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Iran Set the Stage for "Result-Oriented" Talks

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Iranian FM enquires about Iraqi PM's health

TEHRAN — Following a failed attempt on the life of Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian telephoned his Iraqi counterpart Fuad Husain to seek the prime minister's health.

Amir Abdollahian sent the greetings of the Iranian president to al-Kadhimi and expressed delight that the prime minister is unhurt.

The Iranian foreign minister also said such incidents, which go against the stability and security of Iraq, as a friendly country, are carried out by ill-wishers of the country in a bid to undermine its tranquility.

During the talks, the Iraqi foreign minister also thanked the Iranian president and foreign minister for their concern and briefed his Iranian counterpart on the latest developments surrounding the assassination attempt, and thanked the Iranian president on behalf of the Iraqi prime minister.

Foreign Minister Husain added that relevant Iraqi authorities are investigating the incident.

In a failed assassination attempt, a suicide drone hit the Iraqi Prime Minister's residence in the early hours of Sunday, November 7.

The Iraqi military called it an assassination attempt and stressed that al-Kadhimi escaped the attempt safe and sound.

According to the Iraqi military, six people were injured in the failed assassination attempt, all of whom were the prime minister's staff members.

No individual or group has claimed responsibility for the attack that happened in the Green Zone, an area of the city housing many government buildings and foreign embassies.

Iran edged by Lebanon in FIBA Women's Asia Cup Division B

TEHRAN — Iran suffered a narrow 66-64 loss against Lebanon in the 2021 FIBA Women's Asia Cup Division B opener.

Delaram Vakili led Iran with 16 points, while Aida Bakhos scored 17 points for Lebanon.

Iran will play Syria on Monday in Group A.

Group B consists of Jordan, Kazakhstan and Indonesia.

The tournament takes place between Nov. 7 and 13 and is hosted by Jordan, who recently hosted the FIBA Women's Asia Cup, which was won by Japan. A total of six nations will compete in this Division B tournament. They have been split into two groups and will try to make it to the knockout stages.

Four teams will land in the Semi-Finals, while two countries will miss out. The main prize at the event is that the eventual winners will move up and replace the recently relegated India at the next edition of the FIBA Women's Asia Cup in 2023.

A moment for political cohesion in Iraq

TEHRAN — An assassination attempt on the Iraqi prime minister's life has once again brought into focus the need for dialogue and greater unity among leading Iraqi Shia groups.

Tensions in Iraq took a new, dangerous turn on Sunday as the country's government announced that Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi came under attack while resting in his own residence in the fortified Green Zone of Baghdad, where most of Iraq's high-ranking government institutions and foreign embassies, including the U.S. one, are situated.

The Iraqi media reported that three exploding

drones carried out the attack, two of which were intercepted and downed by Iraqi security forces while the third drone crashed into the prime minister's house. Images published by Iraqi media outlets showed remarkable damage to the house. Rubble could be seen everywhere in the backyard and inside the house. Explosives ripped through the doors and windows, throwing them afire.

Al-Kadhimi survived the assassination attempt while some members of his security detail sustained minor injuries. "I was and still am a redemption project for Iraq and the people of Iraq. The missiles of treachery will not discourage the believers and will shake a hair

of the stability and determination of our heroic security forces to preserve people's security, achieve justice, and set the law in place. Thank God, I am fine and among my people. I call for calmness and restraint from all for the sake of Iraq," the prime minister said on Twitter hours after the attack.

The attack sparked widespread expressions of sympathy with al-Kadhimi both internally and externally. Most influential Iraqi figures and officials expressed sympathy with the prime minister, calling for an investigation into the incident. ► Page 3



Monthly COVID-19 vaccine output reaches 10m doses

TEHRAN — The domestic manufacturers of coronavirus vaccine have managed to increase their monthly production to 10 million doses, Seyed Heydar Mohammadi, an official with the Food and Drug Administration, has said.

Currently, COVIRAN Barekat and Spikogen vaccines are produced in seven million doses per month, he stated, adding, Pastu Covac, Cov Pars, and Fakhra also produce about one million doses each and will increase production capacity in the coming months.

So far, more than 70 percent of Iranians have received the first dose and more than 47 percent have been fully vaccinated, he noted, highlighting that in the coming months, the trend of domestic production will accelerate.

According to the Food and Drug Administration, 14 vaccines are being domestically developed in the country which are in different study phases.

Made by researchers at the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, COVIRAN Barekat is the first domestic vaccine that was unveiled on December 29, 2020, and received the license for public use on June 14. ► Page 7

Intl. Health Congress of Islamic Countries opens in Tehran

TEHRAN — The 5th International Health Congress of Islamic Countries has brought together tens of representatives, experts, travel insiders, and private investors from its member states to discuss ways to develop medical tourism during the three-day event, which opened in Tehran on Sunday.

Being held at IRIB International Conference Center, the congress seeks to find new opportunities for cooperation and development of health tourism among Muslim nations, according to organizers.

The event is organized by the Health Tourism Development Center of Islamic Countries (HTDC) and supported by ministries, federations, institutions, and organizations in health tourism as well as private and governmental health service providers.

International Health Congress of Islamic Countries made its debut in 2015 to play an effective role in developing economic relations and facilitating the networks between stakeholders in the health and health tourism industry.

The congress turns the spotlight on five specialized panel discussions of medical tourism, sports tourism, natural, wellness,

and food tourism, medical and laboratory equipment, and nutrition and healthy food.

In addition, an exhibition is staged on the sidelines of the event to highlight top startups in the realms of medical tourism, sports tourism, curative & wellness tourism, rural & ecotourism, educational tourism, food tourism, medicine, and medical equipment, and health services.

Iran is known in the world as an affordable destination for health tourism and the government is making a great effort to attract more health tourists in the years to come. Many believe that medical tourism in the Islamic Republic is a win-win opportunity both for the country and foreign patients, as they are offered affordable yet quality treatment services and the country gains considerable foreign currency.

Iran offers different kinds of medical services such as eye surgeries and services, cardiovascular surgeries especially pediatric heart surgery, bone marrow transplantation, gynecologic and obstetric surgery, oncologic services, cerebrospinal surgery, orthopedic surgery (total knee & total hip replacement, etc.), and urologic surgery, and so many other services. ► Page 6

Nearly 150,000 tons of car tires produced in 7 months

TEHRAN— Iranian tire manufacturers produced 149,371 tons of the product during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22) to register a three-percent drop compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Over 13,784 million tires were produced during the seven-month period of this year, indicating a four-percent decline in terms of number, IRNA reported.

According to the statistics, in the mentioned period, 85,907 tons of passenger cars were produced, showing five percent fall year on year.

In the period under review, some 15,823 tons of van tires were also produced, indicating a 12-percent growth. Meanwhile, 32,304 tons of truck and bus tires were produced, showing a two-percent rise.

Production of the tires of light agricultural

vehicles experienced a decline of 26 percent to stand at 2,078 tons, while that of the heavy ones also declined two percent to stand at 10,383 tons.

Production of the tires of road building and industrial vehicles also fell 18 percent to 2,876 tons in the period under review.

In the first seven months of the present year, 10,690 tons of bicycle and motorcycle tires was produced, showing 20 percent growth.

In a bid to nullify the U.S. sanctions, Iran is determined to strengthen its domestic production to achieve self-reliance.

Selecting the motto of "Pickup in Production" for the Iranian calendar year 1398 (March 2019-March 2020), and the slogan of "Surge in Production" for the year 1399 (March 2020-March 2021) indicates the Islamic Republic's determination to achieve this goal. ► Page 4



Iranian Army launches large-scale drill

TEHRAN — The Army on Sunday staged a massive military exercise in Iran's southeastern coastal areas and naval zones in the Sea of Oman with the involvement of all of airborne units, special forces, and rapid reaction brigades.

The drill, codenamed Zolfaqar-1400, covers an area of over one million square kilometers southeast of Iran, stretching from the eastern parts of the strategic Strait of Hormuz to the northern tip of the Indian Ocean and parts of the Red Sea, according to Tasnim. ► Page 2

TENDER INVITATION NO. 1400-1011

IRAN ALUMINIUM COMPANY (IRALCO) would like to invite eligible suppliers for the supply of 5000 MT HSP Pitch on tender basis. Interested companies are allowed to send their competitive offer till 23-November -2021 Based on our required instruction to following address:
 PO Box 31, opposite Bahonar Park, Natural Resources Boulevard, Arak- Iran Postal code: 381899816
 Attention: Mr. Omid - Mr. Nabiuni Tel: +98 86 32162014 +98 86 32162181
 NO.49, Mollasadra Ave., Vanak Square, Tehran- Iran, Postal code: 1991614581
 Name of office: Managing Director Office, Iranian Aluminum Company. Fax: +98 21 88049028 Tel: +98 21 88049024
 For obtaining tender's documents and more information, please check: www.iralco.ir
Public Relations Department of Iran Aluminum Company



Iran-proposed nuclear disarmament resolution is a test for positions and claims of UN member states

By Majid Takht-Ravanchi

Iran's Permanent Representative to the United Nations

Since the end of the Cold War, the number of nuclear weapons in the world has dropped dramatically to 15,000 warheads, according to the latest estimates, but given the fact that the explosive and qualitative power of new nuclear weapons is thousands of times greater than that of old nuclear weapons, the danger of the existing weapons to human life and the planet is no less – if not greater – than that of the old weapons in question.

Under the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, all Nuclear Weapon States have the obligation to destroy all their nuclear weapons. In addition, they are legally obliged not only to refrain from taking any action to manufacture nuclear weapons, but to refrain from transferring such weapons to other countries, deploying them outside their territory, and cooperating with other governments to build atomic weapons.

Under the pressure and pursuit of non-Nuclear Weapon States, nuclear states, after decades of non-compliance with their legal obligations, have once again been obliged to take practical and effective steps within the framework of the final documents of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty review conferences in 1995, 2000 and 2010.

However, a look at the existing statistics and realities shows that not only Nuclear Weapon States lack the necessary political will to achieve nuclear disarmament, but also their nuclear activities, including increasing the quality of nuclear weapons, modernizing and increasing the destructive power of these weapons, increasing the status of nuclear weapons in national security doctrines, even in violation of international regulations and obligations, have created a situation in which the past trend does not show a significant move towards nuclear disarmament and it does not seem that there would also be such a prospect in the future.

It is worth emphasizing that in the absence of real nuclear disarmament, NWSs and their allied

countries pursue a policy of reducing nuclear risk, which given its very small scope and lack of consideration of real nuclear disarmament, it is not by no means possible to consider this ostensible policy as an alternative and equivalent to nuclear disarmament.

In response to this situation, since 2005, the Islamic Republic of Iran has been the main sponsor of the biennial resolution, entitled "Following-up the Implementation of the Agreed Obligations at the NPT Review Conferences in 1995, 2005 and 2010."

The main purpose of this resolution is the implementation of the obligations of the NWSs on nuclear disarmament within the framework of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT).

The draft of this resolution was first submitted to the United Nations General Assembly First Committee (Committee on Disarmament and International Security), and after consideration and initial decision in this committee, the result will be sent to the General Assembly for the final decision.

Below, by looking at the structure and content of this resolution, possible interpretations of different countries' positions are examined from the principled point of view that a vote given to every resolution and proposal in the multilateral diplomacy is a test for the consideration of the claims with the practical and declarative positions of the countries, and based on this, the countries' positions and claims can be verified in various aspects.

Resolution structure and content

This resolution includes nine preambular and six operative paragraphs.

The preambular part – with reference to the previous biennial resolutions, the text of the NPT, the previous approval of the General Assembly to achieve nuclear disarmament, reminding and reaffirming the previously agreed-upon obligations in review conferences after the indefinite extension of the Treaty in 1995 and beyond – expresses concern about the failure of the last review conference held in 2015.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Taliban will be invited to next meeting of Afghanistan's neighbors



TEHRAN — A member of the parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee has announced that the Taliban will be invited to the next meeting of Afghanistan's neighbors.

The reason that the Taliban had not been invited to meetings in Tehran and Islamabad was that their participation must have been approved by neighbors. Abolfazl Amouei told the Fars news agency on Wednesday.

However, after the neighbors agreed with the request the Taliban representatives it was scheduled that they attend the next meeting, he said.

The next meeting is scheduled to be hosted by China in 2022. China shares a 46-mile border with Afghanistan.

Tehran hosted the meeting of the foreign ministers of countries neighboring Afghanistan on October 27. The Chinese foreign minister addressed the conference virtually.

The Russian foreign minister, whose country also hosted a meeting on Afghanistan on ..., also addressed the Tehran conference virtually.

Amouei called the summit of Afghanistan's neighbors an important step in matching the views of neighbors toward the developments in the country.

"The joint statement issued after the meeting of Afghanistan's neighbors in Tehran is unprecedented," the parliamentarian noted, adding in the previous meetings in Islamabad and Moscow the participants had failed to reach a common conclusion.

The parliamentary committee member stated that the most important point of the Tehran summit was that all the neighbors underlined

the need to establish security in Afghanistan and to form an inclusive government that would represent the entire Afghan groups.

The foreign ministers of Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan attended the Tehran meeting. The ambassadors of China and Russia were participating at the conference.

"Afghanistan's neighbors' summit is a step forward that has been held by the Islamic Republic of Iran," Amouei remarked.

"At the end of the meeting, it was decided that the next round of meeting of Afghanistan's neighbors to be held in one of Afghanistan's neighboring countries, and we think it will be an effective step at the beginning of the 13th administration."

The 13th administration refers to Ebrahim Raisi's government which took the helm in August.

"Afghanistan's neighbors' summit was a positive step to explain the Islamic Republic of Iran's position on Afghanistan, as well as a move to make coordination among Afghanistan's neighbors," Amouei pointed out.

The MP added that the representatives of the Taliban were not present at the meeting in Tehran, but it was decided that representatives of Kabul to attend the next meeting.

"Of course, we were informed that the Taliban welcomed and thanked the holding of the meeting and the joint statement, which shows that the Kabul governing body is paying due attention to the positions of Afghanistan's neighbors."

The parliamentarian highlighted that peace and stability in Afghanistan has a direct impact on the neighboring countries and everyone emphasizes that all must move in the direction of restoring sustainable peace and stability in the country.

He reiterated that peace and stability of neighbors can only be achieved through formation of an inclusive government in Afghanistan.

Iranian Army launches large-scale drill

All Army units are involved in the exercise



From page 1 ► Troops serving in the Army's infantry, armored units, mechanized regiments, Navy, Air Force, and Air Defense have taken part in the main stage of the exercise.

Rear Admiral Mahmoud Mousavi, the spokesman for the drill, said the tactical and coastal units in the war game have employed various electronic warfare equipment and drones, including different homegrown drones such as Ababil-3, Yasir, Sadeq, Mohajer-4 and Simorgh, besides P3F, RF4, and Boeing 707 aircraft.

Mousavi hailed the sustainability of communications during the drill. He said air defense units confront mock enemy targets.

The spokesman also said the exercise carries a message for the regional countries as a preparation for establishment of peace and friendship on the basis of intra-regional capacities.

History has proven that extra-regional actors favor belligerence and insecurity in the region, Tasnim quoted Mousavi as saying.

In comments at a press conference on Saturday, Deputy Army Chief for Coordination Affairs Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari said the drill is aimed at raising the combat and defense capabilities of the Army units in protecting the country's territorial integrity.

Sayyari also noted that the troops will be demonstrating the Islamic Republic's power in remote waters during the war game, warning the enemies that any act of aggression against Iran will draw a crushing response from the Army.

The Iranian Armed Forces stage routine military exercises throughout the year.

Iranian military experts and technicians have in recent years made great strides in developing and manufacturing a broad range of equipment, making the armed forces self-sufficient.

Officials have repeatedly underscored that Iran will not hesitate to build up its defense capabilities, emphasizing such abilities are entirely meant for the purpose of defense and will be never subject to negotiations.

Iran set the stage for "result-oriented" talks

TEHRAN — In his recent consultations with the Chinese and Russian foreign ministers, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has expressed Tehran's desire to resume the Vienna talks to revive the nuclear deal "swiftly."

The remarks by Amir Abdollahian shows that Iran is firm to revive the deal, but is the United States firm too?

On November 3, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Baqeri Kani announced that talks to revitalize the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), will begin on November 29.

"In a phone call with @enriquez_mora, we agreed to start the negotiations aiming at removal of unlawful & inhumane sanctions on 29 November in Vienna," Baqeri tweeted on late Wednesday.

Previously, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh had announced that the exact date will be set after further consultations with the JCPOA Joint Commission and P4+1 group – the four permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany.

"The exact date was supposed to be set after further consultations between Iran and the P4+1, especially our Chinese and Russian friends," he said in his weekly press briefing on November 1.

On November 6, the Iranian foreign minister

and his Russian counterpart consulted over the phone on the mechanism to revive the JCPOA.

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.

He also noted that Iran is cooperating with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) with goodwill and seriousness.

Amir Abdollahian also emphasized the need for the IAEA chief to refrain from taking political positions, stressing that Iran will continue technical cooperation with the IAEA.

Lavrov, on the other hand, said that Moscow has always stressed the need to stop the U.S. destructive actions against the JCPOA.

In another important phone call on November 6, Amir Abdollahian consulted with Wang Yi, his

Chinese counterpart.

He expressed hope the United States and the European signatories to the nuclear deal will enter the Vienna talks with a realistic approach so that an agreement is reached "swiftly."

He added that the U.S. cannot push ahead with its failed maximum pressure policy and economic terrorism and at the same time claim it wants talks and an agreement.

For his part, the Chinese foreign minister welcomed continuation of the nuclear talks and announced Beijing's support for them.

Wang blamed the U.S. for the obstacles to the implementation of the nuclear deal. He also expressed hope that the United States will compensate its mistake by fully removing the anti-Iran sanctions so that the negotiations will produce good results in light of Iran's positive approach.

Meanwhile, IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi is set to visit Iran, although the date has not been officially announced yet. Reportedly, the visit will take place before the IAEA Board of Governors' meeting on November 24.

Iran is absolutely determined to proceed with "result-oriented" negotiations. The main question is this: Is the United States ready?

Perhaps Biden and his team can answer this question by lifting the sanctions irreversibly.

'Enemies won't be able to halt Resistance Front'

TEHRAN — Iran's ambassador to Damascus has stressed that sending fuel from Iran to Syria and from there to Lebanon shows that the Resistance Front creates an opportunity from any threat, and that if it decides to do something,

the enemies will not be able to halt it.

In an interview with Al-Manar network broadcast on Saturday evening, Mehdi Sobhani said: "We in Iran have been and are under the most severe sanctions and political

pressure from the enemies."

He added: "When we were at the height of the war on terror, the U.S. administration imposed the toughest economic sanctions," Tasnim reported.

However, Sobhani said, the same

parties admitted the failure of this policy after a while and are looking for a way to engage Iran.

"This is a divine victory that we firmly believe in," the Iranian ambassador remarked.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Biden

- How over his decades in office, Middle-Class Joe's family fortunes follow father and son's career.
- In 2016, Ukraine's prosecutor general, Viktor Shokin is fired under the pressure of Joe Biden. Shokin says it was for going after Burisma by Joe Biden operating on behalf of Hunter Biden.
- A Ukrainian businessman Vadym Pozharsky sends an email thanking Hunter Biden for "giving an opportunity to meet your father and spent [sic] some time together".
- An Email in 2017 outlines a deal between the Biden family and a now-defunct Chinese energy company. The email, sent by Biden business partner James Gillar, includes the line "10 held by H for the big guy?" he says referred to Hunter holding a 10 percent stake in the deal for Joe Biden.
- Both emails are first reported by the New York Post, which reportedly recovered them from a laptop that Hunter left at a repair shop in Delaware and never retrieved. Their authenticity is later confirmed by Politico.
- Back in 2014, Hunter Biden joins the board of Burisma, a scandal-plagued Ukrainian natural gas company. He has no apparent qualifications for the job except that his father is the vice president and involved in the Obama administration's Ukraine policy.
- He forms a lobbying firm with an old associate of his dad's. In February of 2014, he is discharged from the Navy for testing positive for cocaine.
- Hunter goes to work for MBNA, a major Delaware-based bank that was also a big contributor to Biden's campaigns.
- In 2016, his wife files for divorce. she complains that Hunter have been "spending extravagantly on drugs, alcohol, prostitutes, strip clubs, and gifts for women with whom he has sexual relations."

A moment for political cohesion in Iraq

From Page 1 ▶ President Barham Salih condemned the attack as a heinous crime against Iraq. "We cannot accept that Iraq will be dragged into chaos and a coup against its constitutional system," he said in a tweet.

Internationally, Iran was among the first countries to react to the targeting of al-Kadhimi. Ali Shamkhani, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said the attack on the Iraqi premier was a "sedition" that could be "traced back to foreign think tanks."

The Iranian foreign ministry struck a similar tone, warning of "conspiracies" targeting Iraq's security and development.

"Such incidents are in line with the interests of parties that have violated the stability, security, independence and territorial integrity of Iraq over the past 18 years, and through creation of terrorist and seditionist groups, seek



to achieve their sinister objectives in the region," Saeed Khatibzadeh said in a statement on Sunday.

Also, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian held a phone call with his Iraqi counterpart Fuad Husain to ask about the health of al-Kadhimi. Both Amir Abdollahian and Khatibzadeh expressed delight that the Iraqi prime minister was unhurt.

The Iranian foreign minister told

his Iraqi counterpart that the attack was "carried out by ill-wishers of the country in a bid to undermine its tranquility."

The attack could not come at a more delicate moment. Iraq has just held a parliamentary vote that sent shock waves across the West Asia region and caused unease among some Iraqi political groups. These groups, including the Fatah Alliance which

is seen as the political wing of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Forces (PMF), protested the results of the election, asserting that there was a massive voter fraud that led to the political marginalization of Iraqi Resistance groups within the PMF.

Over the past few days, proponents of the groups staged street protests in Baghdad that descended into violence. While Iraqi political factions were grappling with differences arising from the election, al-Kadhimi's residence came under an attack that could further complicate the political situation.

The attack, therefore, would serve as a litmus test for Iraqi politicians in terms of overcoming selfishness and showing unity at a time when the country needs cohesion and oneness most. One way to strengthen unity is to form a government that would include all major factions and excludes none.

Iran FM holds phone talks with Chinese counterpart

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian held phone talks on Saturday with his Chinese counterpart to discuss a range of bilateral and international issues, including the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

Amir Abdollahian held talks with Wang Yi, China's Foreign Minister and State Councilor, on the phone over bilateral ties, the upcoming Vienna talks, and regional as well as international developments, the Iranian foreign ministry said.

The Chinese foreign minister wished Amir Abdollahian full recovery from Covid-19.

Amir Abdollahian thanked the Chinese government for sending 120 million doses of the Covid vaccine to Iran and expressed satisfaction over the expanding ties between Tehran and Beijing. The top Iranian diplomat also said the Islamic Republic supports China's global initiative for sustainable development. He underlined Iran's close cooperation with China in this regard.

Amir Abdollahian also voiced hope the U.S. and the European signatories to the Iran nuclear deal will enter the Vienna talks realistically so that an agreement is reached swiftly. He added that the U.S. cannot push ahead with its failed maximum pressure policy and economic terrorism and at the same time claim it wants talks and an agreement.

Amir Abdollahian also referred to the International Atomic Energy Agency's performing of its duties in Iran, expressing confidence that cooperation between Iran and the IAEA will continue smoothly in line with agreements and rules.

On Afghanistan, the Iranian foreign minister underscored the necessity of forming an inclusive government there. He voiced hope the meeting of Afghanistan's neighbors in Beijing as a continuation of the Tehran conference will be held successfully. The Chinese foreign minister also welcomed the



continuation of the nuclear talks and announced Beijing's support for them. Wang blamed the U.S. for the obstacles to the implementation of the nuclear deal. He expressed hope that the U.S. will compensate its mistake by fully removing the anti-Iran sanctions so that the negotiations will produce good results in light of Iran's positive approach.

Wang also invited Amir Abdollahian to visit Beijing. He voiced hope that the third conference of Afghanistan's neighbors in China will result in the formation of a broad-based and stable government in Afghanistan with the active participation of the country's neighbors including Iran.

The conversation between Amir Abdollahian and Wang came on the heels of another conversation between the foreign ministers of Russia and Iran. Amir Abdollahian and Sergei Lavrov discussed a number of issues with the situation around the Iran nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), being the most important.

Amir Abdollahian held talks with his Russian counterpart on the phone over issues of mutual interest including the upcoming talks in Vienna and ongoing regional developments, the Iranian foreign ministry said on Saturday.

Lavrov asked how Amir Abdollahian was after the Iranian foreign minister tested positive for Covid-19. Amir Abdollahian described his general condition as good and praised Russia's constructive and positive stance on the Iran nuclear issue.

Amir Abdollahian referred to an agreement between Iran and the nuclear deal's coordinator regarding the time of the 4+1 group's talks with Tehran. He stressed that fast progress in talks is contingent upon the European troika and the U.S. adopting a realistic and constructive approach through avoiding demanding too much of Iran and making demands beyond the nuclear deal.

Amir Abdollahian said Iran takes into account the process and records of previous talks in Vienna, adding Tehran will insist on its demands forcefully.

The Iranian foreign minister reiterated that no one should even doubt Iran's seriousness about the talks and the need for all sides to return to their obligations under the nuclear deal.

He also spoke of the latest U.S. sanctions on Iran. Amir Abdollahian said although Iran is pessimistic about the U.S. intentions, it will return to full compliance with the nuclear deal if Washington does the same and does not place increased demands on Iran.

Amir Abdollahian also referred to Iran's constructive cooperation with the IAEA and underlined the need for the IAEA's director general to avoid adopting political stances. He said Iran will continue its technical cooperation with the UN body.

The Russian foreign minister also stressed the importance of reviving the JCPOA. He said all sides, and first and foremost the U.S., must return to full compliance with the deal.

Lavrov noted that Moscow has always emphasized the need for the U.S. to stop destructive measures against the JCPOA.

Iran condemns assassination attempt against Iraqi PM

TEHRAN – Iranian foreign ministry has reacted to the assassination attempt targeting Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi early on Sunday, describing it as a "conspiracy" aimed at disrupting Iraq's stability and security.

"Condemning the targeting of the Iraqi Prime Minister, Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh stressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's firm and consistent position in support of stability, security and tranquility in Iraq," the Iranian foreign ministry said in a statement on Sunday morning.

The statement came after Iraq's security forces announced that al-Kadhimi survived an exploding drone assassination attempt early on Sunday.

The prime minister confirmed on Twitter that he was safe after the attack. "I was and still am a redemption project for Iraq and the people of Iraq. The missiles of treachery will not discourage

the believers and will shake a hair of the stability and determination of our heroic security forces to preserve people's security, achieve justice, and set the law in place. Thank God, I am fine and among my people. I call for calmness and restraint from all for the sake of Iraq," he said.

The Iranian foreign ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh called for vigilance and said there were conspiracies targeting Iraq's security and prosperity.

"The Iranian foreign ministry spokesman called on everyone to be aware of the conspiracies that have targeted Iraq's security and development, saying such incidents are in the interests of those who have violated Iraq's stability, security, independence and territorial integrity over the past 18 years and by creating terrorist and sedition groups, they have sought to achieve their sinister

regional goals," the statement noted.

Expressing satisfaction over the safety of the Iraqi prime minister, Khatibzadeh expressed his hope that the people, the government and the Iraqi political groups would contribute to the development and prosperity of Iraq through unity and solidarity.

The statement was the second Iranian reaction to the developments in Iraq. The first reaction came from the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, Ali Shamkhani, who attributed the attempt on the Iraqi prime minister's life to foreign think tanks.

"The attempt for Al-Kadhimi's terror is a new sedition that must be traced back to foreign think tanks, which have brought nothing but insecurity, discord & instability to oppressed Iraqi people through creation & support of terrorist groups & occupation of this country for years," Shamkhani said on Twitter.

Al-Kadhimi's residence in the heavily fortified Green Zone of Baghdad was targeted by three suicide drones, two of which were intercepted and downed by security forces.

Six members of Kadhimi's personal protection force stationed outside his residence in the Green Zone were wounded, security sources told Reuters. No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

Several influential Iraqi figures and officials reacted to the attack. President Barham Salih condemned the attack as a heinous crime against Iraq. "We cannot accept that Iraq will be dragged into chaos and a coup against its constitutional system," he said in a tweet.

Images published by Iraqi media outlets showed that parts of the prime minister's house were damaged, with the house itself littered with rubble resulting from the explosion.

Iran expresses sympathy with Sierra Leone over fuel tanker blast

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has expressed his deep regret over the death of dozens of people in Sierra Leone due to the explosion of a fuel tanker.

Khatibzadeh offered condolences to the government, people and the bereaved families and expressed sympathy with them, the foreign ministry said on Sunday.

At least 99 people were killed and more than

100 injured in the oil tanker explosion which took place in a suburb of Sierra Leone's capital, Freetown, late on Friday. The tanker exploded following a collision, inflicting a remarkable damage in a densely populated area.

SPORTS

Shahrdari Sirjan start 2021 AFC Women's Club Championship on high

TEHRAN – Iran's Shahrdari Sirjan defeated Bunyodkor of Uzbekistan 2-1 at the 2021 AFC Women's Club Championship on Sunday.

Shahrdari will also meet Indian Gokulam Kerala and Amman SC of Jordan on Wednesday and Saturday, respectively.

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

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

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

Iran freestylers win four medals in U23 World Wrestling Championships

TEHRAN – Iranian freestyle wrestlers claimed four medals in the penultimate day of the U23 World Championships in Belgrade, Serbia on Saturday.

Amirali Azarpira won a gold medal in the 97kg weight class after beating Radu Lefter of Moldova 7-3.

Bronze medal went to American Jonathan Aiello and Ukraine's Danylo Stasiuk.

In the 57kg class, Ahmad Mohammadnejad seized a bronze medal. Azerbaijan's Aliabbas Rzazade won the gold medal in the class after defeating Kyrgyzstan's Bekbolot Myrzanazar Uulu.

Aliakbar Fazli won a bronze in the 70kg. Ermar Akmatyaliyev of Kyrgyzstan beat Armenian Vazgen Tevanyan to win gold.

And Ali Savadkouhi took Iran's third bronze medal in the competition in the 79kg. Magomed Magomaev defeated Ramazan Sari of Turkey in the final.

Taremi left out of Iran squad for 2022 World Cup qualifiers

TEHRAN – Iran iconic forward Mehdi Taremi will be absent in two matches against Lebanon and Syria in the 2022 World Cup qualification.

Iran, headed by Dragan Skocic, are scheduled to meet Lebanon in Sidon on Nov. 11 and face Syria five days later in Amman.

The 'Persian Leopards' lead Group A with 10 points, followed by South Korea and Lebanon with eight and five points.

Skocic has not invited Taremi after the Porto star criticized Skocic on his Twitter account.

Goalkeepers:

Alireza Beiranvand, Amir Abedzadeh, Payam Niazmansh

Defenders:

Shoja Khalilzadeh, Mohammadhossein Kanaanizadegan, Omid Nourafkan, Sadegh Moharami, Milad Mohammadi, Majid Hosseini, Saleh Hardani, Siavash Yazdani

Midfielders:

Alireza Jahanbakhsh, Saeid Ezatollahi, Milad Sarlak, Ahmad Nourollahi, Yasin Salmani, Ehsan Hajisafi, Vahid Amiri, Saman Ghoddos, Mehdi Torabi, Ali Gholizadeh

Strikers:

Karim Ansarifard, Sardar Azmoun, Mehdi Ghaedi, Kaveh Rezaei, Allahyar Sayyadmanesh

AFC praises Iran's women midfielder Afsaneh Chatreoor

TEHRAN – The-afc.com praised Iran's women's football team midfielder Afsaneh Chatreoor ahead of 2021 AFC Women's Club Championship.

Shahrdari Sirjan finished ahead of seven-time champion Bam Khatoun Football Club to clinch the Kowsar Women Football League title for the first time.

The club was impressive throughout the league campaign, scoring goals for fun en route to lifting the title.

Boosted by their domestic form, Maryam Jahan Nejati's side is confident of adding the 2021 AFC Women's Club Championship title to their trophy cabinet.

Among the players to shine for Shahrdari Sirjan in the league campaign was Afsaneh Chatreoor, who alongside Melika Motevali and Shabnam Bahesht, will lead their charge in Jordan.

Chatreoor has been a regular feature for Shahrdari Sirjan as well as the Iran national team, the-afc.com wrote.

Cameroonian defender Serge Leuko on Tractor's radar

TEHRAN – Cameroonian defender Serge Sidoine Tchaha Leuko has been linked with a move to Iran's Tractor.

The 28-year-old player has traveled to Tabriz to finalize his contract with the Iranian top-flight club.

Leuko started his playing career in Valencia B in 2012 and has also played in Lugo and Waasland-Beveren.

Leuko represented Cameroon U-20 and is a member of Cameroon national team at the moment.

Tractor are 12th in the Iran 16-team league. The Tabriz-based team have won one match and lost three games in four matches.

Qatar defeat Iran in Doha handball tournament

TEHRAN – Iran lost to Qatar 35-24 in the four-team Qatar handball tournament.

Montoya Fernandez's team had started the tournament with a 24-16 win over Saudi Arabia but lost to Kuwait 32-27.

The four-team tournament started on Nov. 2 and ran until Nov. 6.

Iran prepare for the 2022 Asian Men's Handball Championship, which is scheduled to be held from Jan. 18 to 31, 2022 in Dammam, Saudi Arabia.

Foolad part ways with Veisi: IPL

TEHRAN – Foolad football club parted company with Abdollah Veisi on Saturday.

Foolad were held to a goalless draw against Naft Masjed Soleyman in the Iran Professional League (IPL) Matchweek 4 and the Ahvaz-based club decided to part ways with the 50-year-old coach.

Under guidance of Veisi, Foolad earned one victory and one draw and suffered two losses.

Veisi replaced Javad Nekounam in Foolad in late August but failed to meet the expectations.

Foolad sit 11th in the IPL 16-team table.

Hossein Shiva appointed NITC's new managing director



TEHRAN – Hossein Shiva has been appointed as the new managing director of the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC), the company's Public Relations Department announced.

NITC's new managing director holds a Ph.D. in Systems Management from Imam Hossein University and a Master's degree in Marine Engineering from Shahid Chamran University in Ahvaz. He is also a lecturer at Kharazmi University.

Shiva, who was previously a member of the NITC Board of Directors and also the company's deputy managing director, was appointed to the post replacing Nasrollah Sardashti, who was the managing director of the company since March 2018.

He has also served as the advisor to the president on petroleum affairs, the secretary of the economic committee of the Supreme National Security Council, the advisor to the Oil Ministry, the member of the board of directors of the Iranian Central Oil Fields Company, and member of the board of directors at National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company.

NITC, which operates the largest tanker fleet in the Middle East and has the world's largest fleet of supertankers, transports Iranian crude and also acts as an independent entity in contracts with foreign concerns for crude oil transportation based on prevailing international freight rates.

Tehran hosting intl. auto parts exhibition

TEHRAN – Iran's 16th International Auto Parts Exhibition kicked off at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Sunday, IRIB reported.

More than 500 domestic and foreign companies from Turkey, Italy, Germany, India and China are showcasing their latest products and achievements in this year's exhibition.

The four-day exhibition covers a variety of areas including auto parts and assemblies, machinery and parts manufacturing equipment, research and engineering design, raw materials and accessories for automobiles, trade and after-sales service, automotive decorative accessories,



auto maintenance, cleaning products, and specialized publications of the automotive industry.

Nearly 150,000 tons of car tires produced in 7 months



From page 1 ▶ To this end, the Iranian ministries besides the private sector outlined their programs for the surge in production in the past year and pursued the set objectives seriously in this due.

It is clear that among different ministries, the Ministry of Industry, Mining, and Trade was one with a somehow heavier responsibility to materialize the motto of the year.

The ministry managed to fulfill its duty as the production of some major industrial products was noticeably increased in the previous year.

One of the sectors, which achieved outstanding output growth, was the tire production industry.

The country's tire industry, despite the continuation of sanctions and the coronavirus

pandemic conditions, as well as some domestic restrictions, has had a thriving and successful year overall; a year that was accompanied by record-breaking production and entry into some new fields.

In this regard, the breaking of production records in the production of various types of tires was witnessed, and for the first time, the annual output surpassed

24 million tires.

In addition to the successes achieved in terms of the output amount, the tire manufacturers entered new areas including production of the wide base tires and the tires of SUVs.

Wide base tires, which are a new generation of heavy vehicles' tires, were produced for the first time in West Asia by Iranian producers.

Annual caviar exports exceed 4m tons

TEHRAN – Iran exported over four million tons of caviar as well as one million tons of sturgeon meat worth about \$16 million in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), an official with the Iran Fisheries Organization said.

According to Naser Karami-Rad, Iran is expected to become the world's second or third biggest caviar producer over the next ten years, IRIB reported.

According to Arezu Ghaniyou, the deputy head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Bureau of Customs Statistics and Information Processing, 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.

The Islamic Republic had exported 605 kilograms of caviar worth \$350,000 during the previous year's same six months.

Iranian caviar was exported to 23 different countries during the mentioned time span, Ghaniyou noted.

United Arab Emirates (UAE) was the main



importer of Iranian caviar during the said six months, accounting for about 32 percent of the total imports in terms of weight and value. Britain stood in second place, accounting for nearly 17 percent of the total caviar imports.

Portugal, Kuwait, and Japan, each accounting for about six percent of Iran's total caviar exports, were also among the top importers of the product in the first half of the current year, according to Ghaniyou.

She noted that about 466 kg of the total exported caviar was exported to five European countries, namely Britain, Spain, Switzerland, Greece, and Portugal, which means about 37 percent of Iran's caviar exports were to Europe.

Back in July, IFO Head Nabiollah Khoun-Mirzaei said the country's annual caviar

production has reached 12 tons.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Sixth National Conference and Exhibition on Caviar and Related Industries, Khoun-Mirzaei put the annual production of sturgeon meat at over 3,500 tons.

He stated that the development of the sturgeon breeding industry is on the IFO agenda, adding: "In recent years, in some parts of the country, sturgeon breeding in cages has been on the agenda and we are trying to develop this type of breeding."

Noting that the Iranian caviar is the best and most expensive caviar in the world, Khoun-Mirzaei said: "Considering the popularity of Iranian caviar and sturgeon meat in the world and the high price and profitability of the mentioned commodity, the export of the product is done officially through the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA)."

The Persian sturgeon is a species of fish in the family Acipenseridae. It is found in the Caspian Sea and to a lesser extent the Black Sea and ascends certain rivers to spawn, mainly the Volga, Kura, Araks, and Ural Rivers.

IME's weekly value of trade up 54%

TEHRAN – During the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), 2.243 million tons of commodities worth \$681 million was traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), showing 54 percent rise in terms of value.

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange experienced trade of 1.874 million tons of commodities valued at more than \$459 million on its metals and mineral trading floor.

Commodities sold on this floor included 1,000,044 tons of cement, 526,182 tons of steel, 260,000 tons of iron ore, 27,000 tons of sponge iron, 7,900 tons of zinc, 4,710 tons of aluminum, 4,370 tons of copper, 280 tons of molybdenum sulfur, 30 tons of precious metals concentrate and 2 kg of gold bars.

Furthermore, the IME saw on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 364,994 tons of commodities worth more than \$219 million.

The IME's customers purchased on this floor 108,011 tons of

bitumen, 98,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 75,942 tons of polymeric products, 42,000 tons of lube cut, 38,365 tons of chemicals, 3,320 tons of base oil, 248 tons of insulation and 860 tons of sulfur.

Last but not least was the IME's side market with 4,262 tons of commodities traded on it.

As previously reported, 7.222 million tons of commodities worth \$2.008 billion was traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange during the past Iranian calendar month (September 23-October 22).

Within this month, the exchange traded on its metals and minerals trading floor 5.541 million tons of commodities valued at \$1.096 billion.

Commodities sold on this floor included 1.226 million tons of steel, 3.993 million tons of cement, 26,445 tons of copper, 580 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 69 tons of precious metals concentrate, 23,940 tons



of aluminum, 215,000 tons of iron ore, 21,870 tons of zinc, 2,000 tons of coke, 49,000 tons of sponge iron and 67 kg of gold bars.

Furthermore, the IME saw on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor trade of more than 1.65 million tons of commodities worth \$885 million.

The IME's customers purchased on this floor 419,796 tons of bitumen, 328,872 tons of polymeric products, 140,451 tons of chemicals, 13,955 tons of slops wax and 501,000 tons of vacuum bottom.

It's worth noting that the IME's

agricultural trading floor played host to trading 1,300 kg of saffron within this month.

Last but not least was the IME's side market which was a platform to trade 30,860 tons of various types of commodities in this month.

The value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) rose 108 percent compared to the preceding year.

During the past year, about 3.5 quadrillion rials (about \$83.5 billion) worth of commodities were traded at the mentioned market.

In the past year, several new records were achieved in terms of the volume and value of transactions in the mentioned market's various floors including the industrial, petroleum, and petrochemical floors.

IME is one of the four major stock markets of Iran, the other three markets are Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

Over seven million tons of commodities worth \$2 billion were traded at IME in past month

TEDPIX loses 9,600 points on Sunday

TEHRAN – TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 9,689 points to 1.43 million on Sunday.

Over 13.423 billion securities worth 82.15 trillion rials (about \$1.955 billion) were traded at the TSE on Sunday.

The first market's index dropped 5,839 points, and the second market's index fell 23,490 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.

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

Speaking in the meeting, Khandouzi said his ministry plans to make the

economy more predictable and eliminate pricing systems that are harmful to the capital market and the stock exchange industry, Mehr News Agency reported.

The official noted that the government will follow new strategies to compensate for the budget deficit by making government assets more productive and also by selling surplus properties.

"The task of the Economy Ministry and the Securities and Exchange Organization is to develop tools and institutions in order to create a transparent, efficient, and predictable market," Khandouzi stated.

NPC issues licenses for 20 new pioneering projects



TEHRAN – Director of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC)'s Market Research Department said the company has issued establishment licenses for 20 new pioneering petrochemical projects across the country, Shana reported on Sunday.

According to Masoud Sayehban, NPC has defined 33 pioneering projects of which 20 have gotten the necessary licenses to be implemented by the country's private sector.

As reported, some of the mentioned projects are going to be implemented as part of the third leap of the country's petrochemical industry.

The petrochemical industry's pioneering plans have been defined with the strategy of completing and developing the industry's value chain and with the aim of compensating for the shortage of feeds required by the complementary industries, Sayehban explained.

They are also aimed at

diversifying the country's export basket and product portfolio while creating added value and employment, he said.

"With the implementation of the mentioned projects in the main chains of propylene, methanol, ethylene, benzene, urea, and butadiene, 20 new types of petrochemical products will be produced, which will reduce about 70 percent of imports of petrochemical products and also bring the country more revenues from exports," he said.

The official pointed to the completion of methanol chain as one of the NPC's major strategies for the development of the petrochemical industry and added: "currently, the country's annual methanol capacity is 12 million tons and with the launch of new methanol projects by 1404 (2025), the capacity will reach 23 million tons."

Back in September, NPC

Managing Director Behzad Mohammadi said the strategy of this company is to complete the value chain and diversify the portfolio of valuable products.

Petrochemical is Iran's most important industry after oil and gas. The National Petrochemical Company hopes to lift output capacity to 120 million tons per annum by 2022.

The industry has played a key role in domestic economic growth as it creates value-added and reduces the sale of oil and gas on which the economy has been dependent for decades.

With abundant hydrocarbon reserves and new private sector investments, Iran is working hard to maintain its global status in this key sector and broaden its scope.

As recently announced by NPC's Director of Planning and Development Hassan Abbaszadeh, Iran's share in West Asia's petrochemical trade has increased by two percent.

Abbaszadeh said the country's share of petrochemical trade in the region was 20.2 percent in the Iranian calendar year 1398 (ended in March 2020) and it reached 22.1 percent at the end of the previous fiscal year (March 2021), indicating a two percent growth.

TEHRAN – Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi has survived an assassination attempt which was, according to an interior ministry spokesman, conducted with three drones that targeted his residence in the capital's heavily fortified green zone. The spokesman has been quoted as saying security forces intercepted and downed two of the unmanned aerial vehicles while a third hit the residence.

An earlier statement from the Prime Minister's office released by state media said the failed assassination plot was conducted with "an explosives-laden drone" that tried to target the Premier's home in the Green Zone.

The full statement read the "failed assassination attempt against the Prime Minister, Commander in Chief of the Armed Forces, by a booby-trapped drone that tried to target his residence in the Green Zone in Baghdad, and that the Prime Minister was not harmed and he is in good health. For their part, the security forces are taking the necessary measures in connection with this failed attempt".

No group has claimed responsibility for the reported attack on al-Kadhimi's residence. The Iraqi PM has called for "calm and restraint".

The Iraqi military described the incident as an attempted assassination, but said al-Kadhimi had escaped unhurt. Earlier reports that the Prime Minister had been taken to hospital have been dismissed as rumors.

The spokesman for the Iraqi Armed Forces, Major General Yahya Rasoul, confirmed an attempt took place with a booby-trapped drone. He says Iraqi security forces have determined the launching point of the unmanned vehicle and the intelligence apparatus are working to arrest the perpetrators.

Some officials have raised questions as to why the American C-RAM systems, stationed in the green zone to detect and destroy incoming drones and missiles against the compounds of the very large American embassy had not been activated. According to Rasoul this could have been because the UAV took off from southeast of Baghdad, which is apparently not within the range of the U.S. radar system in the green zone.

The security official noted the intelligence services have launched an investigation and when this is implemented and verified, it will be announced to the public saying the country's armed forces are fully prepared to defend Iraq, the people and its institutions. The spokesman also says said the security situation was stable inside the Green Zone.

Following the incident, footage showed al-Kadhimi chairing a meeting with top security commanders. In a statement following the meeting, the

Assassination attempt on Iraq's Prime Minister



premier's office said "The cowardly terrorist attack that targeted the home of the prime minister last night with the aim of assassinating him, is a serious targeting of the Iraqi state by criminal armed groups".

According to two Iraqi officials speaking to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity; seven of al-Kadhimi's security personnel were injured in the attack with "two armed drones". Two government officials also spoke to Reuters saying al-Kadhimi's residence had been hit by at least "one explosion". Security sources told Reuters that "six members of al-Kadhimi's personal protection force" have been injured.

Residents in the capital Baghdad heard the sound of an explosion followed by gunfire from the direction of the Green Zone, which is home to foreign embassies and government ministerial offices.

Different factions in the country have condemned the attack including the Coordinating Committee of the Iraqi resistance factions. Some regional countries also condemned the attack including the Islamic Republic of Iran. Al-Kadhimi was the former intelligence chief of Iraq, before he was sworn into office last year in May.

The incident comes on the backdrop of escalating tensions in the country. Just days earlier, demonstrations by supporters of different political parties who have disputed the results of a recent parliamentary election turned violent when demonstrators held a peaceful protest near the Green Zone.

Some elements within the security forces tasked with protecting the green zone responded by attacking the demonstration with tear gas and live gunfire, killing at least one protester, and injuring 120 others in Baghdad. Other reports and statements by officials put the

death toll at four.

It was the first significant violent attack against supporters of the political parties disputing the October 10 election who have been holding regular protests since the outcome of the results were announced. They say they are protesting because their votes have been stolen from them.

Several parties disputing the election result say there were irregularities in the voting process and vote counting.

They have provided their evidence to the federal court. The bloc affiliated with the cleric, Muqtada al-Sadr, who opposes the U.S. military presence in the country, won the most parliamentary seats but fell short of a ruling majority.

Following the violence the leaders of conquest alliance; the second largest political faction in parliament that has disputed the election called on its supporters to remain calm and demanded an investigation with accountability against whoever shot at the protesters.

Meanwhile a leader of the conquest alliance (mainly comprised of anti-U.S. resistance parties) warned that there may be attempts by enemy forces to attack the green zone and blame the incident on the Iraqi resistance.

Qais al-Khazali called for vigilance saying "our dear ones, the demonstrators, exercise restraint, do not rush and allow an opportunity for anyone who wants to take advantage of [current events] to waste your legitimate rights".

That call was echoed by other anti-U.S. resistance parties who raised the possibility of a possible plot to destabilize the country or a false flag operation.

Iraq's Joint Operations Command says an investigation has been launched into the deaths and injuries of the demonstrators.

Prime Minister al-Kadhimi ordered the formation of a committee to probe the deadly attack on the demonstration.

The Joint Operations Command statement did not mention the number of deaths and injuries.

The statement added that "the negligent will be brought to legal accountability for their negligence and violation of the explicit orders of the commander in chief, which stressed that live bullets should not be fired under any circumstances".

Al-Kadhimi also ordered compensation for victims of the attack and said he would personally supervise the progress of the investigation.

According to al-Kadhimi's orders, the investigation committee will include the security officials of the Popular Mobilisation Units, one of the most important factions in the country's armed forces that have preserved the country's territorial integrity during the era of Daesh terrorists.

Some have already blamed "enemy forces" for the assassination attempt on Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi. A security official with the Iraqi resistance movement Kata'ib Hezbollah, Abu Ali al-Askari said "according to our reliable information, no one in Iraq even has the desire to lose a drone over the house of a former prime minister, and repeating these plots has become an outdated tactic".

Kata'ib Hezbollah's use of the term "former" Prime Minister could be because Iraqi Parliamentary elections lead to negotiations to form a ruling majority that in turn chooses the country's new prime minister. In the October 10 election; no single political faction received a majority in the legislature.

Many Iraqi political and security officials accuse the U.S. occupation of interfering in the country's domestic affairs; especially during sensitive times such as the country's election. Parliament had already passed a bill that has demanded the withdrawal of the American forces present in the country. The legislation was passed following the U.S. state sponsored act of terrorism directly ordered by former President Donald Trump that assassinated Iran's Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani who was on a diplomatic mission to the country alongside Iraq's top military commander Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis in the vicinity of Baghdad International Airport on January third 2020. The United Nations found the attack violated international law.

However, so far, the U.S. military has refused to leave, angering many in Iraq who view the American occupation as posing the biggest security and political threat to the country's independence, territorial integrity and sovereignty.

Saudi ties are deep with both established parties in U.S.: American writer



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

How do you see U.S.-Saudi ties under the Biden presidency? He pledged to pursue Saudi authorities for violation of human rights but he is continuing arms sale to Riyadh.

President Biden, notoriously wrong for much of his long career in politics, has assembled a woefully incompetent team of senior advisors and cabinet officials, many of whom cut their teeth in the Obama and Clinton administrations. Worse, this team is out of touch with independents (a large slice of likely voters), moderate Democrats and Republicans so it will not easily garner required public support for major foreign policy initiatives, however aggressively these are sold by mainstream media or shared on social media.

Saudi ties are deep and robust with both established parties. That said, thinking observers must wonder how aggressively MBS ultimately may behave and how his rule will impact the Middle East (West Asia) and wider world.

Why do successive U.S. administrations have lust to support tyrannical regimes like Saudi Arabia and the Emirates? Apparently, there is no difference between Democrats and Republicans in this regard.

Tyranny is not restricted to the examples you cite and is a sad fact of life on all continents where humans reside. The rich nations in the Middle East (West Asia) have towering demand for products and services sourced from the West. With decades of practice, they expertly navigate the back channels of power and will not soon be stopped absent another wave election; should one occur in 2024. Meanwhile, Biden's absurd energy policies only make oil importers more vulnerable to the whims of oil exporters.

How do you describe U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan? After two decades of war against the Taliban, Afghanistan witnessed the Taliban rule again.

Worse than shameful and arguably criminal.

America's Founders knew well the dangers posed by military conflict. This is, in part, why our presidents are required to get approval in

our House of Representatives to declare war. Yet, for many decades, presidents from both parties have skirted this requirement using legalese to propel America into countless, errant and ill-conceived conflicts.

The abrupt and woefully handled exit from Afghanistan leaves that nation and America's relations with NATO and other allies in tatters. Honorable leaders would resign, but then this team sees no shame in its arrogant ignorance.

How do you evaluate U.S. international influence and reputation after former president Trump left a bunch of international agreements? Apparently, NATO members no longer trust America.

Here, one must distinguish between Senate-confirmed treaties and agreements that were never ratified by our Senate, in some cases because American negotiators knew that ratification was impossible.

Concerning Biden, no president in modern history has damaged America's true strategic interests and standing more in such a short time. Beyond vexing problems in Afghanistan and the Middle East (West Asia), the Biden administration is increasing tensions with Russia over Ukraine and with China over Taiwan.

Relentlessly under concocted assaults by remnants of the Obama administration, by RINOs and by corporate-owned media, the Trump administration, in stark contrast, tried to reduce tensions in many flashpoints by working creative solutions that earned Donald Trump nominations for a Nobel Peace Prize, deservedly, unlike the one bestowed on Barack Obama at the very start of his first term.

Do you predict Washington engage in a new war despite claims to put an end on endless wars?

Watching the course, so far, of the Biden administration, I am concerned we may stumble into conflicts abroad even as we suffer rising violent crime within what passes for our borders.

A growing percentage of likely American voters does not trust Joe Biden or his team. I would tread very carefully in any dealings with them and try to assess how their wings may be clipped through and after 2022 in our midterm elections.

"The Biden administration is increasing tensions with Russia over Ukraine and with China over Taiwan."

As the world burns, one in four U.S. senators hold fossil fuel investments

TEHRAN – As U.S. President Joe Biden aims to assure the world that the United States will fulfill its promise to reduce its greenhouse gas emissions in half from 2005 levels by the end of the decade, a new report published Friday reveals that the members of the U.S. Senate who would have to pass climate legislation are heavily invested in the fossil fuel industry.

Sludge reports the households of at least 28 U.S. senators—in both the Democratic and Republican caucuses—hold a combined minimum of \$3.7 million and as much as \$12.6 million in fossil fuel investments.

This week at the COP26 climate summit in Glasgow, Biden assured world leaders that the United States would meet its ambitious pledge to slash its greenhouse gas emissions in half by 2030.

For Biden to achieve that, he will need members of Congress to pass legislation to restrict fossil fuels, an industry in which dozens of senators and their households are personally invested.

Sludge has obtained information

revealing that the households of at least 28 U.S. senators—both Democrats and Republicans—hold a combined minimum of \$3.7 million and as much as \$12.6 million in fossil fuel investments.

"Of the 28 senators, at least 20 hold publicly traded stocks in companies like oil supermajor Chevron, pipeline giant Enterprise Products, or electric utility NextEra that belong to trade associations that are lobbying Congress against taking up strong legislation to curb polluting emissions," the report said.

"Five senators are invested in energy funds built around oil and gas assets, and three own nonpublic stock in private fossil fuel companies. The investments, held by the senators, their spouse, jointly, or a dependent, are disclosed to the Senate Office of Public Records in very broad ranges and

often buried in hundreds of pages of scanned paper forms, making a more precise count of their total value impossible." The report added.

Earlier this year, Common Dreams reported that six Democratic senators have received hundreds of thousands of dollars from fossil fuel corporations.

The household of Senator Joe Manchin, who is the chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, has received over \$1 million in income from Enersystems, a coal brokerage firm the

Democratic senator established in the 1980s.

Manchin "has stripped the Democrats' budget reconciliation bill of major climate programs that would have transitioned coal-fired plants like the one where the company, now run by his son, holds a prime fuel services contract," the report said.

Other senators whose households are heavily invested in fossil fuels include, John Hickenlooper of Colorado holds up to \$1 million in investments in Chevron and other companies, Tom Carper of Delaware holds as much as \$274,000 in Chevron and Duke Energy shares; Gary Peters of Michigan owns up to \$355,000 in NextEra, DTE Energy, and Pacific Gas & Electric stock.

Earlier this year, Common Dreams reported that six Democratic senators—Manchin, Chris Coons (Del.), Maggie Hassan (N.H.), Mark Kelly (Ariz.), Kyrsten Sinema (Ariz.), and Jon Tester (Mont.)—have received hundreds of thousands of dollars in combined campaign contributions from fossil fuel corporations, some of which have touted their purported

support for climate action, over the past decade.

The senators have often worked to remove any environmental or clean energy provisions from budget reconciliation legislation to protect their personal investments.

For months, Biden had made no secret of the fact that he wanted to participate in the COP26 climate talks with powerful measures signed into law to prove to the world that the United States was committed to his climate agenda.

However, Biden entered the talks without a convincing deal in hand to present at the UN summit as key components of his domestic climate agenda were frustrated due to powerful fossil fuel interests, fierce opposition from Republicans, and infighting among Democrats.

Scientists have warned that the stakes could not be higher and that failure at the Glasgow summit would hamper the world in its existential fight to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

Intl. Health Congress of Islamic Countries opens in Tehran

From page 1 ► Iran is one of the major destinations for health tourism in the region, and patients with 55 different nationalities, mostly from neighboring countries including Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan are seeking to use Iran's services and facilities in this field.

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

In April 2018, the rotating presidency of the International Health Tourism Conference of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was handed to the Islamic Republic for a three-year term. Mohammad Jahangiri who presides over a national center for developing health tourism



said in May 2018 that Iran can annually earn \$7 billion in medical and health tourism, though the sector now brings in only one-seventh or even lesser of the sum.

Health and medical tourism are of very high importance for the Islamic Republic, which has set a goal to exceed its yearly medical travelers to around two million till the Iranian calendar year 1404 (starting in January 2025).

Festival admires 'beauty' of Turkmen horses

TEHRAN – A national festival dedicated to the "beauty" of Turkmen horse breed has recently been held at pastures lands of Kاله in the northern Golestan province.

A selection of 152 horses from 12 Iranian provinces competed in the event, which also brought together horse breeders, dealers, trainers, riders, and owners.

The festival is aimed at boosting tourism and rural economy as well as safeguarding the genetic heritage of the Turkmen horses as it caters to vitality and happiness in the community, according to organizers.

The Turkmen horse is noted for endurance, bravery, smartness, and slender body. Many locals believe that breeding

such horses is one of the toughest jobs in the world.

Such animals are dominantly found in the pasturelands of Turkmen Sahra, a region sandwiched between Iran and Turkmenistan.

Iran and Turkmenistan are set to jointly put forward the Turkmen horses and their safeguarding practices as a candidate for inclusion in UNESCO'S list for Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Golestan is home to hundreds of historical and natural sites, with UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus – a one-millennium-old brick tower – amongst its most famous.

UNESCO-designated Soltanieh undergoes partial restoration

TEHRAN – The UNESCO-designated mausoleum of Oljaytu, also known as SoltaniehDome, has recently undergone a partial restoration aimed to fix worn-out bricks at the southwest corner of the colossal monument.

The mausoleum, which is surmounted by a massive dome covered with turquoise-blue faience tiles, stands tall in north-western Zanjan province.

"Restoration of the monument, which has the world's biggest [double-shell] brick dome, is high on the list of priorities at Zanjan's cultural heritage and tourism directorate," CHTN quoted the director of the World Heritage site as saying on Sunday.



"We have always remained loyal to the original characteristics, decorations, and architecture of the monument during restoration projects of the Oljaytu mausoleum and other

associated monuments of the UNESCO site," Hossein Eydani added.

The mausoleum is one of Iran's must-visit destinations for those interested in traditional Persian and

genuine Islamic architecture. It is surmounted by one of the largest brick domes in the globe, though some mistakenly refer to it as "the largest dome in the world".

Meaning "Town of the Sultans", Soltanieh was briefly the capital of Persia's Ilkhanid dynasty (a branch of the Mongol dynasty) during the 14th century. According to UNESCO, the Mausoleum of Oljaytu is an essential link and key monument in the development of Islamic architecture in central and western Asia.

The extremely rich interior of the mausoleum displays glorious glazed tiles, brickwork, marquetry, stucco, frescoes, and vivid illustrations, amongst other decorations.

West Azarbaijan to boost gastronomy tourism

TEHRAN – Gastronomy tourism is planned to be developed in the northwestern province of West Azarbaijan, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

Due to its ethnic and religious diversity, the province has a high capacity for preparing and cooking a variety of foods, Jalil Jabari said on Sunday.

Since the province shares borders with three foreign countries, it also can attract numerous travelers from all over Iran and neighboring countries each year by developing food tourism, the official added.

Tourists enjoy trying out local foods while traveling, and in this regard, West Azarbaijan has the opportunity to satisfy holidaymakers by investing in this sector, he noted.

"In order to achieve this goal, a variety of food festivals will be held to introduce various types of sweets and traditional foods from the province to the public," he mentioned.

The skills of making local foods of Iran Ashi, Diushab Halvasi, Yarmashilesi, and Gildik Ashi are among the provincial elements recently



added to the National Intangible Cultural Heritage list, he explained.

Last year, Iran joined an online campaign launched by the World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) to promote gastronomy as an essential part of tourism.

Experts say that food is not merely an organic product with biochemical compositions. However, for members of each community, food is defined as a cultural element.

Iranian cuisine, usually dominated by fragrant herbs, varies from region to region. It principally accentuates freshness, deliciousness, and colorfulness.

Iranian cooking can be seen as a metaphor for the country itself: It's tart, sweet, fragrant, and vastly complex. It's one of the world's oldest, yet largely obscure, culinary landscapes, with roots dating back to the ancient Persian Empire.

West Azarbaijan embraces a variety of lush natural sceneries, cultural heritage sites, and museums including the UNESCO sites of Takht-e Soleyman and Qareh Klise (St. Thaddeus Monastery), Tepe Hasanlu, and the ruined Bastam Citadel.

The region was home to several ancient civilizations. According to Britannica, it was conquered by Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC and was named Atropatene after one of Alexander's generals, Atropates, who established a small kingdom there. Ultimately, the area returned to the Persian (Iranian) rule under the Sasanians in the 3rd century CE.

Identity of Lalejin as 'world pottery capital' should be preserved, mayor says

TEHRAN – It is vital to maintain the identity of Lalejin as the 'world pottery capital', the mayor of the north-central Iranian city has announced.

To ensure pottery remains the most important industry in the region, it needs to be promoted better, CHTN quoted Seyyed Majid Musavi as saying on Sunday.

Molds should also be avoided as much as possible when it comes to producing hand-made crafts, the official added.

"Lalejin must re-organize activate workshops and its pottery museums, which has

been closed in recent years," he noted.

It is necessary to allocate special funds to all of these, he mentioned.

Located in Hamedan province, west-central Iran, Lalejin is one of the most essential centers for the production of earthenware and ceramics in the country, which held an 80 percent share of the province's exports.

Lalejin celebrated its registration as the world pottery capital in 2016, a privilege given by jurors of the UNESCO-affiliated World Crafts Council.

With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally

for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next.

The Islamic Republic exported \$427 million worth of handicrafts during the first eleven months of the calendar year 1398. Of the figure, some \$190 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer) through 20 provinces, according to data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

Soltanieh hosts advanced courses on kilim weaving

TEHRAN – Soltanieh, which is home to a UNESCO-designated monument of the same name, is playing host to advanced courses on kilim weaving.

The masterclasses are being held free of charge to support employment and to help empower local communities, a local official said on Saturday, CHTN reported.

Kilim is a pileless floor covering handwoven in most places where pile rugs are made. The term is applied both generally and specifically, with the former use referring to virtually any rug-like fabric that does not have a pile.

The vivid flooring is often woven on narrow looms, and two mirror-image pieces are sewn together along the long edge to produce the completed kilim. The vertical color junctions involve a discontinuity of the wefts, the colored yarns that produce the design. At these boundaries, there are small slits in the fabric.

The Islamic Republic exported \$47 million worth of handicrafts in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 21), according to data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts.

With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next.

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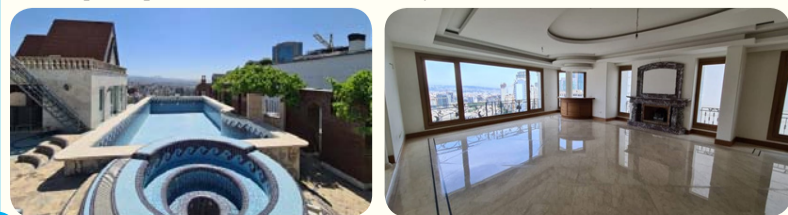
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INTERNATIONAL TENDER No: 1400/108-63/03

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

Iran ready to send skilled workforce to Finland

TEHRAN – The Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare has expressed readiness to send skilled laborers to Finland and host Finnish business delegations to get acquainted with Iran's economic potential.

There is a long-standing relationship between Iran and Finland, which can provide a good opportunity to expand cooperation between the two countries, Hamed Forouzan, the ministry's director for international affairs, said in a meeting in Tehran with Pasi Tuominen, director general of consular services at the Finnish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, IRIB reported on Sunday.

Forouzan expressed hope that with the participation and cooperation of the Finnish Embassy in Iran, a large number of Iranian specialists will be attracted to the Finnish labor market.

"Last year, the Finnish Immigration Service issued a permit for 179 Iranian job seekers to enter the labor market, and Iran ranks 11th among foreign countries in terms of meeting the needs of the Finnish labor market.

According to statistics, there are over 7,000 Iranians working in the fields of research and science in Finland, and in this regard, Iran has a good position among various countries in sending expert workforce to other countries," he stated.

Iranian workforce is young and professional, which can be an opportunity for Finland, Forouzan said, adding, due to the increase in post-graduate education and vocational



training in Iran, the number of specialized forces is growing.

There are more than 1.5 million professional engineers, one million graduates in architecture, more than 1,000 forestry specialists, and over 350,000 agriculture experts in the country, he added.

Iran has had successful experiences in sending labor to various countries, including private labor to Australia through the private sector, and we hope that this experience will be repeated for Finland, he also noted.

He also expressed hope that the Finnish Embassy would facilitate the

dispatch of skilled Iranian labor and provides skills and language training to Iranians before deployment.

To provide faster access to the Finnish labor market, support and guidance offices for the Iranian labor force should be established in Finland, Forouzan suggested, announcing readiness to host Finnish business delegations to get acquainted with Iran's economic potential.

Tuominen, also for his part, expressed hope that with the declining trend of coronavirus, the relations between the two countries will be further developed

so that we can take serious measures to strengthen economic relations and facilitate the entrance of Iranian labor to Finland.

Noting that his country needs specialized manpower, he stated that to this end, we are trying to provide the conditions for attracting Iranian labor and allocate more funds in this regard, in addition to facilitating the legal process.

Youth unemployment rate rises

The unemployment rate for Iranian people aged 18 to 35 has risen from 15.6 percent in spring to 17.6 percent in summer, according to a report released by the Statistical Center.

The jobless rate among of the same age group reached 31 percent in summer from 27.8 percent in spring, the report added.

Meanwhile, the unemployment rate for young men rose from 12.9 percent to 14.6 percent.

Last year, the unemployment rate of people aged 18 to 35 was estimated at 16.7 percent, with 27.9 percent related to women and 14.1 percent related to men.

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

Iran's unemployment rate has been above 10 percent for the last 10 years, and this rate is estimated to have peaked in 2014, when estimates reached 14 percent, according to Statista website.

According to statistics, there are over 7,000 Iranians working in the fields of research and science in Finland.

Monthly COVID-19 vaccine output reaches 10m doses

From page 1 ▶ Pastu Covac, developed jointly by the Pasteur Institute of Iran and Cuba's Finlay Vaccine Institute, is another homegrown vaccine, which has received the emergency use license, after COVIRAN.

Lately, the Food and Drug Administration issued an emergency use license for two other domestic vaccines of Razi Cov Pars and Fakhra.

Iran is one of the few countries that has all vaccine production platforms, Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz, former head of the Iranian Food and Drug Administration, said in June.

With the efforts of local experts, the 20-year path of vaccine development was completed in a

few months, he highlighted.

In the field of vaccine production, great and unique steps were taken by the pharmaceutical industry, he noted, ISNA reported.

Some 14 vaccines are being domestically developed in Iran.

Meanwhile, World Health Organization (WHO) representative to Iran Jaffar Hussain said in September that the Organization was collecting the necessary information for the registration and certification of Iranian-made coronavirus vaccines.

"Despite the severity of the pandemic, Iran has been able to control the epidemic to an acceptable level by taking necessary measures," he added.

World governments pledge to cut farming emissions

Dozens of governments are due to pledge urgent action and investment to protect nature and shift to more sustainable ways of farming at the Glasgow climate talks, the Independent reported.

Announcing plans to reform agricultural practices, the UK government acknowledged there was "an urgent need to reform the way we grow and consume food" to tackle climate change.

But it failed to mention reducing meat and dairy consumption - despite warnings that it will be impossible to limit global temperature rises to 1.5C without dramatic cuts worldwide in their production.

Three-quarters of agricultural emissions of damaging greenhouse gases come from livestock, studies show.

Growing vast amounts of crops to feed livestock for meat and dairy is a leading cause of deforestation and the release of carbon dioxide.

Scientists and others, including the Climate Change Committee, have repeatedly called for drastic cuts in production of meat and dairy to curb the climate crisis.

The day before the pledges were unveiled, a report warned that limiting Earth's temperature rise to 1.5C would be impossible without dramatic cuts, calling on governments to crack down on meat and dairy.

On "nature and land-use day" at Cop26, 45 countries are due to set out promises to transform agriculture and food systems through policy changes, research and innovation.

New measures will include developing climate-resilient crops and "regenerative solutions" to improve soil health.

There will be action to make these techniques and resources affordable and accessible to hundreds of millions of farmers globally, ministers promise, with over \$4bn (£2.96bn) of new public-sector investment.

Food systems, including distribution and retail, produce at least a third of all the world's greenhouse gases, according to the UN.

"Urgent action on land use is needed as de-

mand for food increases. We are currently losing forests, damaging soils and rapidly destroying other ecosystems that play a critical role in absorbing carbon and cooling the planet," the UK government said.

Farmers' livelihoods are also under pressure as climate change reduces productivity.

Some 28 governments, including the UK, which account for 75 per cent of global trade in forest-wrecking goods such as palm oil, cocoa and soya, have agreed a plan for "sustainable" trade, including supporting smallholder farmers.

Almost 100 high-profile UK companies are due to agree to work towards reversing the decline of nature by 2030. They include Ovo Energy which plans to plant a million trees, and Severn Trent, which has pledged to restore over 2,000 acres of peatland.

The Co-op, M&S, Sainsbury's, Tesco and Waitrose are promising to cut their environmental impact on the climate, deforestation and nature.

The UK will launch a package to help protect 5 million hectares of rainforests from deforestation, equivalent to more than 3.5 million football pitches. It will create thousands of green jobs, it's promised.

Environment secretary George Eustice said: "To keep 1.5 degrees alive, we need action from every part of society, including an urgent transformation in the way we manage ecosystems and grow, produce and consume food on a global scale."

The UK will also outline initiatives including developing sustainable supply chains in tropical countries and helping establish a Global Centre on Biodiversity for Climate.

Government officials will also launch a programme to help developing countries switch to more sustainable methods of agriculture and food production.

Claire Bass, executive director of Humane Society International UK, which has run a campaign called The Cow in the Room to persuade leaders to talk about animal agriculture's effects, said: "There is clearly much to welcome in this announcement, but a critical piece of the sustainable food system jigsaw is missing: livestock reduction.

IRCS provides medical services to Mali

TEHRAN – The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) provided free health services to the deprived Malians residing in the Sego region.

A total of 1,230 people received health services at the IRCS centers in Mali, head of IRCS health center Khalil Mokhtari said, IRNA reported on Sunday.

General practitioners, ENT specialists, internal medicine specialists, neurologists, pediatricians, dermatologists, optometrists, nurses, and midwives were among the medical staff in the IRCS team, he explained. Earlier in September, Malian Health Minister Diemnatou Sangare appreciated the services provided by the health center of the IRCS in the African country.

Sangare appreciating the services of the IRCS expressed hope that the humanitarian activities of the center in Mali will expand.

IRCS services worldwide

At present, the Iranian Red Crescent Society



provides medical services to people in 13 Asian, African, and Latin American countries.

Currently, some 14 medical facilities are offering humanitarian, relief, and health services to the deprived people in 13 countries, including Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, Bolivia, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Congo, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Niger, and Ecuador.

At present, the IRCS provides medical services to people in 13 Asian, African, and Latin American countries.

The IRCS polyclinic center includes various departments such as laboratory, pharmacy, radiology and physiotherapy, and general practitioners along with obstetricians, gynecologists, internal medicine, pediatrics, ophthalmologists, and dentists

One of the most important points in establishing medical centers abroad is that all of these centers are self-governing and earn their income by providing services to patients in the mentioned countries," Karim Hemmati, IRCS head, noted on January 13.

Strong friendship of grandmother with maral

TEHRAN – A 63-year-old woman has made a strong friendship with an endangered animal by taking care of a maral (the Iranian red deer), IRIB reported on Sunday.

In March, the woman founded a wounded maral in Chahardangeh District in northern Mazandaran Province and tried to cure the deer. And now this endangered animal has become a close friend of the woman after eight months.

Now, the deer lives on the grandmother's farm, and she has asked the Department of Environment to

send a mate for her friend.

Maral, along with "Roe deer" and "Persian fallow deer", are three species of deer in Iran.

The Iranian red deer is one of the largest deer types that unfortunately their population has declined in the country. However, the red deer occur literally from the shores of the Caspian Sea to the high alpine meadows of the Alborz Mountains.

The mating of red deer begins in the second half of September each year and lasts for a month.

According to the latest monitoring in maral habitats during the mating season, the population of this species in Golestan National Park has been counted 612, which was recorded 540 last years, director of Golestan National Park Mehdi Teymouri said.

Road construction, land-use change and livestock overgrazing in the Hyrcanian forests, and, most importantly, the presence of poachers are among the main factors influencing the decline of the maral population.



More than 2,000 marals lived in the park, according to the animal population census of the late 1970s, which dropped by 80 percent to about 200 in the early 2010s, he stated.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran suspends China flights due to coronavirus

Iran has restricted all flights and recreational travels to and from China due to coronavirus outbreak, IRIB news agency reported on Saturday.

Health Minister Saeed Namaki said that screening and surveillance is underway across all the country's air and sea borders, and no cases of coronavirus have been reported so far. Meanwhile, Mohammad Mehdi Gooya, head of the health ministry's center for infectious diseases, told IRNA that rumors that the novel coronavirus has reached Iran's neighborhood are untrue, according to reports by the World Health Organization. Gooya went on to say that the novel coronavirus has not been reported in Iraq, Kurdistan of Iraq, Pakistan or any of the neighboring countries and the only country in the region which has confirmed the virus, is the UAE.

He went on to add that the plan was prepared in a collaborative initiative between the research centers of the country's Meteorological Organization and Soil Conservation and Watershed Management Research Institute affiliated to the Ministry of Agriculture.

لغو پروازهای ایران - چین برای پیشگیری از شیوع ویروس کرونا

ایران تمام پروازهای به مقصد چین و بالعکس را برای پیشگیری از شیوع ویروس کرونا بطور موقت لغو کرده است.

به گزارش خبرگزاری صدا و سیما، سعید نمکی وزیر بهداشت، گفت غربالگری و مراقبت‌ها در همه مرزهای زمینی، هوایی و دریایی کشور در حال انجام است و هیچ موردی در خصوص ابتلا به ویروس کرونا مشاهده و گزارش نشده است.

در همین حال، به گزارش ایرنا، محمد مهدی گويا رییس مرکز مدیریت بیماری‌های واگیر وزارت بهداشت اعلام کرد آنچه شایعه شده که ویروس کروناي جدید به همسایگی ایران رسیده، بر اساس گزارش‌های سازمان جهانی بهداشت صحت ندارد.

معاون بازسازی و بازتوانی مدیریت بحران کشور افزود: در بیست و ششمین جلسه کارگروه خشکسالی، سرمازدگی، مخاطرات بخش کشاورزی طرح ایجاد سامانه پایش و پیش‌بینی خشکسالی کشاورزی ایران تصویب و جهت بررسی به این سازمان ارسال شده است.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON NOVEMBER 7

New cases	7,554
New deaths	126
Total cases	5,987,814
Total deaths	127,299
New hospitalized patients	1,078
Patients in critical condition	3,678
Total recovered patients	5,601,764
Diagnostic tests conducted	36,278,187
Doses of vaccine injected	94,677,273



NOVEMBER 8, 2021

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Be afraid of a gentleman when he is hungry, and of a mean person when his stomach is full.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon: 11:48 Evening: 17:22 Dawn: 5:07 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:34 (tomorrow)

Persian music history: ca. 650 to 1370 CE

Part 6

Farabi's system was abstracted, with slight differences, from the patterns of the musicians as written down by Es'haq Mawseli and others.

According to Ebn Zayla (d. 1048), who was a pupil of Avicenna, these were "all the meters used by musicians in Arabic, Persian, and Khorasanian [songs]".

Abu Yusuf Kendi had already described the Persian meters as "well-defined ways (toroq ma'luma), similar to the [Arab] osuls". On their part, Persian writers saw their meters in a similar manner.

In the Qabusnameh, Onsor al-Maali Kaykavus first distinguishes between the two basic levels of heavy (geran) and light (sabok), then proceeds to a threefold division.

The first layer contains the "heavy" meters of the dastan-e khosravani that is performed in the presence of kings, people of serious nature (khodavandan-e jedd), and for old people.

The second layer contains the "light meters" that correspond to light prosodic meters in songs (sorud) performed for younger people.

The third layer is designated for the "delicate temper" (tab-e latif) of women and children and contains the songs called taraneh whose meter (wazn) is lighter (latiftar) than those of others.

Compared with Farabi's metrical system, the first layer can be assigned to the "heavy" meters, the second to the "light" versions of the "heavy" meters, and the third to the meter hazaj.

In later Persian sources, this threefold metrical system was reduced to cryptic formulations such as: "There are three kinds of beat (zarb), one beat (yak zarb) for old people, two beats (do zarb) for young people, and three beats (seh zarb) for women and children".

The metric system underwent a significant change between the 11th and the 13th centuries, which was comparable to the development of the melodic modes.

At the end of this constitutive period, the meters had increased in length following the general principle of augmentation that governed the development of musical meters in Iran and, later, in Ottoman Turkey.

Most of the meters of the 13th century retained the older names while their form had considerably changed. In his Kitab al-adwar, Safi ad-Din Ormavi distinguishes between four different lengths of notes: letter alef or syllable ta is called sari' and represents the time unit of hazaj (=1), letter ba' or syllable tan is called sabab or khaffi (=2), letter jim or syllables tanan are called wated or khaffi al-taqil (=3), letter dal or syllables tananan are called faseleh or taqil (=4).

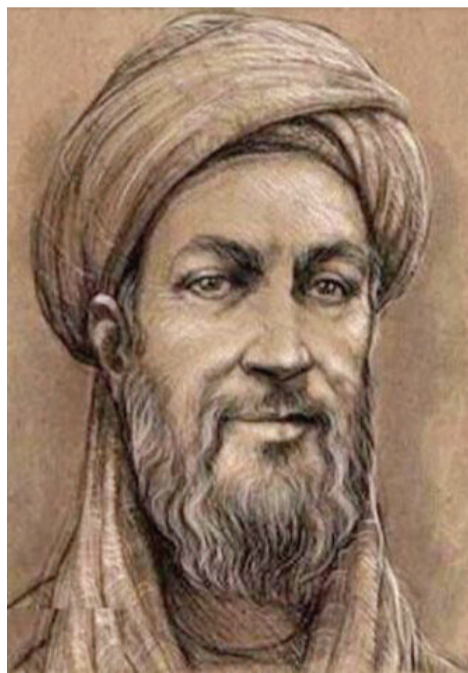
He also uses the mnemotechnic patterns of the root fa'aleh known from prosody. Accordingly, the basic form of al-taqil al-awwal, described in Kitab al-adwar as tanan (=3), tanan (=3), tananan (=4), tan (=2), tananan (=4), is later recorded in al-Resala al-sharafiya as mafa'elon (3+3), fa'elon (4), mofta'elon (2+4).

One period of al-taqil al-awwal (3+3+4+2+4=16) equals two periods of al-taqil al-tani (3+3+2=8) and four periods of khaffi al-taqil (2+1+1, or 1+1+2=4).

A Persian meter was called fakheti. Ormavi gave it the pattern 4+2+4+4+2+4=20, Qotb ad-Din listed the form 2+4+4+2+4+4=20 and, under the name of fakheti-e zayed, an extended form 2+4+4+4+2+4+4+4=28.

Ormavi mentions that "very many melodies of the Iranians" were composed in the meter moza'af al-ramal (= taqil al-ramal) in the version of al-Resala al-sharafiya (= 4+2+4+2+4+2+4+2+4+2=24).

Qotb ad-Din modifies this statement by saying that the meter had been favored by the Iranians in older days (dar qadim) and that the version recorded in Kitab al-adwar (= 4+4+2+2+2+2+2+2+4=24) was more common than that of al-Resala al-sharafiya.



A portrait of Avicenna who elaborated on the Arabian music element in his Persian book Daneshname-ye alai composed in 1037.

Eight meters are solely listed by Qotb ad-Din and referred to as being well-known in his time. Among them is mokhammas (2+2+4=8), zarb-e rast or zarb-e asl (2+2+2+2+4=12), and chahzarb (8+4+4+4+4=24).

In Sharh-e adwar Ebn Ghaybi Maraghi (d. 1435) adds that chahzarb was "invented" by a certain Mohammadshah Rababi.

Qotb ad-Din also gives a description of the meter torki "in theory" (3+3+4+4+3+3=20) and "in practice" (2+2+2 1/3+2 1/3+2+2=12 [2/3]).

This is the earliest known reference to a limping (aksak) meter in music theory. It was not repeated by Qotb ad-Din's successors Ebn Ghaybi Maraghi and his son, who content themselves with the common theoretical description of torki and its variants (12, 20, and 24 beats), nor by later Ottoman writers.

The above meters were still current, with some variants and additional forms, in the theoretical writings of the Timurid period. Ebn Korr (d. 1362), who had left Baghdad for Cairo, uses the same terms while most of his patterns are different.

In his book a variant of taqil al-ramal (6+6+6+6=24) is called khorasani, and he lists a meter called zarbkhosravani with eighteen time units (Ghayat al-matlub, fols. 8r-9v, 19r-v).

Musical forms

The development of musical forms in the early Islamic period was closely related to that of the modes and meters.

Some of them were inherited from Sassanid times and survived in a more or less altered form, others developed under the new cultural conditions.

Here also the mutual stimulation between the Arab and the Persian Era was the origin and the center of the Irano-Arab symbiosis. The fundamental couple of an instrumental introduction in free meter and the following metrical song was expressed by Keykavus by the terms rah and nava.

As mentioned above, the sequence of dastan, sorud, and tarana represented the gradation of heavy, medium, and light meters in the respective types of song.

The musical performance of epic texts (dastan) in which the syllabic structure of the verse determined the metric structure of the melody was taken up later by professional reciters of the Shahnameh (Shahnameh khan) and practitioners of similar professions.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continue

"Hope Puppet" born to heal wounds of coronavirus in Iran

TEHRAN – Iran has launched a puppet making festival to bring back hope to the people who have been afflicted physically or mentally amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Hope Puppet International Festival will be organized by the Dramatic Arts Department of the University of Tehran and the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism.

"It has been two years that we have suffered from the trying days of the pandemic, a period in which many words such as love, affection, devotion, self-sacrifice and humanity were filled with meaning. At the same time, however, words like death, grief, disappointment, war, bloodshed, homelessness and illness have also been raging around the world. Amid these conditions, perhaps hope is the sole word that can be brought forth from the tongue while we remain



A poster for the Hope Puppet International Festival.

waiting as hope weaves its magic in the world," the director of the festival, Poupak Azimpur Tabrizi, said in a press release on Sunday.

"Having faith in the magic of puppets, we decided to take shelter in their world of safety and fantasy. Puppets are trusted and loyal friends, with whom we can play and to whom we can tell our secrets," she added.

Azimpur called on grandparents, parents, children, puppeteers and puppet makers across the world to participate in the festival by making puppets that represent hope.

A selection of the submissions will be offered in an exhibition ten days before the closing ceremony of the festival, and all money raised by the event will go to charity.

Applications for the festival whose motto is "1 Puppet, 1 Hope" can be submitted online until December 11 at www.roshatalent.ir/eventregister.

Works by Persian poet Saber Sadipur published in Turkish

TEHRAN – A collection of works by contemporary Persian poet Saber Sadipur has been published in Turkish.

Imgenin Çocuklari, a major publisher based in Istanbul, has released the book "Eighth Note: Silence" ("Sekizinci Nota: Suskunluk") translated by Donya Mirzai.

An Arabic translation of Sadipur's poetry by Musa Bidaj has recently been published in Cairo under the title of "Fish Have Been Seasick".

"Following the flood of Persian translations of foreign poets in Iran, we will regard the translation of Persian poems as an omen of good fortune," Sadipur has said.

"It is significant to familiarize the world with the potentials of Iran's contemporary poetry, and over the past years, many efforts have been made to render works by Iranian poets into other languages, although some poets have been ignored due to political considerations," he added.

"By the translation of Persian poetry, we want to tell the world that modern Persian poetry still enjoys a strong background and in its modernity, the local perspective along with a cosmopolitan outlook on life are broadly comparable to works by great poets of the world and in some way, it is even more

advanced," stated Sadipur while calling for more support for poets and young translators.

He has recently completed his latest collection "Longing of Olive", which will soon be published by Fasl Panjom.

Over the past few years, a number of Turkish publishers have shown an interest in works by Iranian writers, especially those who are active in children's literature.

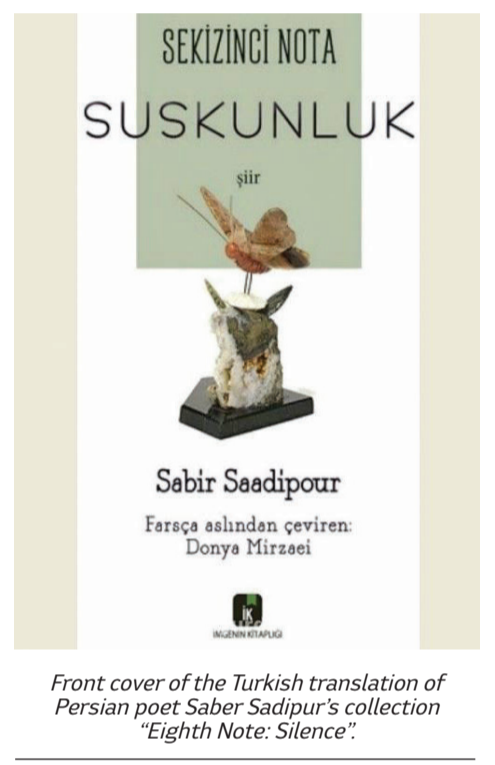
Muhenna, a publishing house for young adults in Istanbul, has released a Turkish translation of Iranian writer Mohammad Mirkiani's book "Our Story Becomes a Fairy Tale" under the title of "Hikayemiz Masal Oldu".

Published in ten volumes, the book contains a large collection of ancient stories of Persian sayings.

Demavend, another publisher in Istanbul, has also made great efforts to introduce modern Iranian literature to Turkish readers.

"Contemporary Iranian Children's Poetry" (Cagdas Iran Cocuk Siiri) was released by the publisher this year.

The book has been authored by Melek Gedic, a research assistant at the Department of Persian Language and Literature of Ardahan University.



Front cover of the Turkish translation of Persian poet Saber Sadipur's collection "Eighth Note: Silence".

Movies from Iran line up for Ojai Film Festival

TEHRAN – A lineup of 12 movies by Iranian filmmakers is competing in the 22nd Ojai Film Festival in the United States.

The festival, currently underway in Oak View in California, has been set up as a hybrid event with virtual and live screenings. The physical form opened on November 4 and will end Monday. The festival's online version will take place from November 9 to 14.

The highlights of the lineup are the acclaimed dramas "Botox" directed by Kaveh Mazaheri, "The Badger" by Kazem Mollai and "Walnut Tree" by Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavian.

A co-production between Iran and Germany, "Botox" is about sisters Akram and Azar. Both lie about their brother's disappearance, telling everyone he fled to Germany. Day after day, the lie becomes bigger and more unmanageable, leading everyone to a dark and mysterious destiny.

Last November, the film was named the best feature at the 38th



"Walnut Tree" by Mohammad-Hossein Mahdavian.

Torino Film Festival in Italy. The film co-written by Mazaheri and Sepinud Najian also won the award for best screenplay at the event.

"The Badger" is about Sudeh, a 40-year-old woman who faces a strange incident right before her second marriage. Sudeh and her son Matiar live in an old apartment.

One day, she hires a pest control company to solve the termite problems in the apartment. While the pest control company is working, Matiar is recording the procedures, as this is his hobby. The next day, Matiar gets kidnapped after school, and the kidnapper asks Sudeh to pay 10 Bitcoins for her son. Tremendous

pressure is put on Sudeh, but the truth hidden beneath will surprise everyone.

Taking its true story from the heart of the profound tragedy of the Iraqi chemical attack on Sardasht in 1987, "Walnut Tree" portrays Qader Mulanpur, the leading character of the story who was away when his family was affected by the chemical attack in a village near Sardasht.

The lineup also includes the narrative feature "The Verdict" by Mohammad-Amin Karimpur and the short narrative movies "The Wound" by Sahar Nurmonavar, "The Blue Bed" by Alireza Kazempour, "Parallel Parking" by Darya Azari, "Faranak" by Mehrush Alia and "The Recess" by Navid Nikkha-Azad.

The short documentary "SFUMATO" directed by Amir-Ali Mirderikvand, and the short animations "The Crab" by Shiva Sadeq-Asadi and "Am I a Wolf?" by Amir-Hushang Moein will also be screened at the festival.

New Persian translation of Stephen King's "Later" appears in Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – A new Persian translation of American writer Stephen King's novel "Later" has been published in Tehran.

Ruzgar is the publisher of the book rendered into Persian by Zahra Chaflaki. The publisher Azarbad has previously released a Persian rendition of the book by Amir-Hossein Qazi.

The son of a struggling single mother, Jamie Conklin just wants an ordinary childhood. But Jamie is no ordinary child. Born with an unnatural ability his mom urges him to keep secret, Jamie can see what no one else can see and learn what no one else can learn. But the cost of using this ability is higher than Jamie can imagine – as he discovers when an NYPD detective draws him into the pursuit of a killer who has threatened to strike from beyond the grave.

"Later" is Stephen King at his finest, a terrifying

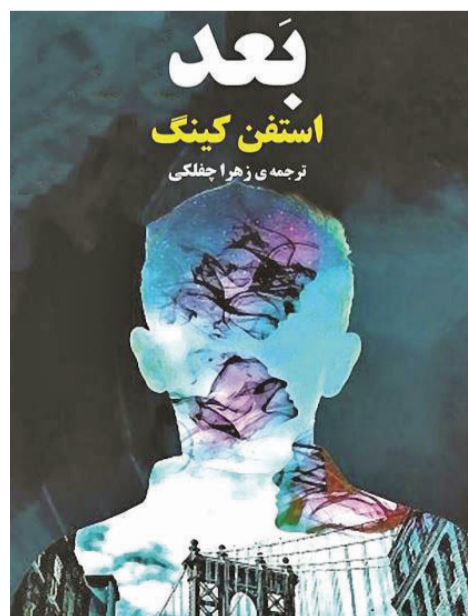
and touching story of innocence lost and the trials that test our sense of right and wrong.

With echoes of King's classic novel "It", "Later" is a powerful, haunting, unforgettable exploration of what it takes to stand up to evil in all the faces it wears.

King is a short-story writer, whose books were credited with reviving the genre of horror fiction in the late 20th century.

King graduated from the University of Maine in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in English. While writing short stories, he supported himself by teaching and working as a janitor, among other jobs.

His first published novel, "Carrie", about a tormented teenage girl gifted with telekinetic powers, appeared in 1974 and was an immediate popular success.



Front cover of the new Persian translation of Stephen King's novel "Later".