

# TEHRAN TIMES

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## Western Diplomatic Efforts on Iran Could Backfire

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STAY UPDATED #JCPOA

### Report Biden's "Build Back Worse Act"

TEHRAN - Contrary to Joe Biden's promise that his climate change and social policy package plan (dubbed "Build Back Better Act") would pay for itself, a nonpartisan agency has cast serious doubt on the U.S. President's legislation proposal.

The Congressional Budget Office says the plan will actually increase the federal deficit by \$367 billion dollars over the next ten years. The new report is expected to influence how lawmakers will vote for the bill on Capitol Hill. The current budget deficit stands at an estimated \$2.77 trillion for the year 2021.

The Congressional Budget Office was founded by Congress and is in charge of investigating financial legislation introduced in the House or Representatives. The report has put the bill which will supposedly deal with social services, work to mitigate the climate crisis, increase access to health care and deliver aid to families and children under scrutiny.

In the report the Congressional Budget Office said "CBO estimates that enacting this legislation would result in a net increase in the deficit totaling \$367 billion over the 2022-2031 period, not counting any additional revenue that may be generated by additional funding for tax enforcement."

The White House claims the plan, which will see \$1.75 trillion in spending, will be fully covered by offsets. It spent a lot of time making the case that the bill will be fully paid for, despite the Congressional Budget Office analysis showing a shortfall.

Biden administration officials and the treasury department claim these measures will include better implementation by the Internal Revenue Service that will generate \$400 billion in new tax revenue. ▶ Page 5

### Opinion Discover enigmatic Lut Desert for soaking up the sun this winter

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN - As the temperatures begin to drop, many avid vacationers seize the opportunity with open arms. On the one hand, winter is welcomed by skiers and snowboarders and on the other by those who want to escape the cold to soak up the sun.

Situated in the heart of Iran, the UNESCO-registered Lut Desert is one of those peaceful landscapes where you may quickly find one of the best-kept secrets in travel while you spend time in solitude.

Over the past couple of years, tens of eco-lodge units have been constructed on the margins of the harsh landscape to bring comfort to adventurers. Moreover, officials in charge of the UNESCO site are working to define new tourism routes across the desert.

"New tourist routes should be clearly defined and established in Lut," IRNA quoted Hadi Maq-soudlou, the director of World Heritage, as saying on Thursday.

"In addition to natural attractions, Lut has various cultural and social magnetism," the official said.

"Amongst valuable attractions around the Lut Desert are native people, their lifestyle, dialect, language, music, poetry, traces of rich cultures and civilizations with more than 5,000 years."

Furthermore, the scorching desert is a rich place to find meteorites, thanks to its unique parameters. In recent years, significant finds have been made, with the efforts of national and international teams of researchers. ▶ Page 6



### Gone with the wind: Harris practices presidency?

TEHRAN - As Joe Biden is closing in on a full year as the U.S. president, experts say the downfall of Biden is near. Tehran Times explores why.

Joe Biden was elected as the U.S. president on November 3, winning a historic number of popular votes, 81.2 million. But now, his approval rating has hit an all-time low.

proval rating has hit an all-time low.

According to credible institutions such as Quinnipiac University National Poll conducted on November 18, only 36 percent of the people who took the survey gave a stamp of approval to Biden's performance.

According to the conducted poll, Americans say 46 - 38 percent they would want to see the Republican Party win control of the House of Representatives, while 16 percent did not offer an opinion. ▶ Page 2

STAY UPDATED #GoneWithTheWind

### Iran's 1st thermal solar power plant to be launched by 2023

TEHRAN - Iran is going to launch its first thermal solar power plant by the fiscal year 1402 (starts on March 2023), Managing Director of Iran's Thermal Power Plant Holding (TPPH) Mohsen Tarzatab announced on Thursday.

Located near the central city of Yazd in central Iran, the new power plant will produce 17 megawatts of clean energy, according to Tarzatab.

As Mehr News Agency reported, this unique power plant which is being constructed next

to Yazd Combined Cycle Power Plant on a 40-hectare land is aimed to develop clean energy, indigenize the knowledge for the construction of such thermal power plants, reduce environmental pollution, and increase the efficiency of Yazd Combined Cycle Power Plant, the official said.

Iran has nearly 500 MW of capacity for traditional photovoltaic solar power. The thermal solar, however, uses a new technology that allows storage of the sun's heat to generate electricity for hours, including at night.

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

Based on Iran's Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2021), the country was aiming for 5,000 megawatts (MW) increase in renewable capacity to meet growing domestic demand and expand its presence in the regional electricity market. ▶ Page 4



### Commemoration ceremony held for Bosnian warrior Hasan Cengic

TEHRAN - On the occasion of the departure of Hasan Cengic, a fighter and deputy defense minister from Bosnia-Herzegovina, a commemoration ceremony was held on Tuesday at the presence of Esmail Qaani, Commander of the IRGC Quds Force, and a number of prominent Iranian political and military figures. ▶ Page 2

### UN affirms resolution on permanent sovereignty of Palestine over occupied lands

TEHRAN - At a UN General Assembly meeting on Thursday, 157 countries voted in favor of a draft resolution on the permanent sovereignty of Palestine over the occupied territories.

The United Nations approved the draft resolution on "Permanent sovereignty of Palestine over the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem (Beit-ul-Moqaddas) and sovereignty of Arab citizens over the

natural resources of the occupied Syrian Golan," Tasnim reported.

157 countries voted in favor of the draft resolution, seven countries - Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau and the United States - voted against, with 14 abstentions.

The draft, drafted by the UN Committee on Economic and Financial Affairs, emphasizes

"Israel's actions in building a retaining wall and settlements in the West Bank, including Jerusalem, violate international law and deprive the Palestinian people of their natural resources."

The draft calls on the Zionist regime to abide by the decision of The Hague tribunal on the illegality of the construction of the wall and settlements. ▶ Page 2

### Report Coronavirus: an opportunity or a threat to the environment?

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN - Coronavirus is a double-edged sword for the environment so that at the beginning of the epidemic, it gave new life to the environment, but over time, the situation reversed and got worse than before, as 8.6 million tons of plastic waste have been produced in the world.

It was in December 2019 that the virus emerged and took many lives so that according to the latest statistics of the Ministry of Health, the total number of deaths in Iran reached over 128,000 and more than 5 million in the world.

After many studies, the researchers came to the conclusion that the only way to prevent the spread of the virus is to keep people away from each other. ▶ Page 7

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### Interview

### Iran helped Poles fighting for independence: Polish historian

Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN - A Polish historian says Iran helped the Poles striving for independence to find a safe refuge on the way back to Poland during the Second World War.

"Iran helped Poles fighting for independence to find a safe haven on the way of many of our citizens back to Poland," Michal Klosowski tells the Tehran Times.

"These Poles found refuge in Iran at that time and were kindly received by the authorities and residents," he explains.

Pointing to the number of people who were trying to cross Iran on their way to Poland, Klosowski notes, "Isfahan, the historical capital of Persia, even gained the name of the 'city of Polish children' during the Second World War!"

This was the starting point of lasting friendship between Iranian people and the Poles; however, the ties between two countries dates back five centuries ago.

"Our countries have longer relations than those linking Poland with some of our European neighbors!" he explains.

He added, "545 years ago, Persia was the initiating party of those bilateral relations."

Following is the text of the interview:

**Most of the Iranian people's acquaintance with the Poles and Poland dates back to World War II, when non-military refugees, mostly women and children, were transferred from the Soviet Union to Iran across the Caspian Sea. Could you update us about the details of this historical event?**

There was no Poland on the map those days. Poles escaping from Russia at that time were mostly soldiers of General Wladyslaw Anders Second's Corps. ▶ Page 5

### Iran start 2021 CAFA U15 on high

TEHRAN - Iran defeated Uzbekistan 3-2 in the 2021 CAFA U15 opening match on Friday.

In the match held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, Tursunaliyev Ibrohimjon found the back of Iran's net in the 52nd minute but Iran's Samir Hobobati cancelled out the goal with a header 10 minutes later.

Amirmohammad Razaghnia led Iran with a header in the 76th minute.

Uzbekistan's Mukhtorov Zikrillokhon leveled the score from the penalty spot.

Iran's Alireza Sharifi was brought down in Uzbekistan's penalty area and Iran captain Erfan Darvish Aali scored the winning goal from the penalty spot in the 90th minute.

Iran will play Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan on Sunday and Tuesday, respectively.

Iran won the 2nd edition in 2018 which was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.



## Commemoration ceremony held for Bosnian warrior Hasan Cengic



Hasan Cengic and other Bosnian warriors at the Sarajevo Process

From page 1 ▶ Abuzar Ebrahimi Turkman, former head of the Islamic Culture and Communication Organization; Brigadier General Ali Fazli, Deputy Chief of the IRGC for Coordination; Samir Veladzic, the Ambassador of Bosnia-Herzegovina to Iran; Hojjatoleslam Seyyed Abolhassan Nawwab, President of the University of Islamic Sects; Ebrahim Taherian, Advisor to the Minister of Foreign Affairs; and a number of other officials also attended the commemoration ceremony held in the Garden Museum of the Sacred Defense in Tehran.

At the beginning of the ceremony, Bosnian Ambassador Samir Veladzic welcomed the participants and hailed the sympathy of Iranian officials with the people and government of Bosnia.

With the departure of Hassan Cengic, Bosnia has lost a distinguished figure, and Iran has lost a sincere friend, and the Islamic world has lost a tireless fighter, the ambassador remarked.

"In addition to his effective and sincere role in the defense of Bosnia and Herzegovina, this distinguished figure spent his blessed life in the realization of Islamic ideals in the land of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and his lasting services will remain always in the minds and will be remembered forever," Ambassador Veladzic stressed.

Through the ceremony, Hojjatoleslam Nawwab also recalled the services and sacrifices of Cengic during the Bosnia-Herzegovina war.

"He was a great figure, well acquainted with the religious issues and issues of the Islamic world, and devoted his entire blessed life to promoting the status of Islam in Bosnia and Herzegovina."

President of the University of Islamic Sects highlighted that the Bosnian figure had a

profound impact on the fate of Muslims, including those from Bosnia-Herzegovina, and future generations will remember this great man forever.

For his part, Mohammad Javad Asayesh Zarchi, the former Iranian ambassador to Yugoslavia, said: "When I was sent to the Iranian embassy in Belgrade, the late Hasan Cengic was imprisoned for supporting the Islamic Revolution of Iran with another group of Muslim fighters in the Balkans, and he is one of those people who endured many hardships for his people, religion and country."

The former diplomat added that Cengic's role in promoting the position of Muslims in the Balkans and his assistance to the Bosnian people and government in maintaining the territorial integrity of Bosnia was unforgettable.

Taherian, who was also the first Iranian ambassador to Bosnia-Herzegovina, was the next keynote speaker. Referring to Cengic's role in achieving independence and democracy in Bosnia-Herzegovina, the diplomat said: "He did not give up any effort to promote Islam and his country until the last moment of his life, and his departure will be felt forever."

Ahmad Karimpour, one of the then members of the Bosnia-Herzegovina Relief Staff during the Balkan war, also highlighted the special role of Cengic in helping the Bosnians during the difficult days of the war and the siege of Sarajevo.

"It was Hasan Cengic's role and tact that led to the Iranian humanitarian aid to reach the Bosnian government and oppressed people," Karimpour stated.

Referring to the sacrifice of the late deputy defense minister, Karimpour said: "Although he stood by the people of his country during the difficult period of war and siege and defended his homeland and nation, his services were not limited to the Bosnian war but also in the post-war period; in the political and religious arenas, he brought blessings to the Muslims of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the Islamic world."

Messages of condolences from Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, Secretary of the Guardian Council; Ali Akbar Velayati, Advisor to the Leader on International Affairs who was Iran's Foreign Minister during the Balkan war; and Hamid Shahriari, Chairman of the World Forum for Proximity of Islamic Schools of Thought, were read on the occasion of Cengic's death and video clips of the prominent figure's life were screened.

## Gone with the wind: Harris practices presidency?

From page 1 ▶ But what has accelerated the decline of the 78-year-old president?

Inflation rate and increasing fuel price have angered the Americans. In October, inflation hit an annual rate of 6.2%, a 30-year high.

The average price per gallon of regular gas at the pump nationally is \$3.42, which is \$1.31 higher than the level one year ago.

On top of that, tensions between Vice President Kamala Harris and Biden have been growing.

The Biden-Harris clash seemed inevitable to political experts. Case in point is an article written by Elizabeth Drew in The Atlantic in August 2020, predicting that the duo will inevitably enter rows.

"If they're elected, Harris and Biden will eventually clash," the article predicted.

In another part of the article, Drew said, "There's circumstantial evidence that Biden had hesitations about picking Harris, mainly because of her obvious desire to be president."

This prediction came to life in a year and half, when Biden headed to Walter Reed Medical Center on November 19 to undergo a colonoscopy exam, and he transferred his power to Harris. Experts say that Harris will practice presidency in the meantime.

Reports from the White House say that Harris is now isolated, as she is feeling she is not getting the same amount of support as others.

"It's hard to miss the specific energy that the White House brings to defend a white man, knowing that Kamala Harris has spent almost a year taking a lot of the hits that the West Wing didn't want to take themselves," a former Harris assistant told CNN.

Harris' approval rating has plummeted drastically. A recent poll conducted by USA Today says that Harris has an approval rating of just 28%.

Joel Goldstein, professor of constitutional law emeritus at Saint Louis University and scholar of the American vice presidency, is on the belief that Harris doesn't have much of a chance to be elected as the president.

"The vice presidency ... is a great presidential springboard. It elevates somebody into the ranks of leading contenders. But it doesn't guarantee that somebody is going to be the nominee, it doesn't guarantee that you're going to have a clear field," he said.

Amid all these confusions, reports say that Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg has been preparing himself in the dark, and his political passion is ready to be reignited if he ever decides to make another bid for the presidency, according to an official who worked on his 2020 campaign.

### The trust has broken down

The main question is this: Why should Iran trust the establishment of a country that is heavily divided?

Iran has been focusing on sanctions-removal negotiations and will enter the November 29 negotiations with seriousness, and with an eye to achieving a "good agreement," as quoted by Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian. However, U.S. politicians cannot get their opinions fixated on the Vienna talks.

Biden's administration signals a positive attitude in words, but imposes sanctions on Iranian individuals and entities, not paying attention to the fact that this will make its job all the more difficult in Vienna.

With the withdrawal of the U.S. from the nuclear deal in 2018, Iran will be observant towards another agreement with the United States, especially when the Republicans will most probably come to power.

On November 19, MSNBC, a Democratic website said, "You don't need a crystal ball to see doom for Democrats in 2022 — just a map," saying that the GOP will win the majority in the Congress elections.

Former U.S. President Donald Trump had hinted that he will consider running for 2024 elections after monitoring the congressional elections. Now the perspective of Trump 2024 is clearer than ever. Therefore, the U.S. must provide tangible and irreversible guarantees, "if" they want the Vienna talks to succeed.

# UN affirms resolution on permanent sovereignty of Palestine over occupied lands

From page 1 ▶ In a statement on Friday, Palestinian Foreign Minister Riyad Al-Maliki said: "The voting in favor of the resolution affirms the right and sovereignty of the Palestinian people on their natural resources including lands, water and energy resources."

The draft resolution also emphasizes the Security Council's previous request in UNSCR 2334 to distinguish between Zionist and Occupied Palestinian Territories.

The draft also called on the UN Secretary-General to present at the next meeting a report on the implementation of the resolution and the Zionist regime's misuse of Palestinian natural resources in the occupied territories.

Also, Palestinian prisoners set fire to a section of Asqalan prison in protest of the martyrdom of Sami al-Amour in the prison.

The Palestinian Prisoners' Movement



announced that the situation in Asqalan prison had become inflamed and that prisoners in all wards had declared public mourning, closed all wards and returned Thursday's meals.

The Palestinian Prisoners' Movement also said in a statement that the behavior toward al-Amour showed that his martyrdom was a real

assassination and execution, and that it was a continuation of the policy of medical negligence for prisoners.

The Palestinian Prisoners' Movement stated that the Zionist regime had kept the Palestinian prisoner in the corridor for more than 14 hours during his transfer to Nafha Field Hospital, and this is conclusive

evidence of the regime's crimes against this Palestinian inmate.

On the other hand, a member of the Hamas Political Bureau, Zaher Jabarin, issued statement on Thursday blaming the regime for all the consequences of the martyrdom of al-Amour and the health condition of 700 other prisoners in Israeli jails and stressed that medical negligence for them means sentencing them to gradual death.

Jabarin stated that the Zionist regime and its prison organization have a black record with regard to crimes against the Palestinian prisoners, and that these crimes are a clear reflection of the regime's targeted policies towards the prisoners.

He called on all official institutions and international legal organizations to fulfill their responsibilities towards the Palestinian prisoners, especially the sick prisoners, and to work for their release.

## Lifting 'cruel' sanctions will lead to stronger Iranian involvement in regional arrangements: FM

TEHRAN - Iran's foreign minister on Wednesday expressed hope that a lifting of Washington's "illegitimate" and "cruel" sanctions will lead to closer interactions between Iran and the 21-member Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA).

"More than two decades of active work and cooperation within the framework of the IORA have increasingly revealed its huge capacities for economic cooperation among member states," Hossein Amir Abdollahian said in a statement at the meeting of the IORA council of ministers.

Amir Abdollahian drew a parallel between the bright prospects for cooperation in the IORA and the Indian Ocean's "huge blessings" for the coastal states, saying Iran is well aware of such enormous potential and is determined to expand and deepen ties with the association.

Hinting at the devastating consequences of the coronavirus pandemic for the entire world including the IORA members, he said, "The noble nation of Iran has been struggling with the coronavirus at a time when the country's economic and financial capability has been severely affected by the restrictions caused by illegitimate and cruel U.S. sanctions."

"The lifting of sanctions and restoration of Iran's rights will not only render positive economic and humanitarian impacts, but will undoubtedly lead to a stronger and more effective presence of the Islamic Republic of Iran in regional arrangements, including IORA," the chief Iranian diplomat said, according to Press TV.

Tehran has been engaged in high-profile negotiations in the Austrian capital, Vienna, since earlier this year with the aim of lifting the United States' unlawful sanctions, slapped on Tehran under the Trump administration after the U.S. unilaterally quit the 2015 Iran nuclear pact, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action.

The Vienna negotiations, through which Iran aims to have all U.S. sanctions removed, are expected to bring the U.S. back into the nuclear deal.

In his statement, Amir Abdollahian also explained

that Tehran had recently reinforced the "national coordination mechanism for the IORA through which various Iranian line ministries and bodies have reinvestigated their effective participation in eight IORA priorities and clusters for cooperation."

"At the latest development, Iran's vice president for women and family affairs has volunteered to assume the role as the coordinator of the IORA cross-cutting area of 'Women's Economic Empowerment'"

"Moreover, the Tehran-based IORA Regional Centre for Science and Technology Transfer (IORA-RCSTT) continues to enjoy the strong support of the Islamic Republic of Iran," he added.

### Lifting all illegal sanctions is Iran's main goal in Vienna talks

Also on Thursday, Amir Abdollahian said the main goal pursued by the Islamic Republic during the forthcoming talks with the remaining parties to the nuclear deal is to secure lifting of all illegal sanctions.

Amir Abdollahian made the remarks in phone call with his Polish counterpart, Zbigniew Rau.

The remaining parties to the nuclear deal are Iran, the three European states - Britain, Germany, and France known as E3 - Russia and China. The parties are set to resume on November 29 in Vienna.

Talks to end illegal sanctions on Iran started in April after President Joe Biden announced his administration is ready to rejoin the nuclear talks. Six rounds of talks were held until June. The talks were suspended due to the presidential election in Iran in which a new government came to power.

During his phone call with Poland's chief diplomat, Amir Abdollahian stressed that the main goal pursued by Tehran through participation of the forthcoming talks is removal of all illegal sanctions.

"All participants [in Vienna talks] have reached the common understanding that the United States is the main party to blame and is responsible for the current state [of negotiations]," Amir Abdollahian added.

After withdrawal from the JCPOA, former Trump

launched a "maximum pressure" campaign against the Islamic Republic, which he said was aimed to compel Iran into negotiating a new deal.

Iran has repeatedly said that its participation in the Vienna talks is aimed to have all U.S. sanctions removed, declaring that it would reciprocate a verifiable removal of the sanctions by resuming its nuclear obligations under the accord.

In the latest development surrounding the issue, Washington and its Persian Gulf Arab allies - Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates - on Wednesday "welcomed" the upcoming seventh round of the Vienna talks and even called for "an urgent mutual return to full compliance with the JCPOA," despite the fact that Saudi Arabia and the UAE - in addition to Israel - had cheered Trump's withdrawal from the deal and his "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran.

During the Thursday phone call, Amir Abdollahian also thanked Poland for donating one million doses of coronavirus vaccine to Iran, saying the move was an example of humanitarian relations between the two countries.

He said despite the United States' inhumane sanctions, Iran has covered more than four million Afghan refugees in its vaccination drive, stressing that his country welcomes any initiative by other countries, especially Poland, to help the Afghan people, including the refugees who are not in good conditions these days.

Pointing to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen, Amir Abdollahian underlined that Iran supports establishment of peace in the Arab country, reiterating Tehran's long held position that the Yemeni crisis has no military solution.

The siege of Yemen must be lifted and the war must be brought to an end, he stressed, making a reference to the Saudi-led military campaign and blockade of Yemen, which has been underway since 2015.

The Polish foreign minister, for his part, voiced his country's determination to enhance between Warsaw and Tehran.

## The Real Responsible for Countless Afghan Death

Donald Trump called **Barack Obama** and **Hillary Clinton** the co-founders of the Islamic State, that they are responsible for the rise of the militant group. here is some of the crimes runned by ISIS in Afghanistan.



- Sep. 18, 2021**  
At least three people were killed and about 20 were wounded in blasts in Jalalabad, the capital of Nanjarhar province.
- Oct. 3, 2021**  
At least five civilians have been killed in an explosion outside the Eid Gah Mosque in the Afghan capital, Kabul.
- Oct. 20, 2021**  
At least two people were wounded in a bomb attack in the Afghan capital on Wednesday morning.
- Nov. 2, 2021**  
At least 25 people were killed and more than 50 wounded when gunmen attacked Afghanistan's biggest military hospital after two heavy explosions at the site in central Kabul.
- Nov. 13, 2021**  
At least one civilian was killed and four others wounded when an explosion struck a bus on a busy road in the western part of Afghanistan's capital Kabul on Saturday.



## SPORTS

### Esteghlal, Sepahan held in home games: IPL

TEHRAN – Esteghlal and Sepahan football teams were held in their home games on Matchday 5 of Iran Professional League (IPL) on Friday.

Esteghlal played out a goalless draw against bolid Nassaji in Tehran's Azadi stadium.

Sepahan also failed to beat Tractor in Isfahan's Naghshe-e Jahan Stadium.

Earlier on the day, holders Persepolis were held to a 1-1 draw by Mes in Rafsanjan.

Aghil Kaabi put the hosts in the lead in the 67th minute with a long-range thunderbolt from the set piece but Mehdi Torabi scored the equalizer four minutes later from the penalty spot.

Persepolis could score the winner in the last minutes of the match but their strikers lacked the cutting edge.

Paykan lost to Fajr Sepasi 1-0 in Shiraz. Milad Ahmadi scored the solitary goal of the match.

10-man Foolad edged Havadar 1-0 in Ahvaz. Hamid Bouhamdan scored for the hosts in the 70th minute.

Aluminum remain top of the table with 11 points ahead of Esteghlal due to superior goal difference.

### Azmoun shortlisted for AFC Player of Week

TEHRAN – Iran national football team forward Sardar Azmoun was shortlisted for the AFC Player of the Week.

He stole the show in two games against Lebanon and Syria in the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification.

The-afc.com picked out Azmoun as one of the candidates for the accolade.

\*Sardar Azmoun

2 games (180 minutes), 2 goals, 7 shots, 1 shot assist

With Mehdi Taremi not part of the squad, the pressure on Azmoun to deliver Iranian goals was even higher than usual, but the Zenit star made crucial contributions in both of Team Mell's wins this past week.

He bagged the 91st minute equalizer which set in motion a fabulous late comeback against Lebanon, then scored a score opener against Syria to take his side within touching distance of Qatar 2022.

### Iran women's compound team take silver in Asian C'ships

TEHRAN – Iran's women's compound team won a silver medal in the Asian Archery Championships 2021 in Bangladesh on Thursday.

The Iranian team, consisting of Gisa Baybordi, Raheleh Farsi and Kosar Khoshnoodikia, was defeated against South Korea 235-229 in the final match.

Iran's compound mixed team also claimed a bronze medal in the championships.

Gisa Baybordi and Amir Kazempour defeated Kazakhstan team to finish in third place.

The 22nd Asian Archery Championships 2021 are being held in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

### Brazilian midfielder Jean Carlos on Esteghlal's radar

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team have reportedly set their sight on signing Brazilian midfielder Jean Carlos.

The 29-year-old player currently plays for Brazilian club Náutico in Série B.

Brazilian website globo.com has reported that Iran's Esteghlal have shown interest in signing Carlos.

He started his playing career in Palmiras in 2010 and has also played in Goiás, São Paulo and Mirassol. The Blues lead the Iran Professional League and are determined to win the title after nine years.

# Western diplomatic efforts on Iran could backfire



“Met with the E3 political directors and senior officials from Egypt, Jordan, and the GCC to discuss 2 paths open to Iran: continued nuclear escalation & crisis, or mutual return to the JCPOA, creating opportunities for regional economic & diplomatic ties. Time to choose is short,” he said on Twitter.

Even in offering the perceived carrot, Malley refused to expend from his own pocket. Instead, he relied on Persian Gulf petrodollars in alluring Iran into the JCPOA, a strategy that is unlikely to bear fruit given the fact that it's coupled with harsh rhetoric against Iran's regional policies.

It's incompressible to many observers how Malley wants to revive the JCPOA with help from countries that opposed the JCPOA right from the start. But even if he succeeds in obtaining buy-in from Persian Gulf monarchies for his main job, this won't exonerate the U.S. from blame. At the

end of the day, it was the U.S. that reneged on the JCPOA and imposed sanctions on Iran.

But unconstructive rhetoric was not coming only from the U.S. The Europeans also did their part in terms of creating a façade of a united front against Iran.

Senior E3 officials participated in Riyadh's meetings. Enrique Mora, Deputy Secretary-General of the EU External Action Service, met with hawkish Emirati official Anwar Gargash, who is a diplomatic advisor to the president of the United Arab Emirates.

“Grateful to Dr. @AnwarGargash for an interesting conversation on regional issues and JCPOA perspectives ahead of the 7th round in Vienna. Appreciated well balanced UAE position on key international dossiers,” Mora tweeted.

Gargash, in turn, praised the meeting, tweeting, “A constructive

& insightful exchange indeed with the representative of an important & respected friend of the UAE.”

French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian told Le Monde newspaper Paris wanted first to establish whether talks would resume where they ended in June, according to Reuters.

“If this discussion is a sham, then we will have to consider the JCPOA empty,” he said.

Also, French Foreign Ministry spokesperson Anne-Claire Legendre called for a tougher message to Iran in the upcoming meeting of the IAEA board of governors in light of the Agency's recent report on Iran.

Taken together, the American and European positions suggest a lack of Western will to learn a lesson from the circumstances leading to the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA and what happened afterward.

Iran has said that it no longer considers the signature of U.S. president as credible and, accordingly, it wants guarantees that Washington won't renege on its commitments again.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Friday that Iran has one condition on the revival of the JCPOA: that the U.S. should effectively and verifiably remove its sanctions on Iran.

“The condition for the return of the United States to the JCPOA is the lifting of sanctions effectively, together and verifiably, and the signature of the president of the United States is not reliable,” he said in remarks to Iran's state-run media.

But instead of offering Iran assurances that they won't renege again, American and European officials keep holding anti-Iran meetings to intimidate it.

But this approach will most likely backfire as Iran is not going to bow to Western pressures. Iran has made it clear that it will not be stung twice from the same hole. As they say, fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me.

## Iran rejects U.S. sanctions, joint statement with E3 and Arab states

TEHRAN – Iran has reacted to the U.S. move in imposing sanctions and issuing a joint statement with a number of European and Arab countries on Iran.

On the sanctions, which were imposed on six Iranian individuals for allegedly interfering in the U.S. 2020 presidential election, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh called them a continuation of the failed “maximum pressure” campaign of former U.S. President Donald Trump.

Regarding new U.S. sanctions against six Iranian individuals and an Iranian institution under the false pretext of interfering in U.S. elections, Khatibzadeh said, “The Islamic Republic of Iran considers the new U.S. sanctions efforts as a continuation of the failed policy of Trump's maximum pressure and as actions out of desperation.”

He stated that the sanctions have no legitimacy and are condemned.

Khatibzadeh emphasized that these kinds of blame games by the U.S. government, which has a long history of interfering in different countries in various forms, are considered baseless and meant to deceive the public in America.

The spokesman also reacted to a joint statement by the U.S., the three European signatories to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, and the countries of the Cooperation Council on Iran.

In response to reporters' questions about the statement of the self-proclaimed working group of the United States, the European Troika and the countries of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council on Iran, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said, “This meeting and its statement are so fabricated, pretentious and illegitimate that they are not worth a response.”

Khatibzadeh stated that the U.S. government as the violator of Resolution 2231 and the party that withdrew from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and is responsible for the current situation, and as the only country with a history of using nuclear weapons, with a black record of numerous interventions in the domestic affairs of different countries, and the main seller of weapons and ammunition to different parts of the world, is once again trying to create a crisis and campaign against Iran.

Countries that must be held accountable for their adventures and aggressions in the region, including the seven-year aggression against Yemen, cannot make baseless accusations against others and absolve themselves of responsibility for these crimes and divert public opinion, Khatibzadeh added.

The remarks came after senior officials of the United States and the members of the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) convened their working group on Iran at the GCC's headquarters in Riyadh on November 17, as decided by the U.S.-GCC foreign ministerial meeting on September 23.

A day later, political directors (PDs) of the E3 (France, Germany, UK) and the U.S. special envoy for Iran held consultations with the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council, its member states, Egypt, and Jordan in Riyadh.

“They exchanged views on the political and security situation in the region, including Iran's actions. They also addressed the upcoming seventh round of talks on the return of Iran and the United States to mutual, full compliance with the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Representatives of the E3 and the United States reiterated the importance – for Europe, the United States, the region and beyond – of quickly reaching and implementing a negotiated solution to that end and of ensuring that Iran's nuclear program is exclusively for peaceful purposes,” a statement by U.S. State Department said.

The statement added, “PDs of the E3 and the U.S. Special Envoy for Iran welcomed our regional partners' efforts to deescalate tensions and promote dialogue in the region. They affirmed their determination to continue to address broader security concerns of the region.”

The statement concluded, “They underlined that enhanced regional dialogue and a return to mutual compliance with the JCPOA would benefit the entire Middle East, allow for more regional partnerships and economic exchange, with long-lasting implications for growth and the well-being of all people there, including in Iran.”

“IAEA should be free from the stain of any political conduct”

Khatibzadeh also responded to French remarks on a recent report by the International Atomic Energy Agency.

In response to a question about the recent remarks by the French Foreign Ministry spokesman, Khatibzadeh said, “The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a responsible member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, has always emphasized that the IAEA's reputation as a UN technical and specialized body should be free from the stain of any political conduct or action.”

Accordingly, any stance of officials and political institutions of different countries with the aim of influencing the behavior of the International



## Iran's 1st thermal solar power plant to be launched by 2023

From page 1 ► But in the final year of the plan, only one-fifth of the figure has been achieved.

Iran was supposed to become a regional hub in the field of energy in the past Iranian calendar decade (March 2011-March 2021), but evidence shows that the country is facing a shortage even in the supply of electricity inside the country, an issue that many believe that could be achieved by developing renewable energy and increasing efficiency of the thermal power plants.

After the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), known commonly as the Iran nuclear deal, in July 2015, many foreign delegations came to Iran for making investments and constructing renewable power plants in the country.

However, following the re-imposition of



the U.S. sanctions, foreign investment in the country's renewable industry has fallen significantly.

The Energy Ministry has recently announced plans to roll out around 10,000 MW of new renewables capacity within the next four years on top of nearly 1,000 MW which is operating currently.

## Iran, Indonesia have great potential for trade co-op: ambassador

TEHRAN – Indonesian Ambassador to Tehran Ronny Prasetyo Yuliantoro has said Iran and Indonesia have great potential for economic cooperation, IRNA reported.

Yuliantoro made the remarks on Thursday, during a visit to an international food industry exhibition in Khorasan Razavi Province, IRNA reported.

"We are trying to establish a close relationship between Iranian and Indonesian businessmen in order for them to get to know each other better

and to pave the way for the development of trade relations between the two countries," the ambassador said.

The official pointed to the holding of exhibitions, especially exhibitions in the field of industry, as a good opportunity for the traders of different countries to know more about each other's capabilities and capacities.

He expressed hope that Indonesian traders and producers will be able to attend the Iranian food industry exhibitions in the coming years.

## Iran, Georgia agree to expand trade ties



TEHRAN – In a meeting between Iranian Ambassador to Georgia Akbar Ghasemi and Georgian Economy Minister Natia Turnava in Tbilisi, the capital city of Georgia, the two sides have reached an agreement to increase the volume of economic and trade cooperation.

According to Iran's embassy in Tbilisi, during the meeting, the officials reviewed various issues, including facilitation of

economic exchanges, ways to promote economic opportunities for entrepreneurs, exports, removal of obstacles in the way of Iranian investors, transit routes, and regional energy networks.

Turnava and Ghasemi also discussed ways to address other topics such as holding economic and trade exhibitions at the provincial level, enhancing road networks, following up on committee meetings held regarding the Persian Gulf and Black Sea transport corridor, promoting startups, holding economic webinars, encouraging the private sector, and enhancing balanced tourism.

Georgia and Iran have close economic and political relations and hundreds of Iranian companies have registered in Georgia.

# Oil Ministry inks co-op MOU with Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology



Oil Minister Javad Oji (L) and Vice President for Science and Technology Sourena Sattari exchanging signed MOU documents.

TEHRAN – Iranian Oil Ministry has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology for cooperation in establishing new technology parks and development of a network for technological collaboration between the two entities.

The MOU was signed by Oil Minister Javad Oji and the Vice President for Scientific Affairs Sourena Sattari at the place of the ministry on Thursday, Shana reported.

The MOU is aimed at developing the oil industry's innovation and technology bases and expanding the capacity of knowledge-based

companies and start-ups active in the oil and gas industry.

Investment and financial support of the start-ups and knowledge-based companies in order to encourage them to meet the technological needs of the oil industry are also among the goals of the mentioned MOU.

Under the framework of the MOU, the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology is also going to define special incentives for supporting knowledge-based and creative companies in various areas including the registration of domestic and international patents, domestic and international trademarks, regulating national

and international standards, approvals, and certificates, and insurance of technological products, as well as participating in domestic and international exhibitions.

Over the past few years and especially since the re-imposition of the U.S. sanctions, the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has been seriously pursuing various programs for using the capacities of domestic knowledge-based companies for meeting the oil industry's technological needs.

According to the Head of the NIOC Research and Technology Directorate Ebrahim Taleghani, cooperation between the oil

industry and the country's knowledge-based companies and startups, in addition, to helping the purposeful growth of these companies and motivating them, will play an important and practical role in solving challenges and operational problems of NIOC subsidiaries and meeting the key needs of the oil industry's upstream sector.

"The National Iranian Oil Company intends to overcome some of its challenges regarding technological needs in various sectors including construction, services, and innovative solutions in cooperation with such companies and institutions," Taleghani said.

## 10 idle industrial units revived in Semnan province in 6 months

TEHRAN – As announced by a provincial official, 10 idle industrial units returned to the production cycle in Semnan province, central Iran, in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-Septemehr 22).

Hassan Ale-Buyeh, the managing director of the province's Industrial Parks Company, named metal, chemical, and auto parts as the major fields in which the mentioned units were active.

Referring to the measures taken to revive stagnant industrial and production units, the official said that technology upgrades, investor attraction and market and product development were important factors in reviving 10 stagnant industrial units in the first half of this year.

"It is hoped that by removing production barriers and attracting new investors by the end of the year, we will see an increase in the number of revived industrial units and improve the capacity of the province's industries", he stated.

Covering 6,884 hectares of land, Industrial Parks Company of Semnan has 30 industrial parks and zones and a special economic zone.

As announced by the head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO), in the last Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), 1,557 stagnant and semi-active units returned to the production cycle in the industrial parks with a financing of 35 trillion rials (over \$833 million), providing employment for 27,000 people.

With the aim of reactivating stagnant



units or units that are operating below capacity, 900 consultants from the private sector and knowledge-based companies were selected in the form of industry clinics across the country to recognize the weaknesses of these units, Ali Rasoulian has previously stated.

"Despite the two major challenges of sanctions and coronavirus pandemic, which imposed severe restrictions on the country, we tried to activate domestic capacities by turning to localizing the technology of manufacturing parts and equipment", he added.

Sanctions have caused problems for financial exchanges and the export of goods to other countries, he said, adding, "The negative effects of coronavirus pandemic on various parts of the country, including industry, are not hidden from anyone, and the economic growth of some countries has reached below zero during this period."

Iran is proud that despite these restrictions and pressure from these two important challenges, its industry has grown by more than seven percent, according to the

statistics and reports from various sectors, the official further highlighted.

Also, as announced by Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki, over 6,500 new industrial units were established across the country during the past year which created jobs for over 121,000 people.

Touching upon the Industry Ministry's plans for the realization of the motto of the current year which is named the year of "Production: support and the elimination of obstacles" by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, the official has said: "In the year that has been dedicated to the production sector by the Leader of the revolution, the orientation of all government organizations and executive bodies should be towards supporting the country's industrial and mining units."

Niaraki pointed to a 40-percent increase in the issuance of establishment licenses for industrial units in the previous year, saying: "The number of establishment licenses increased to more than 36,000 last year, which shows that people are encouraged to invest in the productive sectors."

He also mentioned an 85-percent rise in the allocation of land for establishing industrial units across the country and noted that over 4,500 hectares of land were handed over to applicants in the previous calendar year.

According to the official, there are over 46,000 small and medium-sized industrial units in Iran's industrial parks and zones, of them about 9,200 units are inactive.

## TSE's main index drops 3.2% in a week

TEHRAN – TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 46,000 points (3.2 percent) to 1.41 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

During the past week, the indices of Isfahan Refining Company, Mobarakeh Steel Company, Social Security Investment Company, and Barekat Pharmaceutical Group were the most widely followed ones.

Head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has said the government is following new strategies to avoid pre-ordered pricing in the stock market in the long term.

"The government's policy, in the long run, is to avoid pre-ordered pricing. This policy has been repeatedly stressed by the president and the government's economic team and has been placed on the government's agenda," Majid Eshqi said on November 14.

According to the official, supply and demand should be the only determining factor for setting the price for a share.

"We need to move away from imperative policies so that companies can be profitable in the long-term," he said.

Over the past 15 months, continuous fluctuations in the Iranian stock market have led shareholders, experts, and scholars to believe that the government should not interfere in the stock market, saying the government's pre-ordered and unrealistic pricing of some state-owned shares is the main reason for the capital market's current downward trend.

The government has been claiming that the decisions made for this market are not aimed at interfering in stock exchange transactions or directing the market, but are efforts for reducing the bubble created in the market and to prevent further decline of the stock market index.

Despite the skepticism, after the

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

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

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

Alavi said.

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

### Government is following new strategies to avoid pre-ordered pricing in stock market

## Establishing project-based EFTs to guide capital toward productivity: expert

TEHRAN – Stock Market Analyst Salman Nasirzadeh has said establishing project-based exchange-traded funds (EFTs) will guide the country's wandering capitals toward the productive sector and will ultimately result in economic growth.

"By activating [the capacities of] the capital market and establishing project-based funds, we will see the absorption of more resources in projects, in which case the financial pressure will be removed from the money market (banking system) and wandering capitals will go to the productive sector," Nasirzadeh told IRNA on Friday.

Mentioning the Economy Ministry's recently proposed roadmap for economic growth, the expert noted that using the stock market for funding development projects and offsetting the budget deficit is a major part of the mentioned roadmap.

"Restrictions on the country's resources due to some problems in economic structures have become an incentive for authorities to consider alternative sources of capital to implement projects," he said.



# Iran helped Poles fighting for independence: Polish historian

From page 1 ► captured by the Soviet Russians in 1939 and then released under the Sikorski-Majski pact. They had Poland in their hearts and that was the purpose of their journey to return to Poland and to restore independence to Poland in occupied Europe.

These people were well welcomed in Iran. Iran was a first stop for evacuees from what was then Russia, a stop on their way back to Poland, a first stop to independence. The refugees from Soviet Russia at that time came to Iran to return to Poland, many of them after a stop in Iran went via Syria, Palestine and Italy back to Poland. After all, General Wladyslaw Anders' army fought on the Italian front, fighting the Germans, for example at Monte Cassino in 1944.

When I visited the Polish Dulab cemetery near Tehran a few years ago, I was struck by the nature of this necropolis: it is a military cemetery. Of course, there are also the graves of others, including children who died while crossing the Caspian Sea or because of the hardships of the journey. After all, the army evacuated from Russia was accompanied by civilians and other people, especially children. It is very well documented by Polish artist and writer, Jozef Czapki. Those who could not stand the hardships of the further journey, the so-called "Children of Isfahan" stayed in Iran and found refuge there, found home. In fact, a huge wave of Poles arrived in Iran – mainly soldiers of the Second Corps of General Wladyslaw Anders, formed in Russia at that time. These Poles found refuge in Iran at that time and were kindly received by the authorities and residents. In total, it was approx. 120 thousand. Polish citizens, including approx. 40 thousand civilians. Polish schools, cultural institutions and centers of Polish life began to emerge. Isfahan, the historical capital of Persia, even gained those times a name of the "city of Polish children" during the Second World War! This is the basis of a lasting friendship between Iran and Poland; Iran helped Poles fighting for independence to find a safe haven on the way of many of our citizens back to Poland.



**Among notable Poles living in 19th-century Iran were poet Aleksander Chodzko and Ignacy Pietraszewski, who translated the Zoroastrian Avesta into Polish. How could the Polish figures who lived in Iran or visited here introduce Persian culture to the Poles? What are the most important cases of cultural exchanges between Iran and Poland?**

Iran is known in Poland for its ancient culture and beautiful handicrafts. But not only! It is a country that has always fascinated Poland and Poles. We recently in 2020 celebrated the 54th anniversary of Polish-Iranian diplomatic relations. Our countries have longer relations than those linking Poland with some of our European neighbors!

545 years ago, Persia was the initiating party of those bilateral relations. Our countries were then divided by the Ottoman Empire and we were then favored by the principle that "my neighbor's neighbor is my friend". The Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth was then a great power, hence the extensive political, economic and cultural contacts that were maintained for centuries. Today, for example, we can read the correspondence of the Persian ruler Abbas I the Great (1587-1629), with King Zygmunt III Vasa, in which the rulers assured themselves of friendship and willingness to develop peaceful contacts because both were great countries. Later, in the second half of the 17th century, Persia, as well as the Ottoman Empire, did not recognize the

partition of Poland, and we the Poles are still really grateful for that! After Poland regained independence in 1918, contacts were renewed. We also now have a common neighbor, Russia. It is still, demanding neighborhood, but not only because of that we should remember our great, historical relations and work to improve them. It is worthwhile, beneficial for both, that Poland and Iran have good relations, as they used to.

**As a country that has tasted displacement, how do you read the migrant crisis at Poland's borders? How do you see the reaction of the Polish government and what is the attitude of the European Union in this regard?**

Polish visas are being given at the Polish Consulate in Minsk as well as in the other Polish Consulates in other Belarusian cities, or even at other Polish representations that are dedicated to this. If someone goes to another country, the consulate of that country should seek help and apply for the appropriate documents. There is a legal way to obtain such documents.

Unfortunately, today those seeking refuge in the European Union have become hostages to the regime of Alexander Lukashenka, which is thus trying to put pressure on the entire European Union, weaponizing the suffering of the people looking for a better life. And yet, the European Community is aware of this and acts in two ways: on the one hand, it tries to help migrants trapped at the Belarusian-Polish border,

and on the other, supports Poland for how it is acting and protecting the Polish – and European – border.

**What are the main areas of cooperation between Poland and the Islamic Republic of Iran? Which areas have been neglected so far?**

Definitely, cultural and scientific cooperation are one of the most important these days. When I was visiting Iran a few years ago I remembered a huge interest in cultural projects related to Polish cinema, theater, music, and visual arts. I was amazed how many people were familiar with Stefan Kieslowski's movies or Zygmunt Bauman's philosophy...

Iran is a country that in my opinion needs technology, consumer goods and industrial goods. Poland has a chance to become one of their suppliers to the great country of Iran. On the other hand, some very high-quality agricultural products, such as papayas and pistachios, imported to Poland from Iran, are very well known as well as the petrochemical products. The market potential is huge, and I would love to see a growing economic relation between our two countries. There is definitely a lot to discover!

**How do you evaluate Poland's approach towards West Asia? Some experts say Poland is going to bet more on Arab states rather than Iran in its West Asia policy.**

Today it is necessary to try to clearly define and clarify the Polish position towards the Middle East (West Asia), as well as for the whole Muslim World as a cultural and geopolitical identity. It should be considered how to shape the policy towards the growing number of Muslims emigrating to Europe and what Polish policy should be created in view of the growing role of the Middle East (West Asia), especially Iran in global supply chains.

To do so, Poland can learn from the potential offered to Poland by the native Muslim minority (Polish Tatars) living in Podlasie region from many, many years. That should counteract the excessive outflow of Saudi Arabia on the population of the Polish Muslims.

**"(Iran) is a country that has always fascinated Poland and Poles."**

## Biden's "Build Back Worse Act"



From page 1 ► But the Congressional Budget Office report disputes this; it estimates only \$127 billion can potentially be generated from Biden's plan and that's a net revenue after other expenses have been counted.

It remains to be seen how many lawmakers will be affected by the report's findings. Republicans fiercely oppose the plan describing it as an irresponsible one that will contribute to the rising inflation that Americans are already facing.

The spending bill is being debated in the House after a vote was passed as expected on Thursday evening along party lines. Moving forward with the bill is facing delays as the debate drags on in the House.

Kevin McCarthy, the House Republican Party leader, called Democratic lawmakers "out of touch" with the needs and wishes of ordinary Americans. He described the Build Back Better Act the "single most reckless and irresponsible spending bill in our nation's history. Never in American history has so much been spent at one time," before adding "Never in American history will so many taxes be raised and so much borrowing be needed to pay for all this reckless spending."

One of Biden's previous proposals that passed both chambers in Congress was rebuilding infrastructure. This has been one of the most common tactics of every administration that enter office. They mostly tend to start with Infrastructure as it appears lucrative with potential employment opportunities while a new road here and there with pot holes fixed elsewhere make neighborhoods look nicer for a while. But the question that arises is who will pick up the costs.

The spending bill is more than just infrastructure; and the rise of the federal deficit by hundreds of billions of dollars must be recuperated one way or the other.

The question again is who pays up the tax for the bill? The White House claims that increasing taxes on the rich and closing loopholes on tax havens will help finance the bill. But how many times have Americans heard this argument before?

If anything, all research indicates that tax havens and those evading tax is growing among wealthy politicians and people of power or influence, while no legislation has been passed in the U.S. to prevent those individuals from paying tax within their tax category according to the law.

As lawmaker Jared Golden alluded to during the Build Back Better Act voting process, the tax will benefit wealthy Americans. Concerns have been raised in Biden's plan about a controversial provision on both local and state tax deduction. Critics say the tax cut will primarily benefit high earners. The Institute for Taxation and Economic Policy think tank says three-quarters of the benefits of a recent tax change to Biden's bill will go to the wealthiest 5 percent in the country.

But whenever a bipartisan agency's investigation is at odds with a President's pledge to fully pay for a massive \$1.85 trillion legislation; that's when the alarm bells start to ring. The bigger danger is

that poorer Americans, the working and middle classes will have to pay for the costs of a plan that may or may not boost Biden's popularity in the short term.

And it comes during a period when times are already tough with inflation rising, times are tough for Americans trying to put food on the table.

As Senator Joe Manchin noted "everyone's concerned, they should be concerned about inflation, because it's real. Inflation is real. So, we got to make sure we get through this the best we can, and put no more burden on them."

The U.S. economy is certainly in decline, the country will not prosper and nor will it supposedly be the flag bearer of democracy as it claims to be when so few have so much and so many have so little. The mainstream media in the U.S. chooses to ignore the facts, so do the lawmakers. The issues of income and wealth inequality is a big moral, economic and political crisis that America must face up to and deal with.

Half of Americans are surviving paycheck to paycheck, half a million of the very poorest Americans are homeless while millions remain deeply concerned about home evictions. 92 million Americans do not have any insurance and others are underinsured. Meanwhile, American families all across the nation from state to state are worried about how they are going to feed their children.

This comes as Americans at the top have never enjoyed a more luxurious life. 1% of Americans living at the top now own more wealth than the bottom 92% while the 50 wealthiest Americans own more wealth than the entire bottom half of the country's society; that equates to some 165 million people. As for employment, tens of millions have lost their jobs and incomes during the pandemic, while over the past year alone 650 billionaires have seen their wealth increase by \$1.3 trillion.

Meanwhile, an entire generation of students carry an incredible level of student debt and face a harsh reality that their future standard of living will be lower than their parents. To make matters worse, most low-income Americans are now facing a life expectancy that is about 15 years lower in comparison with wealthy Americans. In essence the future does not look bright as poverty in America has turned into something of a death sentence

However, the democrats are in urgent need of some positive media coverage with their President registering a record low popularity rating in almost all polls among voters, but the massive spending bill will come at a cost for the average American in the decade to come. Despite the bill being at odds with Biden's pledge to fully repay for the \$1.85 trillion, that is unlikely to stop House Democrats from approving the legislation.

Will the legislation even provide what the White House had pledged? That's anyone's guess. Many critics he expressed skepticism.

Analysts says what is more than likely is the poor and not the rich are the ones who will bear the burden of Biden's "Build Back Worse Act."

## Britain bans Palestinian group Hamas: minister

TEHRAN - UK Home Secretary Priti Patel is pushing to ban the Palestinian movement under the Terrorism Act.

Hamas has condemned a move by Britain towards banning the group as a terrorist organization which could see supporters of the Palestinian movement face up to 14 years in prison.

Home Secretary Priti Patel, who will push for the ban in Parliament next week, argued on Friday that it was not possible to distinguish between Hamas's political and military wings. She called Hamas "fundamentally and rabidly anti-Semitic," adding the proscription was required to protect the Jewish community.

Hamas responded in a statement, saying: "Instead of apologizing and correcting its historical sin against the Palestinian people ... [Britain] supports the aggressors at the expense of the victims."

That comment referred to the Balfour Declaration and British Mandate, which it said handed "Palestinian lands to the Zionist movement."

"Resisting occupation, by all available means, including armed resistance, is a right guaranteed by international law to people under occupation," added the statement.

The group called on its supporters to condemn the UK's move, as it described Israel's occupation of Palestinian lands, forcible displacement of Palestinians, the demolition of their homes, and the siege of more than two

million people in Gaza Strip, as "terrorism."

Patel, who is on a trip to Washington, DC, said her move was "based upon a wide range of intelligence, information and also links to terrorism."

"The severity of that speaks for itself," she said.

In 2017, Patel was forced to resign as Britain's international development secretary after she failed to disclose meetings with senior Israeli officials during a private holiday trip to the country.

She met then-Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and then-opposition leader Yair Lapid.

The Qassam Brigades military wing of the Palestinian movement that rules the Gaza Strip has been banned in Britain since March 2001.

An outright ban under the Terrorism Act 2000 will bring the United Kingdom in line with the United States and the European Union.

If Patel's bid is successful, flying Hamas's flag, arranging to meet its members or wearing clothing supporting the group will be outlawed.

Politically, it could force Britain's main opposition group to take a position on Hamas, given strong pro-Palestinian support among the more left-wing members of the Labour Party.

Earlier this month, a man appeared in a

British court for wearing T-shirts supporting Hamas's military wing and Palestinian Islamic Jihad, which the UK banned in 2005.

On three occasions in June, Feras Al Jayoosi, 34, wore the garments in the Golders Green area of north London, which has a large Jewish population.

Israel's Prime Minister Naftali Bennett applauded the news, calling Hamas "a radical Islamic group that targets innocent Israelis and seeks Israel's destruction."

"I welcome the UK's intention to declare Hamas a terrorist organization in its entirety – because that's exactly what it is," he tweeted.

Lapid, now foreign minister, said in a statement: "There is no legitimate part of a terrorist organization, and any attempt to differentiate ... is artificial."

Lapid said the move was a result of "joint efforts" between the British and Israeli governments.

Founded in 1987, Hamas is against Israel's occupation of the Palestinian territories.

Based in Gaza, Hamas won the 2006 Palestinian parliamentary elections, defeating its nationalist rival Fatah. It seized military control of Gaza the following year.

An 11-day Israeli assault on Gaza in May this year killed at least 250 Palestinians, including 66 children. Israeli officials say, 13 people, including two children, were killed in Israel by Hamas rockets.



## Discover enigmatic Lut Desert for soaking up the sun this winter



From page 1 ▶ Talking about the best time to visit, he said “the season of comfortable tourism in Lut is from mid-November to February, but the adventurous tourists who seek to experience the exceptional heat of Lut also endure the heat of summer even in August.”

Also called Dasht-e Lut (“Emptiness Plain”), the salt desert is encircled by the provinces of Kerman and Sistan- Baluchestan, and South Khorasan. Seven years of satellite temperature data analyzed by NASA showed Lut was the hottest spot on Earth with a temperature of 70.7°C in 2005.

Moreover, the scorching Lut Desert is now being considered to be one of the top areas in the world for finding meteorites, thanks to its unique parameters. In recent years, significant finds have been made, with the efforts of national and international teams of researchers.

“The significance of the Lut Desert is becoming more and more apparent day by day. It has immense potential to become an international tourist destination,” the official explained.

According to UNESCO, The desert is situated in an interior basin surrounded by mountains, so it is in a rain shadow and, coupled with high temperatures, the climate is hyper-arid. A steep north-south pressure gradient develops across the region in spring and summer causing strong winds to blow across the area between June and October each year.

“These long periods of strong winds propel sand grains at great velocity creating transportation of sediment and aeolian erosion on a colossal scale. Consequently, the area possesses what is considered the world’s best examples of aeolian yardang landforms, as well as extensive stony deserts and dune fields.”

These areas consist of active dunes some reaching heights of 475 m and are amongst the largest dunes in the world. The Lut Desert displays a wide variety of forms, including linear-, compound crescentic-, star-, and funnel-shaped dunes. It is home to giant Nebkha dune fields (dunes formed around plants) as well.

“The region has been described in the past as a place of ‘no life’ and information on the biological resources in this area is limited. Nevertheless, the property possesses flora and fauna adapted to the harsh conditions including an interesting adapted insect fauna,” the UN body said.

The wintertime is itself a perfect excuse for a vacation but to some people, visiting a desert region sounds like “something else”. Some visitors to Lut say it feels almost like walking across a seabed without water.

Moreover, those who set up camps are well rewarded when the sun sets to prepare the ground for a very bright moon and extremely vivid stars to show off in the absolutely clear sky of the desert.

# Iranian, Italian archaeologists begin work on Burnt City

TEHRAN – A group of Iranian and Italian archaeologists on Thursday commenced a fresh round of exploration in Burnt City, which is an enigmatic UNESCO-registered site in southeastern Iran.

Called “Shahr-e Sukhteh” in Persian, Burnt City is associated with four rounds of civilization, all burnt down by catastrophic sets of fire. The site is situated in Sistan-Baluchestan province, which was once a junction of Bronze-Age trade routes crossing the Iranian plateau.

“The 19th season of archaeology was commenced today by a team of Iranian and Italian archaeologists led by the senior Iranian archaeologist Seyyed-Mansour Seyyed-Sajjadi,” CHTN quoted the provincial tourism chief as saying on Thursday.

“In this season of excavation, residential areas in the central and eastern parts [of Shahr-e Sukhteh] are to be explored,” Ali-reza Jalalzaei said.

“The excavation season is estimated to take 60 days, of which 45 days are for field activities and 15 days for summarizing field information, preparing reports and sending to the Research Institute [for Cultural Heritage and Tourism],”

The 18th archaeological season began in November 2019 in collaboration with Italy’s University of Salento to shed new light on a [formerly] residential area of the 5,000-year-old site.

“The goal is to reach older urban sections because most of the excavations so far have been related to the second, third, and fourth periods and less informa-



tion about the times before these eras,” Seyyed-Sajjadi said in 2019.

The expert also addresses some limitations that such a project faces in the country, adding “Given some limitations, [our] excavation is focused on studies of zoology, botany, and anthropology because these excavations could yield a lot of information about the animals, plantation and human life in Burnt City.”

Furthermore, archaeologists have already discovered the remains of a prehistoric monkey in Burnt City, concluding that the animal was held in captivity in a cage when it died. Based on surveys and scientific studies on the monkey’s skeleton, the animal was dead in captivity in a cage and it was buried by its owner like a child within a beautiful container, according to Seyyed Sajjadi.

“Since the Burned City had lots of commercial relations with the eastern territories of Iran such as northern India and central Asia, and there is a lot of information in this regard, we found that the monkey came from there.”

“The other issue is that in the ancient world, monkeys were essentially regarded as a luxury and aristocratic belongings. And they were imported to be presented to people of certain social classes such as elites, merchants, governors, and religious authorities,” he explained.

Founded around 3200 BC, Burnt City was populated during four main periods up to 1800 BC. Previous rounds of excavations showed that its residents had great skills in weaving, creating fine arts such as decorative objects, stone carving, and pottery painting.

## Documentary to shed light on Rey caravanserais

TEHRAN – The Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Directorate of the city of Rey, southern Tehran, plans to produce a documentary on the city’s caravanserais, Rey’s tourism chief has announced.

The documentary will look at how these historical monuments have evolved from the Safavid-era (1501-1736) to the Qajar period (1789-1925), Noruz Taqipour said on Wednesday.

Caravanserais on the roads of Rey-Semnan and Rey-Qom will also be explored in the film, the official added.

The documentary is scheduled to be made by the end of the current Iranian year 1400 (March 2022), he noted.

Iran has put forward a selection of 56 caravansaries as a candidate for a collective inclusion in UNESCO’S cultural heritage list.

Last year, the tourism ministry announced



that Iran is developing a dossier for a selection of its historical caravanserais for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list. In this regard, cultural heritage experts are assessing such monuments that are scattered across the country to make a shortlist in terms of their architecture, historical and cultural values.

Caravansary (also Caravanserai or Caravansaray) is a building that served as the inn of the Orient, providing accommodation for commercial, pilgrim, postal, and especially official travelers.

Rey was one of the capital cities of the Parthian empire (3rd century BC–3rd century CE) and it was captured by the Muslim Arabs in 641 CE. During the reign of the Muslim caliph al-Mahdi in the 8th century, the city grew in importance until it was rivaled in western Asia only by Damascus and Baghdad.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica, Islamic writers described it as a city of extraordinary beauty, built largely of fired brick and brilliantly ornamented with blue faience (glazed earthenware). It continued to be an important city and was briefly a capital under the rule of the Seljuks, but in the 12th century, it was weakened by the fierce quarrels of rival religious sects. In 1220 the city was almost entirely destroyed by the Mongols, and its inhabitants were massacred. Most of the survivors of the massacre moved to nearby Tehran, and the deserted remnants of Rey soon fell into complete ruin.

## Minister inaugurates handicrafts museum

TEHRAN – Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami on Thursday inaugurated a museum dedicated to the indigenous handicrafts in the northwestern Zanjan province.

Opening the Museum provides tourists with the opportunity to learn about Zanjan handicrafts and introduce them to local products, the minister said, ISNA reported.

Charuq (a local style of women’s handmade shoes), filigrees, knives, potteries, and copper dishes are among the popular handicrafts in Zanjan, which their practical know-how is passed down from generation to generation across the province.

Knifemaking is one of the oldest



handicrafts practiced for centuries in several Iranian cities, of which the northwestern city of Zanjan is the most famous.

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

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

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

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

## Iran’s mobile museum of peace & culture arrives in Sierra Leone

TEHRAN – A mobile museum dedicated to Iranian culture and peace has arrived in Sierra Leone in West Africa.

“Designed in Mashhad, the capital of Khorasan Razavi province, it is Iran’s first mobile museum, which has been put on show in several domestic and international destinations so far,” the provincial tourism chief has announced.

The recent trip aims to teach handicrafts to artists, instructors at Sierra Leone University of the Arts, and individuals for 10 days, Mohammadreza Pahlevan said on Friday, CHTN reported.

## Abandoned crafts revived in Khorasan Razavi

TEHRAN – Two handicraft fields, which were forgotten in the north-eastern Khorasan Razavi province, have recently been revived, a local tourism official has announced.

Neglected handicraft fields of pottery painting and Minakari (enamel) have been brought back to life with a great deal of efforts made by the local artisans, Mohammad Taherian Moqaddam said on Thursday.

There have been efforts in the region to revive traditional fields such as jewelry, leatherwork, and Serme-duzi, and more than 10 billion rials (\$238,000 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) of facilities has been allocated to this purpose, the official added.

Minakari is an ancient art of painting natural motifs such as flowers and birds on the surface of metals,

mostly copper.

Over the ages, the art of Minakari has fascinated many famed people including French traveler Jean Chardin and American orientalist Arthur Pope. Isfahan is one of the traditional hubs of the craft in the Iranian plateau. The prices are diverse, therefore you can either spend a lot or little money on these special pieces of art.

Three female masters in handicrafts from Mashhad will hold three to five classes and workshops during this period with the aim of creating employment and entrepreneurship, the official added.

A handicrafts exhibition featuring works in the fields of pottery, traditional jewelry, embroidery, and local dolls was also opened on Tuesday on the sidelines of the museum, he noted.

The museum’s mission is to spread messages of peace and friendship to countries around the world, he mentioned.

Second Announcement



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# Environment precedes development, Raisi says

TEHRAN – President Ebrahim Raisi has highlighted the importance of environment protection, emphasizing that the preservation of environment is prior to every development.

In a meeting with professors and environmental activists on Friday, Raisi called on all parts of the country to pay attention to environmental protection, IRIB reported.

Undoubtedly, humans must be sensitive to any encroachment to the environment, he said, calling on related organizations to consider the environment in all aspects of development.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the President called the destruction of forests and wetlands harmful to the environment and said that "the destruction of nature causes great and irreparable

damage to the people and the country."

Environmental protection will lead to power, security, investment, and production growth in the country, and the universities should be connected with the responsible bodies to achieve appropriate programs.

The national media and the press have an important role in this regard because we will seek education, public participation to protect the environment, and the implementation of projects, he stated.

The environmental policies declared by Leader Ayatollah Khamenei must be implemented, and we hope to see an increase in the implementation of these policies from 47 percent to above 90 percent next year (March 2022), he



further noted.

Both the people and the NGOs have an effective role to play in the protection of the environment, and they should be given chance to play their role, he added.

The need to use new technologies and the ability of knowledge-based companies in the field of environment, solving issues and problems related to legal proceedings, attention to domestic and international diplomacy in the field of environment, attention to water transfer in the country from one region to another, attention to the dangers of trawling, attention to environmental water rights and also attention to land management were among the topics that were discussed in this specialized meeting.

On the occasion of National Tree Planting Day, March 5, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned against "the great blight" to the ongoing process of environmental degradation, urging both people and officials to resist natural resource destruction.

Environmental destruction will endanger the "future of human beings," the Leader said.

He emphasized the need to prevent incidents such as forest fires, noting that those in charge who are not committed to their duties should be held accountable.

Environmental activities are of a "religious and revolutionary nature" and should not be regarded as luxurious or ornamental, the Leader stressed.

## Coronavirus: an opportunity or a threat to the environment?

From page 1 ► so they should not travel or gather together, they should stay at home till a vaccine is developed.

Environmentalists were pleased with the health protocols and saw it as an opportunity for nature because nature's ability to self-purify had long ceased with human extravagance, so with the outbreak, human lifestyles changed, though it had a negative impact on the economic sector of the countries, and a positive effect on the environment, but after a while, the situation reversed.

Thus, cessation of travel to other countries has revitalized the environment to some extent, and greenhouse gas emissions have been significantly reduced, but we must not forget that energy consumption has also increased greatly as people stay indoors.

In the meantime, one of the hygienic instructions was to wash and disinfect the hands and everything, so the consumption of detergents increased too much and more effluents entered nature, as well as plastic gloves and face masks.

Plastics dumped in nature and hospital waste were other problems caused by the epidemic, leaving seas and oceans unsafe, with scientists claiming that 25,000 tons of waste had entered the oceans, 73 percent of which are flowing in Asia.

The epidemic resulted in the production of 8.6 million tons of additional plastic waste, while 87.4 percent of the total waste was generated by hospitals.



million tons of additional plastic waste, while 87.4 percent of the total waste was generated by hospitals.

Experts believe that the pandemic was a good opportunity to practice living properly, but it is not too late and this opportunity can be used.

If this view continues, we can hope to save the earth, otherwise, we will continue to see the extinction of plant and animal species, the accumulation of garbage, and various wastes in nature, which ultimately harms human health.

Some also believe that with the reduction of the infection, because countries have suffered economically, they will try to develop and compensate with more pressure on the environment.

The epidemic resulted in the production of 8.6 million tons of additional plastic waste, while 87.4 percent was generated by hospitals.

## Air quality, climate change research center opened

TEHRAN – An air quality and climate change research center was inaugurated at Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences in Tehran on Thursday.

Addressing the issue of air quality and climate change is a national and international issue and a global concern, which requires a comprehensive view, inter-organizational cooperation, as well as academic and international strategies, Alireza Zali, chancellor of Shahid Beheshti University said, Mehr reported.

Climate change and air quality have different aspects and are not limited to biological dimensions, but can include political, security, social and cultural issues, he explained.

He further considered this research center as an applied research center that its research and technological outputs are in line with the country's social needs and public health, to identify national issues and offer solutions.

According to him, climate change is not limited to the field of health and can be effective in creating security, economic and social shocks. It is predicted that in the coming years, a large volume of socio-economic, security, and geopolitical changes will result from climate change.



Climate change impact

Increasing consumption of fossil fuels by humans, especially after the Industrial Revolution, has led to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions and ultimately climate change, and now tackling this phenomenon has become one of the most important concerns worldwide.

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

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

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

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

Iran ranked 43rd among the 100 most vibrant clusters of science and technology (S&T) worldwide.

## Iran, Philippines to expand co-op on nanotechnology in agriculture

TEHRAN – Iran and the Philippines discussed enhanced cooperation on nanotechnology in the agricultural sector in a virtual scientific symposium held on November 18-19.

Agriculture Biotechnology Research Institute of Iran (ABRII) and the Philippine Council for Agriculture, Aquatic and Natural Resources Research and Development (PCAARRD) affiliated with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) organized the event.

The symposium aimed to study and exchange information on agricultural nanotechnology, explore the role of public and private sectors in the agricultural nanotechnology fields, assess and expand Iran-Philippines cooperation in agricultural nanotechnology, and provide a platform to introduce SMEs and knowledge-based companies in the said field to potential investors.

During the two-day event, 29 researchers in the field of agricultural nanotechnology from research centers



and universities in Iran and the Philippines presented the latest scientific achievements and findings in this field.

Nanotechnology development in Iran

Iran has been introduced as the 4th leading country in the world in the field of nanotechnology, publishing 11,546 scientific articles in 2020.

The country held a 6 percent share of the world's total nanotechnology articles, according to StatNano's monthly evaluation accomplished in WoS databases.

Iran ranked 43rd among the 100 most vibrant clusters of science and technology (S&T) worldwide for the third consecutive year, according to the Global Innovation Index (GII) 2020 report.

The country experienced a three-level improvement compared to 2019.

Sourena Sattari, vice president for science and technology, has said that Iran is playing the leading role in the region in the fields of fintech, ICT, stem cell, aerospace, and is unrivaled in artificial intelligence.

Iranian nanotechnology companies have increased sales by 100 percent over the Iranian calendar year 1398 (March 2019-March 2020), and it is predicted that their revenue will reach up to 80 trillion rials (nearly \$1.9 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials), Sattari announced.

Iran has created centers in six Asian countries for exporting nanotechnology products, including China, India, Indonesia, Syria, Turkey, and Iraq.

Nanotechnology's trend of development is growing in Iran, as the number of nanoproducts and equipment developed in the previous [Iranian calendar] year (March 20) increased to 750, compared with 647 a year before.

Some 223 product manufacturing companies and 59 equipment manufacturing companies are active in the field of nanotechnology and by the end of last year, which developed a total of 750 products and equipment.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

#### Iran finds herbal medicines effective in COVID-19 treatment

Two herbal drugs that are effective in healing the symptoms of COVID-19 have been permitted to be produced domestically.

The Food and Drug Administration has approved four domestically produced herbal medicine effective in the treatment of COVID-19 and has issued a production license for two of them.

Kianoush Jahanpour, the spokesman for the Food and Drug Administration, told IRNA on Monday that "none of these drugs are a cure for COVID-19, but they have effects to reduce the symptoms of this disease and should be further investigated."

The first herbal medicine in this collection is an oral spray containing six herbal essential oils, and according to the results of a clinical trial presented, if used, it helps to improve the pulmonary complications of coronavirus, including shortness of breath, cough, and arterial oxygenation, he explained.

The second drug is a syrup containing the extract of two herbs, which according to the clinical trial evidence provided if used, helps to improve the symptoms of fatigue and anorexia in patients with coronavirus, he noted.

#### تولید دو داروی گیاهی موثر در درمان کرونا در ایران

سازمان غذا و دارو ایران چهار فرآورده طبیعی تولید داخل با اجزای گیاهی برای بهبود علائم کووید ۱۹ را تایید کرده و مجوز تولید را برای دو مورد آنها صادر کرده است.

کیانوش جهانپور سخنگوی سازمان غذا و دارو روز دوشنبه در گفت و گو با ایرنا گفت: هیچکدام از این داروها داروی درمان کووید ۱۹ نیستند اما اثراتی برای بهبود علائم این بیماری داشته اند و باید مراحل بررسی بیشتر را طی کنند.

وی گفت: اولین داروی گیاهی از این مجموعه یک اسپری دهانی حاوی ۶ اسانس گیاهی است و با توجه به نتایج کارآزمایی بالینی ارائه شده در صورت مصرف به بهبود عوارض ربوی کووید ۱۹ شامل تنگی نفس، سرفه و اکسیژن رسانی شریانی کمک می کند.

داروی دوم یک شربت حاوی عصاره دو گیاه است که با توجه به مدارک کارآزمایی بالینی ارائه شده، در صورت مصرف به بهبود علائم خستگی و بی اشتها در بیماران مبتلا به کووید ۱۹ کمک می کند.

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON NOVEMBER 19

New cases	5,784
New deaths	100
Total cases	6,069,559
Total deaths	128,734
New hospitalized patients	893
Patients in critical condition	3,431
Total recovered patients	5,759,378
Diagnostic tests conducted	37,574,663
Doses of vaccine injected	101,140,118





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NOVEMBER 20, 2021

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

One who imagines himself to be all-knowing will surely suffer on account of his ignorance.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon: 11:50 Evening: 17:18 Dawn: 5:14 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:46 (tomorrow)

## What's in Tehran art galleries

### Painting

\* Paintings by Italian artist Gianni Fornaresio are currently on view in an exhibition at Vista Gallery.

The exhibition named "Goconde" will run until November 29 at the gallery located at No. 11, 12th Alley, Mir Emad St.



\* Ehsan Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Nilufar Shahidi, Hossein Khoshhal, Fatemeh Fayyazi, Kimia Salari, Sahel Marjani, Samira Abbasi, Farhad Nemati and several other artists.

Entitled "Emersion", the exhibit will run until November 24 at the gallery located at No. 22, East 14th St. in the Ajudanieh neighborhood.

\* Mina Sabzi is hanging her latest collection of paintings in an exhibition Sohrab Gallery.

The exhibit titled "Water, Wind, Earth and Fire" will run until November 29 at the gallery located at 142 Somayyeh St.



\* Negar Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Negin Ataieh.

The exhibition entitled "Doubt and the Earth" will be running until November 30 at the gallery located at 33 Delaram Alley, East Roshanai St. in the Qeitarieh neighborhood.

\* A collection of paintings by Maryam Mojtahedi-Moqaddam is currently on display in an exhibition at Hoom Gallery.

The exhibit will continue until December 3 at the gallery that can be found at No. 2, 4th Alley off Qaem-Maqam St.



\* Delgosha Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Ali Ansari.

The exhibit will run until December 17 at the gallery located at 30 Mohajer Alley, Iranshahr St., Karim Khan Ave.

\* An exhibition of paintings by Nahid Behbudian and Neda Ghayuri is currently underway at Mohsen Gallery.

The exhibit runs until December 5 at the gallery located at 42 East Mina Blvd., Naji St., off Zafar St.



### Photo

\* A collection of stills taken on the sets for director Masud Kimia'i's six movies, including "Reza, the Motorcyclist", "Dashakol" and "Baluch", is on view in an exhibition at Golestan Gallery.

Curators Sina Khazimeh and Mani Rezai have selected the stills taken by Amir Naderi, Jafar Akbari, Kiumars Derambakhsh, Farhad Farhadi and Esfandiar Monfaredzadeh.

Entitled "Poem of Kimia'i's Poems", the exhibition will be running until November 24 at the gallery that can be found at 34 Kamasai St. in the Darus neighborhood.

### Sculpture/painting

\* Sculptures and paintings by a large group of artists, including Behdad Najafi Asadollahi, Nilufar Qeisari, Maryam Samadi, Negar Salimian and Reza Barati, are on display in an exhibition at Naqsh-e Jahan Gallery.

The exhibit will be running until November 26 at the gallery located at 9 Ayatollah Mahmudi St. in the Niavaran neighborhood.



### Multimedia

\* Artworks in various media by Elmira Laki are being shown in an exhibition now underway at E1 Gallery.

The exhibit named "Hypoxia" will run until December 10 at the gallery located at 1 Hamid Dead End, off Lesani Alley, Jebbeh St., off Mahdieh St. in the Elahieh neighborhood.

## Dutch publisher Brill releases English book on Persian calligraphy, related arts

TEHRAN – An English translation of a book on Persian calligraphy and related arts was published on Thursday by Brill, a major Dutch publisher in Leiden.

Written by the celebrated Iranian calligrapher Hamidreza Qelichkhani, "A Handbook of Persian Calligraphy and Related Arts" was rendered by Rebecca Stengel.

The book has been edited by Shervin Farridnejad, a calligrapher, illuminator and scholar of ancient and classical Iranian studies at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna.

Persian calligraphy and related traditional arts of books make up the most important forms of Iranian-Islamic art, which are still living, practiced traditions up to today.

This volume puts together a first-of-a-kind handbook and contains the most important technical terminology as well as expressions and techniques connected to the traditional art of Persian calligraphy (mostly nastaliq), calligraphy tools

such as the reed pen, paper and ink as well as some related fields, like tazhib (illumination), tas'ir (historiated painting), bookbinding, etc.

The content is based on thirty prominent classical Persian treatises, composed between twelfth and twentieth centuries.

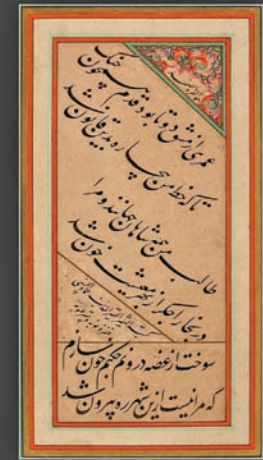
All terms and expressions are followed by an English description and often accompanied by an illustration. These expressions, which are keys to understanding old calligraphic treatises and many relevant sources on Islamic art, are meant to familiarize the reader with both common and forgotten techniques and terminology of calligraphic traditions.

The volume addresses not only the artists and scholars of Iranian and Islamic art history, but also those who deal with Islamic and Iranian manuscripts, manuscript cultures, codicology and paleography.

Both the author and the editor of this volume are trained practicing

# HdO

## A Handbook of Persian Calligraphy and Related Arts



By Hamid Reza Ghelichkhani  
Edited, Revised and Extended by Shervin Farridnejad

Front cover of "A Handbook of Persian Calligraphy and Related Arts" written by Hamidreza Qelichkhani.

calligraphers and illuminators, who learned the art of calligraphy and illumination through long, traditional courses of study under masters of this art.

Qelichkhani has published several books including "Zar-Afshan: A Dictionary of Terms Relating to Calligraphy, Ornamentation, and the Making of Manuscripts as Found in Classical

Persian Poetry".

"A Handbook of Persian Calligraphy and Related Arts" is Volume 109 in the series "Handbook of Oriental Studies. Section 1: The Near and Middle East" published by Brill.

Founded in 1683, Brill is a publishing house with offices in Boston, Paderborn, Singapore and Beijing.

## Iran's Alireza Pakdel picked for KalDer Bursa cartoon contest jury

TEHRAN – Celebrated Iranian cartoonist Alireza Pakdel has been selected for the jury of the 8th KalDer Bursa International Cartoon Contest in Turkey.

Pakdel and Bulgarian cartoonist Alla Georgieva will join the jury composed of Ahmet Aykanat, Mehmet Kahraman, Mehmet Zeber, Halit Kurtulmus, Olga Guler, Emin Direkci, Kutlu Sahin, Aykan Kurkur and Arzu Ozel, all from Turkey, to select the winners, which will be announced on February 7, 2022.

Pakdel was also a member of the jury at the 2nd International Organ Donation Cartoon Competition organized by the Turkish Transplant Foundation and the Faculty of Art, Design and Architecture and Department of Visual Communication Design at the Istanbul Medeniyet University.

He has won awards at several international prestigious competitions, including the award of success from the 31st Aydin Dogan cartoon festival in Turkey in 2014 and the Grand Prix of 43 Salão Internacional de Humor de Piracicaba in Brazil in 2016.

In 2017, the World Press Cartoon in Portugal also gave its grand prize and first prize to Pakdel. In addition, the 36th International Nasreddin



Cartoonist Alireza Pakdel in an undated photo.

Hodja Cartoon in Turkey awarded him its special prize in 2016.

The Satyrykon Legnica in Poland also honored him with its special prize in 2020.

The KalDer Bursa International Cartoon Contest topic is "Together We Are Strong Together We Succeed" and will be held in the Adult Category for 17 and above, and the Young Category for 16 and below.

"What needs to be done? Just saving the day or walking hand in hand towards the future? The responsibility of the risks the World face, concerns not only governments but also private sector

organizations, non-governmental organizations and academies. Society is not indifferent to it, too," the organizers said in a statement.

"It's obvious that nothing is like before. The pandemic affected the whole world in terms of economy as well. When we take a look at the circle of life, we see the signs of the fact that climate change will cause both economic and social problems in the near future. The business world that aims for long-term objectives is uncertain about next year's targets. The business world tries to preserve savings, which built up over the years and to save the day at the same time."

The statement also added, "Finding common purpose, joint principles and mutual understandings is the key to break this life cycle. Not only to save the day but also to walk hand in hand to the future, we organize this contest within the scope of 'Together We Are Strong Together We Succeed'."

The cartoon contest will be organized in collaboration with the KalDer Bursa Branch Office and Anadolu Karikatürçüler Derneği (Anatolian Caricaturists Society) along with the 19th Quality and Success Symposium, which will take place in Bursa on May 26, 2022.

## Nahid Zamani, Mahshid Hashemi win awards at cartoon contest on violence against women

TEHRAN – Iranian cartoonists Nahid Zamani and Mahshid Hashemi have been honored at the Take a Step against Violence toward Women International Cartoon Competition in Turkey.

Zamani won third prize for her diptych featuring two farmers who receive medals in the upper part. The lower part shows the male farmers standing idly by with the medals on their chests while some women are working hard on the farm.

Hashemi received a special jury prize for her cartoon depicting the icons of a man and woman and an equal sign designed in the shape of weapons targeting the woman.



This work by Iranian cartoonist Nahid Zamani won third prize at the Take a Step against Violence toward Women International Cartoon Competition in Turkey.

The winners of the cartoon competition organized by the Kutahya Dumlupinar University Faculty of Fine Arts and the Governorship of Kutahya, a city in western Turkey, were announced last Monday.

First prize was given to Oleksiy Kustovsky from Ukraine and Nikola Listes from Croatia won second prize.

Another work by Listes was also awarded a special jury prize. The jury honored Italian cartoonist Marco De Angelis with a special prize as well.

The award ceremony and an exhibition will be organized on November 25 to mark the International Day for the Elimination

of Violence against Women.

Iranian cartoonist Farzaneh Vaziritaba was a member of the jury, which also had Dogan Arslan and Menekse Cam from Turkey, Galy Boranbayev from Kazakhstan, Doaa El Adl from Egypt, Mihai Ignat from Romania, Anita Kunz from Canada, Mojmir Mihatov from Croatia, Marilena Nardi from Italy, Elena Ospina from Colombia and Zygmunt Zaradkiewicz from Poland.

"Watching the cartoon exhibitions and even using them as educational material will increase the sustainability and impact value of the cartoons that will appear after the competition," said the organizers earlier.

## Iran: Myths and legends

### Part 9

The Good Creation will return to a condition nearer the ideal state; people will live more harmoniously, and part of the evil creation, the wolf species, will disappear.

But although the end of evil is approaching, in its death throes it will again hurl its forces against the divine creation. Some texts say enemies of Iran will attack and suppress the good religion, but this is probably a historicizing of the prophecy, for others say that a terrible winter, the winter of Malkus, will afflict the world and destroy much of mankind.

But good will again triumph, for the world will be repopled from Yima's Vara, and on this repopulated

earth disease will not prove fatal, death will only happen through old age or murder; so Evil's greatest weapon, death, will begin to lose its power.

Then the second savior, Oshedarmah, will be born, at whose arrival the sun will stand still at the noonday position for twenty days, not just ten as before, and creation will flourish for six years, not just three. More evil creatures such as the snake will disappear.

The ideal state of the original creation will begin to return, so people will cease eating meat and consume only vegetables and water. But there will again be an evil onslaught, as Azhi Dahaka escapes from his mountain prison, perpetrating sin, devouring one third of humanity and animals, and smiting the sacred

elements of fire, water, and vegetation.

But the hero Keresasp will be resurrected, and he will rid the world of this evil force, so that again good will be in the ascendancy before the birth of the third and final saoshyant—once more from the prophet's seed preserved in a lake.

With the birth of the saoshyant, more of the paradisaic state will return: disease, death, and persecution will disappear; vegetation will flourish perpetually, and people will eat only spiritual food. He will raise the dead from where they died; everyone will proceed to their final judgment, this time in the body.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica  
To be continued