

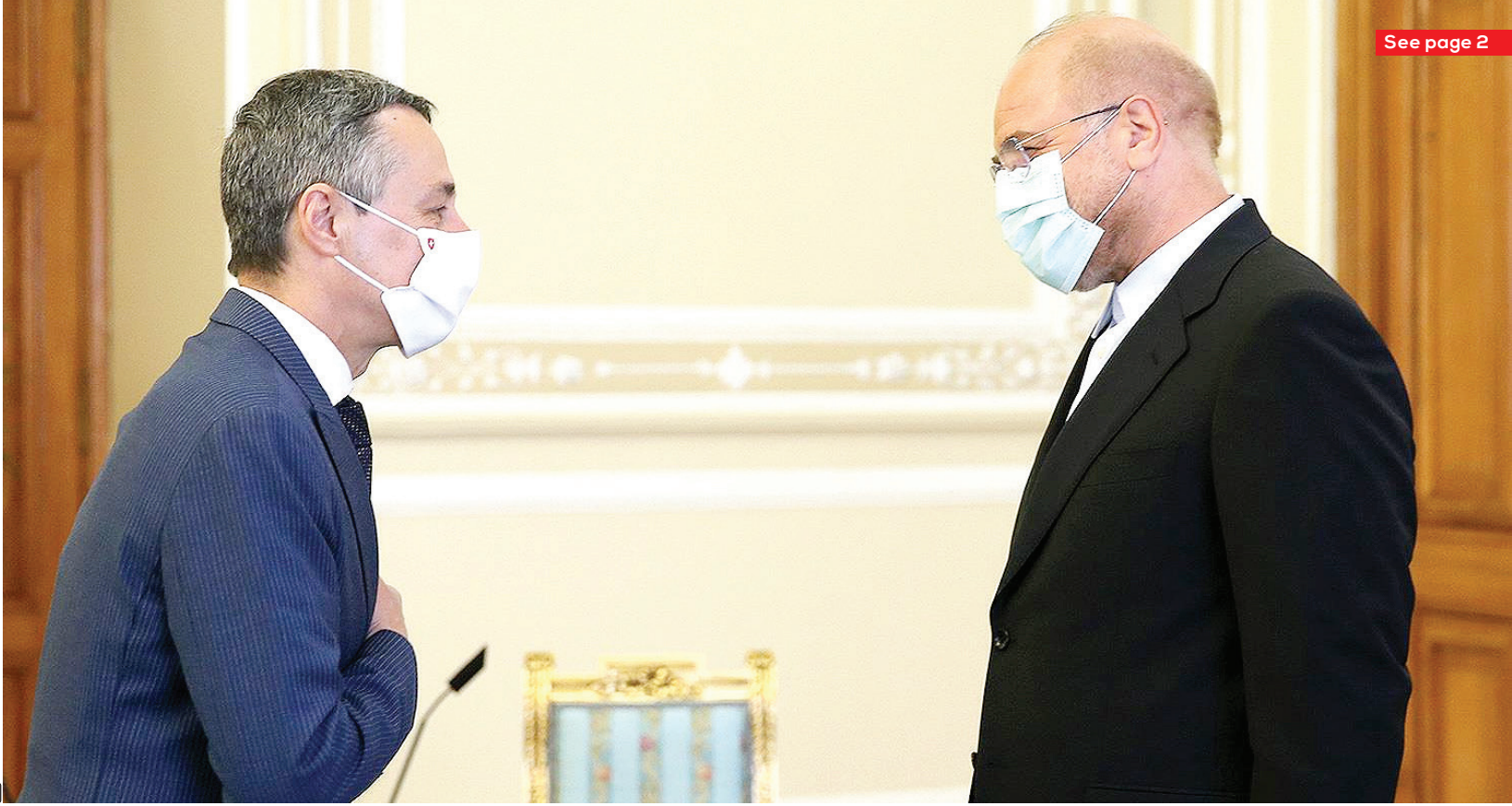
**Elements behind Natanz site blast identified** 3

**No agreement with Alekno yet: IRIVF** 3

**Water supply to industrial parks to be accelerated** 4

**Hamas, Hezbollah put up united front against Israel** 5

# Ghalibaf says U.S. can't impose talks on Iran



See page 2

## Expansion of West Asia's biggest gas network ongoing

**By Ebrahim Fallahi**  
**TEHRAN** — Operating the largest natural gas network in West Asia, National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) continues to expand this network into the country's most remote areas so that currently over 95 percent of the country's population enjoys natural gas through this huge network.  
This level of access is unprecedented in the world since based on the International

Energy Agency (IEA) Energy Access Outlook even in the world's advanced countries the average access to natural gas through the pipeline is nearly 75 percent.  
According to NIGC data, Iran is currently producing over 810 mcm of natural gas daily which is mostly used inside the country for the domestic sector and also as fuel for the power plants, and a small portion is also exported to the neighboring countries like Iraq and Turkey. → 4

## MEK was not embraced but imposed on Albania in 2016: Albanian historian

**By Reza Moshfegh**  
**TEHRAN** — Olsi Jazexhi, an Albanian historian, reveals that the Mujahedin-e Khalq (MEK) was not embraced but imposed on Albania in 2016 by the Obama administration.  
"MEK was imposed on Albania in 2016 when the Obama administration demanded the Edi Rama regime to host

3000 foreign fighters in Albania," Jazexhi tells the Tehran Times.  
Jazexhi also says while the majority of the Albanians are Muslim they are "marginalized and demonized by the present American backed regime" in the country.  
The following is the text of the interview:  
Please tell us what the people in Albania know about MEK? → 5

## Kitaro concert coordinator sues Iranian manager over Tehran concert cancellation

**By Manijeh Rezapoor**  
**TEHRAN** — Eiichi Naito, the coordinator of Japanese musician Kitaro's concerts, has sued his Iranian counterpart Ali Cheraghali over the cancellation of his concerts in Tehran.  
Speaking to the Persian service of MNA, Cheraghali said that in his lawsuit, Naito has claimed compensation.  
Kitaro and six American members of his group were scheduled to per-

form concerts in Tehran during May 2018, but two days before the first performance, Cheraghali announced that the concerts would not be held as the American musicians had failed to obtain visas for Iran.  
He also said that he, along with his colleagues, spent two years arranging the concerts, but in the current situation he preferred to remain silent and to wish for better days. → 8

**By Mahnaz Abdi**  
Head of Economy Desk

## Dairy export a privilege for Iran to boost regional trade

Iran, which used to be a big importer of dairy products, has now become an exporter of these products, especially to the regional markets.

The country is currently the second exporter of milk and dairy products in the region, after Turkey.

As announced by the secretary of Iran Dairy Industries Union, close to seven million tons of milk is produced in the country annually, 450,000 tons of which valued at \$770 million is exported as the dairy products.

Iraq, Afghanistan, and Russia are Iran's major dairy importers, while Qatar, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait, Japan, Azerbaijan, and Armenia are some other export destinations.

According to the latest report released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran exported 152,574 tons of dairy products valued at \$153.74 million during the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21).

The IRICA report said that Iranian dairy products have been exported to 30 countries including Canada, Germany, Britain, Russia, Malaysia, United Arab Emirates, Iraq, Bahrain, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Kazakhstan, and New Zealand during the mentioned time span.

Through importing \$75.99 million of the mentioned goods, Iraq was the major export destination of Iranian dairy products in the first four months of the present year, while Afghanistan and Pakistan came as the second and third export markets, through importing \$18.82 million, and \$13.41 million of the products, respectively.

Considering the West Asian and North African markets, Iran's food sector has played some significant role in the country's non-oil exports, as the exports of foodstuff accounted for 14 percent, and 15 percent of non-oil exports in the Iranian calendar year 1397 (March 2018-March 2019), and 1398 (March 2019-March 2020), respectively.

While the share of foodstuffs in non-oil exports is considerable, there are also potential and capacities for boosting it, and the dairy sector can play an important role in this due. → 4

## Radical evangelical views prevent Pompeo to fulfill his job realistically: ex-diplomat

**By M.A. Saki**

**TEHRAN** — A former Iranian diplomat is of the opinion that U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo is dogmatic and that his "radical evangelical political views" are preventing him from doing his job properly and realistically.

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, Kourosh Ahmadi says since Pompeo is an "ideologue", he wants to propagate his "radical ideological bent" toward certain political issues in the U.S. internationally.

Ahmadi says, "Foreign policy requires pragmatism and focus on national security, not ideological dogmas."

Following is the text of the interview:  
Mike Pompeo said on August 20 the U.S. has activated the snapback mechanism and UN sanctions on Iran will return on September 20. Is the return of sanctions possible when almost all countries at the UN Security

Council have resoundingly rejected such a move as illegal?

A: A big question mark is hanging over the whole process. We're now facing a war of interpretations. On the one hand, we have the binding wordings of paras 11 and 12 of UNSC resolution 2231, which entail a resemblance of automaticity, meaning when the process is triggered by a JCPOA participant via serving a notification of a "significant non-performance", the UN resolutions on Iran, terminated by para 7(a) of the same resolution, will automatically snap back in 30 days. On the other hand, it is evident that the US ceased to be a JCPOA participant following the 8 May 2018 Presidential Memorandum formally issued by the U.S. president, thus forfeiting any right to invoke any measure under the JCPOA-relevant documents. Moreover, we have certain qualifiers in resolutions 2231. → 2

## U.S. protests: Police use tear gas, Portland protesters throw fire bombs

**By staff & agencies**

Protesters in Portland threw rocks and fire bombs at police who in turn used tear gas on Saturday night and at least one person was injured, on the 100th day of demonstrations in the Oregon city against racism and police brutality.

Police described what they called "tumultuous and violent conduct" by protesters on the city's Southeast Stark Street.

"Fire bombs were thrown at officers, injuring at least one community member", police said on Twitter while re-tweeting a video posted by a New York Times reporter showing fire bombs being thrown and a protester running with his legs on fire.

Police used tear gas to disperse the gathering, the Oregonian newspaper reported, estimating the number of protesters at around 400, Reuters reported.

Portland has seen nightly protests for over

three months that have at times turned into violent clashes between demonstrators and officers, as well as between right- and left-wing groups.  
Police said they made arrests but did not give a number.

"There were hundreds at the beginning (of Saturday night's demonstrations). Arrests have been made, yes", police told Reuters in an emailed statement when asked about the crowd size and whether arrests were made.

Elsewhere on Saturday, armed police supporters and anti-racism demonstrators clashed in Louisville before the Kentucky Derby horse race, while Rochester police also used tear gas to disperse protesters.

Demonstrations erupted around the United States following the death in May of George Floyd, a Black man, after a Minneapolis police officer knelt on his neck for nearly nine minutes.

## Health ministry approves responsible tourism plan

**TEHRAN** — The health ministry has approved the tourism ministry's proposed plan on responsible tourism for safe traveling during the coronavirus pandemic.

"In fact, such kind of the trips will not endanger people's health or create additional problems for the medical staff," Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan said on Saturday.

The health ministry is of the opinion that traveling in large scale without supervision and proper planning causes the spread of the

coronavirus, he added.

Therefore, the tourism ministry and the health ministry are emphasizing that the trips should be done under the supervision of the two ministries, Mounesan noted.

On Wednesday he said that people's health is the ministry's top priority and the ministry is in full coordination with the Ministry of Health, which is at the forefront of the fight against coronavirus.

"One of the solutions that can help us in the time of coronavirus is adopting smart travels or

responsible travels."

The minister also announced that the tourism ministry is planning for issuing visas for foreign group tours.

Foreign tourists need to provide proof they have tested negative for coronavirus to gain entry, and they need to follow health protocols while they stay in the country and they are allowed to visit tourism centers and facilities under the supervision of this ministry, which fully complies with health protocols, he explained. → 6



IRNA / Asghar Khamseh

## Ground Force self-sufficient in producing military parts: commander

**TEHRAN** — The commander of Iran's Army Ground Force has said his forces have become self-sufficient in producing military equipment parts.

"Under the guidelines of the commander-in-chief [Ayatollah Ali Khamenei], the Ground Force has the necessary capability to help friendly countries in the field of producing parts," Brigadier General Kiomars Heidari said on Sunday, IRNA reported. → 3

## Global anti-narcotics fight not to succeed without Iran

**TEHRAN** — Iran is the main partner in the fight against narcotics, and if excluded, the global attempt will not be successful, Amir Abbas Lotfi, spokesman for the anti-narcotics headquarters said.

Stating that the anti-narcotics field is one of the main humanitarian and non-profit international activities, he stressed that no challenge or obstacle will undermine the determination of Iran to fight against drug trafficking.

He referred to the formation of a regional cooperation program consisting of Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan, and Kazakhstan and said "Because the source of drug production in the region is Afghanistan, the necessity of forming this regional program has doubled, while Iran is the main partner without which the struggle will not be successful."

The "tripartite initiative" is another regional cooperation established between Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan under the auspices of the United Nations, he said.

Prior to 2007, there was an Iran-Afghanistan-Pakistan intergovernmental committee, which was initiated by Iran. But later the need for a UN presence on the committee was raised, which led to a structural change and the formation of a "tripartite initiative plus the UN", he further explained.

He went on to note that the joint planning unit of the tripartite initiative is in Tehran, highlighting, very good measures have been taken in this area, including patrolling, conducting simultaneous operations, and exchanging information. → 7



## Iran: We will proudly continue helping Syria

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Iran's mission to the United Nations has issued a statement saying Tehran will proudly continue helping the Syrian government.

The statement was issued as a response to remarks made by a spokesperson of the U.S. State Department who told Newsweek that removal of Iranian and Iran-backed forces from Syria is an objective of the U.S.

"The United States' policy objectives for Syria have been consistent and remain the same: the enduring defeat of ISIS and Al-Qaeda, an irreversible political solution to the Syrian conflict in line with UNSCR 2254, and the removal of all Iranian-supported forces," the State Department spokesperson claimed.

The Iranian mission to the UN fired back, saying, "Iran's role in Syria has just been helping the Syrian government and people to fight terrorism and restore security and stability to the country."

The statement also called the U.S. an "uninvited intruder" in Syria. "Iran and Syria have been strategic partners for more than four decades and this unity has been the main obstacle to foreign hostility in the region. Iran will proudly continue helping the Syrian government protect its territorial integrity and also its people against the terrorist groups," the statement added.

## Iran insists on a Republic Afghanistan

**(AT News)** — The government of Iran has insisted for the preservation of the 'Republic System' in Afghanistan in the wake of peace talks with the Taliban.

Following an Iranian delegation's visit to Kabul, the country's Foreign Ministry in a statement said they stressed for a lasting 'Republic System' and Constitution in Afghanistan.

An Iranian delegation has arrived in Kabul to meet with the Afghan officials and political elites in the line of pursuing its overarching policy of perpetuating and protecting the 'Republic System' and Constitution.

According to the statement, Mohammad Ibrahim Taherian, Iran's Special Envoy for Afghanistan is also among the delegation traveled to Kabul to discuss the ongoing peace process.

They met with President Ashraf Ghani, Head of High Council for National Reconciliation and some other prominent officials, the statement added. The delegation had insisted on the protection of achievements gained in the last two decades in Afghanistan.

National Security Advisor, Hamdullah Mohib also met Ibrahim Taherian, where they discussed the Afghanistan peace efforts as well as insisted on a joint harmony regarding strengthening of the 'Republic System', end of war and other key issues.

## Velayati says Charlie Hebdo's insult in line with Islamophobia project

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Ali Akbar Velayati, a top advisor to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, has said that insult by the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo against Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) is a continuation of the Islamophobia project.

These plots by the West are aimed at countering promotion of Islamic culture, Velayati said in a statement.

Velayati also urged all Muslims to condemn such sacrilegious acts and remain vigilant in the face of anti-Islam plots.

In a reckless, provocative move, the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo on Wednesday 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 Tuesday and they appeared in print on Wednesday.

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 brothers identified themselves as belonging to the terrorist group al-Qaeda and cited "avenging the prophet" as their reason for the attack. The attack touched off a wave of killings claimed by Daesh (ISIS) terrorist group across Europe.

## Indian defense minister describes talks with Hatami 'fruitful'

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Indian Defense Minister Rajnath Singh who met on Sunday with Brigadier General Amir Hatami, the Iranian defense minister, described the talks as "fruitful".



"Had a very fruitful meeting with Iranian Defense Minister Brigadier General Amir Hatami in Tehran. We discussed regional security issues including Afghanistan and the issues of bilateral cooperation," Singh said in a tweet.

Singh was in Moscow on a three-day visit to Russia to attend a meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) defense ministers.

In his address to the SCO, he said, "We are deeply concerned about the situation in the Persian Gulf."

He urged the Persian Gulf countries to resolve their disputes through dialogue based on mutual respect.

"We call upon countries in the region - all of which are dear and friendly to India, to resolve differences by dialogue based on mutual respect, sovereignty, and non-interference in internal affairs of each other," he said in his address to a meeting of the defense ministers of the SCO.

The SCO is a Eurasian political and economic organization that was founded in 2001 in Shanghai by the leaders of China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, Pakistan, and India are its main members, and Iran, Mongolia, Afghanistan, and Belarus are observers.

# Ghalibaf says U.S. can't impose talks on Iran

FM Cassis says Switzerland and Iran have promoted reciprocal trust over the past 100 years

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf on Sunday voiced opposition to any dialogue with the United States, saying Washington "cannot impose dialogue on us".

Ghalibaf made the remarks in a meeting with Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis who had visited Tehran to celebrate the centenary of Switzerland's diplomatic presence in Iran.

The Iranian people will never forgive Washington for the damage it inflicted on them through sanctions, the parliament speaker asserted.

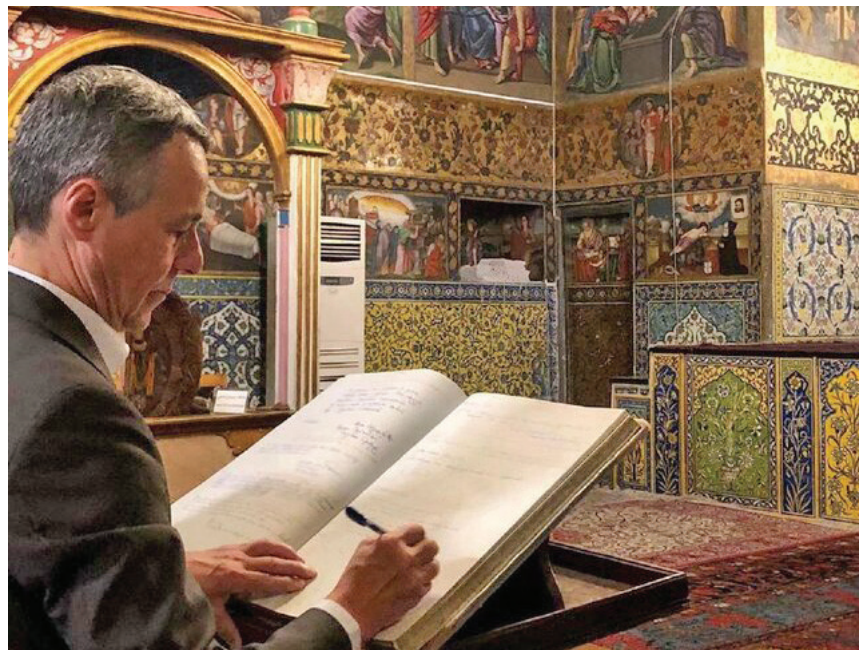
"The Iranian people, due to historical reasons including unilateral, unjust and illegal sanctions, are quite pessimistic toward the American rulers and therefore the firm decision of the government and the Iranian nation is to strengthen the economy and indigenous technology in order to pass this stage," Ghalibaf pointed out.

Highlighting Iran's policy of cooperation with all countries, the parliament speaker said, "In addition to such cooperation, we are opposed to any hegemony, and the refusal to negotiate with the U.S. is because of their hegemonic approach."

According to Tasnim, Ghalibaf said that an "independent Europe" could establish dynamic relations with Iran.

"Europe must not come under the influence of the U.S. policies, particularly given that their (American) measures have led to instability and insecurity in the region."

Taking a swipe at the U.S. for assassinating top Iranian commander General Qassem



Swiss Foreign Minister Ignazio Cassis is signing a book as he took a tour of the touristic city of Isfahan on Saturday.

Soleimani, the parliament speaker said withdrawal from the region is the price the U.S. will have to pay for committing such a crime.

Ghalibaf further warned that the decision from certain regional countries to normalize ties with the Zionist regime would not resolve the problems facing the region, saying, "Such

measures would intensify instability in the region."

He also hailed Switzerland for its record in promoting global peace and security and its focus on humanitarian issues.

For his part, the visiting Swiss foreign minister said Iran is suffering from the economic

problems caused by the sanctions.

The United States withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal in May 2018 and imposed the harshest sanctions in history against Iran.

**Iran, Switzerland celebrate centenary of diplomatic ties**

Also, in a ceremony on Sunday afternoon, Switzerland and Iran marked the centenary of diplomatic ties.

Speaking at the ceremony, Foreign Minister Cassis said Switzerland and Iran have promoted reciprocal trust over the past 100 years.

Switzerland has also been representing the U.S. interest section in Iran since 1979, when the U.S. cut diplomatic ties with Iran.

"It is a source of my joy that along with you I am marking the centenary of Switzerland's diplomatic presence in Iran," Cassis said, according to a translation of his remarks.

He said photos all around show the history of friendship between the two countries.

The photos are not just artistic works but a treasure of friendship between Iran and Switzerland, Cassis added.

He also said the history of friendly relations between Iran and Switzerland dates back to 1873, when the two countries signed a commercial agreement.

Switzerland was among the first European countries that established trade ties with Iran, he said, adding before commercial ties the people and governments in the two countries had great respect for each other.

The Swiss foreign minister also said "diplomats build bridges for confidence and understanding".

## Advisor sees Palestinians' vigilance as chief reason behind failure of 'deal of century'

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — A senior foreign policy advisor to the Iranian parliament speaker has said that vigilance and resistance by the Palestinians are the chief reasons behind the defeat of the so-called "deal of the century".

"Today, it has been proven for the Palestinians that resistance and power are the only literature that the Zionist occupants know well," Hossein Amir Abdollahian said, the Tasnim news agency reported on Sunday.

U.S. President Donald Trump in late January announced the general provisions of the plan dubbed "the deal of the century" at the White House with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu at his side.

All Palestinian groups have unanimously rejected the deal which gives Jerusalem al-Quds the status of "Israel's undivided capital" and authorizes further Israeli annexations in the West Bank and the Jordan Valley.

Amir Abdollahian also said that awareness and resistance of the Palestinian people will also thwart plots that led to the normalization of ties between the Zionist regime of Israel and



the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The UAE and Israel reached an agreement in August to normalize ties.

Iran's Foreign Ministry issued a statement calling the action a "strategic stupidity".

According to Press TV, Palestinian factions unanimously slammed the development with the Gaza-based Hamas resistance movement calling it "a reward for the Israeli occupation and crimes," and the West Bank-headquartered Palestinian Authority (PA) denouncing it as an act of "aggression" against the Palestinian people and a "betrayal" of their cause.

Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas recalled the Authority's envoy from Abu Dhabi and demanded that the Arab League address the issue of the agreement in an emergency meeting.

Turkey said the UAE had "betrayed" the Palestinian cause. The Turkish Foreign Ministry also issued a statement saying that the "history and the conscience" of the people in the region will not forget and never forgive the "hypocritical behavior" of the UAE in agreeing to a deal with Israel.

"While betraying the Palestinian cause to serve its narrow interests, the UAE is trying to present this as a kind of act of self-sacrifice for Palestine," the Turkish Foreign Ministry said, according to DW.

## Radical evangelical views prevent Pompeo to fulfill his job realistically: ex-diplomat

"It is obvious that they (U.S.) have lost in diplomacy in the exact sense of the word"

**1 →** First, para 10 "encourages" JCPOA participants to address their differences through the JCPOA Joint Commission, which is totally absent in the U.S. move, as the U.S. is not anymore a member of that Commission. Second, in para 11, a mid-step is mandatory, i.e., the submission of a draft resolution "to continue in effect the terminations in paragraph 7 (a)." In the first 10 days no Security Council member submitted such a draft and the previous and current president of the Council have indicated that they have no intention to take the step. Third, in paragraph 11, the Council "expresses its intention to take into account the views of the States involved in the issue." Now it is obvious that 13 out of 15 members of the Council hold views contrary to that of the U.S. Thus, we are facing a situation that entirely unprecedented in the history of the Council.

■ The Trump administration has said it will go alone by imposing snapback sanctions on Iran. What will be the consequences of such an attempt on the UN Security Council?

A: the U.S. officials are insisting on the automaticity of the snap back process. And as I said they rely on the binding parts of paras 11 and 12. But it is unclear how the reinstatement of the terminated resolutions on Iran could be effective without the agreement of the Security Council. More importantly, the reinstatement should be followed by certain steps. For example, the Sanctions Committee and Expert Panel should be also reactivated. And that requires the agreement and participation of all 15 members of the Council. The Committee and the Panel should be financed that requires the involvement of the 5th Committee of the UN General Assembly, which is not probable to agree to allocate resources for implementing the reinstated resolutions. The UN Secretariat should be also involved to administer and provide services to them. How could it be done in an unsettled and ambivalent situation?

■ Within 24 hours of Washington's move to return sanctions, 13 of the 15 of Council - permanent and non-permanent members - in separate letters, opposed the move. What message does this united voice against sanctions carry?

A: The moves by the 13 members of the Council in rejecting the U.S. action are of extreme importance. It indicates to the utter political isolation of the Trump administration in the world scene. The rejection of the U.S. move by its traditional European allies is more significant. The fact that even the conservative British government refused to align with the U.S. administration shows how ineffective and despicable the Trump policies are. On the other hand, the events in the Council indicate the degree of independence that countries enjoy despite their need to and reliance on U.S. security and financial assistance. Among the Council members who rejected the U.S. move, we see countries who are dependent on the U.S. for economic assistance and security cooperation. It shows that the close relationship of countries with a big power does not necessarily means that they are sacrificing their political independence.

■ While the Council rejected to extend arms embargo against Iran, Washington fired back that it "will use all available diplomatic means" to prevent the lifting of the arms embargo on Iran. In your opinion, what does Pompeo mean by using the term "diplomatic means"?

A: It is obvious that they have lost in diplomacy in the exact sense of the word. I believe that the word "diplomatic" here is used to simply disguise the coercive measures that the U.S. in general and the Trump administration in particular are addicted to. On the eve of the election in the U.S., it is important for Trump not to lose entirely in the Security Council, otherwise he will be ridiculed in the domestic political scene and run up to the election. Therefore, I can predict that they will resort to any means possible for imposing their will to the international community. Whether day will win or lose, we have to wait and see.

■ In an opinion piece on August 30, The Washington Post said "Mike Pompeo is the worst secretary of state in history". It said Pompeo's position, especially toward Iran, has driven U.S. policy into blind alleys. In view of such a commentary, do you see Pompeo

as a diplomat, a bully or a spymaster leading U.S. foreign policy?

A: I can't agree more. Pompeo is the worst ever choice for serving as a U.S. secretary of state. Simply because he is an ideologue, and has radical ideological bent towards certain views in domestic US politics and decided to propagate them internationally. His Christian right and radical evangelical political views prevent him from fulfilling his job in proper and realistic way. In comparison, Trump himself is much more pragmatic than his secretary of state. Foreign policy requires pragmatism and the focus on national security, not ideological dogmas.

■ Even U.S. European allies at the Security Council - Britain, Germany, France, Belgium, and Estonia - have three times rejected U.S. moves against Iran. How such a repudiation of Washington's Iran policy is viewed in the U.S. and the world at large?

A: Absent a crisis at the international level, the U.S. domestic politics is usually focused on economy and other domestic issues and these issues are currently dominating the debates in the run up to the November election. Nonetheless, always certain foreign policy issues could be resorted to by opponents to denounce and embarrass each other. The Democrats have always been more bent towards multilateral foreign policy than the Republicans. The repudiation of Trump's policies towards Iran will be certainly used by the Democrats against him and they will embrace and emphasize coalition building with allies against Iran. If the Trump administration fails in its bid to extend arms embargo and reapply the terminated Security Council resolutions against Iran, that will be a big point of weakness for the Republicans in the forthcoming elections.

■ Before the U.S. tabled a resolution to extend arms embargo against Iran, analysts and former diplomats said the intention behind such a step is not that the U.S. is really worried about purchase of weapons by Iran



from Russia or China. Rather, they said, the U.S. is using this a pretext to completely destroy the JCPOA. What is your opinion?

A: I agree with this assessment, especially when it comes to the ideological branch of the Trump administration, led by Pompeo. This approach is initially originated from such hawkish elements in Congress as Ted Cruz and the like. Initially, the pressure on their part led to the formulation of the policy favoring the snapping back of the terminated resolutions. Pompeo, aligning with them, gives priority to destroying the JCPOA in a way that a possible future Biden administration won't be able to resuscitate it.

■ Neoncon Fred Fleitz, a strong Trump ally who formerly served as a staffer at the National Security Council, talking on the Fox News, described the UN as "useless" and suggested that the U.S. should "go it alone" on Iran to defend what he called "national interests". He also claimed that Iran "cheated on the JCPOA". What message such remarks convey?

A: A wing of the Republican Party has always been extremely isolationist, including against the UN. Patric Buchanan, a Republican candidate in the primary election in 2004, promised, if elected as president, he would send 5000 American soldiers to New York to help the UN pack up and leave. They believe that the U.S. has levers of power, such as the strongest military and economy, dominance over the international financial system, a weaponized dollar, outsized presence in the Breton Woods institutions, military presence all over the world and the like and, therefore, they don't need the UN. They also believe that the UN is serving the U.S. enemies much more and, thus, seeing it destroyed is more in the interest of the U.S.

**The former Iranian diplomat says the fact the 13 members of the UN Security Council rejected the U.S. move against Iran "are of extreme importance."**



# Tehran: Britain's debt to Iran not related to Zaghari-Ratcliffe's case

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Saturday that Britain's debt to Iran has no connection to the case of Nazanin 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.

British Defense Secretary Ben 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 Zaghari-Ratcliffe.

Wallace 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 on Friday.

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.

"The paying of Iran's debt by Britain has nothing to do with the release of dual

national prisoners," Khatibzadeh said, according to Mehr.

He said the truth is that the British government has failed to pay its debt for a long time.

"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.

Referring to Zaghari-Ratcliffe, the spokesman said she has served parts of her sentence and she is not different from other prisoners.

"The issue of Mrs. Zaghari has a judicial procedure and Iran's Judiciary acts completely independent in this regard," 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."

On November 1, 2017, Boris Johnson, who at the time was Britain's foreign secretary, said, "When we look at what Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe was doing, she was simply teaching people journalism, as I understand it, at the very limit."

On June 24, 2019, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman said Zaghari-Ratcliffe will serve out her five-year prison sentence, dismissing a call for her release by a British minister visiting Tehran.

## Elements behind Natanz site blast identified, says nuclear official

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Behrooz Kamalvandi, spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), has said the elements and reasons behind a recent blast at the Natanz nuclear facility have been identified.

"The elements and reasons behind the act of sabotage at the Natanz facility have been identified, but it's not possible to give out further information since the issue is under investigation," Kamalvandi said in an interview on Sunday, according to Tasnim.

He said Iran has been under cyberattacks and has been able to thwart them.

"We've had numerous industrial sabotage acts and we have an exhibition about many cases of sabotage acts

that we discovered," Kamalvandi explained. The spokesman added that the Natanz incident was also an act of sabotage, which is being studied by security organizations.

On July 2, Iran announced an incident affected a shed under construction at the Natanz complex, but it caused no casualties and failed to stop the enrichment work at the facility.

A day later, Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC) said the "main cause" of the explosion in the facility has been determined and will be announced at an appropriate time.

SNSC spokesman Keyvan Khosravi said that experts from different sectors started investigating "different

hypotheses" about the incident at the site in central Iran immediately after its occurrence, and have determined its main cause.

"Due to some security considerations, the cause and manner of this incident will be announced at a proper time," he added.

Some reports suggested Tel Aviv's alleged role, but Israeli officials neither confirmed nor denied the regime's involvement.

Meanwhile, Iranian officials have said much of the speculation linking the incident to Israel is nothing but bluster which pleased Israeli leaders, warning Tel Aviv of serious consequences if it turned out to be true.

## Ground Force self-sufficient in producing military parts: commander

**I** Heidari said the Islamic Republic has become self-sufficient when it comes to producing the cycle of ground defense equipment.

He pointed out that the Ground Force holds military exercises each year to test its new weapons and equipment.

The general unveiled plans to launch 10 special military bases along the country's borders.

The Ground Force needs military bases with special tactical features so as to carry out its missions properly along the country's western, southwestern, northeastern and eastern borders, he stated.

He said a very good plan has been



introduced for the entire frontier, and 10 special bases are planned to be constructed in the first stage.

Heidari stated that the first special

military base was launched in the last few days, and the nine remaining ones will be inaugurated gradually.

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

Iranian officials have repeatedly underscored that the country will not hesitate to strengthen its military capabilities, including its missile power, which are entirely meant for defense, and that Iran's defense capabilities will never be subject to negotiations. Last month, Defense Minister Amir

Hatami said Iran is interested in concluding new agreements with Russia on defense cooperation once the UN-mandated restrictions on arms sales expire.

It came after the UN Security Council turned down the United States' push to extend the Iranian arms embargo.

Under the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, arms embargo against the Islamic Republic will end on October 18.

"When the embargo expires, given the depth of our relations with Russia, we will need new agreements and new documents. Our relationship is growing more genuine and, of course, we will be discussing new opportunities," Hatami told Russia's Rossiya 24 broadcaster on August 24.

## 'Presidential candidates in U.S. seeking Zionist lobby's endorsement'

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — The deputy chairman of the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee has said that rival presidential candidates in the U.S. are trying to get the endorsement of the anti-Iran and Zionist lobbies by pressuring Tehran.

"Each side in the U.S. election tries to use the issue of opposing Iran to make the Zionist lobby realize that they would confront Iran if they win," Abbas Moghtadaei told IRNA on Saturday.

But such approach is not very effective outside the U.S., he argued.

Moghtadaei also pointed to the U.S. attempts to reimpose the UN sanctions on Iran, saying, "The Americans have exited Barjam and they can't claim to use the dispute resolution mechanism envisaged in the agreement."

Barjam is the Persian acronym for the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official name for the 2015 nuclear agreement.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has always acted in accordance to international law, and the Westerners know that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been in compliance with



Barjam at different stages and what the Americans claim today is blatantly out of question," he added.

In 2018, the U.S. unilaterally pulled out of the deal,

officially called the JCPOA, and pursued a policy of "maximum pressure" against Iran to force it to negotiate a new deal.

Russia and China have strongly opposed Washington's anti-Iran measures, which included targeting top Iranian officials with sanctions and assassinating Iran's top anti-terror general Qassem Soleimani.

Since the U.S. quit the nuclear deal and imposed sanctions on Iran, the three European countries to the pact have failed to fulfill their commitments to the agreement.

The participant states of the Joint Commission of the JCPOA gathered in Vienna on Tuesday to address Iran's complaint and also discuss Washington's latest move to invoke the UN sanctions snapback against Iran.

In a statement, they asserted that the U.S. cannot invoke the UN sanctions snapback against Iran, emphasizing that full implementation of the agreement by all sides remains crucial.

MP Moghtadaei said President Donald Trump's administration is resorting to illegal moves against Iran as an election shock to catch up to his rival in the elections.

## Iran, Kazakhstan vow to broaden mutual cooperation

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — Iranian Ambassador to Kazakhstan Majid Samadzadeh Saber and Kazakh Foreign Minister Mukhtar Tleuberdi in a meeting in Nur Sultan underlined the need to further expand bilateral relations in different fields.

During the meeting, both sides reviewed bilateral, regional, and international issues.

Samadzadeh Saber and Tleuberdi reiterate the need for further development of mutual cooperation in different fields that are beneficial for both countries.

In a relevant development in November, Kazakhstan's former President Nursultan Nazarbayev in a meeting with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif called for the expansion of mutual cooperation between the two countries in different fields.

During the meeting in the capital city of Nur Sultan,

Nazarbayev voiced his satisfaction in the status quo of bilateral relations, but noted that Kazakhstan and Iran should try to further enhance their interactions in different fields.

Zarif and Nazarbayev met on the sidelines of Astana Club meeting in the Central Asian country's capital on Tuesday. Bilateral ties, regional developments and well as other international issues were the topics discussed by Nazarbayev and Zarif during the meeting.

Before meeting with Nazarbayev, the Iranian foreign minister also held a meeting with his Kazakh counterpart Mukhtar Tleuberdi. During the meeting, the two sides discussed the trade and economic cooperation, especially within the Caspian Sea Legal Regime, port as well as air transport cooperation, consular relations along with the upcoming Astana Process.



## SPORTS

### No agreement with Alekno yet: IRIVF

**SPORTS** TEHRAN — The Islamic Republic of Iran Volleyball Federation (IRIVF) has confirmed in an announcement that the federation has yet to reach an agreement with any coach.

The local media reports suggest that the federation will appoint former Russia coach Vladimir Alekno but the federation has denied speculations linking it to the Russia coach.

In a meeting which was held in the federation's headquarters on Saturday, the technical committee approved that the federation would appoint a top foreign coach for the National Team within the next two weeks but didn't announce the name of the candidates.

The Committee emphasized that the new head coach should have experienced the Olympic Games and now some Iranian outlets have reported that the federation has reached an agreement with Alekno.

"The volleyball federation has reached an agreement with any coach so far," the volleyball federation made an announcement in this regard.

Iran volleyball team are without a coach since parting ways with Igor Kolakovic in March.

In the Olympic Games, Iran have been drawn in Pool A along with Japan, Poland, Italy, Canada and Venezuela. Pool B consists of Brazil, USA, Russia, Argentina, France and Tunisia.

### Navidkia appointed Sepahan coach

**SPORTS** TEHRAN — Sepahan legend Moharram Navidkia has been named as new head coach of the Isfahan based football club.

Navidkia was named as Sepahan coach on a three-year contract. He replaced Amir Ghalenoei who walked away Sepahan following poor results in the team.

Navidkia began his career at Sepahan football club in 1998 and retired from football after 16 years at the team.

The Isfahan club are due to face Saudi Arabia's Al Nassr on September 15 in the first of four remaining Group D matches of the AFC Champions League.

They began their AFC Champions League campaign in style with a 0-4 win away to Al Ain back in February, before falling to a 0-3 defeat against Al Sadd a week later.

### Esteghlal complete signing of Rashid Mazaheri

**SPORTS** TEHRAN — Esteghlal football team have completed the signing of Mohammad Rashid Mazaheri.

Mazaheri canceled his contract with Tractor last week and joined the Blues on a two-year contract on Sunday.

Mazaheri represented Iran at the 2018 FIFA World Cup but remained an unused substitute at the competition.

The Gachsaran-born goalie, who started his career in 2010 in Esteghlal Ahvaz, has also played in Foolad, Zob Ahan and Tractor.

Mazaheri has been signed to strengthen Esteghlal in the 2019-20 AFC Champions League.

### A time to violate health protocols

**SPORTS** TEHRAN — While the health organizations warn the people that they must consider social distancing to fight COVID19-, Tractor football fans violated the health protocols on Friday in Tabriz.

Thousands of Tractor fans celebrated their Hazfi Cup title win at the Bonyan Diesel Stadium in Tabriz as their team beat Esteghlal 2-3 in the final match on Thursday in Mashhad.

Star-studded Tractor claimed the title for the first time since 2014 and their six-year wait for winning the accolade once again came to an end.

However, despite social distancing rules and restrictions on public gathering due to the COVID19- pandemic, Tractor Supporters flocked firstly to Tabriz International Airport to welcome their players and then to the stadium to show their joy at the team's success.

It was shocking that no dispersal order was issued after groups of fans came out to celebrate in the streets and then in the stadium in Tabriz.

Police and the authorities of the city did not urge Tractor fans to stay at home due to COVID19-, which still is a real risk in Iran, and all over the world.

Even as the number of coronavirus deaths has fallen in the last few weeks, the Iranian officials have warned that the country would experience a third wave of coronavirus in the fall.

All Iran Professional League (IPL) and Hazfi Cup games were held behind closed doors due to coronavirus.

However, it seems that the rules and restrictions regarding the coronavirus pandemic are not applicable outside the stadiums in Iran, and the health protocols and regulations are not observed in public gatherings such as what happened in Tabriz.

The National Coronavirus Combat Headquarters, the responsible organization for developing regulations and guidelines to prevent the spread of the coronavirus in Iran, did not react in this regard and even did not issue a statement about it.

Unfortunately, as we have seen throughout the lockdown period, so many people did not take coronavirus seriously enough, as the case of the Tractor celebration in Tabriz, a large number of people chose to gather inside the stadium. Surprisingly, the permission was granted for this mass gathering by the city officials.

It is obvious that we must all do what we can to prevent further cases and deaths in our communities. On the other hand, the authorities must act responsibly in enforcing the rules, and people, especially the football fans, should abide by social distancing measures to protect themselves and each other.



## Commodities worth \$1.1b traded at IME in a week

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN— More than 464,519 tons of commodities valued at \$1.166 billion were traded at Iran Energy Exchange (IME) during the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

As reported by the IME International Affairs and Public Relations Department, last week, on the domestic and export metal and mineral trading floor of IME, 168,219 tons of various products worth close to \$601 million were traded.

On this trading floor, 151,732 tons of steel, 6,300 tons of aluminum, 4,735 tons of copper, 120 tons of molybdenum concentrates, 12 tons of precious metal concentrates, 320 tons of zinc ingot, 5,000 tons of coke as well as 20 kg of gold bullion were traded by customers.

The report declares that on domestic and export oil and petrochemical trading floors of IME, 293,714 tons of different commodities with the total value of \$576 million were traded.

On this trading floor, 89,500 tons of VB feed stock, 51,604 tons of bitumen, 79,990 tons of polymer products, 37,460 tons of chemical products, 22,000 tons of lube cut oil, 565 tons of insulation, 1,450 tons of base oil, 200 MT of slaps waxes, 120 tons of argon, as well as 10,825 tons of sulfur were traded.

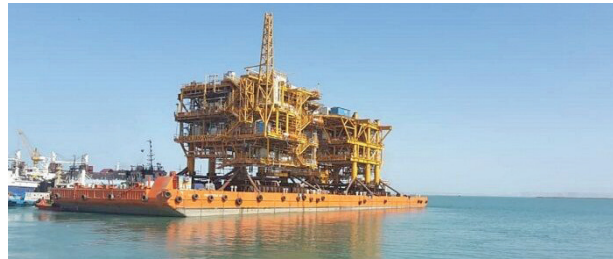
Moreover, the agricultural trading floor of the IME played host to trading of 2,000 kg of saffron strands.

Furthermore, 2,584 tons of commodities were traded on the side market of the IME.

## Hendijan oil field platforms shipped toward offshore spot

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN— Platforms 7 and 8 of Iran's Hendijan oil field were loaded at Iran Shipbuilding and Offshore Industries Complex (ISOIC)'s Bandar-Abbas Yard to be shipped toward their offshore spot in the Persian Gulf waters, Shana reported on Sunday.

According to the Iranian Offshore Oil Company (IOOC) which is in charge of the field's development, the installation of these platforms will ensure sustained production in this field while paving the way for increasing the field's production capacity.



"The technical preparations for the installation of these two platforms, each weighing more than a thousand tons, has begun in Hendijan field," IOOC Director of Engineering and Construction Ali Ahouchehr said.

"These platforms are designed to produce 10,000 barrels of oil, which means the two of them will produce 20,000 barrels," Ahouchehr said.

The official noted that the installation operations will be carried out in accordance with international safety protocols and standards in the offshore sector.

The Hendijan field is located in the north-west section of the Persian Gulf, 10km north-east of Bahregansar platform.

The Iranian Offshore Oil Company is a subsidiary of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) that operates in southern Iran. Its activities cover important areas of the Persian Gulf and its main operations are in Bushehr Province and on Kharg Island, Sirri Island, and Lavan Island.

## TEDPIX rises 5,847 points on Sunday

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN— TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), which is Iran's major stock exchange, climbed 5,847 points to 1.647 million on Sunday, IRNA reported.

As reported, 10.006 billion securities worth 115.938 trillion rials (about \$2.76 billion) were traded at the TSE on Sunday.

The first market's index rose 9,886 points while the second market's index fell 10,865 points.

TEDPIX, which had dropped five percent to 1.631 million points at the end of the past Iranian week (ended on Friday), has come back to the growing trend in the current week, as it also gained 10,096 points on Saturday.

The index had also experienced 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.

## Over 6m tons of tomato produced in 5.5 months

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN— Production of tomatoes in Iran has reached 6.3 million tons since the beginning of current Iranian calendar year (March 20), the head of the Central Organization for Rural Cooperatives of Iran announced.

Ali Tahmasbi said that of the mentioned amount, 600,000 tons have been produced in the greenhouses, and there is no problem for the exports of the product, ILNA reported.

Iran's agricultural production is expected to reach 130 million tons in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021), according to the Agriculture Minister Kazem Khavazi.

Khavazi put the country's agriculture production in the previous Iranian calendar year at 125 million tons.

"This year, the government is paying special attention to the agricultural sector for achieving self-sufficiency in most agricultural and strategic products," the official said.

He noted that apart from increasing production, the Agriculture Ministry also seeks to increase productivity by developing processing industries in this sector.

The minister pointed to the sales of raw materials as important damage to the agricultural sector and said: "Currently, seven million tons of garden products, four million tons of vegetables, seven million tons of tomatoes and five million tons of potatoes are produced in the country, all of which need to be processed and not to be sold raw."

In late June, the Acting Head of Agriculture Ministry's Economic Affairs Department Shahrokh Shajari had said that development of new irrigation systems and greenhouses to improve water productivity, development of aquaculture, especially shrimp and fish farming at sea, and development of medicinal plants cultivation are among the plans underway by the ministry for increasing productivity in the agricultural sectors.

# Over €1b saved through domestic production since March 2019

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN— Relying on domestic production in various industrial sectors has saved Iran €1.045 billion in a 17-month period since the beginning of a program for promotion of domestic production in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) up to August 21, ISNA reported.

According to the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry data, in the mentioned period, 11 expert desks have been held for promotion of domestic production in various industrial sectors.

As reported, the steel and copper industries had the biggest share in the mentioned figure with €440 million worth of domestic products, followed by the automotive and motorcycle industries with €340 million.

The share of the oil, gas, and petrochemicals and telecommunication equipment, electricity, and electronics were 140 and 120 million euros, respectively.

Holding 10 expert desks for the promotion of domestic production in the previous



Iranian calendar year led to saving €979 million for the country.

Three of the mentioned desks were for the auto industry, and the fourth desk was

held in the fourth Iranian calendar month of Tir (July 21) during which it was announced that €66 million worth of new parts and equipment are set to be indigenized in the current year.

Back in January, Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister for Industry Affairs Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki said the main focus of the ministry's programs for the current year will be on the domestic production boom.

The official noted that the Industry Ministry's programs for the promotion of domestic production are going to save \$10 billion for the country in the next two years.

Since the U.S. re-imposed sanctions on Iran to pressure the country's economy, Iran has been taking all necessary measures to mitigate the impact of the sanctions and counter the U.S. actions.

Improving and boosting domestic production has been one of the major strategies that Iran has been following in the past two years in order to increase its independence.

## Dairy export a privilege for Iran to boost regional trade

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN— Iran's dairy export especially to the neighboring states is in fact a privilege for the country's trade in the region.

Exporting these products to 30 countries during the first four months of the current year, despite all limitations because of the U.S. sanctions and also coronavirus pandemic and closure of the borders, is good news.

As previously reported by the Statistical Center of Iran (SCI), the production of cow milk in Iran has risen three percent during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20) from its previous quarter.

SCI has put the quarterly cow milk output at 1.9 million

tons. The country also plans to boost its annual milk output to 11 million tons in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021).

Although in the way to increase its dairy exports, Iran should adopt some key strategies, among them it could be referred to more diversification in the products, preparing better export infrastructure given that these products are highly spoilable, combining the traditional production methods with the modern ones, and finding more export destinations.



## Water supply to industrial parks to be accelerated

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN— Iranian energy minister announced that water supply to the country's industrial parks will be expedited.

Making the remarks in an interview conducted by IRIB, Reza Ardakanian said, "Water is properly supplied to the industrial parks in the regions, where there is no shortage in terms of water resources, but for the areas with lack of water resources, we have started a program to plug up the illegal wells and pay some percentage of the resulted savings to the governorates of the provinces to be allocated to supply water to the industrial units."

An official with Iran's industry sector announced last week that 545 idle industrial units have been revived throughout the country since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

Asghar Mosaheb, the deputy head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) for small industries affairs, also said that reviving the mentioned units has created jobs for



9,800 persons. Saying that out of the 45,000 small and medium industrial units in Iran's industrial parks, 9,500 units are currently inactive, the official announced that ISIPO plans to revive 1,500 units in the current Iranian year.

As the result of the 545 units coming back to the production cycle, the ISIPO's plan for reviving the small and medium industries in this year has come true by 36 percent, Mosaheb noted, adding that the organization plans to create 27,000 jobs through reviving such units in the current year, and by reviving the above-mentioned units, its plan in this due has been realized by 36 percent as well.

## Iran's annual tea output expected to reach 130m tons

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN— Tea production in Iran is expected to reach 130 million tons in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021), Head of Iran's Tea Organization (ITO) Habib Jahansaz said.

According to the official, so far 103,395 tons of fresh tea leaves worth four trillion rials (about \$95.23 million) have been purchased from the country's farmers in the northern Gilan and Mazandaran provinces, IRNA reported.

Noting that over 85 percent of the government dues to the farmers have been paid, Jahansaz said: "so far 3.4 trillion rials (about \$80.95 million) has been paid to the farmers and the rest will be paid gradually."

Some 75 percent of the payment to the tea farmers will be made by the tea factories and the other 25 percent is paid by the government, he said.

The official stated that 58,702 tons, equivalent to 56 percent of the purchased green leaves, is of first-class quality, and 45,332 tons, equivalent to 44 percent, is second-class. Jahansaz put the amount of dried tea



production at 23,260 tons so far and said: "This amount has increased by one percent compared to the same period last year."

Tea harvest season starts in farmlands across the northern provinces of Gilan and Mazandaran in early May.

More than 55,000 families grow tea over 28,000 hectares of farmland in the two provinces, accounting for 90 percent of the country's total tea production.

In late December 2019, Jahansaz named Azerbaijan, Iraq, and Afghanistan as the top destinations for Iranian tea exports.

Iran exports tea to India, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Afghanistan, Iraq, Canada, Australia, Spain, the Czech Republic, Azerbaijan, and Georgia.

## Expansion of West Asia's biggest gas network ongoing

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN— With a total length of over 36,000 kilometers, Iran's gas network is also among the world's most modern networks and it enjoys the most modern and update measuring, transmission, and pressure boosting instruments and equipment.

This vast network of pipelines is growing bigger and bigger every year as NIGC tries to increase the coverage of the national network to nearly 100 percent.

Over the past few years, every year more than 3,000 villages have been connected to the national gas network, based on NIGC data.

According to the NIGC Head Hassan Montazer Torbati, by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (starts in March 2025), the total length of the national network is expected to reach 45,000 km.

Although in many countries due to the outbreak of the coronavirus development projects came to a halt, in Iran the projects for supplying natural gas to the country's rural areas continued under restrict safety protocols along with many other development projects.

Gholamreza Mashayekhi, the head of NIGC Dispatch-



ing Department, said on Saturday, September 5 that over 1,000 villages and 11 cities have been connected to the national gas network in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-July 21).

Currently, about 30,000 villages with 4.6 million households as well as 1,148 cities with over 18 million households are connected to the national gas network in Iran.

Gas is supplied to 97 percent of people in the urban areas and 82 percent of people in the rural regions, according to Torbati.

Back in May, the NIGC's former dispatching director said the transmission capacity of the national gas network has risen to one billion cubic meters per day (bcm/d).

Mehdi Jamshidi-Dana mentioned the inauguration of new platforms in the South Pars gas field (Iran's biggest gas field shared with Qatar in the Persian Gulf) and noted that with the increase of the national gas network's capacity the new production capacity from the South Pars platforms won't be idle.

"The country's [natural] gas production capacity is going to be increased to one billion cubic meters per day and now the national network is capable of transmitting this capacity," he said.

## South Yaran field production capacity rises to 25,000 bpd

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN— Daily Production capacity of the South Yaran oil field, which Iran shares with Iraq in the West Karoun region, has reached 25,000 barrels following the installation of a mobile oil separator (MOS) in the field.

According to Hamoun Kazemini, head of the South Yaran oil field development project, the installation of this system has increased the field's production capacity by at least 5,000 barrels per day (bpd), ILNA reported.

Kazemini noted that this is the first time that such a MOS system is installed in one of the West Karoun oil fields, add-



ing: "The installation of this system is very significant since it has been constructed and installed completely by local experts and engineers."

Using this system was put on the agenda

to reach maximum production levels from the wells of this joint field, the official added.

According to him, all 12 wells of the South Yaran oil field are currently operational, and six more wells are planned to go operational in this field in the near future.

A Mobile Oil Separator is a device for separating gas from crude oil and pumping it to the pipeline during the drilling, repairing, acidizing, and testing of oil wells.

As emphasized in its name, the MOS device is mobile and it is possible to utilize it on any needed oil well and then easily transfer and install it on another one. It is composed of three units which are installed on trailers.

Yaran is one of the five oilfields known as West Karoun oilfields. It is divided into two parts namely North Yaran and South Yaran.

The field lies 120 kilometers west of Ahwaz, the capital city of the southwestern province of Khuzestan, on the borderline with Iraq.

The field is adjacent to Azadegan Field in the east and to Iraq's Majnoon Field in the west.

West Karoun region which includes five major fields namely North Azadegan, South Azadegan, North Yaran, South Yaran, and Yadavaran is prioritized among the country's top development projects.



# MEK was not embraced but imposed on Albania in 2016: Albanian historian

‘MEK acts like an occupying army in our country’

**1 →** A: Albanians know that MEK has been a terrorist organization listed by the United States and the European Union until 2012 as such. Albanians are very worried and afraid of their government for hosting MEK. Many have protested in the past and have asked for their expulsion, but the Albanian government has intimidated and scared the citizens not to protest or question their presence. On the other hand, MEK and its supporters try to depict their ex-terrorist group as “the democratic opposition” of the regime in Iran. MEK spends a lot of money to misinform the Albanians and demonize Iran in Albania. In the past months, it has started to radicalize some Albanians, like ISIS and Jabhat al-Nusra did before and make them join their terrorist activities against Iran.



## ‘The main supporters of MEK in Albania are the Americans, Emiratis, Saudis, and Israelis’

ities that Maryam Rajavi and her gang commit inside Manza’s paramilitary camp.

■ What do you know about the countries or institutes which fund the Rajavi cult?

A: The main supporters of MEK in Albania are the Americans, Emiratis, Saudis, and Israelis. When the MEK army was relocated to Albania in 2016, the Americans, UNHCR, and our government cheated the Albanian public by telling them that MEK is coming for humanitarian reasons in Albania, like many Syrians, Palestinians, Afghans, etc. However, after their relocation was secured and Albanians were neutralized from protesting their presence, many American senators and politicians like John McCain, John Bolton, Rudy Giuliani started to come to Tirana and demand the Albanian government to give MEK anti-constitutional and illegal powers to fight against the government of Iran. Since 2017 the Americans, Saudis, Israelis, and Emiratis have sponsored MEK, Albanian security services, the media, and many NGOs to depict MEK as “the Iranian opposition,” which will “bring democracy to Iran.” The same tactics that were used in Syria to promote Jabhat al-Nusra or ISIS or the Free Syrian Army are used in Albania to show these ex-terrorists’ foreign fighters as “freedom-loving democrats.” If until 2017, Albanian security services and anti-terror police depicted MEK as a dangerous terrorist organization with power and possibilities to commit terrorist acts and killings, after 2018, our security agencies have been forced to side with MEK and its illegal activities.

■ Why did the U.S. State Department formally remove MEK from its list of terrorist organizations while it has been involved in assassinating many Iranians?

A: The Americans have a long history of supporting terrorist organizations for their imperialist interests. They supported and created al-Qaeda, ISIS, Jabhat al-Nusra, the Free Syrian Army, and many other terrorist organizations in the past. After the destruction of Syria, Libya, Iraq, Somalia, Yemen, etc., the next war of the Americans and Israel is against Turkey and Iran, who are the last remaining pillars of resistance against the Evangelical-Zionist imperialism in the Middle East (West Asia). The Americans support MEK like they support the Gulenist movement against Turkey. These organizations are the best terrorist tool they have to destabilize Turkey and Iran. Like Osama Bin Laden, they are the “good terrorists” of the West during the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

■ What methods do the Rajavi cult use for spreading fake news?

A: The Rajavi gang uses fake news in many ways. They are masters of lies and deception. They use the internet a lot, twitter, fake websites, publication, and bribes. When I visited the European Parliament in 2018 to give my

testimony about MEK, many European MPs showed us how one country was granting them access inside the EU institutions where they were spreading lies against Iran on daily bases (and) were trying to cheat European MPs.

In Albania, they use a lot of money to propagate anti-Iran news. They pay journalists, force media owners to spread their fake news about Iran, and pay many civil society organizations to promote their fake stories.

Top Albanian politicians like Ilir Meta, the President, Edi Rama, the prime minister, Lulzim Basha, the leader of the opposition, who have ongoing corruption court cases and live with the fear of going to jail, are approached by MEK who promises them favors with the U.S. State Department if they visit the MEK camp and read MEK-made anti-Iran declarations. They use blackmail too. Some TV owners and journalists who have published news about MEK crimes in Albania have been approached by MEK commanders who have blackmailed them to removing their news, or otherwise, MEK has claimed that they will face attacks by the Americans.

MEK has produced a number of fake news in the past years, which have been verified by me and my friend Gjergji Thanasi as fake. They claimed in 2018 that Iran planned a terrorist attack in Albania, a fact that we have proven to the media to be totally fake. However, their fake articles are later taken by major U.S. news outlets, like Fox News or Washington Times, and are sold to the world as true.

■ How do they deal with their formal members as there are many reports indicating pressure on members to crack down on any dissent?

A: MEK is a paper tiger organization. Most MEK soldiers who live inside the Manza Camp hate Maryam Rajavi and would like to defect. However, they are not allowed to defect and abandon terrorism by MEK and the Albanian government.

If a MEK soldier can escape Manza’s paramilitary camp, which is guarded like a prison by armed Albanian security police and MEK guards, the defector will have a very difficult life in Albania. Albanian anti-terror police will blackmail them and ask them to go back to Maryam Rajavi. The government will not give them a work permit. At the same time, MEK will accuse them of Iranian agents and will ask the government to jail the defector. MEK soldiers have no travel documents or money to smuggle themselves into Europe. As a result, they will face starvation and slow death if they decide to abandon war and live in peace. The UNHCR, which has a duty to protect these refugees, is afraid of the Americans to do her work. MEK has extraterritorial powers in Albania. If MEK commanders torture, imprison, or even kill the defectors, the Albanian police have no power and are afraid to enter the camp and implement

the law.

One example of the tragedy of the defectors is the story of Ehsan Bidi. He was proclaimed an Iranian agent by Maryam Rajavi for opposing her crimes. MEK paid many media to demonize him as an Iranian agent. They pushed Albanian authorities to remove his UNHCR granted asylum in 2019 and imprisoned him for one year on orders of Maryam Rajavi. After spending one year in jail, on orders or bribes by MEK, Albanian police illegally threw him to the Greek border where he might have been killed should not, we, a group of Albanian journalists and MPs, have protested in Tirana against his illegal expulsion.

Maryam Rajavi would love to kill her defectors in Albania. However, she is not doing that for the time being since she is afraid of an Albanian and European backlash, which would alert the European public opinion about the monstrous nature of the Rajavi cult.

For the time being, Maryam Rajavi is bribing the Albanian government to destroy her opposition in Albania by poverty, imprisonment, and character assassination. Rajavi needs to fight and destroy the defectors who denounce war and terrorism and have escaped the MEK camp since their defection threatens MEK’s future. If Albania can restore its authority over the MEK Camp, many defectors will escape and denounce the crimes that happen inside this death cult.

■ What do you think about double standards by Western countries, including the U.S. and some European states, which call resistance groups in West Asia “terrorists” while defend crimes committed by Israel and MEK?

A: The answer to this was given by your Foreign Minister, Javad Zarif, on his twitter account a few days ago: Mr. Zarif said:

Thanks to @SecPompeo, we now know the country’s criteria to be removed from—or included in—State Dept’s terror list:

Relations with Israel.  
Nowadays, the West is hostage to Israel and its fanatical American Evangelical narrative as “God’s chosen people.” Evangelical Zionism has made the West to descend back to Medieval Ages. The U.S. government has a medieval mindset. This is the reason why they support medieval regimes like Israel or psychopathic death cults like the MEK.

■ As an Albanian, what can you say to the Iranian public about the presence of MEK in Albania?

A: I want to tell the freedom-loving people of Iran that we, the people of Albania, love Iran. Iran is a very important country in the Islamic world that supports Palestine.

We share the same culture and history with Iran. We are a Muslim majority country which has inherited many Iranian words and culture. Iranian culture has been very instrumental in enlightening the Muslims of the Ottoman Empire and the Balkans. I want to apologize to Iran’s wonderful people for having my country turned into a base for an anti-Iran terrorist cult. Iran has done no harm to Albania to get the MEK threat from us. I hope the Iranians understand that we do not like MEK. MEK threatened the national security of Albania and was imposed on Albania by the Americans. MEK has taken extra-national powers in our country, and it treats Albania as an occupied territory.

Since their coming, MEK has endangered the security, sovereignty, and democracy of Albania. Many European neighbors see Albania with fear because of MEK. MEK has blackmailed many journalists, media, and politicians into supporting their illegal activities. Albania, Iran, and our European allies and partners should work together to save Albania and Europe from the threat of terrorism and extremist organizations. MEK must be disbanded, deradicalized, and forced to accept peace, democracy, and international law.

### News

## Hamas, Hezbollah put up united front against Israel

Hamas Political Bureau chief and Hezbollah secretary general have agreed on further strengthening of relations and coordination between the Palestinian and Lebanese resistance movements in the face of growing threats from their common enemy, Israel.

The meeting came during a recent visit to Beirut by the Hamas official, Ismail Haniyeh, who has traveled to the Lebanese capital for the first time in 27 years for an across-the-board meeting of all Palestinian factions, the Lebanese Arabic-language online newspaper Elnashra reported on Sunday.

Haniyeh and Hezbollah chief Seyyed Hassan Nasrallah used the opportunity to address political and military developments across the Palestinian territories and Lebanon.

The two prominent resistance figures also discussed the so-called deal of the century, the growing trend of normalization between some Arab regimes and Israel as well as the international Muslim community’s responsibility in the face of these threats.

The United States, Israel’s biggest ally, wheeled out the controversial deal this January. The scheme ensured Tel Aviv of Washington’s support for huge violations against Palestinians, including the Israeli regime’s annexation of some 30 percent of the occupied West Bank.

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## San Francisco mayor calls Trump a ‘terrorist’

The mayor of San Francisco called Trump a “terrorist” as she defended House Speaker Nancy Pelosi.

“We have a terrorist, we have a dictator who is running this country and Nancy Pelosi is at the forefront fighting against this person every day, you know, and I’m not trying to excuse what happened,” Mayor London Breed told ABC7 News.

“I’m just saying that to allow an issue like this to turn our city upside down when we got folks who are homeless, we’ve got people who can’t open their business, including these salons. I understand,” she said.

### Resistance News

## Palestinian factions take uniform stance against attempts targeting Palestinian cause

**INTERNATIONAL** TEHRAN — Palestinian factions have announced a unified stance against attempts by Israel, the United States and some Arab countries to undermine the Palestinian cause, denouncing any form of normalization with the occupying regime as “a stab in the back” of not only the Palestinians but the entire Muslim world.

The statement was released by the secretaries-general of the factions following a long-delayed plenary meeting attended by their leaders in the Lebanese capital Beirut on Thursday, according to the Middle East Monitor (MEMO) press monitoring organization that carried the statement on Saturday.

Among those present were Ismail Haniyeh, head of resistance movement Hamas’ Political Bureau, and Ziyad al-Nakhalah, leader of Islamic Jihad — another resistance group, which like Hamas is headquartered in the Israeli-blockaded Gaza Strip. Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas also addressed the gathering via video-link from the city of Ramallah in Israel-occupied West Bank.

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**Second Announcement**

**ESCO**  
Esfahan Steel Company

**Brief Notice of Two-stage General International Tender No. 9803750**

It is hereby respectfully notified that Esfahan Steel Company intends to purchase **200 pcs. Purge Blocks**. Prospective bidders specialized and experienced in the said area may visit Esfahan Steel Company’s website at [www.esfahansteel.ir](http://www.esfahansteel.ir) to get tender documents no later than **20/09/2020** and deliver their bids max. up to **09/11/2020** to the following address: ESCo’s Confidential Secretariat Office, Near to Bank Melli, Esfahan Steel Company, End of Zob-Ahan Highway, Esfahan, Iran. or Email address [toa@esfahansteel.ir](mailto:toa@esfahansteel.ir). For further information, prospective bidders may contact us through Tel. No. **0098-31-5257-2017**.

**Public Relation of Esfahan Steel Co.**

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**First Announcement**

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TENDER NO. : **08-38-9640015**

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	WIRE LINE, SPOOLED ON IRON REEL, H2S, CO2, CHLORIDE TRIM MATERIAL: SUPA-75 OR SAICRO-26 DIAMETER & LENGTH AS SPECIFIED: REF. “SANDVICK” OR OTHER STANDARD APPROVED EQUIVALENT SIZE 0.108 INCH X 20000 FEET	10 RL

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tender are requested to send their “Intention To Participate” letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form No.1, available at: [www.nisoc.ir](http://www.nisoc.ir), not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 1.340.000.000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials through technical specifications and Qualitative to Assessment Forms can be accessed via: [www.nisoc.ir-material](http://www.nisoc.ir-material) procurement management tab

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC’S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI IRAN, PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC’S MATERIAL APPROVAL NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

**FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT**  
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Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran  
E.MAIL: [KALA.F.P@nisoc.ir](mailto:KALA.F.P@nisoc.ir) Tel. No.: **061 34 12 34 55** Fax No.: **061 3445 7437**  
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تهران تایمز: نوبت اول ۹۹/۶/۱۷ نوبت دوم ۹۹/۶/۲۰



## Historical sabat in central Iran being restored

**TOURISM TEHRAN** – A historical sabat in the ancient neighborhood of Noabad in the city of Na'in, central Isfahan province, has undergone some rehabilitation works, a provincial tourism chief has said.



Sabat is an arched structure built between the opposite buildings on both sides of a narrow street in tropical and desert areas and it creates shade and a cool place for passers-by. Due to its semi-covered nature, this structure creates air blinds in summer, which cools the air inside sabat and in winter makes the air warmer.

The restoration project aims at replacing worn-out bricks and repairing the rooftop and walls of the historic sabat, which has been damaged by rain moisture, CHTN quoted Mahmud Madanian as saying on Sunday.

Considering the desert climate of the region, most of the historical neighborhoods have sabats, which also help to strengthen the side houses, the official added.

He also noted that in collaboration with the private sector, three historical houses next to the sabat are being restored to turn into eco-lodge units.

Well regarded for its hospitable people, handicrafts, and ancient qanats (manmade subterranean aqueducts that bring water from the mountains), Na'in dates back to nearly 2000 years, which makes it one of the oldest continuously settled towns in the Iranian plateau.

Na'in is home to one of the oldest mosques in the country. Originally constructed in c. 10th century, Jameh Mosque of Na'in is was one of the first mosques built in Iran and is unusual in that it doesn't conform to the usual four-iwan pattern of its time (for instance Jameh Mosque of Isfahan).

Na'in lies 170 km north of Yazd and 140 km east of Isfahan. Like much of the Iranian plateau, it has a desert climate, with a maximum temperature of 41 °C in summer, and a minimum of -9 °C in winter.

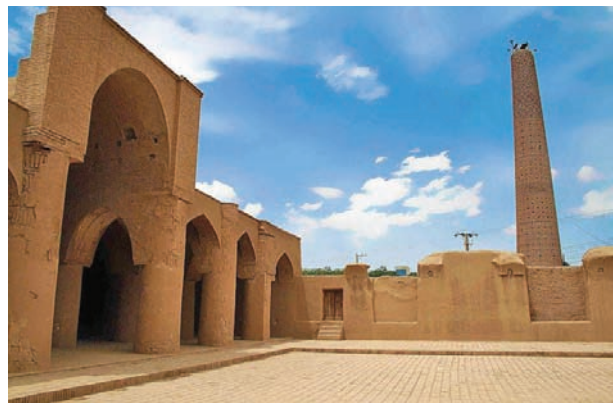
During ancient times, the city was at the junction of a desert road that connected Tabas and Mashhad, it used to be an important crossroad on converging trade routes since Sassanid times.

Na'in was known for its ceramics and textiles; today it's primarily known for fine hand-knotted carpets and for hand-loomed camel-wool cloaks, which are produced in the neighboring villages.

## Over \$140,000 allocated to restore Damghan's historical structures

**TOURISM TEHRAN** – A budget of six billion rials (some \$142,000) has been allocated to implement restoration projects on some historical sites and structures located in the city of Damghan, north-central Semnan province.

Some popular tourist destinations and historical sites of the city such as Cheshmeh-Ali and Tepe Hissar are scheduled to be restored, Ali Asghar Majid, the Governor of Damghan announced on Sunday, Mehr reported.



Archaeological excavations at nearby Tepe Hissar reveal occupation from prehistoric times through the Sasanian period (224-651 CE). Damghan was an important town and capital of the medieval province of Qumis but was destroyed by Afghans in 1723. The town trades in pistachios and almonds.

## Health ministry approves responsible tourism plan

➔ Last month, Mounesan proclaimed: "If the second wave of the coronavirus pandemic is contained, all the tourism businesses across the country will have the capacity to fully resume their activities both in domestic and foreign markets."

"Many tourism projects have been completed, or are being implemented, showing that a very good capacity has been created in the field of tourism in the country and [this trend] should not be stopped," he explained.

According to Mounesan, 2,451 tourism-related projects worth 1,370 trillion rials (around \$32 billion) are currently being implemented across the country that "signals a prosperous future for Iran's tourism sector."

In August, the tourism minister said 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).

# Agritourism formulated in Iran

**TOURISM TEHRAN** – The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts has declared new guidelines and instructions to launch agritourism in the country.

Agritourism is a relatively new branch of the travel industry in which tourists stay with local people in rural areas. Farm/ranch recreation refers to activities conducted on private agricultural lands, which might include fee-hunting and fishing, overnight stays, educational activities, etc.

Required permits are granted for the tourism sectors in 31 Iranian provinces, however, there are still some issues and obstacles, a tourism official has said.

Online workshops on agritourism will be held in the near future and then according to the ministry's instructions farmers and ranchers can accept tourists and use its benefits, Leila Azhdari said on Sunday, ILNA reported.

Back in June, deputy tourism chief Vali Teymouri announced that permits would be granted to eligible tour operators to launch their agritourism businesses, aiming to set certain standards in a move to ensure the quality of such services in the country.

"In order to develop employment-related areas of tourism, the Tourism Ministry has prepared several guidelines and technical criteria concern-



## Iran's tourism ministry has announced new guidelines and instructions to launch agritourism in the country.

ing nomadic tourism camps, licenses related to maritime tourism, natural parks, etc., which will create good employment in the future...", he added. Some experts believe that in ad-

dition to the customer services jobs, agritourism pays special attention to the production sector, saying "For this reason, agricultural tourism is much more important and practical than

other branches of tourism because it creates a new chain and diversity in the field of production and services."

Agritourism and nature-tourism enterprises might include outdoor recreation (fishing, hunting, wildlife study, horseback riding), educational experiences (cannery tours, cooking classes, or tea or coffee tasting), entertainment (harvest festivals or barn dances), hospitality services (farm stays, guided tours, or outfitter services), and on-farm direct sales (u-pick operations or roadside stands).

Agritourism is a subset of a larger industry called rural tourism that includes resorts, off-site farmers' markets, non-profit agricultural tours, and other leisure and hospitality businesses that attract visitors to the countryside.

Rural tourism, however, differs from agritourism in two ways. First, rural tourism enterprises do not necessarily occur on a farm or ranch, or at an agricultural plant, they do not generate supplemental income for the agricultural enterprise.

To cite an example, we could refer to saffron farms in northeast Iran that are going to fame as a new destination for agritourism. Iranian Saffron is known as the "red gold", saffron is a magical ingredient in Persian culture, from aromatic foods and colorful desserts to the physical and spiritual medicine.

## Eco-lodge units inaugurated in Bushehr

**TOURISM TEHRAN** – Three eco-lodge units have recently been inaugurated in southwestern Bushehr province, CHTN reported.

In collaboration with the private sector and with a budget of 14 billion rials (\$330,000 at the official rate of 42,000 rials), the eco-lodges have been constructed in Bandargaah village, the port city of Dayyer and Dashtestan county, provincial tourism chief Sakineh Salari said on Sunday.

The inauguration of these units has created job opportunities for 12 local people, the official added.

Iran announced in 2018 that 2,000 eco-lodges would be constructed across the country until 2021. Having a very diverse natural setting, Iran offers varied excursions to nature lovers. Sightseers may live with a nomad or rural family or enjoy an independent stay.

Experts say each eco-lodge unit generates jobs for seven to eight people on the average so that the scheme could create 160,000 jobs.

With over 6,000 years of history and significant monuments from the Elamite, Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras, Bushehr Province is one of Iran's most important historical centers.

Besides its cultural heritage, beautiful beaches and lush palm groves make it an attractive destination for world travelers.

The historical and architectural monuments of Bushehr include Islamic buildings like mosques and praying centers, mansions, old towers, castles, as well as gardens.

When it comes to cultural attractions, there are many historical mounds in Bushehr including Tall-e Khandaq with Sassanid architectural style, Tall-e Marv located near an Achaemenid Palace, and Qajar era Malek al-Tojar Mansion. Qajar era Kazeruni Mansion, which has been inscribed on the World Heritage List, is another attraction that world travelers love to see among various ancient sites.



## Iranian police bust gangs of illegal excavators

**TOURISM TEHRAN** – Iranian authorities have recently busted two gangs of illegal diggers in southwestern Khuzestan and northern Mazandaran provinces.

Six illegal diggers in the southwestern city of Andika, and an illegal excavator in the northern city of Amol were detained, said Amir Rahmatollahi, a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage, ILNA reported on Sunday.

He also noted that the culprits were surrendered to the judicial system for further investigation.



Lying at the head of the Persian Gulf and bordering Iraq on the west, Khuz-

estan was settled about 6000 BC by a people with affinities to the Sumerians, who came from the Zagros Mountains region. Urban centers appeared there nearly contemporaneously with the first cities in Mesopotamia in the 4th millennium. Khuzestan, according to Encyclopedia Britannica, came to constitute the heart of the Elamite kingdom, with Susa as its capital.

Soaked in a vibrant history, Mazandaran (also known as Tabarestan) was a cradle of civilization since the beginning of the first millennium BC. According to Britannica Encyclopedia,

it was almost overrun in about 720 CE by the Arab raiders.

Its insecure eastern and southeastern borders were crossed by Mongol invaders in the 13th and 14th centuries. Cossacks attacked the region in 1668 but were repulsed. It was ceded to the Russian Empire by a treaty in 1723, but the Russians were never secure in their occupation. The area was restored to Iran under the Qajar dynasty. The northern section of the region consists of a lowland alongside the Caspian and an upland along the northern slopes of the Alborz Mountains.

## Persian carpet the narrator of Iranian art and culture

Iran has a universal reputation in carpet weaving. Persian carpet or Iranian rug, a heavy textile for decoration or home use, is one of the main features of Iranian culture and art as well as one of the leading exports. Woven in various types by nomads and workshops, it is the narrator of Iranian art and culture, traditions, people, and lifestyles. Persian handmade carpets are well-known for their longevity, lavish textures, strong colors, and elaborate designs. They are characterized by natural dyes, traditional tribal patterns, as well as modern designs, but old techniques. The cities that are famous for their carpets include Isfahan, Nain, Kashan, Tabriz, Mashad, Kerman, and Qom.

In 2010, traditional skills of carpet weaving in Fars and Kashan were inscribed on Representative List of the UNESCO Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Carpets of Kashan are made by Persian weaving style (known as asymmetrical knotting), so the back side of the carpet is evenly knotted. Carpets of Fars, woven by nomads on the horizontal frame placed on the ground, and without any design.

The oldest known carpet in the world showing the long history of the art of carpet weaving is over two thousand year old Pazyric carpet, excavated in 1949. Whether it belongs to the Achaemenid craftsmen or the place where it was found, is still subject to controversy. Although Persian carpets were mentioned in historical writings before Christ, there are no surviving carpets from Achaemenian and Parthian periods.

The exact time that Persians started to weave pile carpets is not known, but Persian carpets in Sassanid period were used as covering for the floors in Persia, Anatolia, and Byzance. On the contrary, the flat weaving was known during that era according to the history books and the textiles preserved in western museums and eastern monasteries and burial sites. It is guessed that Baharestan Carpet in Ctesiphon was made in this way; a Sassanid hand-woven carpet using silk, gold and silver threads, decorated with precious stones.



After Islam, magnificent Persian carpets, especially the silk ones, have been mentioned and adored by historians and writers from different lands in various times. As Islam prohibited using human motifs, carpet designs changed to floral and geometric patterns. It was the beginning of a new era of Persian carpet weaving.

During different eras, Persian carpets have experienced changes in style and design and Iranian weavers have combined new ideas with their old styles. In miniatures remained from Timurid period, carpets show colorful geometrical shapes and the designs derived from Kufic calligraphy. No carpet woven before 1500 A.D. has survived.

The Persian carpets in Safavid era were famous for their elaborate spectacular colors and designs. During this era, court manufactories and large workshops were established and the art of carpet weaving reached its peak. There are no early Safavid carpets survived, but later Safavid carpets still exist. The miniatures during the late 15th century show a considerable change in Persian carpet design and weaving. Simple straight lines turned into more elaborate designs such as more

curves, large medallions, figures of flowers and animals, arabesques, and tendrils.

Persian carpets were so skillfully and fine woven in Safavid era presented to the European countries as gifts, especially the silk ones woven by gold and silver threads. Ardabil Carpet, kept in Victoria & Albert Museum in London, is one of the best examples of old Persian carpets. Another distinguished carpet in Safavid era is Vase technique carpet attributed to Kerman.

In Afsharid period, Mashhad as the capital became the center of carpet weaving and Afsharid designs and motifs were created. These carpets are known by their large size, warm colors and long life. In Qajar dynasty, Tabriz was known as the center of modern weaving style of Persian carpet.

In the late 19th century, synthetic dyes and commercial designs found their way into the old traditional style of carpet weaving.

In 1935, Reza Shah Pahlavi founded Iran Carpet Company. So, the carpet industry export was brought under government control.

Nomadic rugs are different from carpet workplaces in design and way of weaving. The best-known type of Persian rug is called Gabbeh. In 1980s, Gabbeh-at first woven by nomads- became popular in Europe.

Wool, cotton, and silk are the materials used for weaving the carpets. Traditional dyes are taken from plants and insects, such as Oak acorns, Indigo, and Madder. The looms are divided into horizontal and vertical. Horizontal looms are usually used by the nomads. Persian carpets are usually woven by two different knots: the symmetrical Turkish and the symmetrical Persian. Two famous kinds of flat-woven carpets include Kilim and Jajim.

Persian carpet is one of the best souvenirs for the tours to Iran. There is a vast variety of style and design to satisfy all different kinds of tastes.

(Source: Irandoostan)



# A biosphere reserve 180 times more valuable than average land

**ENVIRONMENT** TEHRAN — The Tang-e-Sayad and Sabzkuh Biosphere Reserve is located in the south-western Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province. It is estimated that each hectare of the area is 180 times more valuable than average land in Iran in terms of richness of plants and wildlife diversity.

Land subsidence, geological activities, and melting ice caps have formed several wetlands in the area inhabited by rare fauna such as the wild cat (*Felis silvestris*) and lebetine viper (*Vipera lebetina*). Research shows that 22 fish species, including the Pike barb (*Esox niger*) and mesopotamian catfish (*Silurus triostegus*) are found in the Karun River, which runs through the proposed area.

During the cold season bushlands in the area welcome migratory birds such as the white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*) and greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*), according to the UNESCO website.

The presence of several rivers and springs in the proposed site has led to an increase in the development of agriculture and animal husbandry. Local handicrafts such as carpets, felt, dhurrie rugs, and folk festivals also offer tourism development potential in the area.

The main landscape of the reserve is highly distinctive in terms of the height and density of its plant coverage. According to



research conducted in the area, every hectare is 180 times more valuable than average land in Iran in terms of richness of plants and wildlife diversity. The region is also mountainous with waterfalls, wetlands, and abundant springs, which function as

a permanent basin for the Karun River, the biggest river in Iran.

Various oak species cover the highlands while wild pistachio and almond cover the lower lands. Lote, walnut, and pear trees are also scattered about the reserve. Depending

on the habitat conditions, oak-mastic and other combinations of other tree or shrub species, such as hackberry, hawthorn, and Arjan, exist alone or in groups constituting the forest areas. More than 450 plant species can be found in the reserve.

The variety of ecosystems creates a valuable fauna population. These include 27 mammal species such as the Syrian brown bear (*Ursus arctos syriacus*) and striped hyena (*Hyaena hyaena*), 147 bird species including the greater flamingo (*Phoenicopterus roseus*) and white stork (*Ciconia ciconia*), 26 reptile and amphibian species such as the snake-eyed lizard (*Ophisops elegans*), and 24 fish species including the mesopotamian catfish (*Silurus triostegus*).

The Choghakhor Wetlands were designated a Ramsar Wetland Site.

There are 669 biosphere reserves in 120 countries. Since 1960, Iran has been a pioneer member of Man and Biosphere committee (MAB) and has already 10 registered Biosphere reserves which cover important protected areas such as Touran, Arjan and Parishan, Urumiyeh, and Miankaleh. All of these sites cover important biodiversity, wetlands, and forests altogether.

During the 27th MAB ICC meeting in Paris in June 2015, Sabzkuh and Tang-e Sayyad and Hamoun Biosphere Reserves were formally registered as 11th and 12th Biosphere reserves in Iran.

## National women's health week to highlight COVID-19

**SOCIETY** TEHRAN — The national women's health week will be held in the last week of the Iranian calendar month of Mehr (September 23-October 22) in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic and with a focus on "women's health in coronavirus era."



The health ministry has assigned each day of the week with a special theme as follows:

Thursday, October 15: women pioneers in self-care and family protection against COVID-19

Friday, October 16: honoring devoted women in the health care system as the vanguard of coronavirus prevention and treatment

Saturday, October 17: healthy lifestyle for women with an emphasis on obesity as COVID-19 cause

Sunday, October 18: women's reproductive health during COVID-19 epidemic

Monday, October 19: women and mental health in COVID-19 outbreak Tuesday, October 20: the role of women in promoting credible educational resources, information and preventing the spread of misconceptions about prevention and treatment

Wednesday, October 21: prevention of occupational and social damages to women during coronavirus epidemic

## Global anti-narcotics fight not to succeed without Iran

➔ Afghanistan and Pakistan face financial constraints, and the United Nations has agreed to pay for the mission of Afghan and Pakistani agents to help streamline and mobilize this regional initiative, he added.

Any action in the region requires special attention to Afghanistan because any counter-narcotics must start from the beginning, at the same time, European and Western countries, as the main donors to the UN Fund, should not forget their responsibility, he emphasized.

**Methamphetamine production in Afghanistan: a new challenge**

Lamenting that being involved in the production of opium, heroin, and morphine for many years, he said that the new challenge for the countries of the region and the world in the fight against narcotics is the increase in production of methamphetamine in Afghanistan over the past two years.

In order to find a solution to this issue, several talks were held with Afghan officials in various meetings, and promises made to address the issue. Fortunately, the Afghan anti-narcotics officer is a member of the tripartite initiative, which we hope will lead to a reduction in methamphetamine production.

Lotfi expressed regret that the production of narcotics is largely due to the unrest in some parts of the country and hoped that the Afghan government will be able to enforce the law throughout Afghanistan, insisting that Iran is also fully prepared to provide the necessary support to Afghanistan at all levels to ensure that all narcotics are eradicated in this country.



Brigadier General Eskandar Momeni, Secretary-General of Iran Drug Control Headquarters said that in 2000, the total production of narcotics in Afghanistan was about 200 tons, which in 2017 reached more than 9,000 tons, an increase of nearly 50 times.

According to Momeni, about 500 tons of drugs were discovered in the first five months of this year, which has increased by 30 percent compared to the same period last year.

Iran seized some 1,000 tons of narcotics in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended March 20), putting the country in the first place in the world, Momeni said in July.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has praised Iran's efforts to fight against narcotics trafficking on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The organization also officially announced that the world's first place in the discovery of opium, heroin, and morphine belongs to Iran.

According to UNODC, Iran remains one of the major transit routes for drug trafficking from Afghanistan to European countries and has had a leading role at the global level in the drug-control campaigns.

UNODC World Drug Report 2020 estimates that in 2018, 91 percent of world opium, 48 percent of the world morphine, and 26 percent of the world heroin were seized by Iran.

Iran's drug control efforts led to the seizure of 266 tons of different types of drugs during the period of April-June 2020, a 20 percent increase compared to the same period in 2019.

During the COVID-19 pandemic in Iran, Drug Control Headquarters provided and distributed Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other sanitary commodities among street users and NGOs working with drug users.

In the end, the anti-narcotic police and law enforcement of Iran held a burning ceremony of 90 tons of different types of drugs in provinces of Sistan-Baluchestan, Kerman, and West Azarbaijan, televised through the internet.

After the Islamic Revolution (in 1979), 3,800 were martyred, 12,000 were wounded and disabled in the fight against drug trafficking, Momeni announced.

Drug use is a complex health and social problem worldwide, with half a million people dying each year as a result of drug abuse, he lamented, adding, drug use has entered a critical condition, and the international community is determined to tackle the global drug problem.

## Global warming could make viruses harder to kill, study finds

Global warming may increase the threat of some infectious diseases by making viruses harder to kill, researchers have warned.

Waterborne viruses which have adapted to warmer environments remain infectious for longer and are more resistant to disinfectants such as chlorine, a study by Swiss scientists suggests.

"This implies that microbial water quality may be worse in warm regions, and the health risks posed by viruses will be greater," Tamar Kohn, associate professor of environmental chemistry at Swiss Federal Institute of Technology in Lausanne, told The Independent.

Sunlight, high temperatures and other microbes can all deactivate viruses found in surface water, reducing their ability to spread disease. However, scientists expect the way viruses react to their environment will evolve in response to climate change.

The Swiss study examined how enteroviruses, a family of viruses which can cause a range of infections including colds, polio and foot-and-mouth disease, may adapt to shifts in conditions. Enteroviruses are typically transmitted through faeces and find their way into the environment through sewage, wastewater and poor sanitation.

The team created four different populations of a human enterovirus by incubating samples in flasks of lake water at 10C and 30C, with and without exposure to sunlight. They then exposed the samples to heat and disinfectant.

The study, published in the American Chemical Society's Environmental Science and Technology journal, found the warm-adapted viruses were more resistant to being deactivated by heat than the ones incubated in cold water. When moved to cool water, the warm-adapted viruses also remained active longer and withstood exposure to chlorine better.

## Amazon fires have been miscalculated and are actually the worst in a decade

The official data for August on the number of fires in Brazil's Amazon has been miscalculated and will likely show that the blazes have increased from 2019, meaning they are at the highest levels in a decade.

Alberto Setzer, the scientist responsible for the official fire figures, told Reuters that the reporting of finalised data had been delayed by an error with a NASA satellite.

Brazilian media has reported that fires in Brazil's section of the Amazon rainforest fell by 5 per cent in August, citing data currently on the website of the government space research

agency, Inpe, that has not been corrected.

But once that issue is corrected, it will likely show that fires increased by between 1-2 per cent in August 2020 compared to the same month a year ago, Dr Setzer said. That would mean it is the worst spate of fires for the month since August 2010.

"It's going to be up. The number of fires, fire pixels, will increase. Maybe up to 1 or 2%, I would guess," Dr Setzer told Reuters, referring to spots of heat registered on satellite images. He also cautioned that a shift of 1-2 per cent is within the margin of error, according to the

news agency. Inpe did not respond to a request for comment from The Independent.

The press office for President Jair Bolsonaro did not respond to a request for comment by The Independent. Mr Bolsonaro's office declined to comment to Reuters, directing questions to the office of Vice President Hamilton Mourao, who has been placed in charge of Amazon affairs. Mr Mourao's office did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

A surge in fires in August 2019 to a nine-year high provoked outcry from global

leaders and the public that Brazil was not doing enough to protect the world's largest rainforest, with Mr Bolsonaro trading barbs with French President Emmanuel Macron.

Environmental advocates and scientists say that Mr Bolsonaro is to blame for weakening environmental protections and calling for the development of the Amazon. He has been an enthusiastic ring-leader to miners, cattle ranchers and illegal loggers pushing into one of the planet's richest regions of biodiversity, and the home of thousands of indigenous peoples.

### ENGLISH IN USE

#### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Shiraz University, Chinese Academy of Sciences sign MOU

Shiraz University and Chinese Research Center for Eco-Environmental Sciences (RCEES) have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to expand cooperation in scientific and research projects, IRNA news agency reported on Tuesday.

Joint research activities through the Silk Road Research Program, joint publication of articles and books, study opportunities for faculty and doctoral students, use of laboratory facilities, experience exchange workshops especially in the field of natural disasters, droughts, floods, medicinal plants, biodiversity, land degradation and international joint research projects were among the mutually agreed programs.

The MOU provides the opportunity of extensive scientific and research cooperation in a wide range of areas of interest to both natural and agricultural resources.

## دانشگاه شیراز و موسسه تحقیقات منابع طبیعی چین تفاهم نامه امضا کردند

دانشکده کشاورزی به نمایندگی از دانشگاه شیراز با موسسه تحقیقات منابع طبیعی آکادمی علوم چین سند تفاهم نامه همکاری‌های علمی- پژوهشی مشترک امضا کرد.

به گزارش ایرنا، زمینه بهره برداری عملیاتی از ظرفیت های تفاهم نامه حاضر به ویژه در زمینه فعالیت های پژوهشی مشترک از طریق برنامه پژوهشی راه ابریشم، نشر مشترک مقالات و کتب، فرصت های مطالعاتی اعضای هیات علمی و دانشجویان دکتری، استفاده از امکانات آزمایشگاهی، برگزاری کارگاه های تبادل تجربه به ویژه در حوزه حوادث غیرمترقبه طبیعی، خشکسالی، سیل، گیاهان دارویی، تنوع زیستی، تخریب سرزمین و طرح های پژوهشی مشترک بین المللی در قالب برنامه های مشترک مورد توافق طرفین مورد بحث و بررسی قرار گرفت.

این تفاهم نامه مقدمه همکاری های گسترده علمی و پژوهشی را در دامنه وسیعی از حوزه های مورد علاقه طرفین در زمینه منابع طبیعی و کشاورزی فراهم می کند.

## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 18) (Source: saadifoundation.ir)

**Sentence Structure** – In general, various parts of speech

occur after the subject and before the verb. Thus, the normal sentence structure in Persian is:

هستیم	دانشجو	ما
۳	۲	۱
Verb	Predicate Object	Subject

● Exercise 4. Put in order: ➔ workbook

۱. هستیم. دانشجو. ما
۲. استاد. من. هستم
۳. مداد. آن. نیست
۴. نیستیم. استاد. ما
۵. شما. نیستید. دانشجو
۶. است. این. کلاس؟

**Interrogation** – No change of order is required to express a question. In the written style, where there is no question word,

the interrogative may be introduced by the particle آیا :

آیا شما دانشجو هستید؟

In speech, the interrogative is usually indicated by the rising intonation:

شما دانشجو هستید؟

● Exercise 5. Read in positive and interrogative forms:

۱. این دفتر است
۲. آن مداد نیست
۳. من استاد هستم
۴. این دانشجو نیست
۵. شما دانشجو هستید
۶. ما دانشجو نیستیم



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**GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING**

Wisdom will not be gained, unless through following the right path.

Imam Hussein (AS)

## Kitaro concert coordinator sues Iranian manager over Tehran concert cancelation

→1 The concerts were originally scheduled to be held from May 6 to 8, 2018, but the organizer postponed the concerts until May 12, 13 and 17 and said that the American musicians faced problems in obtaining their visas on time. And, as a final point, the concert program was canceled completely.



Japanese musician Kitaro performs a concert at the Grand Hall of the Interior Ministry in Tehran on October 19, 2014. (Saeid Khalili/Jamejamonline)

Naito is the founder and manager of the Domo Music Group located in Los Angeles. The record label has said that Naito's initial success with the company came through the signing of Grammy and Golden Globe-winning Kitaro.

Cheraghali has asked Iran's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Judiciary to help him regarding the legal case.

He said that he will soon publish some documents concerning the issue.

Earlier in October 2014, Kitaro performed several concerts in Tehran, which were warmly received by concertgoers.

## "The Bald Soprano" to go on stage in Tehran in Persian, French

TEHRAN — Iranian director Rahmat Amini plans to stage Romanian-French playwright Eugene Ionesco's debut play "The Bald Soprano" in the Persian and French languages in Tehran.

"We are working on the play with a group of young actors, some of whom have a good command of French," Amini has said.

He added that the troupe has begun rehearsals, but the exact time and place for the play has not been decided yet due to the coronavirus epidemic.



Iranian director Rahmat Amini in an undated photo.

Written in 1950, the absurdist play centers on the Smiths, a couple from London, and another couple, the Martins, who come over for a visit.

The two families chatter in meaningless banter, tell stories and relate nonsensical truisms and poems. They are joined later by the Smiths' maid, Mary, and the local fire chief, who is also Mary's lover.

When the Martins and the Smiths are alone, they begin to argue without resolution or sense. The play ends with the Martins reciting the same lines spoken by the Smiths at the opening.

"The Bald Soprano" is considered a modern classic and a seminal work in the Theatre of the Absurd. It holds the world record for the play that has been staged continuously in the same theater for the longest time.

Several other Iranian directors have previously staged the play. In the latest case, Hamidreza Moradi directed the play at Tehran's Sepand Theater last December.

In addition, Farzad Dehnavi's troupe Leilaj performed the play at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center in 2012.

The performance was based on the translation of "The Bald Soprano" by veteran Iranian filmmaker Dariush Mehrjui.

# Iran's coronavirus cartoon contest holds awards ceremony

TEHRAN — Iran's We Defeat Coronavirus International Cartoon Contest organized its awards ceremony in Tehran on Saturday evening.

Iranian cartoonist Ali Radmand, the top winner of the competition, received his award from Mohammad-Mehdi Dadman, the director of the Art Bureau, the main organizer of the event.

The foreign winners could not attend the ceremony due to the coronavirus travel restrictions. The director of the bureau's Visual Arts Office, Masud Shojaei-Tabatabai, said that their prizes will be sent to them.

Speaking at the ceremony, Dadman said that artists should help the people learn to adjust themselves to life with the coronavirus.

Radmand for his part said that he has tried to make people aware of the threat of coronavirus in his cartoons while he has also intended to bring smiles to their faces.

The organizers announced the winners of the contest, which was organized by Iran's Art Bureau in collaboration with the Health Ministry on August 25.

Radmand won the first prize worth €1500. The Second prize worth €1000



Cartoonist Ali Radmand (3rd L) accepts his prize during the awards ceremony of the We Defeat Coronavirus International Cartoon Contest from Art Bureau director Mohammad-Mehdi Dadman (2nd L) and Masud Shojaei-Tabatabai (1st L) on September 5, 2020. (Art Bureau/Mohsen Seyyedi)

went to Cau Gomez from Brazil and the third prize worth €500 was given to Stefaan Provijn from Belgium.

The winners were selected out of 47 finalists, 15 of whom were Iranians. In addition, seven other participants were awarded honorable mentions.

Taravat Niki, Soheil Mohammadi, Mahmud Azadnia, Sajjad Rafei, Mansureh Dehqani, Alireza Pakdel and Mahnaz Yazdani were the seven honorees.

The people's choice award was given to Majid Amini.

About 2000 cartoons were showcased for 28 days on irancartoon.ir, which was visited by 1,340,000 people.

The book for the exhibit bearing over 430 cartoons has been published with an introduction by Health Minister Namaki.

Turkish cartoonist Eray Ozbek presided over the international jury, which was composed of cartoonists Spiro Radulovic from Serbia, Nikola Vorontsov from Russia, Liuyi Wang from China and Marcio Leite from Brazil.

The jury for the national section consisted of Mohammad-Hossein Nirumand, Bahram Azimi, Masud Shojaei-Tabatabai and Salman Mohazzabieh.



A scene from "Dance with Me" by Sorsuh Sehat.

By Manijeh Rezapoor

TEHRAN — Iranian movies "Dance with Me" and "Tsunami" are competing for best film award in two different categories at the Wales International Film Festival.

## "Dance with Me", "Tsunami" receive nominations at Wales festival

"Dance with Me" directed by Sorsuh Sehat has received a nomination in the Feature Film Category, while "Tsunami" by Milad Sadr-Ameli has been nominated in the Foreign Language Film Category.

"Dance with Me" is about Jahangir who invites his friends to his birthday party at his home. Everybody knows he is sick and dying, but the situation at the party makes his friends think about their own lives.

The film brought the award for best director to Sehat at the 37th Fajr International Film Festival in Tehran during February 2019.

It was also screened in the official competition of the Tallinn Black Nights Film Festival, which took place in the Estonian city in November.

The Feature Film Category of the Wales festival also features "Fall Back Down" by Sara Beth Edwards from Canada, "Being Gavin" by Owen Elliott from Australia, "Shibil" by Nikola Bozadzhev from Bulgaria and "Pasha"

by Poojan H. Shah from India.

"Tsunami" is about Iranian taekwondo competitor Morteza Nejadi who agrees to be defeated in the Olympics 2002 due to some political reasons, and then he loses everything in his personal and professional life. After eight years, he is called back for another attempt on the national team, but he must face a stubborn, young world champion named Behdad Moqimi who is also known as Tsunami. But there is turmoil in his personal life, too.

The film is competing with "Her Name Is Xilan" by Han Wanfeng from China, and "The Eagle's Nest" by Olivier Assoua and "Cutlass" by Burri-Taka Bolalima, both from Cameroon.

Due to the Welsh COVID-19 restrictions and public safety, the 4th Wales International Film Festival (WalesIFF) will announcement winners virtually on September 17. The winners will later be invited to a mini celebration event in 2021.

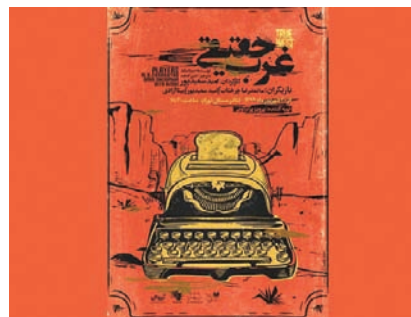
## Sam Shepard's "True West" coming to Tehran theater

TEHRAN — American playwright Sam Shepard's work "True West" will go on stage at the Tehran Independent Theater beginning September 20.

Omid Saeidpur is director of the play translated into Persian by Amir Amjad. Actor Parviz Parastui is the producer of the play that will remain on stage for a month.

The American classic is a character study that examines the relationship between Austin, a screenwriter, and his older brother, Lee.

It is set in the kitchen of their mother's home 40 miles east of Los Angeles. Austin



A poster for American writer Sam Shepard's play "True West", which will be staged at the Tehran Independent Theater.

is house-sitting while their mother is in Alaska, and there he is confronted by his brother, who proceeds to bully his way into staying at the house and using Austin's car.

In addition, the screenplay that Austin is pitching to his connection in Hollywood somehow is taken over by Lee through his pushy con-man tactics, and the brothers find themselves forced to cooperate in the creation of a story that will make or break both of their lives.

In the process, the conflict between the brothers creates a heated situation in which their roles as successful family man and nomadic drifter are somehow

reversed, and each man finds himself admitting that he had somehow always wished he were in the other's shoes.

Mohammad Charkhtab, Bitā Azadi and Saaidpur are the members of the cast.

Shepard was an American artist who worked as an award-winning playwright, writer and actor.

His many written works are known for being frank and often absurd, as well as for having an authentic sense of the style and sensibility of the gritty modern American West.

He was an actor on stage and in motion pictures; a director of stage and film; author of several books of short stories, essays, and memoirs; and a musician.

## Doc chronicles life of Elham Sadat Asghari, one-hand swim Guinness record holder

TEHRAN — Iranian filmmaker Tahura Abolqasemi is making a documentary about 37-year-old swimmer Elham Sadat Asghari, who holds the Guinness World Record title for the farthest one-hand swimming.

She has swum ten kilometers with one hand for four hours and 59 minutes in the Oman Sea.

The record was registered as Abolqasemi was taking scenes of the swimming for the documentary named "The Swimmer", a public relations team of the project announced on Saturday.

Actress Mahtab Keramati, the star of the acclaimed

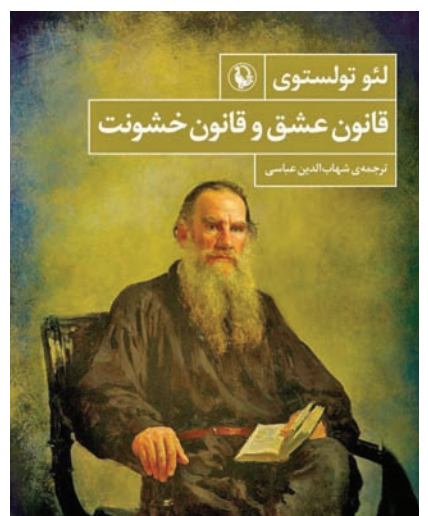
movie "Mazar-i-Sharif", is a co-producer of the documentary.

Asghari had also acquired a Guinness World Record Certificate after registering her 5,488-meter swim both in the Caspian Sea and a swimming pool in Tehran in 2019. This is the farthest distance swimming while wearing handcuffs.

Earlier in 2017, she completed the challenge of swimming handcuffed for more than three hours non-stop in the Persian Gulf waters off the coast of the southwestern port city of Bushehr, located 1,050 kilometers (652 miles) south of the capital Tehran.



Iranian swimmer Elham Sadat Asghari holds her Guinness World Record Certificate in an undated photo.



Front cover of the Persian translation of "The Law of Love and the Law of Violence" by Leo Tolstoy.

## "The Law of Love and the Law of Violence" published in Persian

TEHRAN — A Persian translation of Russian writer Leo Tolstoy's book "The Law of Love and the Law of Violence" has been published by Morvarid Publications in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Shahabeddin Abbasi.

It is an examination of the conflicts within and among nations, proposing a remedy based on true Christian doctrine: recognition of love as the supreme law of life.

Written just before World War I, it articulates Tolstoy's famous dictum that it is morally superior to suffer violence than to do violence—a philosophy that has inspired Gandhi, Martin Luther King,

Jr. and countless others.

At the age of fifty, Tolstoy devoted himself to promoting the transformation of society, writing stories, essays and books advocating the pursuit of an inner moral revolution.

In the preface to this work, Tolstoy declared, "The only reason why I am writing this is because, knowing the one means of salvation for Christian humanity, from its physical corruption as well as from the moral corruption in which it is sunk, I, who am on the edge of the grave, cannot be silent."

A century later, Tolstoy's powerful plea for nonviolence continues to resonate.

As a master of realistic fiction and one of the world's greatest novelists,

Tolstoy wrote two of the great novels of the nineteenth century.

He is best known for his two longest works, "War and Peace" and "Anna Karenina", which are commonly regarded as among the finest novels ever written.

Among Tolstoy's shorter works, "The Death of Ivan Ilyich" is usually ranked among the best examples of the novella.

Especially during his last three decades, Tolstoy also achieved world renown as a moral and religious teacher.

His doctrine of nonresistance to evil had an important influence on Gandhi. Although Tolstoy's religious ideas no longer command the respect they once did, interest in his life and personality has, if anything, increased over the years.