United States and France, otherwise the confrontation between the Lebanese political currents may intensify.

In an interview with ISNA published on Wednesday, Hanizadeh said Lebanon has gone through many crises. For example, he said, snipers aligned to Samir Geagea's Lebanese Forces party fired at Hezbollah and Amal loyalists on October 14 in Beirut who were protesting against the judge investigating the Beirut Port explosion. It led to the martyrdom of seven Hezbollah supporters.

"We also witness the fuel crisis and street clashes, which are part of a defined scenario for civil war in Lebanon," Hanizadeh opined.

"Recently, after nearly two years, Najib Mikati's government has been formed and some of the cabinet ministers are affiliated with the Resistance and Hezbollah, including the Minister of Information," he pointed out.

Hanizadeh said Kordahi as a former TV presenter is a Christian Marouni who shares close views with the Resistance movement and this has angered the Saudis, and "his entry into the cabinet of Najib Mikati has raised some reactions."

Regarding the socio-political situation in Lebanon, Hanizadeh said: "There is a lot of external interference in Lebanon. In any case, this issue must be resolved through dialogue

between Michel Aoun and Muhammad bin Salman (the Saudi Crown Prince)."

Saudi Arabia wants to force a resignation of Kordahi, and if he resigns, other ministers may leave the cabinet, and the cabinet will fall and Lebanon will enter a new cycle of crisis, he warned.

A fall of the cabinet means that an anti-Hezbollah cabinet is likely to be formed, Hanizadeh concluded.

A former Lebanese ambassador to Chile, Poland, and Canada says most of Lebanese people think that Saudi Arabia overreacted when it decided to cut diplomatic ties with Lebanon due to remarks by Kordahi.

"Many people in Lebanon, including those who blame Minister Cordahi for his comments, think that Saudi Arabia overreacted in its decision to break diplomatic relations with Lebanon," Massoud Maalouf tells the Tehran Times.

"Although Cordahi's comments on Yemen were made as a private citizen before he became a minister, it seems that Saudi Arabia lost its patience with Lebanon," Maalouf notes.

"When the Saudi authorities expressed their discontent with Kordahi's comments, Saudi adversaries in Lebanon became more emphatic in their support for Kordahi publicly insisting that no apology should be made and harshly criticizing Saudi Arabia in its war on Yemen," the former ambassador pointed out.

Lebanese officials believe that Saudi Arabia's overreaction to Kordahi's comments is aimed to sideline Hezbollah in Lebanon.

For example, on November 2, Lebanese Foreign Minister Abdallah Bou Habib said 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."

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.

When you don't know how to guarantee a deal

From page 1 ► The Republicans have asked Biden not to make any promises to Iran, as they see a prospect to grab the power in 2024. Biden's approval rating has also hit a new low, reaching 43%, after just spending 288 days in the office.

Donald Trump and Gerald Ford were the only presidents after the World War II with lower approval ratings than Biden at this point in their jobs. None of them succeeded to serve a second term.

Trump is investing heavily to make a comeback to the White House after 4 years. In case Iran and the U.S. agree on a deal, in 2024 Trump will tear it up, as he did in 2018, if he wins the presidency.

In an interview with Asharq Al-Awsat published on November 6, James Risch, a Republican senator, criticized the U.S. administration's approach towards Iran.

Perhaps the Republicans' view of a "deal" is clearer in Mr. Risch's words when he said, "Let's be clear: If the agreement happens, it will be an executive decision, not an agreement with America,

and this is what I always explain to our European friends and others. Reaching an agreement with the president is not an agreement with America, but rather an agreement with the president in question. And on the day he leaves office, as was done in the initial agreement that the Trump administration tore up. This is not our agreement and we will not support it, if you want to reach a real agreement you have to put it before the Senate as a treaty. If it gets a two-thirds vote of the members, then it becomes an agreement with the United States, and it will be binding. And if this does not happen, none of us will be bound by this agreement"

Tehran has asked for "strict guarantees" from the United States in case of a possible withdrawal after a possible Republican comeback. As evident in the November 3 tweet by the Iranian Supreme National Security Council secretary, Biden is not capable of providing Iran with the necessary guarantees, because he has no authority. The truth is, the establishment in the United States dissolves

MP calls on Foreign Ministry to take action against U.S. piracy in international bodies

TEHRAN — A member of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Iranian Parliament has called on Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take action against the U.S. at international bodies for trying to steal the Iranian oil tanker in the Sea of Oman.

In an interview with IRNA published on Saturday, Shahriar Heydari called the recent U.S. move an act against maritime regulations and the International Maritime Convention.

On November 3, an Iranian tanker was heading to a specific destination in the Sea of Oman to export oil. However, the United States confiscated the tanker and transferred its oil to another tanker and diverted it to an unknown destination. However, in a timely and brave action the IRGC Navy aborted the U.S. act of piracy and returned to the tanker to the Iranian territorial waters.

"All countries must comply with the rules and regulations of international conventions," Heydari said, adding, "The U.S. piracy has been a violation of these laws."

The MP has stated that such actions have no result other than tension, warning that all countries in the region will be affected by any tension.

And the countries that are paving the way for the U.S. presence in the region should know that Washington is only seeking tension and division in the region, he cautioned.

Emphasizing that Iran is decisive in defending its rights, Heydari noted, "We witnessed that, fortunately, the Guards navy intervened in a timely manner and did not allow the United States to hijack the Islamic Republic's oil tanker."

From international perspective, the Islamic Republic must follow up on the issue and the diplomatic apparatus must use its capacities so that such behaviors are not repeated, the legislator pointed out.

In addition, the regional countries should learn from what happened and be careful about the movements of the United States, the parliamentarian reiterated.

Through such behaviors, the United States has

everyone, regardless of the parties or ideologies they belong to. The Democrat Biden has to give tangible and irreversible guarantees if he wants a seat at the JCPOA table.

Tehran has every right to be worried about the Republicans' threats, as they have shown that they are not committed to any internationally recognized agreement. The Paris Climate Accord is a perfect example of an internationally recognized deal that Trump withdrew from during his presidency. The move caused Biden to publicly apologize to the members of the accord.

If Biden is serious to rejoin the JCPOA, as he repeatedly said during his election campaigns, he must lift, not ease, the sanctions, provide Iran with serious, verifiable, and irreversible guarantees.

Naturally, the U.S. as the breaching party must give Iran assurances that it will not violate the deal again, yet, the White House fails to understand this very simple notion.

What is now clear is that there is less sun in Vienna.

proven that it is a country that supports pirates and terrorists, despite its claim of respecting the rule of law and compliance with international regulations, said Heydari, the representative of Qasre-Shirin in the parliament.

"Of course," he added, "the Islamic Republic of Iran is present in the region with sufficient authority and escorts and supports its naval fleet."

The MP said the most important concern of the United States is the advancement of Iran's naval power.

"After the Makran ship and the Sahand warship sailed to the Atlantic Ocean and participated in the Russian maneuver, and successfully returned home after 133 days... it has made the U.S. concerned."

The parliamentarian underlined that the powerful voyage of the Iranian Navy fleets in high seas in accordance with international law, has made the U.S. frustrated.

He said such voyages are within the framework of the country's defense policy.

'Tehran-Baku diplomacy at its peak'

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Abdollahian and his Azeri counterpart, Jeyhun Bayramov, discussed bilateral relations in a telephone conversation on November 6.

Bayramov first inquired about the health situation of the Iran's top diplomat and wished for his immediate recovery.

Recalling the brotherhood and close relations between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan, Amir Abdollahian noted that in recent months the parties that do

not like good relations between the two countries had become active, causing some misunderstandings.

"We can now move towards further expansion of bilateral cooperation between the two countries," Amir Abdollahian added.

Azerbaijan's foreign minister stated that others should not be allowed to misuse the misunderstandings between the two countries.

He stressed that any misunderstanding should be resolved in a friendly and fraternal environment and Baku is ready to expand

relations.

Bilateral trade relations and the appointment of a representative in the Joint Economic Commission of the two countries were among the other issues discussed in the phone conversation.

Amir Abdollahian also noted that Iran strongly supports regional formats, including the 3+3 format, and believes that regional problems can be resolved through intra-regional mechanisms.

3+3 is referred to the Iran-Russia-Turkey + Georgia, Azerbaijan, Armenia regional setting.

3+3 format on Karabakh: the best way forward

TEHRAN – With tensions in the South Caucasus subsiding by the day, diplomatic contacts between the countries of the region take on a renewed importance in terms of avoiding misunderstanding.

Over the past few days, several meetings and phone conversations were held between officials and diplomats from the Republic of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Russia, and Iran, marking a remarkable rise in diplomatic interactions involving the key stakeholders of the South Caucasus region.

Of all the statements resulting from these interactions, remarks by Deputy Prime Minister of Russia Alexei Overchuk during his visit to Armenia stood out as the most important development in the region.

Overchuk met with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan and discussed a number of issues, particularly the situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh region.

It seems that the most important issue discussed by Overchuk and Pashinyan was the opening of transit links in the region, especially those connecting Azerbaijan with the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic.

During the meeting, Pashinyan complained that "Azerbaijan is trying to impose its perceptions on the commission" tasked with following up on the statements of November 9 and January 11, which refer to the unblocking of all transport and economic ties in the region.

"Armenia should get road and



railway communication routes through Azerbaijan; Azerbaijan should receive railway and road communication routes through Armenia, including one connecting Azerbaijan to the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic," Pashinyan told Overchuk, according to ARMENPRESS.

The Russian official, in turn, pointed to the transport links in the region and said that Azerbaijan and Armenia, together with Russia, have reached a "very good understanding" of the links.

Overchuk then uttered something for the first time in public: the links would be under the jurisdiction of countries using them.

"The roads remain under the jurisdiction of the countries through which they pass," he said.

This has once again raised alarm bells in Tehran which has repeatedly warned that it accepts no change in the international borders in the Caucasus region.

The Russian official did not openly say that the transit links between Azerbaijan and Nakhichevan would be under the jurisdiction of Baku. But it goes without saying that Azerbaijan would be the first country to use them. So, did Overchuk mean that Armenia would give away its border with Iran? There is no clear answer yet.

And this ambiguity is another reason for Russia, as the lead mediator in the region, to work closely with all countries involved in the Caucasus region, including Iran, which shares borders with both Azerbaijan and Armenia and is concerned that changes in Armenia's southern border would come at an irreversible geopolitical cost for it.

This may explain Iran's quick diplomatic moves on Saturday to get support from the region's stakeholders for reviving a regional platform called 3+3 format that includes Azerbaijan, Georgia, and Armenia and their three big neighbors- Russia, Turkey, and Iran.

The format was proposed by Russia in early October but has since been shelved. Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian expressed support for the format during his Saturday phone conversations with his Russian and Azerbaijani counterparts.

During conversation with Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov, Amir Abdollahian said, "Iran supports regional talks in the format of 3+3 or other formats upon which all sides agree in order to resolve the disputes in the region and to expand regional cooperation."

He reiterated this message in the conversation with Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov, underlining that "Iran supports regional talks in the format of 3+3 or other formats and believes regional problems can be resolved using regional mechanisms."

But despite the Iranian insistence, differences between Azerbaijan and Armenia are being addressed in a trilateral format rather than the 3+3 one. And the trilateral format seems to have not ensured the interests of all the stakeholders.

Overchuk said he held 8 meetings with his Azerbaijani and Armenian counterparts, with the last meeting being held on October 22. "Based on these data, after the 8th session of the joint working group held on October 22, it seems to us that we will reach concrete solutions," he said.

And these solutions have apparently resulted in giving Azerbaijan full control over Iran-Armenia borders.

conversation with his Azerbaijani counterpart for the second time in a month in October amid border tensions between Tehran and Baku that resulted in a media war of words and extensive diplomatic contacts.

But these tensions faded away as the two sides opted for de-escalation. In the latest sign of improvement in Iran-Azerbaijan relations, Amir Abdollahian and his Azerbaijani counterpart discussed relations between Tehran and Baku in a telephone conversation.

In the conversation, Amir Abdollahian referred to the recent constructive contacts between the two ministers, praising the Republic of Azerbaijan for the release of two Iranian drivers detained in the country, the Iranian foreign ministry said.

The Iranian foreign minister described the move as a constructive step that can provide the necessary room to clear up misunderstandings.

He also called for more positive steps and urged Baku to facilitate the movement of Iranian trucks in border areas with the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Amir Abdollahian emphasized the need to adopt a positive approach and look to the future by the two countries and said the joint economic commission of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan should be activated as soon as possible.

Iran's foreign minister noted that Tehran is determined to deepen bilateral relations with Baku. Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Bayramov also welcomed the positive steps taken by the two countries to clear up the misunderstandings. He described the release of the two Iranian drivers and Iran's move to order relevant organizations in the Islamic Republic regarding border traffic laws as a message from both sides to clear up misunderstandings.

The top Azerbaijani diplomat also noted that the definition of joint economic projects between the two countries has positive effects for the activation of their joint economic commission.

At the end of the conversation, the two sides agreed to continue consultations.



He stated that Iran is fulfilling its nuclear obligations within the framework of international treaties.

"If the Westerners fulfill their obligations in the JCPOA, the Islamic Republic of Iran will fully return to the deal and will act on what it has agreed without accepting a new obligation."

Noting that Iran should use soft and hard power in the coming negotiations, he said: "Soft power is the support of the people, and hard power is the country's defense progress and deterrent power, which has been created."

SPORTS

Persepolis, Gol Gohar shares the spoils: IPL

TEHRAN – Persepolis and Gol Gohar football teams shared the spoils in the Iran Professional League (IPL) on Saturday.

In the match held in empty Azadi Stadium in Tehran, Armin Sohrabian gave the visiting team a lead just before the break.

With eight minutes into the second half, Isa Alekasir equalized the match.

Elsewhere, Foolad and Naft Masjed Soleyman played out a goalless draw, Mes drew 0-0 with Aluminum and Sanat Naft defeated Nassaji 2-0 thanks to goals from Hakim Nasari.

Two Istiklol defenders on Persepolis' radar

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team have reportedly negotiated with two Istiklol of Tajikistan defenders.

Manuchehr Safarov, 20, plays as right-back in Istiklol and Vahdat Hononov, 21, is a center back in the Tajikistani top-flight football club.

Persepolis are looking to strengthen their defensive line since the Reds want to win Iran domestic league for the sixth time in a row.

The local media have reported that Safarov and Hononov will travel to Tehran within the next few days to finalize their contracts with Persepolis.

Javad Nekounam linked with Tractor: report

TEHRAN – Former Foolad coach Javad Nekounam has been linked with a move to Tractor football team.

It has been reported that the ex-Iran captain is now 'close' to becoming the next head coach of the Tabriz-based football team.

Firouz Karimi stepped down as head coach of Tractor on Friday following a 2-1 loss against Paykan in Tabriz in Matchweek 4 of Iran Professional League.

Now the media reports suggest that Nekounam is a candidate to replace Karimi.

Nekounam inspired Foolad to Iran's Hazfi Cup title last season but parted ways with the Ahvaz-based football team at the end of the season.

Tractor have just won one match after four games.

Foroughi, Bhaker win air pistol mixed team gold in President's Cup

TEHRAN – Iran's reigning Olympic champion Javad Foroughi and Indian Manu Bhaker won a gold medal at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) President's Cup Rifle and Pistol in Wroclaw, Poland.

The pair defeated French-Russian duo of Mathilde Lamolle and Artem Chernousov 16-8 in the gold medal match on Friday.

Foroughi and Bhaker were placed third in qualification with a combined score of 582/600 to qualify for the first semi-final where they topped the field of four pairs to make it to the final. Lamolle and Artem came through by winning the second semi-final.

The inaugural ISSF President's Cup is a rechristened version of the ISSF World Cup Finals, where the year's top 12 athletes according to World Ranking are invited to determine the best individual athletes of the year in the respective Olympic events. Individual winners will be awarded The Golden Target along with prize money. Cash awards will also be awarded to all athletes in the individual competitions.

Shahbaksh becomes first Iranian boxer to win a world medal

TEHRAN – Iranian boxer Danial Shahbaksh became the first Iranian boxer to win a medal in the World Boxing Championships.

Shahbaksh claimed a bronze medal in the under-60kg of the International Boxing Association (AIBA) Men's World Boxing Championships.

Shahbaksh, who was supposed to meet Abdumalik Khalokov of Uzbekistan in the semifinals on Thursday, forfeited due to injury.

Gold medal went to France's Sofiane Oumiha who defeated Khalokov in the final.

Iran had sent 10 boxers to the championships which were held in Belgrade, Serbia from Oct. 27 to Nov. 5.

Shardari Sirjan to open AFC Women's Club C'ship with match against Bunyodkor

TEHRAN – Iran's Shahr-dari Sirjan will start the 2021 AFC Women's Club Championship on Sunday with a match against Bunyodkor from Uzbekistan.

The AFC has confirmed that the four participating clubs in the tournament will be host side Amman Club, FC Bunyodkor from Uzbekistan, Iran's Shahr-dari Sirjan and Gokulam Kerala FC from India.

The tournament will be played from Nov. 7-12, 2021 at the Aqaba Development Corporate Stadium in the country's capital of Amman.

Launched in 2019, Japanese side Nippon TV Beleza were the first side to win the inaugural pilot women's club tournament in Yongin, Korea Republic, after emerging ahead of China PR's Jiangsu Suning Ladies Football Club, host club Incheon Hyundai Steel Red Angels and Australia's Melbourne Victory.

The AFC said that "due to the travel restrictions and logistical challenges caused by the Covid-19 pandemic, there was no host interest from the Clubs in the East and the AFC will announce the following steps in due course.

"The pilot editions represent a pivotal part of the AFC's ambitions to lay the foundations for the development and professionalism of Asian women's football clubs and to ensure the optimum preparation for the impending launch of the inaugural AFC Women's Champions League in 2023."

The AFC also said that the Club Licensing process for the men's club game that has developed over the last decade, will be used as a pilot project for women's clubs this year, with the regular cycle for the competition to begin from 2022.

Taremi voted best player of the month for October

TEHRAN – Iranian Mehdi Taremi was voted best player of the month for October in the Portuguese Primeira Liga by the Players Union. Last month, the FC Porto striker scored three goals and two assists.

Taremi garnered 18.52 percent of the vote. This allows him to beat the competition of Sébastien Coates (Sporting) who collected 14.15 percent, and his teammate Luis Diaz who obtained 9.70 percent of the votes. In October, the Iranian scored a hat-trick against Tondela (3-1) and two assists in the rout inflicted on Boavista (4-1) in the Invicta derby. Mehdi Taremi is thus rewarded for his excellent month of October.

The Primeira Liga Best Player of the Month, elected by the Players Union, is found through the average value of the scores given by the three sports newspapers in Portugal. These are A Bola, O Jogo and Record. This in the period corresponding to the vote. These scores carry a weight of 60 percent in the final vote. The rest of the vote is carried out by a technical committee appointed by the Union, formed by former players Anselmo, João Oliveira Pinto, João Paulo, José Carlos, Rebelo, Tiago Pereira and Tozé.

Baku interested in boosting ties with Iran: Azeri FM

TEHRAN – Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov has expressed interest in beefing up ties with Iran in various fields after weeks of heightened tensions between the two neighbors.

"We are interested in developing relations with Iran and many areas of cooperation lie ahead of the two countries," he said in remarks to Iran's state TV.

He added, "I can say that due to the many commonalities between the two countries, there are many plans for bilateral cooperation. I am sure that we can develop the good relationship of the past based on good neighborliness."

Emphasizing the continuation of diplomatic talks between the foreign ministry officials, the foreign minister of the Republic of Azerbaijan said, "We are satisfied with the formal and informal diplomatic talks of recent weeks and we believe that some issues can be resolved through telephone conversations with my esteemed colleague (Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian)."

The top Azerbaijani diplomat played down the recent tensions between Iran and Azerbaijan, saying that disagreements between countries are always possible.

"Disagreements between all countries are possible and no country is an exception to this rule and may even be among neighboring countries, but our close relations and neighborhood with Iran have shown that some of these differences can be resolved through dialogue," he said.

Referring to the need to develop relations between the two countries, Bayramov said, "The priority of the foreign policy of the Republic of Azerbaijan is to maintain and develop relations with neighboring countries, especially the Islamic Republic of Iran. Given the many fields and capacities of bilateral cooperation and the always positive background of these relations, we will see the development of relations between the two countries in the future."

The remarks came on the heels of a statement by the Iranian foreign minister. Amir Abdollahian has said that the Tehran-Baku ties continue in a positive and neighborly direction.

MP: Iran must seek detente in future talks

TEHRAN — "After the end of the eight-year term of the previous administration, today a revolutionary administration has come to power, which, unlike the previous administration which believed in the theory of de-escalation, has belief in the theory of détente," says Fereydoun Abbasi, an MP sitting on the Parliament Energy Committee.

The remarks by the top MP comes as Iran has announced that it will resume nuclear talks on November 29 in Vienna with the aim of reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"The type of negotiations and how to reach agreements depends on the type of attitudes and thoughts of the ruling

administration in Iran," Abbasi said in an interview with Tasnim on Saturday when asked about the strategy that Iran would adopt in the Vienna nuclear talks.

"If we go back to 2013, when the negotiating team sacrificed all the achievements of our country in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action negotiations and returned, I announced at the same time that the Westerners have given a bitten chocolate called JCPOA to Iran," said Abbasi who was named as director of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) during the second term of the Ahmadinejad administration.

He said the Rouhani administration followed a policy that interrupted Iran's nuclear program.

The member of the Energy Committee emphasized that in the incoming negotiations the negotiating team should use "the indicators of the détente theory" which is derived from the theory of resistance stressed by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and Imam Khomeini in previous years.

"In future negotiations, the United States should not be seen as headman, and if they want to negotiate with Iran, they should stand by other members of the JCPOA."

Abbasi added: "The Americans must live up to their obligations under the JCPOA before returning to the deal and make up for the damage they have done to the Iranian people."

Iran-Pakistan free trade agreement to be implemented within 3 months



From page 1 ▶ "By removing the existing problems and obstacles to the development of economic and trade cooperation between Iran and Pakistan the volume of trade between the two countries will increase to five billion dollars in the next two years," he added.

We believe that cooperation between the two countries should lead to joint ventures and regional cooperation, the official noted.

"For example, we can make good investments in the dairy industry in Pakistan," Fatemi Amin added.

Elsewhere in the meeting, Dawood for his part stressed the need for promoting economic relations between the two sides, saying: "It is necessary to promote the relations between the two countries beyond the trade of goods and to develop cultural relations between the businessmen of the two countries as well."

"This meeting will be the first step to address the problems and obstacles in the way of developing trade relations between the two countries," Dawood said.

The official expressed his country's willingness for expanding cooperation in various areas including transportation, barter trading, and border markets.

Major automakers manufacture over half a million vehicles in 7 months

TEHRAN - Three major Iranian carmakers, namely Iran Khodro Company (IKCO), SAIPA Group, and Pars Khodro, manufactured 501,635 vehicles during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), the data released by Codal website showed.

According to the data, the production by the mentioned companies has risen 1.1 percent compared to the previous year's same seven months in which the output stood at 496,095.

During the said seven months, IKCO manufactured 242,276 vehicles, which was 2.8 percent less than the output in the same time span of the previous year.

During this period, this industrial group was able to produce 159,061 vehicles in the Peugeot group, 30,794 vehicles in the Samand group, 29,197 Dena vehicles, 16,908 Rana vehicles, 3,245 Haima vehicles, and 2,968 Tara vehicles.

SAIPA manufactured 192,628 vehicles in the mentioned period. Production by this automaker rose 2.2 percent in comparison to the previous year's same time span in which the output stood at 188,490.

Pars Khodro also manufactured 66,731 vehicles in the period under review, 14.5 percent more than the output in the first seven months of the past year.

Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Seyyed Reza Fatemi Amin has said that his ministry has a two-year plan for the auto industry based on which this industry will undergo serious changes and improve significantly.

"We must strengthen competition, improve management and economic mechanisms, and

increase production in the auto industry in order to succeed in our plans," Fatemi Amin said.

"Our plan is to produce 1.6 million vehicles next year (begins in March 2022), which will increase to three million units in [the Iranian calendar year] 1404 (begins in March 2025), and 30 percent of the production, equivalent to about one million units, should be sent to export markets," he added.

Iran's major carmakers had manufactured 900,714 vehicles in the previous year (ended on March 20), which was 4.3 percent more than the figure of its preceding year.

According to Codal data, during the past year, IKCO manufactured 480,338 vehicles, which was 21.9 percent more than the output in its preceding year, which was 393,812 vehicles.

SAIPA manufactured 317,321 vehicles, with a 12.6-percent fall from 363,379 vehicles manufactured in 1398. And Pars Khodro manufactured 103,055 vehicles in the past year, showing a 2.8-percent drop from the output of its previous year, which was 106,072 vehicles.

Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry's programs for the current Iranian calendar year show that the manufacturing of 1.2 million cars has been put on the agenda.

According to the Industry Ministry data, since Iranian automakers had produced 984,200 such vehicles in the previous calendar year, the country's car output is planned to increase by over 21.9 percent in the current year.

TEHRAN- Iran registered a monthly non-oil trade balance of \$650 million in the seventh Iranian calendar month Mehr (September 23-October 22), the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Ruhollah Latifi put the monthly non-oil trade at 19.554 million tons worth \$9.886 billion.

The non-oil export was 15.187 million tons worth \$5.268 billion, with an eight-percent rise in terms of value and a five-percent growth in terms of weight as compared to the same month of the past year, he said.

Importing 5.852 million tons of non-oil goods worth \$1.643 billion, Iraq was Iran's first export destination in the seventh month, followed by China, Turkey, United Arab Emirates, and Afghanistan, he added.

The official put the monthly non-oil import at 4.367 million tons worth \$4.618 billion, with a 48-percent rise in terms of value, and a 64-percent growth in terms of weight on a yearly basis.

United Arab Emirates was the first source of import to Iran, by exporting 949,000 tons of commodities worth \$1.291 billion, followed by China, Turkey, Switzerland, and Germany, he stated.

Meanwhile, as previously announced by the IRICA head, the value of Iran's non-oil trade rose 43 percent during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi said that Iran has traded over 98 million tons of non-oil products worth \$54.8 billion with other countries in the mentioned period.

According to the IRICA head, the volume of trade in the mentioned

Monthly non-oil trade balance of \$650m achieved



period also grew by 16.5 percent in comparison to the figure for the previous fiscal year.

The official put the seven-month non-oil exports at 75.2 million tons valued at \$271 billion, with a 47-percent rise in value and 15-percent growth in weight.

Mir-Ashrafi mentioned natural gas, methanol, polyethylene, semi-finished iron products, liquid propane, iron ingots, iron rods, urea, copper, and bitumen as the main exported products in the said time span.

He said major export destinations of the Iranian non-oil goods were China with about 16.9 million tons worth \$7.7 billion, Iraq with 19.7 million tons worth \$5.5 billion, Turkey with 11 million tons worth \$7.4 billion, the

United Arab Emirates (UAE) with 6.6 million tons worth \$2.6 billion, and Afghanistan with 2.8 million tons worth \$1.1 billion.

The official further announced that Iran has imported 23.5 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$27.7 billion in the first seven months of the present year, with a 38-percent growth in value and a 21-percent rise in weight year on year.

Mir-Ashrafi named basic goods, machinery, livestock feed inputs, and raw materials for production units as the main imported commodities.

The United Arab Emirates with 6.9 million tons of goods worth \$8.6 billion was the top exporter to Iran in the said period, followed by China with 1.9 million tons of goods worth \$6.1 billion, Turkey

with 2.5 million tons worth \$2.9 billion, and Germany with 512,000 tons worth \$1 billion, the official stated.

According to the IRICA head, out of the total non-oil goods imported into the country in the first seven months of this year, 16.6 million tons worth \$11 billion were basic goods.

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

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

Iran's non-oil export was 112 million tons valued at \$34.5 billion, and that of import was 34.4 million tons worth \$38.5 billion in the past year, the official added.

Among the country's non-oil export destinations, China was the first, with importing \$8.9 billion worth of products, Iraq was the second with importing \$7.3 billion, the United Arab Emirates the third with importing \$4.6 billion, Turkey the fourth with importing \$2.5 billion, and Afghanistan the fifth with importing \$2.2 billion, Mir-Ashrafi announced, and named gasoline, natural gas, polyethylene, propane, and pistachio as Iran's major exported products during the past year.

He further named Iran's top sources of non-oil imports in the said time, as China with exporting \$9.7 billion worth of products to the Islamic Republic, the UAE with \$9.6 billion, Turkey with \$4.3 billion, India with \$2.1 billion, and Germany with \$1.8 billion, respectively, and mentioned corn, cellphone, rice, oil meal and oil seeds, wheat, and raw oil as the major imported items.

Power plants' liquid fuel storage up 400m liters

TEHRAN - Head of Iran Grid Management Company (IGMC) has said the liquid fuel storages of the country's power plants are 71 percent full on average, which means that currently there is 400 million liters more liquid fuel available compared to the previous year.

According to Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi, the amount of gas delivered to power plants decreases during the cold season due to the increase in consumption by the domestic sector, and in contrast, the amount of liquid fuel consumption by the power plants will increase.

As IRIB reported, the official noted that the Energy Ministry is taking all the necessary measures for ensuring a sustained and uninterrupted supply of electricity during the cold season.

"Currently, the Energy Ministry, in collaboration with the Oil Ministry, has made good preparations in this regard, and these measures should continue," he said.

Rajabi Mashhadi also noted that the Energy



Ministry is ready to make the necessary arrangements with the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry in order to ensure sustained electricity supply to the country's industrial sectors.

He further mentioned the constraints that the increase in the natural gas consumption by the domestic sector creates for the fuel supply to power plants, saying: "Due to the increase in gas consumption by the domestic sector and small industries, the fuel supply to the power plant will definitely decrease, so we have to use backup fuel (liquid fuel)."

Back in August, Meysam Jafarzadeh, the director-general of the Crisis Management Office in the Energy Ministry, had stressed the need for taking necessary measures to ensure sustained supply of fuel to the country's power plants during the cold season.

"Given last winter's experience, if we do not provide fuel for power plants in late autumn and winter this year, we will have a lot of difficulty in meeting electricity demands; we must think about the necessary preparations for the winter of 1400 (the current Iranian calendar year started on March 21) from now on," Jafarzadeh was quoted by the portal of Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir).

He pointed out the main reasons for the importance of fuel supply to power plants during the cold season, saying: "first, considering the fact that we are witnessing a decrease in liquid fuel reserves in power plants compared to the previous year, the fuel condition is very important."

Water storage behind Tehran dams falls 40%

TEHRAN - Water storage in the dams of the Tehran Province has declined more than 40 percent in the current water year (started in September 2021) compared to the previous year, an official with the Water Organization of Tehran said.



According to Mohammad Shahriari, currently, 412 million cubic meters (mcm) of water is stored behind the five dams supplying water to the capital, 179 mcm less than the previous year's same period in which 691 mcm of water was stored behind the province's dams, IRIB reported.

Referring to the 70-percent increase in rainfall in Tehran province, Shahriari said: "Since the beginning of the current water year, 24.7 mm of rainfall has occurred in Tehran, while the figure was 14.3 mm in the last rainy year."

The official noted that Tehran's

average rainfall in the mentioned period is five percent less than the average figure for the long term.

He stated that the inflow to the Tehran Province's dams has decreased by 37 percent since the beginning of this water year compared to the same period last year, adding: "The rainfall in Tehran during this period has added three to four million cubic meters of water to the dam reserves, while the deficit of Tehran dams is 279 million cubic meters."

Shahriari had previously said

Iran's capital is suffering its worst drought in half a century.

"Groundwater and surface water are at a critical state and there has not been a similar drought for the past 50 years," he was quoted as saying by ISNA in early November.

According to the World Meteorological Organization's multiannual forecast, in the next five years, Iran's average rainfall will decline by 75 percent, and the temperature rises by 50-75 percent compared to the long-term average.

A large part of the country has been hit by severe drought during the past 12 months. Forecasts indicate that Iran will not have significant rainfall in the remaining months of the current water year, so that, the country faces severe to very severe drought in most parts of the country.

TEDPIX up 42,000 points on Saturday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 42,221 points to 1.44 million on Saturday (the first day of Iranian calendar week).

Over 5.044 billion securities worth 58.848 trillion rials (about \$1.401 billion) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 32,360 points, and the second market's index climbed 80,567 points.

TEDPIX gained 5,000 points (less than three percent) to 1.398 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

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

'Iran expected to become world's third-biggest sturgeon meat producer in 4 years'

TEHRAN - Iran is expected to become the world's third-biggest sturgeon meat producer over the next four years, an official with Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO) said.

"According to the plans, we predict that Iran will also become the second or third biggest caviar producing country in the world over the next ten years," IRNA quoted Naser Karami-Rad as saying on Saturday.

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), Iran ranked the world's top producer of Beluga caviar in 2019; Beluga is the most valuable type of caviar in the world, the official said.

Based on official customs data, Iran exported 1.3 tons of caviar worth \$539,000 in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), registering a 50 percent rise in terms of value compared to the figure for the



previous year's same period.

According to Aref Ghaniyoun, the deputy head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Bureau of Customs Statistics and Information Processing, the Islamic Republic had exported 605 kilograms of caviar worth \$350,000 during the previous year's same six months.

Iran has every right to distrust U.S.: American foreign policy expert

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

What are the major differences between Iran and the U.S. regarding the nuclear talks? Don't you think that Iran has right to distrust the U.S. given the experience that Trump quit the 2015 nuclear deal while Iran was fully honoring its commitments?

Iran wants the maximum possible sanctions relief as well as some guarantee that sanctions won't be reimposed capriciously as they were under the Trump administration. Iran has every right to distrust U.S. promises after what happened under Trump. However, Iran would still benefit from sanctions relief even if it only lasts a few years and most importantly, could gain access to some \$100 billion in hard currency frozen in foreign bank accounts.

According to information obtained by Responsible Statecraft, the impasse is not because of an Iranian sense of immunity to pressure, but largely because President Biden refused to commit to keeping sanctions lifted on Iran for the rest of his term, even if Iran rejoins and complies with the nuclear deal. What is your opinion?

A: Rob Malley, the U.S. envoy, has promised that the U.S. would not leave the agreement for frivolous or spurious reasons. I think the problem here is that no U.S. president can make this kind of iron-clad pledge when Iran might take other actions so damaging to U.S.-Iran relations that it would be politically impossible for the U.S. to remain in the agreement. Remember the JCPOA was never built on trust but on verification. It was also supposed to be the "floor, not the ceiling" for U.S.-Iran relations. We have lots of other issues to discuss beyond the nuclear question.



Apparently the nuclear dispute is not resolvable based on technical debates. This is a political issue that is rooted in distrust between the U.S. and Iran. For example, the U.S. can impose new sanctions under the pretext of a missile program or Iran's role in the region. If Iran was a U.S. ally like Saudi Arabia, there would be no dispute. What is your comment?

The U.S. distinguishes between nuclear-related sanctions – primarily on Iran's oil exports and banks – and

“The U.S. has been punished for the Trump withdrawal by a loss of faith in U.S. promises globally and a big diminution of U.S. influence.”

non-nuclear related sanctions. The Biden administration has been careful to sanction mostly individuals for non-nuclear matters, such as human rights abuses or providing drones to militias, not going after entire sectors

of the Iranian economy like Trump did. The U.S. has also shown its displeasure with Saudi Arabia by the president snubbing MBS and halting support for the Saudi war in Yemen. However, Saudi Arabia is a long-time partner of the U.S. so it's not appropriate to

compare with Iran, which has been an adversary for more than four decades.

Do you predict Iran and the U.S. will agree on a new different deal in case the diplomatic efforts to revive the JCPOA fails?

No, I do not. It's back to the JCPOA or nothing, at least for the next few years, which is very worrisome.

Do you think the world must accept this reality that U.S. successive administrations may breach their international commitments without being punished?

A: Well, I would argue that the U.S. has been punished for the Trump withdrawal by a loss of faith in U.S. promises globally and a big diminution of U.S. influence. Plus, Iran's nuclear program is growing again unchecked. Those are serious consequences.

Rapid advances of Yemeni army forces in Ma'rib

TEHRAN – Yemeni forces and allied fighters from Popular Committees have captured a key military base occupied by Saudi militants loyal to former president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi in the country's strategic oil-rich province of Ma'rib, and moved closer to the heart of energy reserves in the area.

Local military sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said army troops and their allies launched intense attacks in the al-Jubah district of Ma'rib, and managed to seize Umm Reesh base following hours of fighting with Saudi mercenaries on Friday.

The sources added that the Yemeni forces raided the military base from various directions, and forced the Saudi-backed militants to withdraw from the area.

They noted that the base includes training centers, and it is the last bastion for Saudi-sponsored forces in the southern part of Ma'rib.

The sources went on to say that the withdrawal of Saudi mercenaries from Umm Reesh base came after the Yemeni army soldiers and Popular Committees fighters targeted the military site with ballistic missiles and heavy artillery rounds.

The fall of Umm Reesh means rapid advances of Yemeni army forces and their allies towards Safar region, where oil and gas fields of Ma'rib province are located.

The Yemeni military sources said fierce clashes between the two sides continue in several highlands overlooking al-Khashina base. Neither side has managed to score any field progress yet.

Some unofficial sources on Saturday said Sana'a forces have taken control of the hills and mountains around the southern part of Ma'rib, which is viewed as the gate to the strategic city.

A high-ranking member of Yemen's Supreme Political Council has denounced the

United States over approving a 650-million-dollar sale of air-to-air missiles to Saudi Arabia.

Mohammed Ali al-Houthi stated that the major weapons deal with the Persian Gulf kingdom shows that the administration of President Joe Biden is not committed at all to Yemen peace, and in contrast supports the Saudi war on the impoverished Arab country.

He stressed in a post published on his Twitter page that the deal clearly shows Washington's lack of seriousness and credibility to stop the ongoing devastating onslaught against Yemen, and will adversely prolong starvation and suffering of the Yemeni nation.

In a statement on Thursday, the Pentagon said the US State Department had approved the sale of air-to-air missiles to Riyadh.

It added that Massachusetts-based firm Raytheon would be the "principal contractor" for the sale of AIM-120C-7/C-8 Advanced Medium Range Air-to-Air Missiles (AMRAAM) and related equipment.

The sale comes months after Biden said he would end US support for Saudi Arabia's "offensive operations" in Yemen, including "relevant arms sales."

Saudi Arabia, backed by the US and regional allies, launched the war on Yemen in March 2015, with the goal of bringing the Hadi government back to power and crushing Ansarullah. The war has left hundreds of thousands of Yemenis dead, and displaced millions more. It has also destroyed Yemen's infrastructure and spread famine and infectious diseases.

Yemeni armed forces and the Popular Committees have grown steadily in strength against the Saudi-led invaders, and left Riyadh and its allies bogged down in the country.

The fall of Umm Reesh means rapid advances of Yemeni army forces and allies towards oil and gas fields of Ma'rib.

UK police wounded in anti-capitalist rallies

From page 1 ▶ However, over the years the protest is and has always been more commonly and closely affiliated with the international activist group "Anonymous" which strongly campaigns against government corruption, capitalist greed, and the decline of civil liberties. "Anonymous" is an international group of activists, some of whom are reported to be hackers, devoted to the ideals of personal freedom and a society free of centralized power in the west.

Over the years, the movement of activists have been linked to multiple high-profile incidents, including alleged cyber-attacks on governments, major corporations and financial institutions.

Many of the protestors at the Million Mask March are known for wearing full face Guy Fawkes masks fashioned from the novel "V for Vendetta." It is an anti-government and anti-establishment protest which was first held in 2012 and has been taking place every year since then in multiple cities across the world, with the protests in London and Washington D.C. being the most prominent. Supporters of the protestors see the movement as one fighting for freedom, the right to assemble and free speech.

The Million Mask March, which is sometimes referred to as "Operation Vendetta" has also been vocal recently against police violence.

Other images from the nighttime demonstrations showed at least one flag of Palestine being waved as well as posters of WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange. Palestinian flags are often spotted at protests against controversial government policies or anti-war marches.

Some of those demonstrating

were seen hurling fireworks at officers; while footage posted on social media showed protesters at nearby Parliament Square being pushed back by a line of officers wearing protective gear.

Traditionally an effigy of Guy Fawkes himself is paraded, this time an effigy of the Prime Minister Boris Johnson was burned instead. A crowd gathered to watch the burning of the effigy with a chant heard of "burn, Boris, burn."

Meanwhile, the Metropolitan police had been bracing for a major operation to try and contain the rallies and avoid scenes of unprecedented wide-scale violence that have been witnessed previously. It noted a dozen people have been arrested across London saying "those arrests were for a variety of offences. Eight of our officers were injured. This is unacceptable."

Scotland Yard also said a section 35 dispersal order was put in place for "a number of areas" across Westminster, including Parliament Square. The force said: "Officers are engaging with those in Parliament Square and will be advising them of this order." Under the section 35 dispersal order police enjoy the power to order crowds to leave a specific location.

In a separate statement on social media, the Metropolitan police said a crowd in Parliament Square had been "dangerously lighting fire-

works and rockets", adding "we have moved into the crowd to remove any fireworks and prevent people [from] coming to harm."

Ahead of the demonstration, the met said "as a precaution, officers will be equipped with specialist public order uniforms and a number of protective barriers have been set up outside a number of locations in London." A Met spokesperson said mounted police divisions and dog units had also been called in to support efforts to prevent the march from descending into a full-blown riot.

"This policing plan has been developed following a continual review and thorough assessment of intelligence which suggests some groups are intent on causing disorder or targeting police officers with violence... as a precaution, officers will be equipped with specialist public order uniforms and a number of protective barriers have been set up outside a number of locations in London"

"Different units across the Met will also support today's policing plan, including our public order teams, mounted branch, police dogs and the National Police Air Service."

A variety of groups and organizations generally participate in the event. These include an annual trade union march, a separate march organized by students demanding free education

The Million Mask March, which is sometimes referred to as "Operation Vendetta" has also been vocal recently against police violence.



and the "Anonymous" movement. The demonstrations typically turn to violence as the rallies are met with a heavy police presence.

BACKGROUND

Every year people gather around in early November to celebrate Bonfire Night across the UK. There are firework displays in public parks across the country and people light bonfires with an effigy to represent historical figure Guy Fawkes and his companions who tried to blow up the British parliament.

The celebrations each year refer to an event which could have changed the course of British history almost 400 years ago. In 1605, a group of Roman Catholic activists

arranged their Gunpowder Plot, but it failed. At the time, King James I ruled over a Protestant England and the activists wanted the freedom to practice their religion.

Guy Fawkes, an explosives expert, along with the rest of the sleeper cell plotted to assassinate King James and blow up the Palace of Westminster during the state opening of Parliament. Fawkes smuggled 36 barrels under the House of Lords into a cellar. However, he was caught and tortured to give up the names of his companions and then executed.

As a result of the failed plot, the King celebrated his survival by making the people of England have a bonfire on the night on 5

November.

In the centuries that followed countries belonging to the former British Empire also celebrated the failure to blow up the UK Parliament, over the years people have typically forgotten the historical context and used the occasion as an excuse to hold a party with a fireworks display.

However, analysts say the fact that activists have chosen this occasion, a failure to blow up what is supposedly the heart of UK democracy, the country's parliament, to protest against the establishment itself is a sign of growing anger and frustration at domestic and foreign policies of the British government.

House of Nima Yushij, father of modern Persian poetry, restored to former state



From page 1 ▶ In his speech to the First Congress of Iranian Writers, 1946, in Tehran, Nima Yushij said: "My first years of life were spent among the shepherds and horse-herders who, in their seasonal movements from one grassland to another, every evening sat around the fire on the Mountainside for long hours.

He continued these experiments until 1937 when he wrote his first symbolist free verse, "The Phoenix", in which he successfully employed what he had learned from some of the

French symbolists. Until then his dependence on classical forms had not allowed him to enter a completely new realm of poetry.

What made Yushij a great, powerful guru for the young poets of his time were his innovations in form and style rather than the content of his poetry.

He came to the scene of change at a time when all the conservative efforts of the Neo-classicists, Revivalists, and others had failed to free Persian poetry from the long decadence which was, to a great extent, the result of the ruling power of prosody over the subject matter.

The quantitative meters in Persian verse are numerous and they have equal possibilities for being broken and used in making lines of different lengths in a poem, but classical forms did not allow this. The other great obstacle to any innovation in the rhythmic construction of poems was the fixed pattern of rhymes in different forms.

Tehran, Caracas seek to expand tourism ties

TEHRAN – Iran and Venezuela officials have discussed expanding tourism ties including sharing traveling know-how, as well as holding exhibits and fam tours.

On Saturday, Iran's deputy minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Ali-Asghar Shalbfafian met Venezuela's Tourism and Foreign Trade Minister Ali Padron Paredes to exchange views over the expansion of ties, IRNA reported.

Shalbfafian stated widening cooperation with Venezuela is high on the agenda for the Islamic Republic as he briefed Iran's efforts focusing on both the coronavirus and post-pandemic eras.

The Iranian official said Tehran is ready to

hold joint exhibits and feminization tours for travel agents, the report said.

Furthermore, both officials acknowledged that their approach was to expand tourism ties and strengthen interactions to control the pandemic impact on the tourism industry.

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

Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, it aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

'Humans inherited susceptibility to COVID infections from Neanderthals'

TEHRAN - New studies suggest that modern humans have inherited susceptibility to COVID-19 infections from Neanderthals, according to Iranian archaeologist Hamed Vahdatinasab.

"Modern humans have inherited resistance against catching a cold, and susceptibility to COVID-19 infections from Neanderthals," ILNA quoted Vahdatinasab as saying on November 2.

Moreover, based on discoveries Neanderthals were not primitive and savage, and they possessed the ability to talk, the archaeologist added.

"Now, contrary to our previous knowledge of Neanderthals, we know they were not the barbarians."

"They lived in cohesive groups. They were extremely skilled hunters and knew the technology of their time. They had excellent stone tools, and they had complete control of the fire. They had body covering and footwear, and moved from place to place in pursuit of their prey," he explained.

According to Medical News Today, in the research, the scientists found a Neanderthal gene variant on chromosome 3 that significantly increased the risk for severe COVID-19 symptoms. They found having this variant meant there was a 60% increased likelihood of being hospitalized.

"Scientists have found the variant in 16% of people from Europe and 50% of people from South Asia. Neanderthal variants are rare in Africa. In particular, the researchers found this variant in 63% of people from Bangladesh, who have double the risk of dying from COVID-19, compared with white people in the United Kingdom."

The research was led by Hugo Zeberg and Svante Paabo, scientists at Karolinska Institute in Sweden, and the Max Planck Institute for Evolu-

tionary Anthropology in Leipzig, Germany.

"Humans migrating out of Africa were likely to be small pioneering groups and appear to have encountered Neanderthals living in the Fertile Crescent of the Middle East about 60,000 years ago. As modern humans migrated out of the Middle East after encountering Neanderthals and dispersed across the globe, they carried Neanderthal DNA with them," Medical News Today wrote.

Human evolution on the Iranian plateau

The fate of Neanderthals and their replacement by anatomically modern humans (AMH) became of greatest interest among paleoanthropologists and archaeologists. Palaeogenetics analyses have proved that AMH interbred with ancient humans including Neandertals and Denisovans. Genetic studies associated with Palaeolithic researches indicate that the last contact between AMH and Neandertals have occurred in western Eurasia during Late Pleistocene.

Until the late 20th century, Neanderthals were regarded as genetically, morphologically, and behaviorally distinct from living humans.

A re-dating analysis of 40 sites shows that the end of Mousterian technology and most probably the disappearance of Neanderthals are not limited to specific areas, but occurred in a period between 41–39 kya in different places across Western Eurasia. Researches also suggest that a combination of climatic changes and competitive condition with AMHs extirpated Neanderthals. A key area that was outside of modern research methods for a long time, is the Zagros Mountains of the Iranian plateau, which is yielded Neanderthal remains and hundreds of their stone tools.

For instance, several surveys conducted by senior Iranian archaeol-



ogist, Saman Heydari-Guran, led to the discovery of a 42,000-year-old Neanderthal tooth along with archaeological layers embracing cultural data from Paleolithic, Middle Neolithic, and post-Paleolithic periods in and around rock shelters situated in western Iran.

The tooth, which is a lower left deciduous canine belonging to a six years old child, was found at a depth of 2.5 m from the shelter surface in association with animal bones and stone tools near Kermanshah. Stone tools discovered close to the tooth belong to the Middle Paleolithic period and a series of C14 dating suggests the Neanderthal is between 41,000–43,000 years of age which is close to the end of the Middle Paleolithic period when Neanderthal disappeared in the Zagros. Neanderthals were roaming over the Iranian Zagros Mountain sometimes between 40 to 70 thousand years ago.

Until the late 20th century, Neandertals were regarded as genetically, morphologically, and behaviorally distinct from living humans. However, more recent discoveries about this well-preserved fossil Eurasian population have revealed an overlap between living and archaic humans.

Neandertals lived before and during the last Ice Age of the Pleistocene in some of the most unforgiving environments ever inhabited by humans. They developed a successful culture, with a complex stone tool technology, that was based on hunting, with some scavenging and local plant collection. Their survival during tens of thousands of years of the last glaciation is a remarkable testament to human adaptation.

Special scaffolding to protect Taq Kasra from probable collapse

TEHRAN – Taq Kasra, a Persian masterpiece of architecture in Iraq, will soon be protected against probable collapse with the help of special scaffolding.

In an emergency measure, the international alliance for the protection of heritage in conflict areas (ALIPH) is set to erect special scaffolding over Taq Kasra to prevent the ancient monument from further collapse, Mehr reported on Saturday.

Taq Kasra (the Arch of Ctesiphon), located 40 km south of Baghdad was built in the 6th century CE. It is the world's largest brick vault and the largest free-standing arch constructed until modern times.

A part of a Sasanian palace complex, it stands at 37 meters high and 26 meters wide, making it a unique monument of great historical and cultural significance.

Taq Kasra poses a very significant conservation challenge and a series of partial collapses of the brick vault in 2019 and 2020 shows the urgency for the stabilization measures.

Following a conservation assessment ALIPH financed at the request of the Iraqi Ministry of Culture, Tourism, and Antiquities in November 2020, this project will implement recommended urgent emergency



measures, according to ALIPH.

To prevent further collapse, the project will install specialized scaffolding that will support the arch, and install sensors to monitor the cracks in the monument. The work is supported by a high-resolution 3D scan financed by ALIPH and prepared by ICONEM in January 2021.

"Once the arch is stabilized, the teams will develop a full conservation plan."

Back in January, some Iraqi social media users posted pictures of Taq Kasra, writing the vault of the monument is partly collapsed, prompting social media activists and cultural heritage lovers to criticize the Iraqi government over what they named as a "neglect" of the monument.

A glimpse of Persian art and architecture under Sassanids

The Sassanid era (224 CE–651) is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance.

Architecture often took grandiose proportions such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan that are amongst highlights of the ensemble.

Crafts such as metalwork and gem-engraving grew highly sophisticated, yet scholarship was encouraged by the state. In those years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians.

Rock-carved sculptures and

bas-reliefs on abrupt limestone cliffs are widely deemed as characteristics and striking relics of the Sassanian art, top examples of which can be traced at Bishapur, Naqsh-e Rostam and Naqsh-e Rajsab in southern Iran.

In 2018, UNESCO added an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran -- titled "Sassanian Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region"-- to its World Heritage list.

The ensemble is comprised of eight archaeological sites situated in three geographical parts of Firuzabad, Bishapur and Sarvestan. It reflects the optimized utilization of natural topography and bears witness to the influence of Achaemenid and Parthian cultural traditions and of Roman art, which later had a significant impact on the architecture and artistic styles of the Islamic era.

Efforts made by the Sassanids also yield a revival of Iranian nationalism took place, for example, Zoroastrianism was declared as the state religion.

The dynasty evolved by Ardashir I and was destroyed by the Arabs during a period of 637 to 651. The dynasty was named after Sasan, an ancestor of Ardashir I.

Lithographic prints, manuscripts restored in Tehran palace

TEHRAN – A total of 100 lithographic prints as well as three historical manuscripts, being kept in the library of Tehran's Niavaran Palace, have recently been restored.

The project aimed to maintain the integrity and protection of historical objects, adopt preventive shield strategies, and implement restoration activities as well, CHTN reported on Friday.

A team of cultural heritage experts supervised the project which took six months to be completed, the report added.

Because paper works have a low resistance to harmful factors, they require constant main-

tenance and scientific restoration in order to increase their lifespan.

Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex, covering an area of about eleven hectares, is composed of several landmark buildings, museums, and monuments constructed in the 19th and 20th centuries during the Pahlavi and late Qajar eras.

The history of the palace complex stretches back to about 280 years ago when Fath-Ali Shah of the Qajar Dynasty ordered for a summer residence to be built over the then countryside area of the capital. The two-story Ahmad Shahi Pavilion is one of the highlights of the complex.

The main palace of the complex was originally erected for royal ceremonies and gatherings. However, it later turned into the residence of the second king of Pahlavi king, Mohammad Reza Shah, and his family.

With an area of 9,000 square meters, the palace is entirely adorned with magnificent plasterwork, mirrorwork, and tilework. Its architecture boasts a blend of pre- and post-Islamic art.

Its beautifully decorated and fully furnished interior features loads of artworks such as precious paintings and sculptures by Iranian and foreign artists.

IN THE NAME OF GOD
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING

INTERNATIONAL TENDER No: 1400/108-63/03

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

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

Deadline and how to receive the tender documents:
From **Monday 08 November 2021 (1400/08/17)** until **Wednesday 10 November 2021 (1400/08/19)** by **14:00 p.m** with presentation of introductory letter by company or its representative and the receipt of paying the documents fee.

Place of receiving the tender document:
Interested participants may refer to purchasing (KALA) Dept. ,4th Floor of IRIB Administration Complex ,Hotel Esteghlal St. Vali –Assr Ave,Tehran, Iran

The fee of the tender documents and how to deposit it:
Submission of payment receipt for the amount of 1,000,000 Rials to account 4101029171204273 with BIC No.IR 310100004101029171204273 IRAN Central Bank in the name of IRIB.

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

Time and place of delivering Bidding Envelopes:
The sealed (A,B&C) packages/envelopes and the qualification evaluation package/envelope separately packed , should be submitted no later than **09:00 a.m. on Saturday 11 Dec 2021 (1400/09/20)** at the address mentioned in 4th clause.

Time and place of opening Qualification Evaluation envelopes:
The date of opening the Qualification Evaluation envelopes is on **Saturday 11 Dec 2021 (1400/09/20) at 10:00 a.m** in the office of International Purchasing Dept.

Time and place of opening Envelopes:
The envelopes A of those eligible participants who meet the qualification criterion and approval of Technical and commercial committee will be opened on **Sunday 12 Dec 2021 at 03:00 p.m (1400/09/21)** in the office of Financial Vice President .In case of complete content in the envelopes A the envelopes of B and C of eligible participants will be opened at the same time and place.
The participant must be qualified by the competent authorities.
Fore more information please see :
www.iriboffice.ir/tenders and http://iets.mporg.ir/ Tel: 00982122167053

Purchasing (Kala) Dept.,IRIB

'Comprehensive protection' essential need of Golestan forest

From page 1 ▶ In these forests, fencing operations have been carried out to increase the conservation and protection of genetic reserves, and we need additional funds to complete the enclosure, he added.

Reducing or cutting the credits of this sector has increased the vulnerability of these areas and threats such as cutting down trees and fires have increased, he emphasized, IRNA reported on Saturday.

Procurement of seeds and propagation of seedlings from these areas with the aim of preserving species compatible with the nature of Golestan and even exporting these seeds and seedlings to other provinces are among the programs that will be implemented if funding is provided, he explained.

Although Hyrcanian forests benefit from about 80 species of trees and 50 species of shrubs, some of these species in the form of unique habitats should be further protected.

While large masses of *Taxus baccata* forests in the world have been destroyed, but Afratakhteh and Pooneh Aram area located in Aliabad Katoul forests, as one of the best pure habitats, remained pristine in the world and Golestan province.

The protection of forest reserves, according to experts, requires the more serious determination and will of the country's top managers to pass these valuable treasures to future generations by allocating sufficient funds.



Dependence of locals' livelihoods on activities incompatible with forest protection such as livestock, agriculture, fuel supply, and land-use changes along with other concerns such as inadequacy of relevant laws and regulations and lack of enforcement of existing laws, lack of attention to environmental consequences, and implementation of development plans are factors that affect these valuable treasures.

Forest reserves

Forest reserves are small biosphere reserves in which unique, rare, or endangered species live. These areas also have trees and

shrubs of high genetic value.

Accordingly, the most desirable way to preserve these species is to protect them in their natural habitats. Therefore, the management of forest reserves with the process of identification, delimitation, and preparation of conservation plans is among the important measures that should be on the agenda.

The Forest Organization has reported that from 1993 to 2020, a total of 347 forest reserves with an area of over 409,000 hectares were registered, but last year 182 forest reserves with an area of 410,000 hectares were identified, which has

grown by 107 percent.

Iran's biosphere reserves

Iran is a vast country with a wide range of biodiversity and natural resources, with 13 biosphere reserves named Golestan, Miankaleh, Arasbaran, Urmia, Arjan and Parishan, Geno, Hara, Hamoon, Dena, Tange Sayad, Sabzkooh, Turan, Kavir and Kopet Dag has been registered in the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere (MAB) Program.

Biosphere reserves include terrestrial, marine, and coastal ecosystems. Each site promotes solutions reconciling the conservation of biodiversity with its sustainable use. There are currently 714 biosphere reserves in 129 countries, including 21 transboundary sites.

The Golestan Biosphere Reserve is located in the north of Iran and forms part of the Caucasus-Iranian highlands, situated between the sub-humid and semi-arid Caspian regions. A wide variety of habitats and rich biodiversity can be found in the reserve, including 150 bird species, 54 species of reptiles and amphibians, 8 species of huge carnivores such as the leopard and brown bear, and more than 1,366 plant species.

Dena Biosphere Reserve is located in the Central Zagros Mountains of Iran, with a general slope of more than 60 percent. Dena is also home to a vast range of plant species and several endangered and endemic mammal species. Oak species dominate the highlands, while pistachio and almond are common at lower elevations.

Golestan province is covered with about 453,000 hectares of forests.

Tehran to host intl. conference on science museums

TEHRAN – The Iranian National Museum of Science and Technology will be hosting the 48th CIMUSET Conference in Tehran on November 7-11.

CIMUSET, the International Committee for Museums and Collections of Science and Technology, is an International Council of Museums (ICOM) committee composed of museum professionals from the fields of science and technology.

The Iranian National Museum of Science and Technology as a developing academic center plays a role in different social concerns like environmental issues by making connections between different stakeholders and informing the public about their role in improving the environment and solving environmental issues.

Held with a theme of "museums and environ-



mental concerns, new insights", the conference will gather a diverse group to share their interests in science, museums, and the environment enabling new connections between practitioners and researchers across national and cultural boundaries, ISNA reported.

The event focuses on museums and improving public understanding of environmental issues, museums and environmental education, museums and environmental citizenship, museums and sustainable environment, museum exhibition about environmental issues and museums, environment and emergent crises (COVID-19).

A total of 34 approved papers from different countries (Iran, Italy, Pakistan, Denmark, Brazil, India, Turkey, USA, Germany) will be presented based on the conference themes.

In line with negotiations held at the 47th CIMUSET in Tokyo, the Iranian National Museum of Science and Technology was selected as the host to the 48th annual conference, while due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, it is being held virtually with a one-year delay.

Some 24% of students vaccinated nationwide

TEHRAN – A total of 1,572,380 students, equaling 24 percent of the target group aged 12 to 18 nationwide, have received both doses of coronavirus vaccine, Azam Goudarzi, a health ministry official, said on Saturday.

To date, 5,607,827 students aged 12 to 18 have received the first dose of coronavirus vaccine, she added, IRNA reported.

Eighty-five percent of students across the country have so far inoculated to gain immunity against the virus, she noted.

Around 6,305,000 students are studying in the country, who have

received Sinopharm vaccine, she also said.

With the decline in COVID-19 cases, schools are gradually reopened with a delay of one month or two under health protocols.

Students in tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades attended schools on Saturday, while students in seventh, eighth, and ninth grades, as well as elementary students, will go to school from the beginning of November 22.

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

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

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



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

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

System to be set up for monitoring, forecasting agricultural drought

A system will be launched to monitor, forecast and report the agricultural lands being hit by drought, Amir Qaderi, an official with Disaster Management Organization has announced.

Over a meeting of a special working group for addressing drought and risks threatening agricultural sector, a plan for establishing a system for monitoring and forecasting agricultural drought in the country was approved and submitted to the Disaster Management Organization for review, he explained.

"Following the study of other countries' experiences and existing global methods, the necessity of establishing a domestic system to recognize the lands prone to agricultural drought was emphasized," he noted.

سامانه پایش و پیش‌بینی خشکسالی کشاورزی ایران ایجاد می‌شود

معاون امور بازسازی و بازتوانی سازمان مدیریت بحران کشور از ایجاد سامانه پایش و پیش‌بینی خشکسالی کشاورزی ایران خبر داد.

به گزارش پایگاه اطلاع رسانی سازمان مدیریت بحران کشور، امیر قادری روز یکشنبه با اعلام این خبر گفت: طرح ایجاد سامانه پایش و پیش‌بینی خشکسالی کشاورزی ایران طی جلسه‌ای با حضور مدیران و کارشناسان سازمان مدیریت بحران و وزارت جهاد کشاورزی بررسی شد.

وی ادامه داد: پس از بررسی تجارب داخلی و روش‌های موجود جهانی، ضرورت استقرار نمونه بومی پایش و پیش‌بینی خشکسالی کشاورزی مورد تأکید قرار گرفت و با مشارکت مراکز پژوهشی سازمان هواشناسی کشور و پژوهشکده حفاظت خاک و آب‌خیزداری طرح ایجاد سامانه پایش و پیش‌بینی خشکسالی کشاورزی ایران پیشنهاد شد.

Rare zebrafish in danger of extinction

TEHRAN – Zebrafish live only in Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province and are not found anywhere else in the world, but their shrinking population made them highly endangered.

The results of research conducted over the past 15 years indicate a continuous decline in the zebrafish population and the risk of extinction of this rare species, Mehdi Raisi, researcher of aquatic diseases, said.

He went on to explain that the small fish with a length of 3-4 centimeters is one of the important species in the Zagros region.

The species habitats have been severely damaged in recent years, and some have even become completely lifeless due to drought, he lamented, adding, this rare species is a genetic reserve for the country and in case of extinction, there is no alternative to it.

Emphasizing that surviving them from extinction requires serious and immediate action, he suggested that various factors must be considered in order to protect this fish, the first step is to eliminate environmental and ecosystem threats.



The zebrafish (*Danio rerio*) is a freshwater fish belonging to the minnow family (Cyprinidae) of the order Cypriniformes. Native to South Asia, it is a popular aquarium fish.

The zebrafish is an important and widely used vertebrate model organism in scientific research, for example in drug development, in particular pre-clinical development.

The zebrafish is named for the five uniform, pigmented, horizontal, blue stripes on the side of the body, which are reminiscent of a zebra's stripes, and which extend to the end of the caudal fin. Its shape is fusiform and laterally compressed, with its mouth directed upwards.

Global push to net zero will trigger fossil fuel crash, study finds

About half of the world's fossil fuel assets may become worthless in fifteen years as countries rapidly transition to renewables under net zero policies, according to new research, the Independent reported.

The new paper, published in Nature Energy on Thursday, said the decarbonising efforts adopted by countries will slow down the demand for fossils, making the prices more volatile. Continuing with excess production may lead to "unburnable" stranded assets, making them worthless by 2036, it added.

The paper estimated that the risk of producing far more oil and gas than required for future demand would lead to a massive £8.1 trillion to £10.3 trillion worth of stranded assets, including infrastructure, property and investments where the value has fallen so steeply that they must be written off.

The lead author of the paper added that if the world continued to produce fossils, and economies kept depending on it while the value fell, it may trigger a financial crisis similar to the one in 2008.

"In a worst-case scenario, people will keep investing in fossil fuels until suddenly the demand they expected does not materialise and they realise that what they own is worthless. Then we could see a financial crisis on the scale of 2008," Jean-Francois Mercure of the University of Exeter warned.

Carbon makes up the vast majority of greenhouse gases emitted and with the recent push for net zero targets at the Cop26 summit in Glasgow, all of the world's major fossil producing and consuming countries are now looking to reduce their emissions.

Renewables are also becoming cheaper, as the paper points out. However, the concentration of technology remains a key issue.

Most nations possess sizeable technical po-



tentials for one or more types of renewable energy sources, which reduces the likelihood of any state gaining important control over future energy supplies, the paper said. However, it also pointed out that the speed of the transition and the decline in the value of fossils will depend on energy importers such as China, India, Japan and the EU.

"These have an economic incentive to decarbonise and their decisions impact producers in general," the study noted, referring to their carbon emission reduction targets.

The study also illustrated how a drop in demand for oil and gas before 2036 will reshape the geopolitical landscape. Current investment flows and government commitments to reach net zero emissions by 2050 will make renewable energy more efficient, cheaper and stable, while fossil fuels will be hit by more price volatility.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON NOVEMBER 6

| | |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| New cases | 8,803 |
| New deaths | 120 |
| Total cases | 5,980,260 |
| Total deaths | 127,173 |
| New hospitalized patients | 985 |
| Patients in critical condition | 3,713 |
| Total recovered patients | 5,588,545 |
| Diagnostic tests conducted | 36,167,151 |
| Doses of vaccine injected | 93,562,617 |



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NOVEMBER 7, 2021

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

If you cannot get things as much as you desire than be contented with what you have.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon: 11:48 Evening: 17:22 Dawn: 5:07 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:33 (tomorrow)

Persian music history: ca. 650 to 1370 CE

Part 5

In stages of development unknown to us, the older system of seven modes developed into a system of twelve main modes (pardeh), six secondary modes (avaz), and additional sho'be or tarkib modes in sexagesimal order.

It was also connected with astronomy. Several sources confirm that the previous system of seven modes, which had been a "planetary" one, changed into the more sophisticated "zodiacal" system of twelve modes.

By the early 13th century at the latest the new system had been completely developed. It was described by the North African writer Ahmad ibn Yusuf Tifashi (d. 1253) as a recent Persian system adopted by the Arabs and containing twelve bardas (i.e., pardeh) and six avaz modes whose names are mostly Persian but only partly identical with those known from Ormavi and his school.

Sets of twelve pardeh and six sho'be modes appear in the 13th century in slightly different versions. There was an eastern or Khorasanian tradition transmitted by Mohammad ibn Mahmud ibn Mohammad Neyshaburi, the master of Khorasan, who added the numbers of baang to the main modes.

There was another system of twelve modes called adwar (sing. dawr) or shodud (sing. shadd) plus six avaz modes in a western or Irano-Arab version recorded by Safi ad-Din Ormavi in the 13th century and, to judge from its terminology, intended to represent the predominant Persian and Arab local traditions, namely, oshaq, nava, busalik, rast, eraq, esfahan, zirafgand, bozorg, rahavi, zangula, hosayni, hejazi.

In contrast, the beginning of Neyshaburi's series of pardehs and baangs (rast, mokhalef-e rast, mada, eraq) resembles more closely that given by Kaykavus ibn Eskandar in his Qabusnameh.

Neyshaburi emphasizes the importance of the mode rast as being the "shah of all the pardehs". In other sources rast is compared with a tree of which the other modes are the branches, or a town in which the other modes are the streets.

Comparison of different tables of modes from the 13th and 14th centuries reveals a relative similarity of the twelve main modes and a greater difference between the avaz and sho'be modes which, however, was a frequent phenomenon in Persian and Arabic sources.

Most unusual are the avaz modes listed in the anonymous al-Mokhtasar al-mofid (ca. 1354). Their number is eight instead of six and includes some old-fashioned terms.

One generation after Ormavi an important account of the modal system was given by the versatile scientist Qotb ad-Din Shirazi (d. 1311) in the music chapter of his Dorrat al-taj.

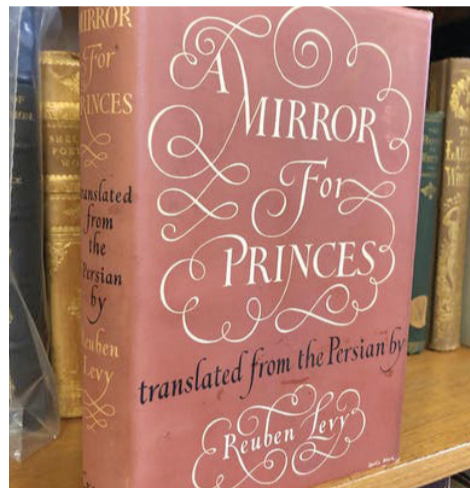
In contrast to the other authors, he did not follow a strict system. He only once names the twelve pardeh modes as oshaq, nava, busalik, rast, noruz, eraq, esfahan, bozorg, zirafgand, rahavi, zangula, hosayni, and he mentions nine sho'be modes "used by the musicians" (dogah, segah, chahargah, panjgah, zavoli, ruy-e eraq, mobarqa, maya, shahnaz), the traditional system being of minor importance for his own distinction between and classification of the modes.

He is the first to use the word maqam as a general term in the sense of mode, and he is the first to describe the melodic development (sayr) of modes, singling out characteristic notes such as the beginning (ebteda, mabda), a central pitch (wasat), and the ending.

At the end of the chapter on music, he has written down a song by Ormavi in the most sophisticated musical notation known from Islamic lands.

Among his sources Qotb ad-Din quotes the Kitab al-adwar by a certain Salmak. This was one of the books of the 12th and 13th centuries that have not survived but could have helped to detect the unknown predecessors and colleagues of Ormavi.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica
 To be continue



"A Mirror for Princes: The Qabus Nama" translated from Persian by Reuben Levy.

Another book of this kind was written by a certain Sharaf ad-Din ibn Ala, a distinguished contemporary of Ormavi in music theory, who is quoted in the anonymous Kitab al-mizan fi elm al-adwar wa-l-awzan, written by a pupil of Ormavi.

Extra-musical phenomena

A specific aspect of the Persian modal system was its association to a number of extra-musical phenomena such as the stars, the seasons, or the hours of day and night.

The musician was reminded to choose a song or a mode in correspondence with the nature and condition of his listeners, their age, complexion, status, and origin.

The effect of music was treated in books by Abu Yusuf Kendi, by his pupil Abu Zayd Balkhi (d. 934), by Ebn Hendu Nishaburi (d. ca. 1029), who was a student of Abu Zayd in the second generation, and by later writers.

In the Persian language, this topic was first taken up in the Qabusnameh ("the greatest art of the musician is to meet the nature of the listener"), and continued to be regarded as an essential aspect of musical practice down to the end of the Safavids.

In the 13th century at the latest, a pseudo-scientific relation between the twelve zodiacal signs, the twelve main modes, the twelve parts of the body, and the hours of day and night was made into a system of musical dietetics and music therapy that existed until the 16th century.

Musical meters

A characteristic feature of both Arab and Persian musical practice in early Islam was the way (tariqa in Arabic, raah in Persian) of a melody or a song.

It was defined by a musical meter to which the melodic mode was subordinated. The musical meters (iqa, osul al-iqa) were described, on the Arab side, as being either heavy (saqil) or light (khafif) versions of the three basic forms (osul) called ramal, al-taqil al-awwal and al-taqil al-sani, and a separate group of light meters called hazaj.

Farabi brought these three layers into a system of basic beats in the relation of 1 : 2 : 4 or (in modern terms) eighth note, quarter note and half note.

Ramal was the first of the heavy meters. It was described (in modern terms) as a sequence of two half notes and a half-note rest.

The two remaining heavy meters consisted of three and four half notes respectively with again a half-note rest at the end. The three light meters had the same structure as their heavy counterparts, but double speed.

The hazaj was described as a sequence of five quavers and a quaver rest. The final rest could be filled up by notes, and the notes of the basic patterns could be subdivided.

Photo: "A Mirror for Princes: The Qabus Nama" translated from Persian by Reuben Levy.

Cartoonist Kambiz Derambakhsh dies from COVID-19

From Page 1 ▶ Born in Shiraz, Derambakhsh began his professional career by drawing cartoons for Tofiq, Iran's most popular satirical magazine before the Islamic revolution, when he was only 14.

Known for his talent to find obscure themes for his creations, Derambakhsh, worked as a cartoonist, a graphic designer, and an illustrator for over 60 years.

Showcases of his cartoons in over 50 solo and 100 group exhibits in Iran and across the world and his cosmopolitan outlook on life in his artworks earned him international recognition.

In recognition of his artistic achievements, he was decorated by the French government with the Chevalier of the Legion of Honor Medal in 2014.

His works are exhibited at museums in Tehran, Paris, Basel, Hiroshima, Istanbul, Warsaw and several other cities across the world.

He also published his works in several books, one of which is "Cats and Birds", which was released by Karnameh Publications in Tehran in January 2021.

The book contains a collection of his most recent paintings and drawings.



Cartoonist Kambiz Derambakhsh autographs a copy of his book "Visual Stories" for one of his fans (not seen) at the Book City Institute in Tehran on February 20, 2017.

Derambakhsh's book "Visual Stories" containing a series of his simple cartoons was published in 2017.

"Cartooning has occupied my entire life, and I think of it every single day. The cartoons and the lines might seem very simple at the first glance, but I have put in years of effort to achieve this," Derambakhsh said at

a session organized at the Book City Institute to introduce the book.

Derambakhsh won many awards at international competitions including the grand prize of the Istanbul competition in 1990, the grand prize at Japan's Yomiuri Shimbun competition in 1998, and the grand prize of a Polish anti-war caricature contest in 2002.

In March 2020, Derambakhsh

shared a collection of his cartoons on coronavirus with his fans on Instagram.

As the cartoonist had said before, his cartoons reflected the coronavirus outbreak in the country. The new images also bore a small note giving warnings or recommendations to people to prevent the spread of coronavirus.

Italy's Artissima showcasing works by Iranian artists

TEHRAN – Works by 17 Iranian artists in various media are on display at Artissima, Italy's most important contemporary art fair.

Since its establishment in 1994, Artissima has combined the presence of an international market with a focus on experimentation and research.

The Iranian artists have been selected by the galleries Inja, O, Ab-Anbar, Mohsen and +2 (Dastan Basement), all located in Tehran.

Ab-Anbar, +2 and Mohsen are participating in the main section of Artissima, which brings together outstanding galleries from the international art world. Established names offer collectors and art lovers an event of the highest quality in this category.

Sassan Abri, Majid Biglari, Samira Hodai, Amir-Nasr Kamguyan and Behrang Samadzadegan are showcasing their works by Mohsen Gallery.

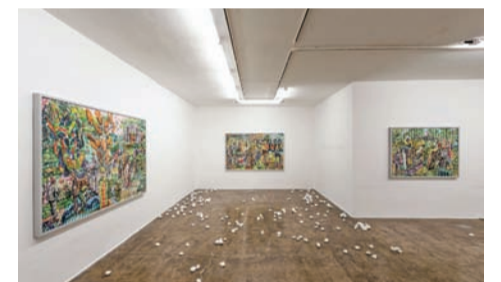
+2 has taken works by Fereidun Ave, Seraj Barseghian, Maryam Eivazi, Bita Fayyazi, Asal Peirovi and Mohammad Piryai to the exhibition, which will end on Sunday.

Works by Majid Fat'hizadeh and Hesam Samavati have been placed on view by Ab-Anbar Gallery at the fair located in Turin.

Inja Gallery is showcasing works by Negar Farajani and Abolfazl Haruni in New Entries, a section that presents the most interesting emerging galleries from the international art scene, which have been open less than 5 years and are taking part in Artissima for the first time.

O Gallery has taken works by Ashkan Sanei and Farniaz Zaker to Dialogue, a category that is reserved for emerging galleries or galleries with an experimental approach applying with either a monographic booth or with a dialogue of works by 2 artists.

Galleries from around the world participate in Artissima every year. In addition to the categories Main Section, Dialogue/Monologue, New Entries, Art Spaces & Editions, Artissima is also composed of three art sections, headed by a board of international curators and museum directors, devoted to emerging artists (Present Future), drawings (Disegni) and rediscovering the great



Works from Behrang Samadzadegan's series "Heading Utopia; Chapter 2: The Spring That Never Came" on view in an exhibition organized at Mohsen Gallery from July 2 to 21, 2021.

pioneers of contemporary art (Back to the Future).

Beginning in 2020 the three curated sections are virtually hosted on the Artissima XYZ digital platform, accompanied in 2021 by a physical collective display within the exhibition pavilion.

The fair is curated by Artissima Srl, a company connected with the Fondazione Torino Musei.

"Uncle Vanya" joins "The Seagull" in Iranian story on stage in Tehran

TEHRAN – Iranian writer Arman Tayanar has blended Anton Chekhov's "Uncle Vanya" and "The Seagull" and an Iranian story, which is currently on stage at Tehran's Sangalaj Hall.

The play named "Uncle Vanya's Seagull" is performed in the form of kheimeh shab-bazi, a style of traditional Iranian puppetry.

It shows Chekhov planning to travel to Iran in search of the seagull, which has come to the country earlier.

Hossein Heidari is the director of the play and Hossein Mohammadi, Mehdi Alinejad, Hamed Sheikhi, Hossein Karami, Mahshid Gudarzi, Reza Hosseinnejad, Bahareh Jahanbani and several other puppeteers are collaborating in it.

A music ensemble composed of vocalist Amir-Hossein Ensaferi and tar player Hossein Asadi, tonbak player Negin Mortazavi and kamancheh virtuoso Ali Jabbari is also accompanying the troupe.

The play had its premiere last



A scene from the premiere of the play "Uncle Vanya's Seagull" at Tehran's Sangalaj Hall on November 4, 2021. (Theater.ir)

Thursday with a tribute to Ezzatollah Mehravaran, a top Iranian actor of stage and screen who died of COVID-19 in October.

"Uncle Vanya" portrays the visit of an elderly professor and his glamorous, much younger second wife, Yelena, to the rural estate that supports their urban lifestyle.

Two friends, Vanya, brother of the professor's late first wife, who has long managed the estate, and Astrov, the local doctor, both fall under Yelena's spell, while bemoaning the ennu of their provincial existence.

Sonya, the professor's daughter by his first wife, who has worked with Vanya to keep the estate going, suffers from her unrequited feelings for Astrov.

Matters are brought to a crisis when the professor announces his intention to sell the estate, Vanya and Sonya's home, with a view to investing the proceeds to achieve a higher income for himself and his wife.

In "The Seagull", the main characters, all artists, are guests at a country estate. They are Mme Arkadina, a middle-aged actress; her

lover, Trigorin, a successful writer; her son Konstantin, a writer; and Nina, a young aspiring actress whom Konstantin loves.

Mme. Arkadina, jealous of Nina's youth and promising career, acts cruelly and hatefully toward Konstantin, belittling his new play and withholding the approval he desperately seeks from her.

Nina, impressed by Trigorin's fame, ignores Konstantin, who kills a seagull and shows it to her, perhaps symbolically referring to his broken dreams. All four go their separate ways, but two years later they are reunited at the same estate. When Nina again rejects Konstantin, he destroys his writings and shoots himself while his mother, unaware, plays cards in another room.

"The Seagull", which is generally considered to be the first of Chekhov's four major plays, and "Uncle Vanya" have been performed by many Iranian troupes.

Balinala to screen four movies from Iran



A scene from the animation "Malakout".

TEHRAN – Four movies by Iranian filmmakers will be screened at the 14th Bali International Film Festival – Balinala in Indonesia.

"Malakout", "Pari", "Doubt" and "113" will be competing in the festival, which will take place on Bali from November 11 to 14.

Directed by Farnush Abedi, the acclaimed animated short movie "Malakout" has been produced at the Documentary and Experimental Film Center.

It tells the story of a pianist, who has lost one of his hands and can't play the piano anymore. Doctors decide to transplant a dead criminal's hand onto his body. The pianist with his new hand starts killing people.

The film has been screened in numerous international events and won several awards, including the Excellence Award at the 18th Hiroshima International Animation Festival.

It also won two honors for Abedi, including the best director award at the Dead of Night Film Festival in Liverpool.

"Pari" directed by Siamak Etemadi won the Golden Cyrus Cylinder for best feature-length film at the 7th Iranian Film Festival Zurich, Switzerland.

The film follows Babak, an Iranian student

in Greece, who doesn't show up to welcome his visiting parents at the Athens airport. Pari and her older husband, both devout Muslims abroad for the first time, are ill-prepared to search for their son in an intimidating and alien environment. All their attempts to find a clue that might lead them to him prove to be in vain and they soon reach a dead end. However, Pari can't give up looking for him, even when returning to Iran seems like her only choice. Following the steps of her rebellious son in the darkest corners of the city, she will exhaust her inner strength to achieve more than a mother's search for her missing son.

Directed by Ali Tasdiqi, "Doubt" is about Amir and Nazi, who are traveling in a car on a mountain road while facing strange happenings.

"113" by Neda Asef is the story of soldier number 113 who is overtired and has fallen asleep in the military base conference room, in which briefing sessions are held. By the time he wakes up, things have gotten out of hand.