

Run-off parliamentary elections held in eight provinces 2

Persepolis on the verge of transfer ban 3

'World's biggest' pictorial carpet pops up in Tehran 6

Persian Gulf water transfer project to start within month 7

Army fires coast-to-sea cruise missile

Analysis: Iran flexes military muscles as tensions simmer in the region

See page 3



© Mehr / Mohammad Reza Abbasi

Projects worth over \$3.5b inaugurated in free zones

TEHRAN – Iranian President Hassan Rouhani inaugurated 58 development projects with a total investment of about 150 trillion rials (over \$3.5 billion) in the country's free trade zones and special economic zones through video conference on Thursday, IRNA reported.

As reported, 12 of the mentioned projects were inaugurated in Aras Free Zone in the northwest of the country, 11 were in

Kish Free Zone in the south, 14 in Qeshm Free Zone, and the other 21 were put into operation in the special economic zones including Payam, Sarakhs, Shiraz, Kaveh and Yazd Zones.

It is expected that with the inauguration of these projects in which 48 trillion rials, plus €438 million and \$4.4 million has been invested, 4,400 direct jobs will be created. →4

Iran advises Arab League to counter main source of threat in the region

TEHRAN – Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Thursday that the Arab League should focus on countering the main source of threat in the region instead of issuing "heinous" and "hollow" statements.

His comments came as response to a statement issued by Arab League foreign ministers on Wednesday in which it was claimed that Iran is meddling in Arab countries' affairs.

Khatibzadeh said issuing such

statement is continuation of moving on the path of spreading Iranophobia and legitimizing the Zionist regime of Israel.

"Unfounded accusations [in the statement] come from viewpoint of countries which have made strategic mistake of establishing relations with the Zionist regime and are now trying hastily to divert attention from the main source of threat," he pointed out. →2

Iran launches intl. poetry award on Imam Hussein (AS)

TEHRAN – The Iran Cultural Center in Pretoria and the Islamic Center of Johannesburg have jointly launched an international poetry award to honor two poems composed in Persian and English on Imam Hussein and his uprising.

Each work will receive the International

Grand Poetry Award worth €10,000, Islamic Center of Johannesburg director Seyyed Abdollah Hosseini announced on Thursday.

"Due to the fact that the award will also be for poetry in the English language, the headquarters of the award is located in South Africa," he said. →8

ARTICLE
Beth Bechdol
FAO deputy director-general

A journey across the global South, sharing and exchanging sustainable development solutions

Have you ever wondered how key development solutions between and among countries of the Global South are conceived, exchanged and shared? The answer is: South-South cooperation.

From providing know-how and practical technologies suitable for local conditions, to tackling issues of food insecurity, poverty and sustainable agriculture through innovative solutions, the important impact of South-South cooperation is gradually making itself felt.

Despite the progress made in recent years, developing countries still face a wide range of challenges and experiences that span areas such as economic growth, environmental and social conditions, which are often multifaceted and difficult to overcome. The positive news is that many of these answers could be found within the Global South.

In recent years, South-South and its close ally, Triangular Cooperation (TrC), have gained momentum in the development dialogue, having been acknowledged as important mechanism in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Imagine a perfect triangle, with two or more countries of the global South being the two extremes and its last, third vertex – typically a multilateral institution or a resource partner – perfectly closing the polygon, by providing support through South-South cooperation by the provision of financial, human, technical and in-kind resources.

To give some examples ... in recent years, Northern partners have been implementing TrC projects, including through trust fund arrangements. For instance, a TrC project of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) on sustainable rice value chain development was launched in 2014. →7

E3 rejects U.S. attempt to trigger snapback sanctions against Iran

TEHRAN – The European troika (the United Kingdom, Germany and France) has rejected the United States' attempt to trigger snapback mechanism and restore all the UN sanctions against Iran.

The German Foreign Ministry said in a tweet on Thursday that the European countries remain committed to preserving the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the JCPOA, "but Iran urgently needs to return to full compliance."

The tweet came following a meeting of German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas with his UK and French counterparts, Dominic Raab and Jean-Yves Le Drian. Foreign Secretary Raab hosted the meeting.

According to the German Foreign Ministry, the three top diplomats met to coordinate joint steps for preserving the JCPOA. EU High Representative/Vice-President Josep Borrell also took part in the talks via a video linkup,

according to TASS. Nearly a week after the UN Security Council rejected a U.S. draft resolution to extend arms embargo against Iran in violation of Resolution 2231, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced on August 20 that all UN sanctions against Iran will be reinstated on September 20 after the U.S. "activated the snapback mechanism".

However, the move was strongly denounced by other signatories of the nuclear deal including Iran, E3/EU, Russia, China, and non-permanent members of the UN Security Council.

The U.S., which was left isolated at the UN Security Council when it said it wished to reimpose snapback sanctions, called the E3 position as crackers and pandering to terrorists.

The European nations argue that the U.S. was no longer a participant in the deal and so unable to act unilaterally.

U.S. protests: Portland protesters describe being swept up at night by federal agents

The protest outside Portland's federal courthouse had died down by 3:40 a.m. on July 29, when a green laser shined down from a seventh-floor balcony used as a lookout by federal agents.

The laser landed on John Hacker, an activist and citizen-journalist standing in a park about 170 feet away. It skittered across Hacker's feet, head and torso for more than 45 seconds. Suddenly, an unmarked van pulled in front of him. Doors slid open. Heavily armed men in camouflage tactical gear surrounded Hacker and took him into custody. Washington Post reported.

Hacker, 36, is among nearly two dozen people arrested but not charged during the Trump administration's five-week response, from July through early August, to the demonstrations against police brutality in Portland. Before letting Hacker go, federal

agents collected a DNA swab, photographed him and confiscated a phone that has not been returned, he said.

The Washington Post conducted an in-depth examination of four instances when unsuspecting people were scooped up from the city's streets by federal agents in the middle of the night, based on information that turned out to be inaccurate or insufficient to charge them with a crime. The cases bring to light the tactics employed by border agents and immigration officers deployed to Portland for an operation President Trump has touted as a success.

Operation Diligent Valor has become a prominent issue in the presidential campaign. Trump has said his law-and-order approach is necessary to stop vandalism and property damage during protests in Portland and elsewhere. Activists and some Democrats have portrayed it as an unnecessary escalation.

Iran emerging as regional electricity hub by synchronizing grid with neighbors

By Ebrahim Fallahi

As one of the major players in the West Asia's energy market, Iran is now emerging as a major electricity hub in the region as the country is following a comprehensive plan for synchronizing its power grid with the neighboring countries.

Iraq was the first neighbor whose national electricity network was synchronized with the Islamic Republic's power grid back in November 2019, and now the Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian has announced that the electricity

networks of Russia and Azerbaijan are the next in line for becoming linked with the Iranian grid in the coming months.

"Within the next few months, the study project of synchronization of the electricity networks of Iran, Azerbaijan, and Russia will be completed and then the executive operations will begin," Ardakanian told IRNA on Friday.

According to the minister, there are two possible routes for the synchronization of Iran and Russia's power grids, one of which is through

Armenia and Georgia and the other is through Azerbaijan.

"We will welcome any of these two paths which becomes available sooner," the official said.

However, it seems that the route through Azerbaijan is currently more plausible and Iran is more inclined toward this country, since in a meeting with Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev back in February 2019, Ardakanian had announced that the two countries electricity networks will become synchronized. →4

9/11 ended the American dream, says Lebanon's Talal Atrissi

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – Head of the Center for Political Studies at the University of Lebanon says the American dream promoted by its cinema has come to an end and "we are facing a country that hires soldiers to fight, occupy and kill."

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, Dr. Talal Atrissi says that the American dream has become an "ugly image" for the nations around the globe.

"There is no longer what we call the American dream," adds Atrissi.

Following is the text of the interview:

■ Who are the main beneficiaries of the September 11 attacks?

A: The September 11 attacks helped neoconservatives in the U.S. advance their project of changing the Middle East (West Asia) under the pretext of "war against terror."

After 9/11, Washington was involved in regional wars, and its policy turned into a direct military offensive policy.

It occupied Afghanistan and then occupied Iraq, and demanded Syria close Palestinian organizations' offices, and encouraged Israel to launch the 2006 war on Lebanon.

So, after the September 11 attacks, American foreign policy turned into a direct occupation policy in order to implement the vision and project of the neoconservatives in the world.

■ What are the repercussions of the wars that the U.S. launched against Afghanistan and Iraq after 9/11? →5



© IRNA / Davood Ghahrdar

Tehraners protest French magazine for resurfaced insult toward Muslims

TEHRAN – People of all walks of life gathered in Tehran's Imam Hussein Square on Thursday to protest the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo's reprinting of insulting cartoons of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) as well as desecration of the Quran in Sweden.

The protesters denounced the provocative moves as part of a global Islamophobic agenda pursued by the U.S. and the global Zionist lobby, Press TV reported.

The rally was held with strict observance of health precautions to prevent the spread of the coronavirus, with sanitizers and face masks being distributed among the participants. →3

Run-off parliamentary elections held in eight provinces

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Voters in eight provinces cast ballot for the second round of parliamentary elections.

The voting started at 8:00 am (local time) in 3,100 polling places located in 23 counties and 10 constituencies in provinces of Alborz, Kermanshah, Isfahan, Golestan, Khuzestan, Kurdistan, Ilam, and Zanjan.

As part of measures to contain further spread of the novel coronavirus in the country, all voters and the people involved in the elections were obliged to wear face masks and hand gloves and refrain from any gathering outside the polling stations, Press TV reported.

Parliamentary elections were held on February 21, 2020. Over 24 million people took part in the polls with



the overall turnout of more than 42 percent.

In the February polls 279 candidates found seats in the 290-member legislature. The second round to elect the 11 remaining seats was expected to be held in April, but was postponed until September due to the coronavirus pandemic.

In the Friday votes, only 10 seats were up for grabs, as one of the candidates in the Miyaneh constituency in East Azarbaijan province was disqualified.

Now the fate of the Miyaneh constituency, along with that of four other seats – whose occupiers have either

died of coronavirus or been disqualified after winning the February votes – will be decided simultaneously in the presidential and council elections in mid-June 2021.

Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli said the Friday run-off elections held amid the pandemic will be analyzed so that the country would be prepared to hold the next year's presidential elections in a glorious way.

"If the coronavirus pandemic lingers on, we will have to consider special conditions, reservations, and requirements for the 2021 presidential elections," Rahmani Fazli told reporters.

Iran calls Microsoft's claims about cyberattacks 'farcical'

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has rejected claims by Microsoft about Iran's cyberattacks around the United States' presidential elections, calling them "farcical".

"It has been for decades that the United States has interfered in elections in other countries, including Iran, and it is not in the position to make such farcical

claims," he said in a statement published on Friday.

He noted, "As we have said before, Iran is not concerned about who will take presidency in the White House."

"What is important is Washington's commitment to international law, regulation and norms and also non-interference in other countries' affairs," he added.

Tom Burt, Microsoft's vice president

of customer security and trust, claimed in a blog post published Thursday that hackers working for Russia, China and Iran have recently escalated their attacks around the U.S. presidential race as Election Day looms, NBC News reported.

"In recent weeks, Microsoft has detected cyberattacks targeting people and organizations involved in the upcoming Presidential election," Burt wrote.

Iran advises Arab League to counter main source of threat in the region

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Pointing to the three Iranian islands of Abu Musa, Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb, he said that Iran's actions are within the framework of the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, noting that Iran condemns any interference in this respect.

Elsewhere, Khatibzadeh also said the countries which betrayed the Palestinian cause by normalizing ties with Israel has no right to question Iran's support for the resistance front.

Without caring about the injustices against the fellow Palestinians, the United Arab Emirates has taken steps to fully normalize ties with Israel.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, has asserted that the UAE has betrayed the Islamic world by deciding to establish ties with the Zionist regime of Israel.

"The United Arab Emirates betrayed the world of Islam, the Arab nations and the regional countries, and also Palestine," the

Leader said on September 1.

"The Emiratis will be disgraced forever for this treachery," the Leader remarked.

"Of course," Ayatollah Khamenei predicted, "this situation will not last long, and the stain of shame will remain on the face of those who forgot the occupation of this country (Palestine) and the displacement of the Palestinian nation and allowed the Zionists into the region."

He also said, "We hope the Emiratis will wake up soon and make up for this action."

Iran's Foreign Ministry has called the action a "strategic stupidity".

All Palestinian factions have censured the peace deal as a stab in the back of the oppressed nation. The agreement has also drawn angry reactions from Muslim countries and other supporters of the Palestinian cause against the Israeli occupation.

Iran slams Canadian suits over downed Ukrainian plane as politically-motivated

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Tehran has reacted to reports of Canadian lawsuits delivered to Iran over the accidental shooting down of a Ukrainian passenger plane by the Iranian military in January.

In a statement on Thursday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said Iran learned about the reports in media, emphasizing that the Foreign Ministry has not received any complaint nor will it receive one.

"Regardless of whether or not the story is true, any individual familiar with the basics of international law knows that a Canadian court is not competent to act with regards to an incident which was outside its juris-

diction," Khatibzadeh said, according to the Foreign Ministry website.

The National Post reported on Tuesday that the Canadian federal government has confirmed to lawyers that it delivered two class-action lawsuits to Iran's Foreign Ministry, clearing a roadblock for the civil suits to move ahead in Canadian courts.

"I'm delighted that Global Affairs Canada, after having this claim in their possession for eight months, has finally figured out a way to serve it on Iran," said Mark Arnold, the lawyer spearheading one of the suits.

The Canadian lawyer also said he has sent copies of the suits to various Iranian officials including the Iranian Supreme Leader Ali Khamenei and senior officers of the Islamic

Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

According to Khatibzadeh, the case is being simultaneously followed up on two fronts seriously and carefully: talks with the Ukrainian government and judicial proceedings inside Iran.

"As for the Ukrainian government, this issue (the plane crash) has been discussed within the framework of international conventions and accords accepted by Iran, and a Ukrainian delegation will soon come to Iran to move forward with the talks," he explained.

He added that the case is being reviewed by a competent court inside Iran as well, and any real person or legal entity can refer to that court if they have any complaints.

Second Announcement



ONE STAGE TENDER INTERNATIONAL CALL

FOR PURCHASE OF 2000 MT ALUMINUM FLORIDE (ALF3)

TENDER No.: J/33

DATE: 09th /September/2020

1.Subject.: Iran Alumina Company (IAC) intends to purchase high quality Aluminum Floride (AlF3) in amount of 2000 MT for using in its Primary Aluminum Reduction Smelter Plant through one stage Tender according to following conditions as mentioned in the relevant Tender documents .:

2. Bid Bond Guarantee: 67,770 Euro/or 18,040,350.000 Rials

3.Tender proposal.: Since the tendering is to be done in one stage ,thus the eligible Bidders should follow and regard the Tender instructions and present and submit all of required justified documents and the mentioned Tender envelopes in one package together.

4.Closing Date.: The eligible Bidders should submit their Bids/proposal to the central administration office as mentioned below and also in the Tender documents before 16:00 pm ,local time , on the day 13th oct ,2020 .

5. Opening Date.: 20th oct , 2020 on 11:00 AM.

6. Contact information.: For more details and receiving the relevant Tender documents , the Bidders can refer to the following contact information.

Add.: Km 7 of Sankhast Road, city of Jajarm, Northern Khorasan Province, IRAN, P. O. Box:1135-94415 legal and contractual Affairs .

Tel .: 0098-58-32605348 - 0098-21-86073184

Fax.: 0098-58-32272487 - 0098-21-88833748

website: www.iranalumina.ir E-mail.: aluminumjajarm@gmail.com

IRAN ALUMINA CO en.iranalumina.ir

Second Announcement



ONE STAGE TENDER INTERNATIONAL CALL

FOR PURCHASE OF 20000 MT BAKED ANODE BLOCK

TENDER No.: J/34

DATE: 09th /September/2020

1.Subject.: Iran Alumina Company (IAC) intends to purchase high quality Baked Anode Block, in amount of 20000 MT for using in its Primary Aluminum Reduction Smelter Plant through one stage Tender according to following conditions as mentioned in the relevant Tender documents .:

2. Bid Bond Guarantee: 145.646 Euro/or 38.771.200.000 Rials

3.Tender proposal.: Since the tendering is to be done in one stage ,thus the eligible Bidders should follow and regard the Tender instructions and present and submit all of required justified documents and the mentioned Tender envelopes in one package together.

4.Closing Date.: The eligible Bidders should submit their Bids/proposal to the central administration office as mentioned below and also in the Tender documents before 16:00 pm ,local time , on the day 13th oct ,2020 .

5. Opening Date.: 20th oct , 2020 on 12:00 AM.

6. Contact information.: For more details and receiving the relevant Tender documents , the Bidders can refer to the following contact information.

Add.: Km 7 of Sankhast Road, city of Jajarm, Northern Khorasan Province, IRAN, P. O. Box:1135-94415 legal and contractual Affairs .

Tel .: 0098-58-32605348 - 0098-21-86073184

Fax.: 0098-58-32272487 - 0098-21-88833748

website: www.iranalumina.ir E-mail.: aluminumjajarm@gmail.com

IRAN ALUMINA CO en.iranalumina.ir

Iranian Defense Ministry calls on London to pay debt

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Iran's Defense Ministry has called on London to pay its debt to Tehran in order to assuage the discontent felt by the Iranian government and people toward Britain.

In a statement on Thursday, the ministry pointed to recent remarks by British Defense Secretary Ben Wallace who conceded Britain's debt. "There's no doubt that the UK is indebted to Iran," the statement read.

"The Defense Ministry is firmly and seriously seeking to secure the rights of the Iranian nation," it added.

Wallace has acknowledged for the first time that he is actively seeking to pay a debt to the Iranian government owed over a decades-old arms deal to secure the release of British dual nationals including Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe.

He assured lawyers acting for the families that the government was exploring every legal avenue to pay the debt, which for the first time he formally acknowledged the government owes, The Guardian reported last week.

The UK is thought to owe as much as £400m to the Iranian government arising from the non-delivery of Chieftain tanks ordered



by the late Iranian Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi before the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

International arbitration in 2008 ruled the UK owed the debt, but in subsequent

protracted court battles, lawyers acting for International Military Services, the Ministry of Defense's now-defunct arms sales agency, have questioned not only the debt's size but

at times whether any debt was payable.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said last week that Britain's debt to Iran has no connection to the case of Zaghari-Ratcliffe, a dual British-Iranian national who is jailed in Iran, and other dual nationals imprisoned in the country.

"The British government has a definite 40-year long debt to Iran and it doesn't matter whether a British official acknowledges this debt or not," Khatibzadeh said.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran, through different communication lines and in all talks that it has had with the British side, has emphasized that this definite debt must be paid by the British government and this issue is not related to any other issue," he said.

Zaghari-Ratcliffe, 41, has been detained in Iran for more than four years on charges of trying to orchestrate a soft overthrow of the Islamic Republic.

The prosecutor general of Tehran had stated in October 2017 that she was being held for running "a BBC Persian online journalism course which was aimed at recruiting and training people to spread propaganda against Iran."

Zarif: Iran rejects nukes for religious, strategic reasons

E3 should reject U.S. economic terrorism against Iran, says foreign minister

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif says Iran rejects nuclear weapons for religious and strategic reasons, calling on the three European parties to the 2015 nuclear pact to reject the U.S. economic terrorism against Iran.

"Iran rejects nuclear weapons for religious & strategic reasons—far weightier than any 'deal,'" Zarif wrote in a tweet on Thursday.

"But if E3/EU want full implementation of CBMs & enhanced transparency that JCPOA provides, they should reject US #EconomicTerrorism just as they've rejected its vandalism in the #UNSC," he added.

In May 2018, U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew his country from the Iran nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and intro-

duced the "toughest ever sanctions" on Iran.

Meanwhile, Washington has accused Tehran of violating the JCPOA and attempted last month to reimpose the UN sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

The U.S. move to trigger what is known as the "snapback" mechanism came a week after its efforts to extend the UN arms embargo on Tehran failed miserably. Only the Dominican Republic joined Washington in voting yes.

The United States argues that it can trigger the sanctions

"He (Trump) thinks cold war is good for business while hot war is not."

snapback process because the 2015 Security Council resolution still names it as a nuclear deal participant.

However, in a joint letter to the Security Council hours after the U.S. submitted its complaint, Britain, Germany and France said: "Any decisions and actions which would be taken based on this procedure or on its possible outcome would also be devoid of any legal effect."

In another tweet on Thursday, Zarif said the U.S. president thinks cold war is good for business while hot war is not.

"While @realDonaldTrump admits the US thirst for war to fill the coffers of 'those wonderful companies', he's been busy flogging their 'beautiful military equipment' to our region," Zarif wrote.

"We get it. He thinks cold war is good for business while hot war is not," Zarif said, adding, "War is bad, period."

Iranian Army fires coast-to-sea cruise missile

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — The Iranian Army has successfully fired an anti-ship coast-to-sea cruise missile, dubbed "Qader", at a mock enemy vessel over 200 kilometers from the coast.

It came during a three-day war game underway in southern Iranian waters.

The Army on Thursday and Friday held the first and second days of the large-scale military exercise, which included testing drones and firing cruise missiles.

The war game, dubbed Zolfaghar-99, kicked off under the command of the Army's Zolfaghar base. It has been attended by the Ground Force, Navy, Air Force, and Air Defense.

The exercise covers an area of two million square kilometers in the eastern waters of the Strait of Hormuz, Makran coast, the Sea of Oman and North India Ocean up to 10 degrees north.

On Thursday, F-27 and P3F aircraft as

well as reconnaissance drones conducted naval patrols to monitor the drills.

Iran's F-4 fighter-bombers conducted long-range flights from their bases to attend the war game. They destroyed surface targets using optimized precision strike missiles. The F-4 Phantoms stroke at mobile targets at sea and bombed their designated targets on the coast.

Navy commandos and marines carried out a complex operation on the Makran coast, making use of vessels, aircraft and amphibious personnel carriers backed up by bombers.

The coastline was also heavily bombed by fighter jets, destroyers and missile-launching boats.

Anti-ship cruise missile, dubbed "Nasr", was fired from Iran's Najm missile boat to hit designated target.

Another anti-ship cruise missile, dubbed "Nasr", was fired from Iran's Najm missile boat to hit designated target in the southern waters of Iran.

The Army's first combat drone, named "Kaman-12", also conducted surveillance operations during the joint military exercise.

Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari, who is the commander of the Zolfaghar-99 exercise, said on Wednesday that the drills will showcase the Army's power and preparedness to counter any threat by the enemy.

Sayyari warned Iran's enemies that any strategic mistake would lead to a strong response by Iran that won't be limited to West Asia.

"Boosting preparedness and operational power of the Navy, Air Defense and Ground Force during the joint drills and countering any trans-regional threat through exercising operational plans and making sure of their capabilities in decisively countering any possible aggression are among the goals of the drills," he added.

The Army forces will practice offense and defense tactics in the drill, Sayyari said. The commander said the purpose of the exercise is to ensure the security of regional waters and international shipping routes.

Security in West Asia and its vital and strategic waterways should be established through the cooperation of all regional countries and prevention of foreign presence in regional waters, he remarked.

Iran regularly conducts drills to maintain defensive readiness and to incorporate technologically new weapons systems.

Analysis: Iran flexes military muscles as tensions simmer in the region

POLITICAL **TEHRAN** — As Iran's army holds large-scale military exercises in the country's southern waters, a defense expert tells the Tehran Times that the exercises are meant to send many messages to countries in the region and beyond.

On Thursday, the Iranian army began a three-day military exercise in the Sea of Oman and parts of the Indian Ocean. The exercises, codenamed "Zolfaghar-99", are taking place in an area spanning 2 million square kilometers.

Units from the Ground Force, Navy, Air Force, and Air Defense participated in the exercises, which is being held under the command of the Army's Zolfaghar base. New weapons and equipment such as cruise missiles and combat drones have been unveiled or tested during the war games. The new, domestically-manufactured Simorgh drone has hit targets in faraway waters using smart and precision-guided bombs for the first time during an exercise. Simorgh is a long-range operational drone, which can conduct various missions around the clock. Kaman-12 is another Iranian-made drone that was operationalized during the drills. The drone successfully conducted surveillance missions during the exercises. The army also fired surface-to-surface and coast-to-sea missiles.

Deputy Chief of the Army for Coordination Affairs Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari has said that the exercises were aimed to "boost preparedness and operational power of the Navy, Air Defense and Ground Force."

In a clear warning to Iran's enemies, the top general cautioned that any strategic mistake would lead to a strong response by

Iran that won't be limited to West Asia.

"Boosting preparedness and operational power of the Navy, Air Defense and Ground Force during the joint drills and countering any trans-regional threat through exercising operational plans and making sure of their capabilities in decisively countering any possible aggression are among the goals of the drills," he added.

Military drills always have a main message: showing the preparedness of the armed forces and boosting deterrence, according to Mehdi Bakhtiari, a defense expert. The exercises also sent a message of preparedness and deterrence, said Bakhtiari, underlining the unveiling of the new weapons during the exercises.

The exercises were held against a backdrop of heightened tensions in the region. During the drills, the Army has warned the U.S. to stay out of the exercises' battlefield. Rear Admiral Shahram Irani, the spokesman for the exercises, announced on Thursday that the forces have identified increased activities of American drones to gather information on the exercises area.

"These activities were detected by the army's signal detection systems, and the drones were warned by the air defense," the spokesman said.

Moreover, the region has witnessed an escalation of tensions over the UAE's reckless decision to normalize relations with Israel, a move strongly denounced by Iran as a "betrayal" to the Palestinian cause. Iran also warned the UAE against giving Israel a foothold on its doorstep. The UAE-Israel normalization deal, which was brokered by the U.S., was widely seen as a prelude to protecting the UAE through establishing

a coalition against Iran.

However, Bakhtiari said that Iran and the regional countries can join forces to maintain security without the help of countries outside the region.

"The army's exercises have many messages to countries in the region and beyond. The message to the friends and neighboring countries is that Iran is an important and influential country and it is not a threat. Therefore, the security of the region should be maintained by the region's countries," Bakhtiari told the Tehran Times. "The message to countries outside the region is that Iran is a strong country and able to defend itself."

The army's exercises come at a time when the U.S. is seeking to restore all UN sanctions on Iran through a contested mechanism built into the 2015 nuclear deal to allow participants to the deal to snap back the international sanctions in case Iran didn't uphold its obligations under the deal. On August 20, Mike Pompeo traveled to New York to notify the UN Security Council of Iran's "significant non-performance" of the nuclear deal as defined in UN Security Council Resolution 2231. All JCPOA participants, along with 13 members of the 15-member UN Security Council, rejected the U.S. notification. They said that the U.S. had no legal authority to initiate the snapback process because it lost the right to do so by withdrawing from the JCPOA in May 2018.

Responding to a question on whether the Army's exercises send political messages given the current simmering tensions between Iran and the U.S., Bakhtiari said that the drills are routinely held in Iran, but under certain circumstances, they could send political messages.

Tehraners protest French magazine for resurfaced insult toward Muslims

1 → Charlie Hebdo on September 2 republished the same cartoons about Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) that prompted a deadly attack on the magazine in 2015.

The cartoons were republished so as to mark the start of the terrorism trial of people accused as accomplices in the attack. The magazine posted the cartoons online

on September 1 and they appeared in print the next day.

13 men and a woman accused of providing the attackers with weapons and logistics went on trial on charges of terrorism.

Twelve people, including some of France's most famous cartoonists, were killed on January 7, 2015, when two French-born brothers

of Algerian descent, Said and Cherif Kouachi, went on a gun rampage at Charlie Hebdo's offices in Paris.

The international Muslim community is also raging against another move by right-wing extremists to set fire to a copy of the holy Quran in the southern Swedish city of Malmo late last month.

Some 300 protesters flocked to the streets in Sweden's third largest city of Malmo on August 28 to denounce the act of anti-Muslim bigotry.

On the same day, three men had also started playfully kicking a copy of the holy Muslim book between them in a public square in Malmo.

SPORTS

Persepolis on the verge of transfer ban

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Iranian football club Persepolis are on the verge of being banned from transfers for the next three windows.

The payment of Branko Ivankovic is not yet fully settled and FIFA will hand Persepolis three windows ban for breaching the contract.

Persepolis in a letter to Ivankovic have demanded more time to fulfil their financial commitment but the Croat has rejected the request.

Ivankovic inspired the Reds win seven titles and is the most coveted coach in the Iranian club.

Persepolis will have to participate in the AFC Champions League groups stage next week and FIFA will most likely ban the team ahead of the competition and it can be a big blow to the team.

The 2018 runners-up face Saudi Arabia's Al Taawoun in Group C on Tuesday and need a win after having lost 2-0 to Qatar's Al Duhail and drawn 2-2 with UAE's Sharjah before the competition was halted due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

UAE's Al Wahda withdraw from 2020 ACL

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Emirati football team Al Wahda have informed the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) that they are unable to travel to Qatar to compete in the AFC Champions League (West Zone).

Al Wahda, who currently occupy second place in Group A, cannot travel to Doha after several members of the club tested positive for COVID-19.

The AFC has written to the United Arab Emirates Football Association (UAE FA) to inform them that the request by the UAE FA and the club for a postponement of the Group matches cannot be accommodated because of the advanced preparations in which many teams have already traveled to Qatar for the competition.

The matter will now be referred to the relevant AFC Committees for a decision in accordance with the applicable regulations.

Esteghlal of Iran, Al Ahli of Saudi Arabia and Al Shorta of Iraq are the other teams in the group.

Esteghlal complete two more players

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Esteghlal football team jhave completed signing of two new players.

Esteghlal have signed Mohammadhossein Moradmamand from Shahr Khodro and Gol Gohar right back Ahmad Mousavi on two-year contracts.

Esteghlal have already signed Babak Moradi, Matin Karimzadeh and Rashid Mazaheri.

The club are one of four Iranian teams who will feature in the AFC Champions League's West Zone restart in Qatar next week.

Esteghlal have collected one point from the two Group A matches in February, with the first of their four remaining fixtures coming against UAE's Al Wahda next Monday.

Amir Abedzadeh on Goztepe's radar

S P O R T S **TEHRAN** — Turkish football club Goztepe eye Iranian international goalkeeper Amir Abedzadeh.

Goztepe goalkeeper Beto has left the team and the Turkish top flight team are going to sign Abedzadeh, ntvspor.net reported.

Abedzadeh currently plays for Portuguese team Maritimo. Turkish media have reported that Abedzadeh is a candidate to join Goztepe.

Abedzadeh has represented Iran national football team three times.

ACL 2020: Ghaedi, Resan among Ones to Watch

With the resumption of the 2020 AFC Champions League drawing ever closer, the-afc.com profiled seven players who could shape their clubs' fortunes in Qatar this month.

Esteghlal forward Mehdi Ghaedi and Persepolis midfielder Bashar Resan are among ones to watch in the campaign.

■ **Mehdi Ghaedi**

Widely considered as one of the most exciting young talents in the country, Ghaedi has risen in profile every year since joining Esteghlal from Iranjavan Bushehr as an 18-year-old, having previously been part of the Iran side that played in the 2017 FIFA U-20 World Cup.

Despite his tender years, Esteghlal FC's number 10 has been a prominent figure in the side that came second in both the Iran Pro League and Hazfi Cup in 2019-20.

Ghaedi led the league's assist charts with eight, as well as contributed the highest number of match winning goals for his club during the league season with four. He also chipped in with a brace in the 2020 AFC Champions League play-offs as Esteghlal brushed aside Al Rayyan 5-0 to reach the group stage.

■ **Bashar Resan**

The 23-year-old Iraq international joined Iran's Persepolis FC in 2017 from perennial AFC Cup champion Air Force Club, and has recently renewed his contract with the Tehran giant until 2021.

Resan has made a total of 22 appearances in the AFC Champions League since joining Persepolis, including a run to the final of the 2018 edition which saw them lose out to Japan's Kashima Antlers.

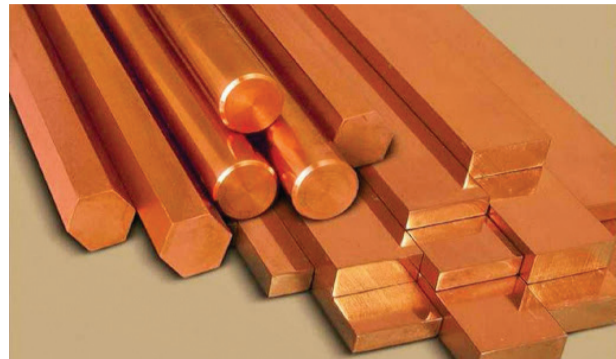
The midfielder featured in 25 Iran Pro League games in 2019-20 as his side burst through unchallenged to the title, while featuring in both Matchday One and Two of the AFC Champions League this season.

Capable of playing as an advanced or deep-lying playmaker, Resan combines vision and the ability to find the target from range, while he also possesses the skill to dribble his way into the danger zones.

(Source: the-afc)

Copper anode output up 6%

ECONOMY **TEHRAN**—Production of copper anode in Iran has risen six percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), from the same period of time in the previous year, IRNA reported. As reported, 149,233 tons of the product has been produced in the five-month period of this year. Copper anode output stood at 28,031 tons in the fifth month of this year, which was 24 percent higher than the figure of the past year's same month.



Iran has seen its copper exports doubled in the past Iranian calendar year despite a series of bitter sanctions imposed by the United States aimed at hampering the Islamic Republic's trade of lucrative metals.

Iran ConFair 2020 running in Tehran

ECONOMY **TEHRAN**—The 20th edition of Iran's International Exhibition of Building and Construction Industry (Iran ConFair 2020) kicked off at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Thursday.

The inauguration ceremony was attended by the Acting Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Jafar Sarqini, IRNA reported. As reported, concurrent with the ConFair 2020, the ninth International Exhibition of Elevators, Industrial and Related Equipment of Iran (Iran LiftEx 2020) was also opened at the same venue.

According to the organizers, the physical visit of the mentioned exhibitions is allowed only for experts and ordinary visitors could visit the exhibitions online.

The exhibitions are being held under strict safety and health protocols and standards.

Major companies active in the field of construction materials, equipment, and parts are showcasing their latest achievements and products in these exhibitions.

The exhibition will wrap up on Sunday, September 13, open from 10 AM to 6 PM.

In June, Bahman Hosseinzadeh, the managing director of Iran International Exhibitions Company (IIEC), had mentioned the successful holding of the "Surge in Production and Corona Containment Achievements" exhibition earlier than month as the first exhibition physically held in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 20), and said that since Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds has been equipped with disinfection devices and equipment, all exhibitions would be held in compliance with the health protocols.

According to Hosseinzadeh, specialized exhibitions can be held in accordance with four health protocols including protocols for exhibition centers, pavilion construction, participants, and visitors.

The official noted that the mentioned exhibitions are not going to be open for public visits and only expert groups and specialists can visit in compliance with health protocols.

Over 10.7m tons of basic goods imported in 5.5 months

ECONOMY **TEHRAN**—Over 10.7 million tons of basic commodities worth \$5 billion have been imported to the country during the 5.5-month period from the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20), the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) told ILNA on Friday.

Ruhollah Latifi put the imported rice during the mentioned time span at 512,484 tons worth \$468.1 million, corn at 4.527 million tons valued at \$1.96 billion, and barley at 947,656 tons worth \$230.5 million.



Last month the official said that there was no shortage of basic goods in the country.

IRICA head has previously announced that 25 million tons of basic goods have been cleared from Iran's customs during the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19).

According to Mehdi Mirashrafi, 35 million tons of commodities were imported into the country in the mentioned year, of which 25 million tons were basic goods.

Noting that the coronavirus outbreak has decreased the level of trade in the current Iranian calendar year, the official said in late June: "This year, the trend has slowed down, and we hope that with the measures taken by the Central Bank [of Iran (CBI)], the Industry Ministry, and IRICA, we will be able to minimize the deposition of goods in the customs before and after clearance."

Back in August 2019, in a directive addressing IRICA, Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Farhad Dejpasand obliged the customs administration to take necessary measures for facilitating customs processes.

Following the Finance Ministry's directive, in January 2020, IRICA obliged the customs departments throughout the country to take necessary measures for the facilitation of the clearance of basic goods.

The new instructions declared to the country's customs departments required the representatives of the related organizations to act under the supervision of IRICA for conducting necessary controls and inspections.

Projects worth over \$3.5b inaugurated in free zones

1 → Speaking in the inauguration ceremony, Rouhani said that \$134 billion worth of goods were exported from the country's free zones over the last six years.

According to the president, these zones are no longer only distribution hubs and have become production centers.

The Secretary of Iranian Free Zones High Council Morteza Bank, who was also attending the inauguration ceremony, noted that 598 development and investment projects worth 550 trillion rials (about \$13 billion) have been put into operation since December 2019, which have created job opportunities for 102,000 people.

The official noted that the free zones can play an important role in resolving problems in the field of banking, insurance, and warehousing during the sanctions era.



Free and special economic zones are expected to play an important role in the country's exports and imports and the prosperity of trade and commerce, he stressed.

In recent years, considering the important role that free and special zones play in promoting the country's export and employment, Iran has been seriously pursuing the development of its existing FTZs and the establishment of new zones as well.

More development measures in this field have been taking since the U.S. re-imposition of sanctions on the Iranian economy in November 2018, as Iran is reducing its dependence on the oil income while elevating its domestic production and non-oil exports.

Sponge iron production increases 8% in 5 months on year

ECONOMY **TEHRAN**—Production of sponge iron in Iran increased eight percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21) compared to the same period of time in the previous year.

As reported by IRNA, more than 12.856 million tons of sponge iron has been produced in the five-month period of this year.

Iran's production of sponge iron has climbed six percent to 27.907 million tons in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), from 26.359 million tons in its

preceding year, according to the data released by Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA).

The country's export of sponge iron has also risen 77 percent in the past year.

Meanwhile, sponge iron consumption in the country increased four percent to 26.965 million tons from 25.826 million tons on an annual basis.

Three projects each with a capacity of 800,000 tons were launched in the country during the past Iranian year.

The projects were put into operation in the southeastern province of Kerman, South Khorasan Province in east

and Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari Province in the southwest of the country.

Iran is only second to India globally in terms of the volume of sponge iron production. The country is the 10th largest steel producer in the world.

Sponge iron is a metallic product produced through the direct reduction of iron ore in the strong state. It is a substitute for scrap and therefore is mostly applicable in making steel through the secondary route. The procedure of sponge iron making aims to expel the oxygen from iron ore.

Iran emerging as regional electricity hub by synchronizing grid with neighbors

1 → The synchronization of power grids with the neighboring countries, not only enhances Iran's electricity exchanges with them, it will also increase the political stance of the country in the region.

In November 2019, Deputy Head of Iran Electrical Industry Syndicate Payam Baqeri said: "the synchronization of Iran's electricity grid and the regional countries will enhance cooperation while strengthening diplomatic power."

According to the official, Iran has the

potential to become a major energy hub in the region considering the country's large capacity of power plants and also the demand from the countries in the region.

Currently, Iran has electricity exchange with Armenia, Azerbaijan, Iraq, Turkmenistan, and Afghanistan.

The country's total electricity exports vary depending on the hot and cold seasons of the year, since during the hot season which is the peak consumption period, the country's electricity exports decreases,

however electrical communication with neighboring countries continues.

Enjoying abundant gas resources, which is the main fuel for the majority of the country's power plants, Iran currently has the capacity to produce about 85,500 megawatts [85.5 gigawatts (GW)] of electricity.

Currently, combined cycle power plants account for the biggest share in the country's total power generation capacity followed by gas power plants.



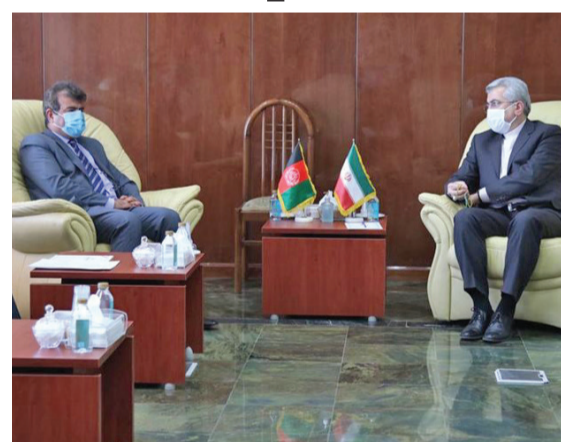
Tehran, Kabul stress expansion of economic ties

ECONOMY **TEHRAN**—Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian, who is the chairman of Iran-Afghanistan Joint Economic Committee, met with Afghanistan's Ambassador to Tehran Abdolghafour Lival, and the two sides stressed the expansion of economic ties in all areas.

As reported by the Energy Ministry's portal (PAVEN), in the meeting, Ardakanian referred to the agreements reached between the two sides during his visit to Afghanistan last year and said: "During that visit, President Ghani issued the necessary orders to implement electricity projects, including renewables, solving banking problems, etc., but unfortunately so far no definite measure has been taken to realize those agreements."

The Afghan ambassador for his part described the latest situation in his country, emphasizing the principled position of the Islamic Republic of Iran on the political and security developments in Afghanistan.

The two sides also discussed preparations for the sixth round of the Iran-Afghanistan Joint Economic Committee meeting which is due to be held during October 25-27



Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian (R) and Afghanistan's Ambassador to Tehran Abdolghafour Lival discuss expansion of economic ties between the two countries.

in Kabul.

The officials also decided to form a committee to follow up on the implementation of some of the agreements and memorandums signed between the two countries in the electricity sector, within the current week.

Ardakanian visited Kabul in late July 2019, to hold talks with senior Afghan officials in order to discuss the expansion of economic ties especially in water and energy areas.

During his one-day visit, he met with the Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, the country's Chief Executive Abdullah Abdullah, and the Afghan minister of water and energy as well as the country's finance minister.

In the meeting with his Afghan counterpart, Ardakanian voiced Iran's readiness for cooperation in Afghanistan's infrastructure projects and emphasized the need for exploitation of bilateral and international capacities in this regard.

The two sides also agreed on cooperation in other areas like investing in renewables and extending this cooperation to other countries in the region.

Annual exports of construction materials at \$7b

ECONOMY **TEHRAN**—Iran exported about \$7 billion worth of construction materials in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), the Acting Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister announced.

Speaking in the opening ceremony of the 20th Iran's International Exhibition of Building and Construction Industry (Iran ConFair 2020) on Thursday, Jafar Sarqini said that the production of major items in the construction industry is more than double the country's demand for such commodities.

"In this area [the construction industry], not only we do not have any worries

about the supply of raw materials; but in important items of this industry such as steel, cement, and ceramic tiles, our production is almost double the country's needs," IRNA quoted Sarqini as saying.

"Today, our country is one of the major exporters of steel in the region and a major exporter of cement in the world," the official noted, adding that Iran has increased its supply of glass, tile and ceramics to foreign customers in recent years.

Referring to the country's seismicity situation, he stated: "Innovation and lightening in the preparation of building materials for the construction of light and earthquake-resistant buildings should



be a priority in the production of such materials."

Iran's massive mining and metals sector

has expanded in recent years mainly because the U.S. sanctions on the oil industry have led to more focus on other sectors.

The government has also raised tariffs on exports of raw minerals as it seeks increased local production of products with more added-value.

That comes despite a decision by Washington in May 2019 to introduce a series of comprehensive bans on Iran's trade of metals.

However, the bans have largely failed to disrupt the outflow of Iranian products like steel and copper as customers find them increasingly competitive compared to regional and international rivals.

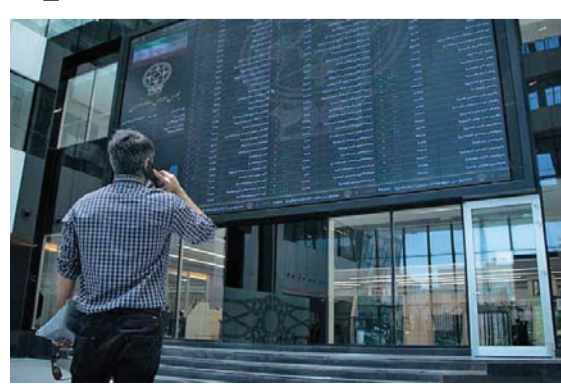
Stock market passes a month with 4 weekly drops

ECONOMY **TEHRAN**—TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), which is Iran's major stock exchange, fell four percent in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

In this way, the index experienced the fourth weekly drop in a month.

The index stood at 1.556 million points at the end of the past week, IRNA reported.

As reported, most of the trades were conducted through the indices of Tejarat Bank, National Iranian Copper Industry Company, Ghadir Investment Company, Bank Saderat, Mobarakeh Steel Company, Bandar Abbas Oil Refining Company, and Iran Khodro Investment Development Company in the previous week.



TEDPIX had also experienced a five-percent decrease in the week ended on September 4, a two-percent fall in the week ended on August 28, an 11.3-percent drop in the week ended on August 21, and a two-percent fall in the week ended on August 14.

It should be mentioned that the index had hit the record high of two million points on August 2, and while it had been experiencing an unprecedented trend of rising over the recent months, it witnessed several days of drop in the past three weeks.

While Iran's stock market has not received any external shocks such as those from the foreign currency exchange rate, inflation, parallel markets, and international issues, some internal factors have caused the recent drops in this market.

9/11 ended the American dream, says Lebanon's Talal Atrissi

Director of the Center for Political Studies at the University of Lebanon says "the issue of terrorism is an optional issue to Washington"

I → A: The wars launched by the United States on Afghanistan and Iraq showed the fact that the United States has become a direct occupying power in the region.

In Afghanistan, the U.S. becomes a neighbor to Iran and Russia, and other countries in Asia.

In Iraq, it became close to Iran and Syria, with a large military force that could threaten the countries that disagreed with its policies or oppose American hegemony.

As a result, the United States faced violent resistance, whether in Afghanistan or Iraq, as far as U.S. presidents from Obama to Trump have admitted that the country has paid thousands of billions of dollars and human losses due to these wars.

That is why Obama decided to withdraw from Iraq, and Trump came to say that he does not want to wage new wars in the region. As a result of these wars, the United States of America is declining and losing its influence in the region.

The resistance has become stronger and more experienced, and the idea of resistance has been welcomed and has spread, whether in Iraq, Lebanon, or even Afghanistan.

So, the occupation brought complete havoc for the United States besides failure for neoconservatives in their projects.

■ Why have the Americans embraced negotiations with the Taliban, whom they called terrorist, after two decades of war?

A: The U.S. negotiations with the Taliban reveal that Washington does not make a deal according to principles, but rather uses slogans and then outweighs its interests.

During the war against the Soviet army in Afghanistan, America and its media used to call the fighting groups,

"All evidence indicates that Saudi authorities indirectly were involved in the 9/11 attacks."

including the Taliban, "Mujahideen," and not terrorists.

After the Soviet army left Afghanistan, and these groups started to fight the U.S., these groups were classified as "terrorists."

So, the United States of America is negotiating today with the Taliban because it really failed in Afghanistan. This means the admission of failure in Afghanistan after paying huge losses.

For this reason, the U.S. wants to withdraw the largest number of its forces from there and negotiate with the Taliban about its participation in the government of Afghanistan.

But Al-Qaeda organization is originally an American-backed entity that was exploited in Afghanistan, Syria, and Iraq,



"Al-Qaeda organization is originally an American-backed entity that was exploited in Afghanistan, Syria, and Iraq, and when its date expired, Trump accuses Clinton and Obama of being involved in the manufacturing of al-Qaeda."

and when its date expired, Trump accuses Clinton and Obama of being involved in the manufacturing of al-Qaeda.

This is why all America's claims about terrorism are uncovered and unacceptable, and it has become known that the United States allied with al-Qaeda in more than one place in West Asia.

■ What happened to the American dream after 9/11?

A: The American dream is over, and the United States no longer can present itself as a globally attractive destination.

After September 11, using force, oppression, occupation, torture, and imprisoning of civilians in Iraq and Afghanistan has become the United States' predominant face.

The mutual accusations between the American presidents showed the true face of America.

Even the American lifestyle is no longer the one that anyone in the world dreams of having, and therefore there is no longer what we call the American dream.

The American dream was ruined, in a cracked structure, which was no longer coherent. The American dream created by cinema has ended, and we are facing a country that hires soldiers to fight, occupy and kill, and does not respect human rights.

From that time until now, we can say

"The occupation (of Afghanistan and Iraq) brought complete havoc for the United States besides failure for neoconservatives in their projects."

that the American dream has become an ugly image for the world's nations.

■ Why doesn't the U.S. sue Saudi Arabia for the 9/11 attacks?

A: The U.S. doesn't want to sever its relations with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, while it has become clear that most of those who carried out the September 11 attacks were Saudis.

Although there were discussions and calls to cut ties with Saudi Arabia or impose sanctions on it, the matter met American silence because the relationship with Saudi Arabia is profitable for Washington.

The Saudi Kingdom is the largest buyer of weapons, and it is an ally of the United States in the face of Iran; and therefore, the United States is silent about such an operation and does not directly accuse the Saudis.

All evidence indicates that Saudi authorities indirectly were involved in the 9/11 attacks, but the Trump administration tries not to ruin the ties.

So, the issue of terrorism is an optional issue to Washington. The U.S. president is who chooses when to fight terrorism or fight the countries accused of being behind terrorism.

That's why the United States of America was silent and did not talk about accusing Saudi Arabia directly, although

some information indicates that some figures in the Saudi ruling family provided funding to the attackers.

■ What have been the consequences of 9/11 for U.S. internal security, especially when the freedoms were restricted under the pretext of fighting terrorism?

A: On the American domestic level, what happened was the U.S. policy reversed into a militant policy, a policy of suppressing freedoms and spying on citizens.

Suppressing freedoms under the pretext of fighting terrorism and concerns about individuals' relations with terrorists has become a prevailing issue in the U.S. A big debate heated in the United States on the importance of freedoms, but the government continues to restrict citizens. The Americans lost a large part of their freedoms under the motto of "fighting terrorism."

■ How could the September 11 attacks spread Islamophobia in the West?

A: Islamophobia is a complex topic that has historical roots and cultural reasons and causes related to terrorist operations. The American and Western media, in general, shed light on the September 11 attacks and emphasized that Muslims were the main actors who carried out this operation.

Of course, this approach contributed to creating an anti-Muslim atmosphere in the United States of America for a long time.

But at the same time, Islamophobia is also widely widespread in Europe, and this is partly because of terrorist operations that were carried out on European territories.

Still, Islamophobia has been misused inside the United States and Europe in the struggle between political forces and accusing Muslims of economic, social, and cultural problems.

"The U.S. is negotiating with the Taliban because it really failed in Afghanistan."

In fact, some Muslims cannot integrate into Western culture. Thus they face the isolation process and tend to engage in terrorist groups.

In addition to that, Muslims in Europe, for example, live in the suburbs and lack adequate services, which encourages young generations to join extremist organizations.

The United States of America, because of its anti-Muslim policies, has created an atmosphere of extremism among some Muslims. That's why it can be said that the September 11 attacks contributed to the spread of Islamophobia.

Moreover, the American media has a pivotal role in creating this Islamophobia wave by inciting Muslims and covering up the Saudi Kingdom's crimes.

"I think the Americans fought terrorism on a selective basis which means that they fought terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda in some places and supported these groups in other places," says Amirali Abolfath, a U.S. expert.

They have fought terrorism in some places. For example, they succeeded in preventing further 9/11-styled attacks and in defeating Daesh in some places, which is a breakthrough. However, this doesn't mean that the U.S. has implemented all its declared policies. I think the Americans fought terrorism on a selective basis which means that they fought terrorist groups such as al-Qaeda in some places and supported these groups in other places.

"In the early months of the emergence of Daesh, the U.S. didn't move to stop it. The U.S. had no problem with the Daesh terrorists as long as they were against the people of Iraq and Syria. However, when Daesh turned against the U.S. and captured and beheaded American journalists, the U.S. began to fight against it. The U.S. followed the same policy toward al-Qaeda. There is evidence that al-Qaeda was established by the CIA, and Osama bin Laden had a close relationship with the CIA," Abolfath told the Tehran Times.

According to Abolfath, the U.S. succeeded the fight against terrorism in some places and failed in the war on terror in other places, and also it supported terrorism in some places or at least turned a blind eye on terrorist activities.

9/11 attacks and U.S. 'selective' war on terrorism

TEHRAN – The September 11, 2001 attacks on the U.S. marked a turning point in the U.S. foreign policy toward West Asia, where the U.S. waged several wars to allegedly fight terrorism. However, analysts tell the Tehran Times the U.S. did little to combat terrorism and its wars on terror have been selective at best.

The U.S. launched a massive military campaign to fight terrorism immediately after four airplanes crashed into civilian and military buildings in the U.S. on September 11, 2001. In a clear warning to certain countries in the region, then-President George W. Bush announced that the U.S. would not make no distinction between the 9/11 terrorists and countries harboring them.

"We will make no distinction between the terrorists who committed these acts and those who harbor them," Bush said in a televised address on September 11 at 9 pm.

Afghanistan was among the first countries that were accused of harboring terrorists by the U.S., which created an international coalition and invaded Afghanistan a few weeks after the September 11 attacks. However, Afghanistan was not the only country to be turned into a battlefield against terrorism. Yemen, Pakistan, Somalia, Iraq, Libya, and Syria were also turned into battlefields, which inflicted high costs on their people.

The post-9/11 wars on terrorism displaced as many as 59 million people, according to a new report released on Tuesday by Brown University.

"The U.S.-post-9/11 wars have forcibly displaced at least 37 million people in and from Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, the Philippines, Libya, and

According to a new report released by Brown University, the post-9/11 wars on terrorism displaced as many as 59 million people.

Syria. This exceeds those displaced by every war since 1900, except World War II," the report said, adding, "37 million is a very conservative estimate. The total displaced by the U.S. post-9/11 wars could be closer to 48-59 million."

This is all while analysts say that the U.S. didn't fight terrorism or have fought on a selective basis.

"The U.S. is a state sponsor of terrorism and its wars on terrorism have only exacerbated the situation. Prior to the 2003 Iraq war, terrorism didn't exist in the forms we see now. Terrorism and extremist groups have emerged after the U.S. invaded Iraq and Afghanistan," Ja'afar Ghannadhashi, a West Asia expert, told the Tehran Times.



Amirali Abolfath, a U.S. expert, said the U.S. adopted a "selective" policy in its war against terrorism: fighting terrorism in some places and supporting it in others.

Responding to a question on whether the U.S. really fought terrorism in the post-9/11 wars, Abolfath said, "It is not a black-and-white issue. We can't say that the Americans were successful or not successful in the fight against terrorism. The United States has succeeded in some places and failed in some others.

Trump says U.S. troops to be reduced to 2,000 in Iraq, 4,000 in Afghanistan

U.S. President Donald Trump has said that the number of American troops in both Iraq and Afghanistan are set to be reduced drastically, with this being the first time he has mentioned specific numbers in the issue of military withdrawal.

Speaking to reporters, Trump said that U.S. soldiers in Iraq will be reduced to 2,000 while in Afghanistan they will be reduced to 4,000. "A lot of progress is being made," he claimed in regards to U.S. policy in the West Asia, adding that there will be an even more limited number in Syria to "guard the oil" in the oilfields in the east of the country.

The planned reductions, Trump said, will take place "very soon," and come after an official revealed earlier this week that the president will soon be announcing a further withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

It also comes after a series of similar revelations last month, including a top U.S. general reporting that U.S. forces would be withdrawn over the next few months, Trump telling Iraqi President Mustafa Al-Kadhimi that U.S.-led coalition forces would leave the country within three years, and an anonymous American official telling the UK-based news agency Reuters troops based in Iraq would be reduced by approximately a third.

Qatar to host long-awaited intra-Afghan talks from Saturday

The long-awaited talks between the Afghan government and the Taliban will take place in Qatar's capital Doha from Saturday.

Qatar's foreign ministry made the announcement on Thursday as a final hurdle over the release of six Taliban prisoners appears to have been resolved.

"The State of Qatar is pleased to announce that the Afghanistan Peace Negotiations will commence in Doha on Saturday the 12th of September 2020," the ministry said in the statement.

"These vitally important direct negotiations between the different Afghan parties represent a step forward in bringing lasting peace to Afghanistan."

England's COVID-19 infections doubling each week

The spread of the coronavirus is speeding up across all parts of England with the number of cases doubling about every week, according to a new study by Imperial College, which will fuel concerns that renewed restrictions may need to be introduced.

The infection rate is rising in all age groups apart from those over 65, and cases are no longer clustering in hospitals or care homes as they were a few months ago, suggesting the virus is circulating more widely, Imperial found, Reuters reported.

The study, which involved testing more than 150,000 volunteers, found 13 per 10,000 people were infected in England in the two weeks ending Sept. 7, compared to 4 per 10,000 in the same period ending Aug. 11.

Trump boasted he protected MBS after Khashoggi hit

U.S. President Donald Trump boasted that he protected Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) after Jamal Khashoggi's brutal murder. Bob Woodward's forthcoming book says, according to a new report.

According to al Jazeera, Trump bragged that he protected the Saudi crown prince from consequences in the United States after the assassination of Khashoggi in October 2018, the news outlet Business Insider reported on Thursday.

"I saved his a**," President Trump said about the US outcry about Khashoggi's killing, according to Business Insider, quoting from a copy of Woodward's book.

"I was able to get Congress to leave him alone. I was able to get them to stop," Trump said.

In unprecedented western U.S. bushfires, 15 killed and 500,000 evacuated

Firefighters were battling unprecedented wildfires up and down the US West Coast on Friday that killed 15 people and forced more than half a million others to flee their homes, with officials warning of more deaths to come in the days ahead.

The true scale of destruction was impossible to count across wide stretches of California, Oregon and Washington cut off from the world by an apocalyptic wall of flames, fueled by record heat-waves and intense, dry winds, AFP reported.

The August Complex Fire became the biggest recorded blaze in Californian history on Thursday, after multiple fires in the state's northwest combined under high temperatures and winds to rip through 746,000 acres of dry vegetation.

Resistance News

Haneyya condemns Arab League's position

INTERNATIONAL DESK TEHRAN — Ismail Haneyya, Hamas's leader, condemned on Thursday the Arab League's rejection of the Palestinian draft resolution rejecting the Emirati normalization agreement with Israel.

Haneyya stressed, during a meeting with a delegation from the gathering of Muslim scholars and with a delegation from the International Union of Resistance Scholars headed by Sheikh Maher Hammoud in the Lebanese capital Beirut, that the Arab League's rejection of the Palestinian draft resolution is in the interest of the Zionist enemy.

He drew attention to the fact that Palestine is the cause of a nation and affirmed that Jerusalem is a cause that unites the Arab and Islamic nation, recalling the effective role of scholars in supporting the Palestinian cause and restoring respect for resistance action.

Haneyya said that the battle is not confined to the military field, but rather goes beyond it to the battle of consciousness. Scholars have an important role to bring balance in the battle of consciousness to confront the Zionist project, he added.

Iran, Ireland national museums discuss ways to broaden ties

TOURISM TEHRAN – Directors of Iran and Ireland national museums have recently discussed ways to deepen mutual ties based on a memorandum of understanding to be drafted in the near future.

National Museum of Iran Director Jabrael Nokandeh and his Irish counterpart Lynn Scarff held a virtual meeting on Wednesday in which they exchanged views on a roadmap to define long-term cooperation.



Holding joint exhibitions, workshops, and specialized meetings, as well as sharing experience and exchanging experts were amongst issues raised in the meeting, public relations of the Tehran museum told the Tehran Times on Friday.

Scarff also highlighted collections of Iranian works that are being kept at the National Museum of Ireland, relics that date from the Sassanid period onwards.

The National Museum of Ireland is Ireland's leading museum institution, with a strong emphasis on national and some international archaeology, Irish history, Irish art, culture, and natural history. It has three branches in Dublin and one in County Mayo.

The National Museum of Iran embraces priceless relics that represent various eras of the country's rich history. Its structure was completed in 1928 based on the design by French architect André Godard who was also an archaeologist and historian of French and Middle Eastern Art.

Prehistorical hatch to protect UNESCO-tagged Persepolis against water erosion

TOURISM TEHRAN – The newly discovered prehistorical hatch to Apadana Palace, a majestic ruined royal complex within the UNESCO-registered Persepolis, southern Iran, will reopen to protect the World Heritage site against water erosion.

Dating back to the Achaemenid era (c. 550 - 330 BC), the hatch, measuring 40 cm by 40 cm, connects the yard surface to underground ducts to repel the surface water of the courtyard.



The eastern part of Apadana Palace, where the vent has been discovered, is one of the busiest areas of the historical site due to its valuable bas reliefs, and its visitors are facing problems during the rainy season, IRNA quoted Hamid Fadaei, director of the world heritage site, as saying on Friday.

The new round of survey on ancient water ducts in Persepolis, which was commenced in August, has led the archaeologists to discover this hatch, which was hidden due to the destruction of the complex, he added.

He also noted that reopening this hatch could help with the problem of overflowing at the eastern courtyard and a better situation could be created to protect this section of Persepolis.

Last month, the remains of 13 ancient skeletons, 11 of which human remains, were discovered at olden water ducts of Persepolis, shedding new light on the way of life in the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire.

By far the largest and most magnificent building is the Apadana, begun by Darius and finished by Xerxes, which was used mainly for great receptions by the kings. Thirteen of its seventy-two columns still stand on the enormous platform to which two monumental stairways, on the north and on the east, give access.

They are adorned with rows of beautifully executed reliefs showing scenes from the New Year's festival and processions of representatives of twenty-three subject nations of the Achaemenid Empire, with court notables and Persians and Medes, followed by soldiers and guards, their horses, and royal chariots.

Delegates in their native attire, some completely Persian in style, carry gifts as a token of their loyalty and as a tribute to the king. These gifts include silver and gold vessels and vases, weapons, woven fabrics, jewelry, and animals from the delegates' own countries.

Although the overall arrangement of scenes seems repetitive, there are marked differences in the designs of garments, headdresses, hairstyles, and beards that give each delegation its own distinctive character and make its origin unmistakable.

Persepolis was occupied and burnt by Alexander the Great in 330 BC apparently as a revenge to the Persians because it seems the Persian King Xerxes had burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 years earlier.

Iran to hold online, open-air ceremonies to mark World Tourism Day

TOURISM TEHRAN – Considering the coronavirus outbreak in the country, all programs and ceremonies celebrating the World Tourism Day and the National Tourism Week will be held online and in open-air spaces observing health protocols, deputy tourism minister has said.

Since 1980, the United Nations World Tourism Organization has celebrated World Tourism Day as international observances on September 27, on which countries promote their tourism attractions to the world.

Introducing and promoting Iran as a tourist destination and its tourist attractions to the world through various programs is one of the tourism ministry's goals that can be pursued on this day, Vali Teymouri announced on Wednesday, adding that the 2020 theme is "Tourism and Rural Development".

Mentioning that tourism cannot be defined only in domestic dimensions, he pointed to the role of Iranian envoys and cultural attaches in other countries in promoting Iran's tourism.

He also pointed to the 1.3 million tourism workers in the country, who are facing several issues due to the coronavirus crisis and said "This number, in addition to their households, includes a significant population that makes a living through tourism, who are needed to be considered



Iran's deputy tourism minister Vali Teymouri wears a face mask addressing a meeting at his office in downtown Tehran.

in ministry's decisions."

Responsible tourism could increase the number of domestic tourists across the country and help to boost the tourism industry despite the outbreak of the virus, Teymouri added.

Last week tourism minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan announced that the health min-

istry has approved the tourism ministry's proposed plan on responsible tourism for safe traveling during the coronavirus pandemic.

The health ministry is of the opinion that traveling on a large scale without supervision and proper planning causes the spread of the coronavirus, he said and

added that the tourism ministry and the health ministry are emphasizing that the trips should be done under the supervision of the two ministries.

Back in August, Mounesan said that Iran's travel sector has suffered a loss of 12 trillion rials (some \$2.85 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials) since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

He also noted that the coronavirus pandemic should not bring traveling to a complete standstill. "Corona is a fact, but can the virus stop tourism? Certainly not. For us, the coronavirus is a new experience in dealing with crises that teaches tourism experts around the world how to deal with such a disaster, and thankfully governments are turning this into an opportunity for better planning."

Iran expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 24 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, it aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

The latest available data show eight million tourists visited the Islamic Republic during the first ten months of the past Iranian calendar year (started March 21, 2019).

Iran, Russia visa waiver for group tours on verge of reality

TOURISM TEHRAN – In 2017, Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin inked a visa-free agreement for tourist groups. The agreement, however, seems to be implemented in the near future as a joint technical committee on Wednesday reached an initial agreement in this regard.

The action plan for the [previously-reached] visa-free travel for group tours between the two countries was finalized after Iranian, Russian experts exchanged views in a virtual meeting on Wednesday, according to Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

"An Iranian delegation will soon visit Russia to ink the action plan," said Mohammad Qasemi, the director for marketing and advertising at the ministry of tourism.

"The agreement, which emphasizes on visas waiver for tourist groups, was signed on March 28, 2017, in Moscow, between Iranian and the Russian governments. That agreement required a plan of action, which a (joint) technical committee was required to approve... however, the coronavirus changed the time schedule," Qasemi explained.

Last February, Iran's tourism ministry announced that it would follow up on the agreement at the [27th edition]

Moscow International Travel & Tourism Exhibition (MITT), which was scheduled to be held from March 17 to 19.

Based on the 2017 agreement tour groups of 5 to 50 people heading to [easternmost parts of] Russia from Iran or vice versa are granted a visa-free stay of up to 15 days.

Maya Lomidze, executive director of the Association of Tour Operators of Russia, had told Sputnik that the visa agreement may significantly surge the tourist flows between the two countries, just like it happened when a similar deal was signed between Russia and China. The flow of Iranian tourists to Russia increased by 50-70 percent following the operation of direct flights that connect Iran to St. Petersburg, Moscow, and Sochi, she said.

Head of the Iranian Tour Operators Association Ibrahim Pourfaraj said last year that a majority of potential Russian travelers are unaware of vast tourist attractions that exist in every corner of Iran. "The fact is that Iran's political and economic relations with Russia are considered as good, but this has nothing to do with attracting tourists because it is directly connected with the Russian people. It is the Russian people who must choose Iran as their destination," he explained.



Iran is taking proactive measures in line with the long-term goal of 20 million tourists by 2025. However, some officials believe the country is nowhere close to the point of reaching its full tourism potential and lagging far behind neighboring countries like Turkey.

'World's biggest' pictorial carpet pops up in Tehran

HERITAGE TEHRAN – A massive handwoven carpet, which according to a senior Iranian expert is 'the biggest and oldest pictorial carpet in the world' has recently been unveiled in the UNESCO-registered Golestan Palace in downtown Tehran.

"This pictorial carpet, which dates back over a century, came to light some three years ago during a survey held at the historical-carpet treasure trove of the World Heritage site," said Touraj Jouleh, who is a senior cultural heritage expert at the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

"Measuring 5 by 5.75 meters, the pic-

torial carpet covers 28 square meters in area and it is assumed that the carpet is made in the south of Khorasan region somewhere near Birjand," he said.

"After a range of studies, with the cooperation of experts from Birjand Cultural Heritage Department, was carried out on hand-woven pictorial carpets of the world, it was determined that this carpet is the largest pictorial carpet in the history of carpet weaving in the globe."

Talking about the theme the carpet depicts, he noted: "A month-long survey suggests that the carpet depicts a location which is not Iranian soil, and it may be

somewhere in Afghanistan or India." "On this carpet, the image of a parade or military maneuver of British soldiers in front of a luxurious headquarters and residence is depicted."

"The carpet bears social/political theme, and at the upper part of the carpet, it seems an image of a ship in the Persian Gulf is woven," Jouleh added.

The expert, however, expressed surprise over the bizarre depiction, saying "The reason why such an event has been woven is unknown, and the event itself is still unidentified as well and we hope it to be deciphered in future surveys."

Handwoven Persian carpets are

sought after internationally for their delicate designs and good quality. A medallion pattern is arguably the most characteristic feature of all types of Persian rugs. Among Persian carpets, particularly those of the classic period, the medallion may represent an open lotus blossom with several petals.

Golestan Palace became a center of Qajari arts and architecture which is an outstanding example and has remained a source of inspiration for Iranian artists and architects to this day. It embodies a successful integration of earlier Persian crafts and architecture with Western influences.

Online meeting held on protecting UNESCO-tagged Hyrcanian Forests

TOURISM TEHRAN – A joint meeting of Steering Council for Iran's UNESCO-registered Hyrcanian Forest and the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Council was held online on Tuesday.

Strategies to improve the protection of the UNESCO-tagged forest and its accurate demarcation as well as the ways of preserving the forest based on UNESCO standards were discussed during the meeting, Iran's deputy tourism minister Mohammad-Hassan Talebian announced on Thursday.

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



Designated as a World Heritage site by UNESCO in December 2019, the Hyrcanian Forest (also known as Caspian Forest) contains very rich ecosystems due to the particular orographic and climatic situation (precipitation rich, warm-temperate, high moisture from the Caspian Sea and damming effect of the Alborz Mountain range).

According to UNESCO, the forest contains the most important and significant natural habitats for in-situ conservation of biological diversity with 69 mammal species and 304 bird species, including those containing threatened species of outstanding universal value from the point of view of science or conservation. It also contains superlative natural phenomena or areas of exceptional natural beauty and aesthetic importance.

Qeshm Island boosts hospitality services



TOURISM TEHRAN – Three new hotels were inaugurated in the Persian Gulf island of Qeshm on Thursday, aiming to boost hospitality services in the southern island.

The projects, worth 320 billion rials (some \$7.6 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials), will generate 146 job opportunities, directly and indirectly, IRNA reported.

With the inauguration of the hotels, 362 beds are added to the accommodation capacity of the island.

President Hassan Rouhani inaugurated the projects through video conference.

The president also inaugurated 14 more projects in the fields of industry, energy, production, transportation, tourism, and development.

Qeshm Island is a heaven for eco-tourists as it embraces wide-ranging attractions such as the Hara marine forests and about 60 villages dotted mostly across its rocky coastlines.

The island also features geologically eye-catching canyons, hills, caves, and

valleys, most of which are protected as part of the UNESCO-tagged Qeshm Island Geopark, itself a haven for nature-lovers.

Many travelers to Qeshm believe that the Stars Valley or Valley of Stars is a "MUST SEE". It is home to bizarre-shaped gorges, tall pillars, canyon-like paths, hollowed-out spaces as well as the smooth and round stones, which have been formed by the wind and rain eroding the soil, rocks, and stones. Locals believe that a star once fell on this area thereby creating the rocky shapes that make it seem as if from another planet.

Iran, Iraq mulling to hold Arbaeen rituals online

SOCIETY TEHRAN — Iranian Health Minister Saeed Namaki and his Iraqi counterpart Hassan Al-Tamimi discussed the formation of a joint committee to hold Arbaeen rituals virtually this year amid the coronavirus pandemic.

The Arbaeen pilgrimage, which is one of the largest religious gatherings in the world, comes 40 days after Ashura, the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Imam of Shia Muslims and the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Each year, a huge crowd of people flocks to Karbala, where the holy shrine of Imam Hussein (AS) is located, to perform mourning rituals.

During a meeting held on Thursday, Namaki expressed readiness to fully support the Iraqi government and people in the fight against the pandemic, saying, "Do not hesitate to request help in any time, plus we informed all health experts in the fields of medicine, medical equipment, transfer of knowledge, disease management in intensive care units, the exchange of students and professors to cooperate with Iraq."

"Due to the reopening [of offices], we suffered from the second peak of the disease, and fortunately, with coherent planning and the use of the experiences of the first peak, we are back to a better condition today, so that the incidence and mortality of COVID-19 in Iran has significantly decreased," he emphasized.

"Although we have volunteered to buy the



world's first approved vaccine for COVID-19, fortunately, several knowledge-based companies are making vaccines and have passed animal tests, so that in case of any achievement, we will share it with Iraq," he said. Media, scholars, and cultural figures of both countries should come together to plan in more detail on mourning rituals of Arbaeen this year, he highlighted.

Al-Tamimi, for his part, expressed happiness to hear good news from Iran about the management of COVID-19 and the reduction of cases and deaths, saying, "We continuously follow the actions of Iran regarding the management of this disease and observe the remarkable success of Iran that taught us lessons."

"Since the beginning of the outbreak,

we have had great success in providing hospital beds, in addition to setting up 50 COVID-19 diagnostic laboratories in Iraq and provided 4,000 ventilators, as well as special drugs used for the treatment of the disease in the world."

An average of 4,000 people are infected daily in Iraq, 77 percent of whom are recovered, while 10 percent lose their lives, he lamented, expressing appreciation towards Iran's help in countering the disease.

"In the month of Muharram, we faced many problems. Despite the mourning ceremonies fully complied with the health protocols, on the day of Ashura, millions of Iraqis had attended the ceremonies, and observing the health protocols was faced with difficulties," he lamented.

There would be serious problems in Iraq regarding the fight against coronavirus and the increase in the number of patients, therefore, we have announced to the media the need to inform the citizens about the dangers of the disease and the need for holding the ritual virtually, he explained.

"We need to work together to take preventive action to break the transmission chain of COVID-19 in both countries, he highlighted, concluding that we are always proud to cooperate with Iran."

Iranian Ambassador to Baghdad Iraj Masjedi has said that Iraq will not allow foreign pilgrims to visit the country for the Arbaeen ceremony due to the coronavirus pandemic. This year Arbaeen falls on October 8.

Persian Gulf water transfer project to start within month

SOCIETY TEHRAN — The first phase of the water transfer project from the Persian Gulf to the provinces of Kerman, Yazd, and Hormozgan will be put into operation in the next Iranian calendar month of Mehr (September 23-October 22).

The water transfer project from the Persian Gulf is being implemented in large scale with 11 pumping stations to be established over 830 kilometers of land, which is a unique project in the country. Aliyar Yari, director of the Persian Gulf water supply company, said,

Many countries around the world did not cooperate due to U.S. sanctions and refused to deliver the goods to this project despite legal measures, but the installation, execution, and engineering operations of this project were carried out by local engineers, he highlighted.

He went on to note that a large amount of budget has been spent on infrastructure for the water transfer project, and the three provinces must plan to operate three desalination projects.

"We will launch a 200,000-cubic-meter desalination plant in October this year, as well," he emphasized.



The plant, considered as one of the special and important projects, is unique in its kind in the country and West Asia because it has been designed and operated in a large volume and infrastructure, he concluded.

A water transfer project has been proposed by the government which looked to Oman seawater quenching the thirst of the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan, as well as the eastern provinces of South Khorasan and Khorasan Razavi. A budget of \$400 million was allocated by the government in March 2016.

The project aims to boost production, industry, and agriculture, as well as provide potable water to residents in arid areas.

Once an efficient permanent solution, water supply schemes are now being considered as the main cause of environmental depletion haunting many parts of the country leading to dried up lakes and rivers, and poor water resources management resulting in excessive water withdrawal is also a major threat to the country's future.

Experts believe that these projects entailing economic and environmental burden are no solution to droughts, and demanded the water transfer projects to be dismissed due to the irreparable damages to the environment namely deforestation, wildlife habitat destruction, biodiversity degradation, improper land change use, and contaminated seawater.

Tehran to host oceanography international conference for West Asia

ENVIRONMENT TEHRAN — The second International Conference on Oceanography in West Asia will be held virtually in Tehran on September 16 to 17 to share the latest marine scientific findings in the region.

Researchers in the field of marine-oceanic and atmospheric sciences will gather in four training workshops on "the situation of corals in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman", "Microplastic pollution in marine environments", "The effect of climate change on marine biogeochemical processes" and "Tsunami early warning system".

The number of scientific papers received at the conference was 140 in the fields of marine meteorology, climate change, physical oceanography, biological oceanography, oceanic biogeochemistry, fisheries and aquatic, marine geology, marine pollution, law and politics, marine hazards, and marine technology and engineering.

The UNESCO Regional Education and Research Center on Oceanography for West Asia (RCOWA) and Iranian National Insti-



tute for Oceanography and Atmospheric Science organize the second conference on Oceanography for West Asia in Tehran.

Academic and research community, experts from governmental and non-governmental organizations, industry, and decision-makers from the region and abroad attend the event to exchange and share their experiences and research results on all aspects of oceanography.

It is an opportunity to bring together scientists, researchers and research scholars to communicate in all fields concerned Oceanography focusing on the North West Indian Ocean and marginal seas.

Constant supervision plan began to protect red deer in northern Iran

ENVIRONMENT TEHRAN — A 24-hour program for the protection of red deer is being implemented by rangers in the Hyrcanian forests of northern Mazandaran province concurrent with the beginning of the mating season of these animals.

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

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

Mazandaran department of environment announced that rangers are trying to obtain the necessary information about the population, habitat, and distribution of this protected species in addition to confronting poachers who try to hunt them by imitating the sound of deer.

The red deer is a symbol of biodiversity in the Hyrcanian forests and a protected



species in the northern forests.

According to the censuses, more than 600 red deer are inhabiting the forests of Mazandaran.

According to the Supreme Council of Environment, the fine for hunting each red deer is about 350 million rials (around \$8000).

Mazandaran province is the habitat of 490 species of animals from different categories of vertebrates including birds, mammals, reptiles, amphibians, and fish. Some 26 species are supported by international environmental organizations.

A journey across the global South, sharing and exchanging sustainable development solutions

in collaboration with the Republic of Korea, to strengthen the business and entrepreneurial capacities of rice producer organizations and small-scale enterprises in selected countries in West Africa.

Another TrC project was launched in 2016, in partnership with Japan, to promote sustainable agriculture, rural development, food security, and trade and achieve poverty alleviation in Africa. The project aimed to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) — the regional framework for agricultural transformation, wealth creation, food security and nutrition, economic growth and prosperity.

Taking into account the current COVID-19 pandemic, these types of collaborations are now more meaningful than ever.

It is crucial to understand that South-South and Triangular Cooperation (SSTC) can play an effective role in addressing the challenges and vulnerabilities of food systems in the developing world, especially in view of the detrimental effects of COVID-19 and other related shocks. What better time to start doing this, as we celebrate this month the UN South-South Cooperation Day (12 September).

Coming back to the global South countries, how is this benefiting the real recipients? How is South-South cooperation helping countries map out their capacity needs and knowledge gaps and finding sustainable, cost-effective, long-lasting and economically viable solutions?

Mr Sosorbaram Lkhagva a 34 year old from Mongolia, is one of the many beneficiaries of the FAO-China South-South Cooperation programme, who is now working in a greenhouse farm supported by the programme.

He received direct training from Chinese experts deployed under the project, in the cultivation of different types of vegetables, integrated pest management in greenhouses and the construction of passive solar greenhouses. Sosorbaram now dreams of establishing his own farm, and his passion for farming is indisputable.

Over the past ten years, the programme has been able to reach more than 70,000 direct beneficiaries, like Sosorbaram, at the grass-roots level in rural areas and several hundreds of thousands of indirect beneficiaries.

Our journey in the global South does not end here. South-South and Triangular Cooperation are clearly effective means of enhancing access to science, technology and innovation, sharing of knowledge and expertise, as well as developing the national capacity making the voyage one of endless paths and possibilities.

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 22)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

Text

من یک کیف دارم.

شما دو دفتر دارید.

ما میز نداریم.

شما کیف ندارید.

شما میز دارید؟ نه، ما میز نداریم.

او چند دفتر دارد؟ او دو دفتر دارد.

Structure

Simple Present of "to Have": The stem دار "to have" + joined personal pronouns (present verbal endings) ⇒ workbook

I have	دارم	م - دارم	} دار
He has	دارد	د - دارد	
We have	داریم	یم - داریم	
You have	دارید	ید - دارید	

Exercise 1. Complete with the verb "to have":

- من سه کیف
- آن اتاق دو در
- کلاس هفت صندلی
- شما شش دفتر
- ما اینجا مکالمه
- این خانم چند خودکار

Negative: ن + positive verbs ⇒ workbook منفی

I have not	[nadāram]	ندارم	دارم	} ن
He has not	[nadārad]	ندارد	دارد	
We have not	[nadārim]	نداریم	داریم	
You have not	[nadārid]	ندارید	دارید	

Exercise 2. Complete with the negative of "to have":

- ما کیف و کتاب
- او دفتر یا قلم
- من و شما میز
- آن کلاس پنجره
- شما استاد
- این آقا اتاق

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Water ambulances to join medical emergency fleet

Five water ambulances will be added to the current medical emergency fleet in provinces neighboring the Persian Gulf, southern coast of the country, head of Iran's Emergency Medical Services Organization Pir Hossein Koulivand, said on Wednesday.

Since air emergency fleet have been developed, the Organization is looking forward to develop the marine medical fleet, he said, adding that in recent years, there were only five helicopters in service of the Organization, which have already added to 40.

شناورهای دریایی به اورژانس کشور می پیوندند

رییس سازمان اورژانس کشور با بیان اینکه در حال توسعه اورژانس دریایی هستیم، گفت: در حال حاضر اضافه کردن پنج فروند شناور دریایی اورژانس به استان های همسایه خلیج فارس در دستور کارمان قرار دارد.

دکتر پیرحسین کولیوند در گفت و گو با ایسنا، گفت: همانطور که ناوگان هوایی اورژانس را توسعه دادیم، در حال حاضر هم به دنبال تکمیل و توسعه ناوگان دریایی اورژانس هستیم. باید توجه کرد که در گذشته فقط پنج بالگرد اورژانس داشتیم، اما در حال حاضر با اقداماتی که انجام شده ۴۰ بالگرد و پایگاه اورژانس هوایی تامین و ایجاد شده که واقعا افتخاری برای کشور است.

INTERNATIONAL DAILY
www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: Mohammad Shojaeian
Editor-in-Chief: Ali A. Jenabzadeh

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
editor@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
Webmaster: webmaster@tehrantimes.com
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79

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



GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

One of the signs of a scholar is criticizing his/her own words and thoughts and being aware of different viewpoints.

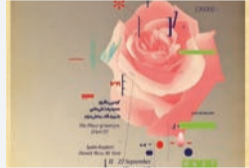
Imam Hussein (AS)

WHAT'S IN ART GALLERIES

Painting



Yazdan Saadi is hanging his latest painting collection named "Nederi Cafe" in an exhibition at Seyhun Gallery. The exhibit runs until September 30 at the gallery located at No. 11, 4th St., Vozara Ave.



Yasaman Noruzi is showcasing her latest paintings in an exhibition at Dastan Basement Gallery. The exhibit that will be running until September 25 at the gallery located at 6 Bidar St., off Fereshteh St.

Paintings by Aidin Baqeri and Hamidreza Alisani are on view in an exhibition at Tarrahan Azad Gallery.

The exhibit titled "The Place of Martyrs" runs until September 22 at the gallery that can be found at 5 Salmas Square, off Fatemi St.

Culture minister praises Afshin Ala for his biting poem on UAE deal

A R T TEHRAN — Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi has praised Iranian poet Afshin Ala for poetry that criticizes the United Arab Emirates' deal to forge ties with Israel.

In a meeting held with Ala on Thursday, Salehi expressed admiration for his bravery and perfect expression, and acknowledged Ala's other praiseworthy poems for children and young adults and his compositions on ritual and political issues, the Culture Ministry announced in a press release.

Ala published a long poem last month in response to the deal between Israel and the United Arab Emirates that is intended to fully normalize relations, which follows a history of peace efforts between Israel and the Palestinians and their Arab allies.

The poem composed in 34 verses is full of praise for Iran and Hezbollah's Secretary-General Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah for their resistance against the Zionist regime and denouncement of the UAE for the deal.

Salehi said that over the past century there have been few Persian poets like



Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi (L) meets Iranian poet Afshin Ala.

Ala who can compose poetry on social and political issues all together. He called Ala a revolutionary poet and

said he has composed poetry in honor of Commander Qassem Soleimani and martyr Mohsen Hojaji as well.

Ala for his part thanked the minister and said it is hard for him to be officially praised but being honored by the minister is a big honor for him.

"We are in a stage of the history of the Islamic Revolution which urges artists and poets to take actions and produce more works. Some might think that when a poet defends the revolution it means he/she has shown interest in power while this is not so," Ala said.

Ala said that he is a political poet and that he is proud of it, adding, "It is not possible for a poet in these times, during which our country is facing such a large amount of attacks from outside, to feel free with no concerns for his/her country. The poets and artists need to change their attitude. Being an intellectual does not imply opposition to the system."

Earlier, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, also has praised Ala for the poem.

"The poem you composed against the Arab leaders was really opportune and timely; thank you very much," Ayatollah Khamenei wrote in a message to Ala published in late August.

Moscow Image of the Book honors Iranian illustrators, designers

A R T TEHRAN — Twelve Iranian artists have been honored in various categories of the XIII International Illustration and Book Design Competition – Image of the Book in Moscow, Russia.

Ali Busari, Haleh Qorbani and Sahar Doostar received awards in the Illustrations for Fiction. Delaram Faghani also received an honorable mention.

In the Original Picture Book section Amir Shabanipur, Hadi Baghdadi and Pejman Baghinzadeh won awards, and Ali Abbasnia, Fatemeh Khosraviyan, Salimeh Babakhan and Golriz Gorgani won honorable mentions.

In the Illustrations for the Works for Children and Youth section, Pegah Derakshan-Rokni only received an

honorable mention.

The Russian winners of the contest received their awards during the closing ceremony of the Moscow International Book Fair, which was held from September 2 to 6.

The foreign winners will be honored during the Bologna Children's Book Fair, which will take place in the Italian city from April 12 to 15.

The competition is organized by the Federal Agency for Press and Mass Communications of the Russian Federation in cooperation with the Association of Book Illustrators and Designers at the Moscow Union of Artists.

More than 600 works were submitted to the competition this year while the jury decided not to award the Grand Prix.



Front cover of Iranian writer Mohammadreza Rahmani's "That Day When It Rained Coins" illustrated by Haleh Qorbani who won an award in the Illustrations for Fiction section of the Image of the Book in Moscow.

Iran launches intl. poetry award on Imam Hussein (AS)

Each winner will also receive the trophy of the Poet of the Year, and the centers will cover all the cost of their travel to Karbala, which is home to the holy shrines Imam Hussein (AS) and his brother, Hazrat Abbas (AS).

The two winners will work as the Ahl al-Bayt ambassadors during the year.

A jury of top experts on Persian and English literature also will pick ten other top works, which will receive honorable mentions and their composers will also pay visits to the holy shrines the



A poster for the International Grand Poetry Award.

organizers' expense.

The jury will select the winners from a long list of 100 entries chosen from among the submissions. The 100 poems are scheduled to be published in a book. In addition the winning works will be published in several languages.

Only those compositions that have not been published audio-visually are allowed to compete in this contest, and the deadlines for Persian and English categories are October 8 and 20 respectively.

Culture minister slams Charlie Hebdo's cartoons of Prophet Muhammad (S)

CULTURE TEHRAN — Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi has censured the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo's reprint of cartoons insulting Prophet Muhammad (S), in a post published on his Twitter account on Wednesday.

"Insulting Prophet Muhammad (S) is not freedom of speech, it is a whiplash on the body and soul of the Muslims," he tweeted.

"Prophet Muhammad (S) is not a religious individual or leader. He is the one who is the honor of 1.5 billion people's identity," he added.

He warned the magazine and said, "Do not play with matches near the gunpowder depot."

Last week Charlie Hebdo republished the cartoons to mark the start of the terrorism trial of the people accused as accomplices in the attack.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has condemned the republication of the cartoons, saying the move once again exposed the enmity of the political, cultural centers of the Western world toward Islam.

"The unforgivable sin of a French magazine in insulting the Holy Prophet (S) once again exposed the enmity and the vile spite of the political and cultural centers of the Western world toward Islam and the Muslim community," Ayatollah



Minister of Culture and Islamic Guidance Seyyed Abbas Salehi in an undated photo.

Khamenei said in his message.

Tehran has strongly condemned Charlie Hebdo, saying any insult to the prophet of Islam and other divine prophets is not acceptable at all.

Iran's Art Bureau has decided to organize an international cartoon exhibition on the Holocaust in response to the Hebdo's republication of cartoons.

Peter Frankopan's "Silk Roads" published in Persian

CULTURE TEHRAN — A Persian translation of "The Silk Roads: A New History of the World" written by Peter Frankopan has been published by Markaz Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Hassan Afshar.

"The Silk Roads" is truly a revelatory new history of the world, promising to destabilize notions of where we come from and where we are headed next. From West Asia and its political instability to China and its economic rise, the vast region stretching eastward from the Balkans across the steppe and South Asia has been thrust into the global spotlight in recent years.

Frankopan teaches readers that to understand what is at stake for the cities and



Front cover of the Persian translation of "The Silk Roads: A New History of the World" written by Peter Frankopan.

nations built on these intricate trade routes, one must first understand their astounding pasts.

Frankopan realigns the understanding of the world, pointing eastward. It was on the Silk Roads that East and West first

encountered each other through trade and conquest, leading to the spread of ideas, cultures and religions.

From the rise and fall of empires to the spread of Buddhism and the advent of Christianity and Islam, right up to the great wars of the twentieth century — this book shows how the fate of the West has always been inextricably linked to the East.

Frankopan is a historian based at Oxford University. He is the author of "The First Crusade: The Call from the East", a major monograph about Byzantium, Islam and the West in the eleventh and twelfth centuries.

He is a senior research fellow at Worcester College, Oxford, and the director of the Oxford Centre for Byzantine Research at Oxford University.



Visual Stories
from Ashura

Imam Hussain (AS) knew that as soon as his soul leaves his pure body, his helpless and defenseless family would be invaded

The Ashura uprising was an unaccompanied battle.

The cruel enemies would frighten the hearts of his young daughters,

take them captive and insult them

The Ashura uprising was an unaccompanied battle. Imam Hussain (AS) knew that as soon as his soul leaves his pure body, his helpless and defenseless family would be invaded. The cruel enemies would assault his young daughters, frighten their hearts, plunder their property, take them captive and insult them.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei