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Energy Ministry to draft new bill for protecting water resources

TEHRAN – Iranian Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian has said that a new bill is going to be drafted for the country's "Law of Fair Water Distribution," to ensure the protection of the country's water resources, the ministry portal PAVEN reported. Speaking to the national TV, Ardakanian said: "This year, we intend to draft a new bill for the comprehensive water law [Law of Fair Water Distribution], which

is more based on sustainable use and protection of resources. We are also going to do a great deal of work on updating water data so that our future planning will be based on accurate and precise data." "Due to the decrease in rainfall in the country, it is necessary to come up with a new long-term plan based on the current conditions for the coming years and decades. →4

Tehran criticizes the West for harboring MEK

TEHRAN – Iran's Foreign Ministry on Saturday marked the National Day of Fight Against Terrorism, criticizing the United States and the European Union for sheltering the terrorist Mojahedin-e Khalq (MEK) group which has killed thousands of Iranians. "Aug. 29, the national Day of Fight Against Terrorism, is the time to remember Prz Rajai & PM Bahonar who, 39yrs ago

today, were martyred in a bombing by the MEK terrorist group," the ministry tweeted. "Despite assassinating 1000s Iranians & fighting alongside Saddam, MEK is sheltered by the U.S. & EU," it added. 39 years ago on this date, President Mohammad Ali Rajaei and Prime Minister Mohammad Javad Bahonar were assassinated in an explosion orchestrated by the MEK. →3

Selection of Qatran Tabrizi's divan published in Azerbaijan

TEHRAN – A selection of poems from the divan of Iranian poet Abu Mansur Qatran Tabrizi has been published in Azerbaijan. "Qatran Tabrizi: Secilmis Eserleri" has been translated into Azerbaijani by the celebrated Azerbaijani poet and scholar Mirceal Zeki, the Iran Culture Center in Baku has announced. The book published by Nafta-Press opens with an introduction by the translator that gives details about Qatran Tabrizi's biography and poetry and comments by

other literati about the poet who lived during the 11th century. Born in Sahar near Arrah, Tabriz, Qatran Tabrizi was the most famous panegyrist of his time in Iran. Czech orientalist Jan Rypka had said, "His work has aroused the interest of historians, for in many cases Qatran has perpetuated the names of members of regional dynasties in Azerbaijan and the Caucasus region that would have otherwise fallen into oblivion." →8

By Faranak Bakhtiari
Tehran Times Journalist

Blood donation campaign launched nationwide during Muharram

A national blood donation campaign has been launched during the month of Muharram for forty days since Tasua (the ninth day of the month), Bashir Haji Beigi, spokesman for the Blood Transfusion Organization has announced.

Following the outbreak of coronavirus, doctors, pharmacists, scientists, and others are looking for a way to control the virus, and so far many studies and researches have been done in this regard.

One of the studies showed that the plasma driven from recovered patients can be used in the treatment of COVID-19 with the help of the patient's immune system.

Convalescent plasma therapy allows someone who has recovered from a coronavirus infection to donate their blood plasma to someone who is critically ill.

Since April 20, 7,323 recovered from COVID-19 have referred to blood donation centers, 6,000 of whom donated plasma.

Noting that the statistic shows that about 2 percent of the recovered people in the whole country have referred to donate plasma, he said that so far, provinces of Tehran, Khuzestan, Isfahan, Mazandaran, Khorasan Razavi, Kermanshah, and West Azarbaijan provinces had the most plasma donors.

During Tasua and Ashura, 25 blood transfusion centers in different provinces of the country are ready to receive donated blood, he stated.

Currently, in 25 out of 31 provinces of the country, a plan to collect plasma from COVID-19 recovered patients is underway, he noted.

The best time for plasma donation is at least 14 and preferably 28 days after recovery, and donors should age 18 to 60 years.

Plasma therapy has so far reduced coronavirus deaths in Iran by 40 percent as proved to be a life-saving method for those recovering from COVID-19.

Blood donation in Iran
While blood donation in 70 countries still depends on replacement or paid donors, Iran is the first country in the region that has enjoyed voluntary blood donation by 100 percent since 2007. →7

Resistance movement represents the nobility of Imam Hussein: Islamic scholar

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – Muhammad al-Zoubi, a Lebanese Islamic scholar, is of the opinion that all Yazid's crimes are embodied in the Zionist regime-U.S. axis and "we find the Hussein nobility in the axis of the Islamic Republic and the resistance movement."

Like his father Imam Ali, Imam Hussein enjoys an important and distinguished position in the collective Islamic mind. Since he is a "Sahabi," a companion of the Prophet, there is no conflict between Sunni scholars regarding the character of Hussein bin Ali, the grandson of the Prophet. Many Sunni scholars have been inspired by Imam Hussein and his uprising in the course of history.

Hussein was martyred along some members of his family in the Battle of Karbala in 61AH by the army of the second Umayyad caliph Yazid in a bloody war, which was described as the

darkest chapter of Islamic history.

Despite the catastrophic impact of the event on the history of Islam, many Wahhabi thinkers have scrambled to find justifications and excuses for Yazid in an attempt to exonerate and distance him from this incident while other Sunni scholars consider him degraded and have vilified and execrated him.

In this regard, al-Zoubi tells the Tehran Times that "Yazid represents aggression, injustice, immorality, selfishness, violation of religious values and morality for the sake of self-interest."

He likens the Zionist regime's massacres to Yazid's approach and behavior in history.

Following is the full text of the interview: ■ What message does Imam Hussein's movement carry to current generations? Why is it said that "every day is Ashura and every land is Karbala"? →5

Plan for offering oil via salaf bonds temporarily stopped

TEHRAN – Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Farhad Dejjpasand said that the plan for offering oil via salaf bonds in Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX) is temporarily stopped, Tasnim news agency reported.

Speaking in a live TV program, the minister said that the first session for investigating the issue of selling oil via salaf bonds was held, the Economy Council approved the plan, but it will not be implemented now due to some reasons. IRENEX was due to offer crude oil via standard

parallel salaf bonds on August 16, but in an announcement in the mentioned date the exchange stated that the offering was postponed.

National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) had planned to offer 20 trillion rials (about \$476.1 million) worth of heavy crude oil in IRENEX through standard parallel salaf contracts (some kind of Islamic contract), and IRENEX Managing Director Seyed Ali Hosseini had elaborated on the details of the offering on August 15.

According to Hosseini, the fund raised through

this offering is going to be used to finance the oil industry's development projects.

"National Iranian Oil Company is the issuer of the salaf bonds and the purpose of this offering is to finance the company's development projects and its current expenses; the offering will be conducted under two separate indices," Hosseini explained at the time.

A standard parallel salaf is an Islamic contract similar to futures, with the difference being that the contract's total price must be paid in advance.



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Police fire pellet guns on Kashmir Muharram procession

At least 40 Shia mourners in the Indian-controlled Kashmir were injured on Saturday when government forces used batons, burst tear smoke shells and fired pellets to break up mourning processions on the ninth day of Islamic month of Muharram.

During the police crackdown in Srinagar, several youths were detained and many, including women were allegedly "thrashed" by the forces.

Jafar Ali, a witness, told AFP the procession started in the Bemina area on the outskirts of Srinagar, and was soon joined by hundreds of Shia mourners. →5

Children's tourism company makes debut in Iran

TEHRAN – The first company in Iran specialized in children's cultural tourism has been registered in the UNESCO-tagged city of Yazd aiming to pay more attention to children and make them happier.

"The children's tourism project started four years ago to pay more attention to children and their happiness," ISNA quoted Maryam Nabizadeh, an official with Yazd Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department, as saying on Saturday.

"Children as future makers of our society, along with their issues in various fields including everyday life, education, and health, should be taken into account more diligently and carefully," she said back in June.

"Yazd can be considered as the capital of children's tourism in the country and this type of tourism can be economically exploited by bonding children to the field of tourism, it can flourish many infrastructures and attractions."

The official has also underlined the need for the participation or increasing cooperation of all travel agencies across the province in strengthening this field of tourism necessary, noting that various programs and projects have been commenced in line with children's tourism.

Experts say that nomadic tourism, children's tourism, virtual museums, and training guides for cultural heritage sites are among the untapped potentials of the travel sector. However tourism for children and adolescents is somehow a neglected topic, despite the importance of a child's life trajectory up to the age of 17/18 in terms of the psychological and social impact it has on their formation of subjectivity. →6

Parliament aide highlights expulsion of 'American cowboys' from region

POLITICAL TEHRAN — In a tweet on Friday, Hussein d e s k Amir-Abdollahian, the special aide to the speaker of the Iranian Parliament on international affairs, responded to remarks by former U.S. Special Representative for Iran Brian Hook, underlining the need to expel "the American cowboys" from the region.

"Brian Hook refers to the Emirati betrayal to Palestine as the New Middle East. The White House must know the New Middle East [West Asia] will take shape by forever withdrawal of America from the region. The New Middle East is a region free of the American cowboys," Amir-Abdollahian tweeted.

The special aide was referring to a recent U.S.-brokered peace deal between the United Arab Emirates and Israel, which was announced on August 13 during a ceremony at the White House attended by senior U.S. officials including President Donald Trump and Brian Hook.

Under the deal, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed "agreed to the full normalization of relations between Israel and the United Arab Emirates," according to a joint statement issued by the U.S., Israel and the UAE.

Speaking in the Oval Office about the UAE-Israel normalization deal, Hook said the deal was part of a "New Middle East."

"What we see today is a new Middle East. The trend lines are very different today, and we see the future is very much in the [Persian] Gulf and with Israel, and the past is with the Iranian regime," the outgoing U.S. special envoy to Iran claimed.

Iran strongly condemned the deal, calling it a "strategic stupidity" and a "treason" against the Palestinians.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran considers this 'shameful' action of Abu Dhabi in normalizing ties with the fake, anti-human and illegitimate Zionist regime a dangerous action and warns about any interference of the Zionist regime in equations of the Persian Gulf region and announces that the government of the Emirates and other accompanying governments must admit responsibility for consequences of this action," Iran's Foreign Ministry said in a statement on August 14.

U.S. failed to return UN sanctions on Iran, senior MP says

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Seyed Nasser Mousavi Laregani, a member of the Parliament's presiding board, said on Sunday that the U.S. efforts to trigger a return of all UN sanctions on Iran hit a dead end.

"The U.S. failed to trigger the snapback mechanism because it failed to bring members of the [UN] Security Council on board. And of course, it goes without saying that Trump's plan for such measures is aimed at serving propaganda purposes in order to gain" votes ahead of the presidential election, Laregani told the Islamic Consultative Assembly News Agency (ICANA).

He added, "By pursuing the snapback mechanism, Trump is working his butt off to impose what he calls 'maximum pressure' on Iran and portray this pressure as an achievement that can be used in his election campaign."

According to Laregani, the U.S. efforts to trigger the snapback process go against international law because it has withdrawn from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and that it cannot trigger the snapback process through the deal's Joint Commission.

"The JCPOA Joint Commission holds meeting when the complaining party is committed to its obligations. The U.S. cannot participate in the Joint Commission because it has withdrawn from the JCPOA," the MP argued.

He added the U.S. resorted to every ploy to gain the support of the European countries but it was snubbed.

"In a bid to trigger the snapback mechanism, the U.S. sought to bring European countries on board through various ploys, but it got nowhere. These countries clearly opposed the issue [of snapback]," the MP noted.

Iran FM lambasts 'Trump regime' for using 'law of jungle'

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif criticized late on Sunday the adoption of "the law of jungle" as a policy inside and outside of the U.S.

"All options on the table" has long been a staple of US foreign policy. It simply means the law of the jungle: disregard for a fundamental principle of int'l law: Non-Use of Force. Now, the Trump regime is using the same threat against Americans. A wake-up call? God willing," Zarif tweeted on Sunday evening.

Zarif was referring to remarks by the U.S. acting homeland security secretary, who said that "all options on the table" to quash the violent protests in Portland, Oregon.

Peace deal with UAE will not stop dissolution of Israel: MP

POLITICAL TEHRAN — A senior Iranian lawmaker condemned on Saturday a normalization deal between the United Arab Emirates and Israel, saying such a deal will not prevent the collapse of Israel.

"This disgraceful agreement will not only not serve the sinister interests of the Zionist regime, but will also lead to further discredit and humiliation of the supporters of the U.S. in the region's public opinion, and will result in nothing but political scandal for them," Hussein Nooshabadi, the head of Parliament's International Diplomacy and National Interests Commission, told Islamic Consultative Assembly News Agency (ICANA) on Saturday.

Nooshabadi said the normalization deal will not prevent "the downfall and the destruction of the occupying regime" of Israel, adding that "the process of the dissolution of Israel will not be stopped by such agreements."

He also condemned the deal, saying it will not serve the interests of Islamic countries and the people of the region.

On August 13, the UAE and Israel reached a deal to fully normalize their bilateral relations. The deal, brokered by U.S. President Donald Trump, sparked a wave of outrage around the region and fuelled anti-normalization sentiments. The Palestinians across the political spectrum strongly condemned the deal.

Ashura commemorated

Rouhani showers mourners with praise for observing health protocols including social-distancing.

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Mourning ceremonies for the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) on the day of Ashura were held on Saturday and Sunday all over Iran amid strict observation of coronavirus-related health protocols.

Every year, the Iranian people, along with other Shiite Muslims around the world, hold mourning rituals for the Imam's martyrdom during the first 10 days of the Islamic lunar month of Muharram. The mourning ceremonies reach their peak on the 9th day of Muharram, or Tasua, and the 10th day, or Ashura.

Ashura marks the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the grandson of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) who was martyred in the Battle of Karbala on October 10, 680 (Muharram 10, 61 AH), nearly 14 centuries ago. The Imam's heartbreaking martyrdom sent shock waves through the Muslim world as he was widely seen as a hero who sacrificed his life to challenge the corrupt ruler, Yazid ibn Mu'awiya.

On Sunday, millions of Iranians held nationwide rituals to commemorate the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS), according to a Tasnim report.

This year's Ashura came at a time when mourning ceremonies were held under health protocols amid fears of another wave of coronavirus, which has killed more than 21,000 people in Iran so far. On Sunday,



the Health Ministry announced 1,754 new COVID-19 cases, raising the total number to 373,570. The ministry also announced 103 new COVID-19 deaths in the past 24 hours.

The mourners observed health protocols and social-distancing rules while taking part in the ceremonies across the country, a move that was praised by senior officials.

In a message to the people, President Hassan Rouhani showered the mourners with praise for observing health protocols including social-distancing.

"Now, the most accurate images of observing social-distancing in our collective memory are the images that will remain from this year's mourning, and what more precious pride and honor than this," Rouhani said.

Interior Minister Abdolreza Rahmani Fazli also issued a message to thank the mourners for observing health protocols.

Before Ashura ceremonies begin, the National Coronavirus Combat and Prevention Headquarters issued strict health guidelines

for all religious associations, which planned to commemorate the occasion. Gatherings inside closed spaces were prohibited over fears of another coronavirus wave. Instead, mourners were advised to hold mourning ceremonies in open areas such as squares and streets while observing social distancing rules and wearing face masks. During the past 10 days, many squares and streets, among other places, have been turned into new venues for mourning instead of traditional places such as mosques and Hussainiyas.

In Tehran, mourners poured into the streets and squares of the capital in large numbers to listen to clergymen and eulogists praising Imam Hussein (AS) while keeping a safe distance between themselves. Members of congregations (Heiats) also staged processions while beating drums in a sign of remembering the Battle of Karbala. Similar mourning rituals were held on the day of Ashura in other provinces across Iran.

Mourning ceremonies are not limited to weeping and beating chests. Cooking votive food, called Nazri, and distributing it among passers-by and the poor is also an integral part of the ceremonies, which is very popular among ordinary people. Some believe that serving or eating Nazri food makes their lives more blessed. During this year's Muharram, Nazri foods were distributed among the people as usual.

Zarif: U.S. doesn't 'understand law or UN'

POLITICAL TEHRAN — In a tweet on Friday, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif lambasted the U.S. administration for its insistence on triggering a highly controversial mechanism stipulated in UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

"After thrice being rejected by SC, U.S. now threatens 'sanctioning anyone & any entity that comes between US' & 'its snapback.' Obviously, they don't understand law or UN. Maybe they can grasp this: You divorced the JCPOA in 2018. Your name on the marriage certificate is irrelevant," tweeted Zarif.

The foreign minister also posted a video of Alarabiya news network's interview with Kelly Craft, the U.S. ambassador to the U.S.

"We will be sanctioning anyone and any entity that comes

between the United States and our denying Iran access to weapons," Craft said in response to a question from the network's correspondent in New York, Talal al-Haj.

During a visit to New York on August 20, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo submitted what the U.S. officials call a "notification" to the UN Security Council in a bid to trigger the

"You divorced the JCPOA in 2018. Your name on the marriage certificate is irrelevant," Zarif tells the Trump administration.

snapback process, a contested mechanism built into the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) that allows parties to the nuclear deal to restore all UN sanctions on Iran in the event that it didn't uphold its obligations under the deal.

The U.S. complaint faced firm opposition from almost all members of the UN Security Council and all remaining parties to the nuclear deal. The opponents say the U.S. lost its legal authority to trigger the snapback process after it unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA on May 8, 2018.

However, the U.S. keeps insisting that it is still a "JCPOA participant state" as defined in UN Security Council Resolution 2231, and thus it has the right to restore the international sanctions on Iran, a move that could drive the final nail in the nuclear deal's coffin.

China and France should safeguard Iran nuclear deal, Chinese FM says

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi urged France to work with Beijing to protect major international agreements such as the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

In talks with French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian, Wang said that upholding multilateralism is the biggest consensus reached during his trip to Europe, according to the Chinese People's Daily Online.

"Under such circumstances, China and France, as major responsible countries, should actively promote and practice multilateralism," the Chinese daily quoted Wang as saying.

According to the daily, the Chinese foreign minister made a four-point proposal for China and France.

"First, China and France need to adhere to the concept of multilateralism.... Second, both sides should take multilateral actions.... Third, China and France should abide by multilateral agreements. Unilateralism, including irresponsible withdrawal from international organizations or violation of international agreements, is unpopular. China and France should strengthen coordination and cooperation on international affairs, and safeguard major outcomes of international agreements



Visiting Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi (L) touches elbows with French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian in Paris, France, Aug. 29, 2020.

and multilateral diplomacy, such as the Iran nuclear deal. Fourth, the two sides should strengthen multilateral institutions. The United Nations is the most important platform for supporting and practicing multilateralism, and the two sides should support the United Nations in playing its due central role in international affairs," the Chinese Daily said.

Wang made the remarks in a Saturday meeting with his French counterpart in Paris, amid heightened tensions between the U.S. and other parties to the JCPOA. China and France both are signatories to the Iran nuclear deal.

In a move to kill the deal, the U.S. triggered efforts to restore all UN sanctions on Iran on August 20. The U.S. submitted what it calls a "notification" to the UN Security Council calling for the re-imposition of UN sanctions on Iran despite fierce opposition from all remaining parties to the JCPOA. The deal's parties rejected with one voice the U.S. push to trigger the snapback process, saying the U.S. lost its legal authority to initiate the process after it unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA on May 8, 2018.

However, the U.S. keeps insisting that it has the right to restore the UN sanctions on Iran because it is mentioned as a "JCPOA participant state" in UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

In a tweet on Friday, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif lambasted the U.S. administration for its insistence on triggering the snapback process, likening the U.S. stance on Resolution 2231 to a husband who lost his privileges mentioned in the marriage certificate after he divorced his wife.

"After thrice being rejected by SC, U.S. now threatens 'sanctioning anyone & any entity that comes between US' & 'its snapback.' Obviously, they don't understand law or UN. Maybe they can grasp this: You divorced the JCPOA in 2018. Your name on the marriage

certificate is irrelevant," tweeted Zarif.

The foreign minister was responding to remarks by Kelly Craft, the U.S. ambassador to the UN, who said that her country will sanction anyone opposes the U.S. push to restore the international sanctions on Iran.

"Full of lies"

Reacting to U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo's claim about the return of sanctions on Iran due to the activation of the trigger mechanism, China's permanent mission to the United Nations called it "full of lies".

China's Permanent Mission to the United Nations stated in a Twitter message, "U.S. claimed that whether or not a resolution to continue sanctions relief is introduced, sanctions on Iran will return. Full of LIES. U.S. is no longer a participant to JCPOA, and therefore ineligible to invoke the snapback. 13 UNSC members believe the snapback is not triggered."

Pompeo previously wrote in a Twitter message that after the failure of the Security Council in its mission to maintain peace and security, the United States announced the 30-day return process of all UN sanctions against Iran.

According to Pompeo, the sanctions will return at midnight on September 20 (Shahrivar 30) Greenwich Mean Time.

Pakistan's Khan says imperative to enhance ties with Iran

Prime Minister Imran Khan has praised Pakistan's relationship with Iran, stressing an imperative to expand mutual ties in the future.

Khan said Islamabad has improved its relations internationally, including with the neighbors, over the past two years, the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) quoted the prime minister as saying in an exclusive interview with the Pakistani television network, ARY, on Friday.

Referring to Pakistan's relations with other countries in the region, including Turkey and Saudi Arabia, the premier emphasized that Islamabad was resolved to play a role in de-escalating tensions.

Heading a high-ranking politico-economic delegation, Khan paid his first visit to Tehran in April where he held talks with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei and President Hassan Rouhani.

Ayatollah Khamenei warned that terrorist groups backed by the enemies of Iran and Pakistan seek to cause tension



in the mutual relations.

"Terrorist groups, which sow insecurity along borders, are fed with the enemies' money and weapons and one of the goals sought through anti-security measures along Iran's

border with Pakistan is to contaminate the two countries' relations," the Leader stated.

After a closed-door meeting with the prime minister, Rouhani said Iran and Pakistan had agreed to form a joint force to eliminate terrorist groups.

"We agreed to step up security cooperation between the two countries and their respective border security and intelligence forces while also forming a joint rapid reaction force on the shared borders to fight terrorism," the Iranian president said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the Pakistani prime minister hailed advanced urban management in Iran, particularly in the capital Tehran, despite Western sanctions. Khan said Pakistan, Karachi and Lahore for instance, could model its urban management system on that of Iran's.

Despite all sanctions, Khan said, Iran earned revenues of hundreds of dollars from urban management, particularly in Tehran, which are spent on the development of other cities.

Vienna to host JCPOA joint commission on Sept. 1

TEHRAN (MNA) — The next meeting of the Joint Commission of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) will be held in Vienna on September 1.

The meeting will be chaired by Secretary-General of the European Union External Action Service Helga Schmid and Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Seyyed Abbas Araghchi.

The event will be attended by representatives of France, Germany, Britain, China and Russia.

Thus, the meeting will be held at the level of deputy foreign ministers and political directors of Iran and the 4+1 group.

Last July, after receiving a letter from Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif regarding the non-adherence of European

countries to the agreement, Schmid said that the next meeting of the Joint Commission will be held as soon as the conditions for travel are available.

However, the forthcoming meeting is important because the U.S. has illegally called for the reinstatement of UN Security Council sanctions against Iran.

On August 26, Schmid reacted to the latest

joint statement issued by Iran and IAEA.

In a tweet on Wednesday, Schmid wrote, "Good news from Tehran on cooperation between #Iran and @iaeaorg. The EU trusts the impartial and independent role of the agency. In the meantime we continue our work to preserve #JCPOA with Joint Commission next week; I will chair on behalf of High Representative @JosepBorrellF."

U.S. not entitled to invoke 'snapback' mechanism, says top MP

POLITICAL TEHRAN — The chairman of the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee has said the United States cannot invoke the so-called "snapback" mechanism.

"The U.S. has no legal right to trigger the snapback mechanism," Mehr on Saturday quoted Mojtaba Zonnour as saying.

Earlier this month, Washington officially informed the UN Security Council that it is demanding the restoration of all UN sanctions on Iran, insisting that the U.S. has the legal right to "snap back" UN sanctions even though U.S. President Donald Trump pulled out of the UNSC-endorsed nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Other parties to the nuclear deal, including Russia, China, France, Britain and Germany, have voiced strong opposition to Washington's push for sanctions on Iran.

Zonnour explained that paragraphs 36 and 37 of the JCPOA emphasize if one of the JCPOA parties concludes that the other party is not adhering to the obligations of the deal, the other side can use



the snapback mechanism.

However, he said, the U.S. has withdrawn from the JCPOA more than two years ago and is not a party to the deal anymore.

"That's why Europe did not accompany the U.S. in its bid, because the U.S. argument

has no legal standing," the MP remarked.

He added that Washington's hostile acts against the Iranian people has led to its isolation.

Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has also argued that the United States

is not in a position to reimpose all the UN sanctions on Iran.

"From a legal point of view, the United States has no status to use the snapback mechanism. Three European allies of the United States had announced clearly in the previous session of the United Nations Security Council that the United States cannot apply this mechanism," Zarif told reporters after a cabinet meeting on August 12.

Trump quit the nuclear deal in May 2018 and introduced the harshest ever sanctions in history on Iran as part of his administration's "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran.

On May 8, 2019, exactly one year after the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA, Tehran said its "strategic patience" is over and began to gradually reduce its commitments under the pact to both retaliate for Washington's departure and Europeans' failure to honor their commitments.

However, officials in Tehran have repeatedly said if the Europeans honor their commitments, Iran will immediately reverse its decision.

Tehran says making efforts to find out about Imam Musa al-Sadr

POLITICAL TEHRAN — The Iranian Foreign Ministry has paid tribute to Imam Musa al-Sadr on the anniversary of his disappearance, saying Tehran has been making international efforts for four decades to find out the truth about the top Shia cleric Imam Musa al-Sadr.

"There have been follow-ups and dialogs at bilateral and international levels to find out about his fate," Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Saturday, according to Tasnim

Sadr, a prominent Iranian-Lebanese Shia scholar, went missing with two companions on August 31, 1978, during an official visit to the Libyan capital Tripoli. He was accompanied by Sheikh Mohammad Yaqoub and journalist Abbas Badreddine.

Khatibzadeh said Imam Musa al-Sadr is one of the most notable figures that did his utmost to ensure Muslim unity and



dignity, dialogue among religions, and proximity of faiths.

Sadr's services and endeavors are so extensive that all people in the region enjoy them today, particularly the appreciative people of Lebanon, he said.

"He was the founder of an intellectual and behavioral school of thought in the Islamic world and the Shiite world whose benefits have continued until today and are becoming clearer every day," the spokesman added.

Khatibzadeh also attributed the victories, progress and achievements of the resistance movement to the presence of Sadr in Lebanon.

"Imam Musa al-Sadr is renowned in Lebanon mainly for his role in shaping the main cores of resistance against the Zionist regime's occupation and in creating unity and peaceful coexistence among followers of religions," he added.

Imam Hussein (AS)'s sacrifice nurtured resistance to tyranny: Zarif

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif has commemorated the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS), saying his great sacrifice has ingrained resistance to tyranny and injustice in hearts and souls of his followers.

"Since 680 CE, millions of Muslims have commemorated martyrdom of Imam Hussein," Zarif wrote in a tweet on Saturday.

"Honoring his great sacrifice has ingrained resistance to tyranny and injustice in hearts and souls of his followers for centuries," he added.

Zarif also wrote a quote from Imam Hussein (AS): "I do not see death but bliss, and life under tyranny but misery."

Shia Muslims commemorate the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions with rituals that begin every year from the first day of the lunar month of Muharram.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh also marked the occasion, saying Iran's consistency in resisting hegemony has roots in such culture.

"#Ashura (the day Imam Hussein was martyred) is not just a day in history; it is a constant momentum b/w right & wrong, dignity & humiliation, and liberty & coercion," Khatibzadeh said via Twitter on



Saturday.

"No power, no matter how cruel, can take this away from a nation ready to sacrifice," he added.

Imam Hussein's martyrdom is not only a source of inspiration for the Islamic Republic, but it also became an integral part of the Iranian culture.

During the first 10 days of Muharram, cities all over Iran are filled with black banners and posters in memory of Imam Hussein (AS), and people gather at mosques and other religious centers to mourn and cry while eulogists recite poems glorifying the martyrdom of the Imam.

This year, the mourning ceremonies are being held in open areas to reduce the risk of contracting the novel coronavirus. These ceremonies are of great importance for people from all walks of life.

Iran urges world to pressure Israel to join NPT

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Iran's Deputy Permanent Representative to the United Nations Es'haq Al-e Habib has urged the international community to pressure Israel into joining the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

Addressing a virtual meeting on the anniversary of the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) on Thursday, Al-e Habib said considering the Israeli regime's destructive role in the region, the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) should have access to the regime's nuclear facilities.

The destructive role of the U.S. and Israel has prevented the realization of a Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) Free Zone in West Asia, he remarked, according to Press TV.

Israel, which pursues a policy of deliberate ambiguity about its nuclear weapons, is estimated to have 200 to 400 nuclear warheads in its arsenal.

The regime has refused to allow inspections of its military nuclear facilities or sign the NPT.

Under Article VI of the NPT, all parties to the treaty undertake to pursue good-faith negotiations on effective measures related to nuclear disarmament and the cessation of nuclear arms race.



Elsewhere in his remarks, Al-e Habib denounced the U.S. for playing a negative role in preventing the proliferation of nuclear weapons, saying with 1,054 nuclear tests, the U.S. has had the highest number of such tests compared to other countries.

Pointing to the U.S. as the only country to have used nuclear weapons, he said the U.S. not only has no resolve to end testing nuclear weapons and join the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT) but also continues to modernize and strengthen its nuclear arsenal.

Nuclear disarmament must remain at the top of the international community's agenda, he said.

The envoy added that the nuclear tests must be stopped since they are against the soul of the CTBT and commitment to nuclear disarmament as per Article VI of the NPT.

Tehran criticizes the West for harboring MEK as Iran commemorates martyrs Rajaei and Bahonar

I→ The bomb, which claimed lives of other officials as well, went off at the office of Islamic Republican Party in Tehran.

According to survivors' accounts, the bomb was set off when one of the victims opened a briefcase which was carried inside by Massoud Kashmiri, a security official at the Islamic Republican Party.

Subsequent investigations revealed that Kashmiri was an operative of the MEK disguised as a state security official.

The assassination came 39 days after Rajaei won the votes of the majority of Iranians in an early election and had become the second president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, after Abol-Hasan Bani-Sadr, who had fled to

Europe after being voted out by the parliament. Rajaei served as the prime minister under Bani-Sadr.

Rajaei and Bahonar, who knew each other for 20 years and were very active in the anti-Shah campaign, stood shoulder to shoulder after the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

The MEK was established in the 1960s to express a mixture of Marxism and Islamism. It launched bombing campaigns against the Shah, continuing after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, against the Islamic Republic. Iran accuses the group of being responsible for 17,000 deaths.

Based in Iraq at the time, MEK members were armed and equipped by Iraq to fight against Iran alongside the

Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein during a war which lasted for 8 years.

In 2012, the U.S. State Department removed the MEK (also called MKO) from its list of designated terrorist organizations under intense lobbying by groups associated to Saudi Arabia and other regimes opposed to Iran.

A few years ago, MEK members were relocated from their Camp Ashraf in Iraq's Diyala Province to Camp Hurriyet (Camp Liberty), a former U.S. military base in Baghdad, and were later sent to Albania.

From Albania, the group has launched an intensive disinformation campaign against Iran under the leadership of the Trump administration.

Iran says to counter U.S. move to seize \$1.7 billion held by Deutsche Boerse unit

Deutsche Boerse unit calls U.S. allegations against Iranian central bank unfounded

Iran's central bank said on Saturday it was taking legal steps to counter a lawsuit filed in a U.S. court by creditors seeking to seize \$1.7 billion of its assets held by Deutsche Boerse's (DBIGn.DE) Clearstream unit.

The German stock exchange operator said

earlier the creditors had filed the suit in a New York court seeking to require Clearstream to surrender assets that belong to Iran's central bank. It said the clearing house considers the claims to be unfounded and will take steps to defeat them, Reuters reported.

Amir Hossein Tayyebi Fard, a deputy governor of the Iranian central bank, said

in a statement: "After repeated legal defeats in Luxembourg, the U.S. plaintiffs are seeking legal action in U.S. courts against Clearstream. Serious legal action is also underway to counter these measures."

Tayyebi Fard did not give details of the bank's legal measures to prevent a seizure of the assets which he said were worth \$1.7

billion, according to the statement posted on the bank's website.

U.S. authorities have targeted Luxembourg-based Clearstream for years in an investigation over whether it violated U.S. money laundering and Iran sanction laws. Deutsche Boerse has denied wrongdoing.

SPORTS

Kolahi appointed Iran basketball secretary general

SPORTS TEHRAN — Shabnam Kolahi has been appointed as secretary general of the Islamic Republic of Iran Basketball Federation (IRIBF).



Kolahi was working as acting secretary general of the federation since June.

Iran's Sports and Youths Minister Masoud Soltanifar appointed her in the new role.

Kolahi is an ex-Iran basketball player and has served in the federation as women's team's director for many years.

Shahr Khodro, Bakhtiarzadeh part way

SPORTS TEHRAN — Iranian football club Shahr Khodro will not renew Sohrab Bakhtiarzadeh's contract for the new season of Iran Professional League (IPL).

The Mashhad based football club parted company with the 47-year-old coach who had been named as Shahr Khodro coach in mid-July until the end of the season.

Bakhtiarzadeh replaced Mojtaba Sarasiaei who stepped down from his role in Mashhad based football club.

Shahr Khodro goalkeeper Mehdi Rahmati, who was sacked by Bakhtiarzadeh two weeks ago, is a candidate to take charge of the team.

Under tutelage of Bakhtiarzadeh, Shahr Khodro came sixth in IPL table.

Shahr Khodro sit bottom of Group B in the AFC Champions League, where the team have lost their two previous matches.

Ex-Esteghlal midfielder Serjik Teymourian dies

SPORTS TEHRAN — Ex-Esteghlal midfielder Serjik Teymourian passed away at the age of 46 on Saturday.

Teymourian, the older brother of ex-national team player Andranik, previously played for Esteghlal in Iran and the German side Mainz 05 between 1998 to 2000 as a defensive midfielder.

Tehran Times extends deepest sympathy to Teymourian's family, loved ones, and friends over his demise.

Ali Ferydoon joins Al-Rayyan

SPORTS TEHRAN — Iranian-Kuwaiti footballer Ali Ferydoon joined Qatari top-flight football club Al-Rayyan.

He has joined Al-Rayyan on loan from Al-Shamal for an undisclosed fee.

The 28-year-old started his professional career in Al-Ahli and has also played in Al-Sadd.

Ferydoon scored 19 goals for Al-Shamal in the 2013-14 season and was Qatari 2nd Division's top scorer.

Siamand Rahman's legacy lives on

SPORTS TEHRAN — Iranian superheavyweight powerlifter Siamand Rahman sadly passed away earlier this year, but his legacy lives on.

With Tokyo 2020 now just one year away, it's time to relive some of the greatest Paralympic moments in the decade.

It's not often the world gets to witness an incredible athlete like Siamand Rahman. And while sadly the Islamic Republic of Iran athlete passed away earlier this year, his legacy lives on, Paralympic.org reported.

Rahman broke records everywhere he went but one of his greatest achievements came at the Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. The 28-year-old powerlifter, who was in the 107kg+ category, started the competition off with a lift of 270kg.

After keeping spectators and the media on their toes as to whether or not he would attempt 300kg, Rahman came out and successfully lifted the bar. But would he be able to go further and be the first athlete to break the 300kg barrier?

AFC receives Iran's bid to host AFC Asian Cup

SPORTS TEHRAN — The Asian Football Confederation (AFC) received the Football Federation Islamic Republic of Iran's bid to host the AFC Asian Cup 2027.

Four other AFC Member Associations have also indicated their intentions to host Asia's crown jewel including the All India Football Federation, Qatar Football Association, Saudi Arabian Football Federation and Uzbekistan Football Association — all of whom submitted their expressions of interest by the June 30, 2020 deadline.

The AFC Executive Committee had earlier agreed to provide future hosts for the AFC Asian Cup, beginning with the 2027 edition, with more preparation time ahead of the event as part of the AFC's continued commitment towards strengthening its competitions, the-afc.com wrote.

The last edition of the AFC Asian Cup in the UAE signaled a major shift for football in Asia after the tournament broke all digital media engagement and TV viewership records, following the widely acclaimed decision to expand Asia's flagship competition from 16 to 24 national teams.

TPO preparing to hold Iran-Africa Economic Committee meeting

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) hosted a meeting on Saturday for making the necessary coordination for the upcoming Iran-Africa Economic Committee meeting, TPO portal reported on Saturday.



Chaired by the TPO Head Hamid Zadboum, the gathering was attended by the representatives of public and private bodies and institutions, as well as members of the mentioned committee.

In the meeting, the TPO Secretariat of Economic Committees' proposals for expansion of trade with African nations were assessed and after necessary amendments, they were decided to be sent to the African committee's secretariat at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for final approvals and for being raised at the upcoming meeting.

The granting of credit lines, the facilitation of trade infrastructure, the development of educational and technical cooperation, and the activation of joint committees with African countries were among the TPO's most important proposals.

As reported, the Iran-Africa Economic committee meeting is scheduled to be held in the next Iranian calendar month of Mehr (starts on September 22) and Iran's First Vice President Es'haq Jahangiri is going to chair the meeting.

Zahedan-Chabahar railway to be operational next year

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Head of the parliament's Construction Committee said that Zahedan-Chabahar railway, in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan, is going to go operational in the next Iranian calendar year (begins in March 2021), IRIB reported on Saturday.

Noting that the necessary funding for the project has been supplied from the country's National Development Fund (NDF), Mohammad-Reza Rezaei-Kouchi said local contractors like Khatam-al-Anbiya Construction Headquarters are working on the project and it will be completed and operational soon.

Rezaei-Kouchi underlined the importance of expanding the country's national railway network, saying: "Investment in railways can be of great benefit to the country in saving fuel consumption and reducing pollution."



Referring to the country's Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan and the goals depicted in this plan for the expansion of railways, the official added: "Achieving a 30-percent freight transportation capacity and a 20-percent share of passenger traffic through railways is one of the goals that Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (RAI) is pursuing."

He further mentioned the International North-South Transport Corridor and said that the India-Russia section of this route will be completed through Iran, and the railway network has a major share in this section which can play an effective role for the country's economy.

The official emphasized the necessity of joining the country's production centers through railways and added: "There are many production centers in the country that unfortunately are not connected to the railway network and their cargoes are carried through road."

"Connection of production centers to the railway network can have a significant positive impact on the cost of goods, reducing the time of arrival of goods to the destination, as well as greater reliability and security," he stressed.

The track-laying operations of Chabahar-Zahedan railroad was started in early July in a ceremony attended by Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami and Deputy Transport Minister Kheirollah Khademi.

As previously reported, the project which is aimed to connect Chabahar to Zahedan (the capital city of south-eastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province) is planned to be completed by the end of the Iranian calendar year of 1400 (March 2022).

Connecting the ports to the railway network is an issue seriously emphasized and followed up by Iran over the recent years, as the country is strongly pursuing the objective of boosting exports and transit via its ports.

Chabahar Port in southeast Iran is the most prioritized one for railway connection as the port's exemption from the new round of the U.S. sanctions on the country is an opportunity for the development of export, transit, and also transshipment.

Energy Ministry to draft new bill for protecting water resources

ECONOMY TEHRAN — and therefore, with the participation of government organizations, as well as universities and the Parliament Research Center, we started a research project on water and water resources protection," the minister explained.

The official noted that considering the country's current water situation, the Energy Ministry has also had a structural reform in the water management, part of which including the integration of urban and rural water and wastewater companies in the provinces has been implemented.

"This has accelerated the implementation of projects by consolidating technical, financial, and human resources," Ardakanian said.

Regarding the possibility of monitoring water resources and consumption in different parts of the country, Ardakanian said: "Naturally, monitoring water consumption is not possible as much as the control we have over the monitoring of electricity consumption, but the main thing in this field is to develop an assessment program based on water resources and ecosystem capacities of each region."

In early June, Deputy Energy Minister for Water and Wastewater Affairs Ghasem Taqizadeh Khamesi had announced that Water consumption in Iran increased by 35 percent following the coronavirus outbreak in the country.



Regarding the water storage of the country's dams, the deputy minister said: "This year, although the rainfalls across the country decreased by about seven percent compared to the previous year, water reserves are in a good condition."

Khamsi expressed hope that following the Energy Ministry's planning and measures, and the cooperation of citizens in optimizing water consumption, there won't be a shortage of drinking water in different provinces of the country during summer.

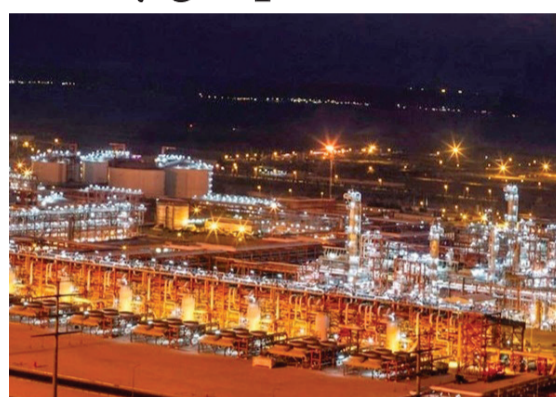
South Pars daily gas production at 700 mcm

ECONOMY TEHRAN — The daily production of gas in Iran's South Pars gas field has reached 700 million cubic meters (mcm), the managing director of Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC), which is in charge of developing the field, announced.

Mentioning the 94-percent realization of the company's development plans for the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) Mohammad Meshkinfam said: "Of the total 39 offshore platforms of the South Pars development project, 37 have gone operational while 12 of the complex's total onshore refineries are also currently operating."

As reported by ILNA, Meshkinfam underlined that although the development part of the project is nearly completed, the more important part which is maintaining the production level has just begun, saying, "Currently, a large part of the country's energy is supplied from this joint field, so we have a big responsibility."

The official stated that his company plans to develop other reserves and boost the recovery factor of the currently active



wells in the South Pars field, to continue to supply 75 percent of the country's gas needs from this field in the next 25 years. "Currently, 40 percent of the country's gasoline produc-

tion feed is supplied from this joint field," Meshkinfam said. He further emphasized that all the stages of the implementation of the South Pars development project and also the maintenance operation have been carried out by local experts and engineers, and POGC plans to continue to develop the country's oil and gas industries by relying on the domestic capabilities and capacities.

South Pars gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf, is divided into 24 standard phases of development in the first stage. Most of the phases are fully operational at the moment.

The huge offshore field covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which, called South Pars, are in Iran's territorial waters in the Persian Gulf. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar's territorial waters.

The field is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

No trading account needed for 2nd ETF underwriting

ECONOMY TEHRAN — No trading account is required for underwriting to buy the shares of four major refineries that are going to be offered through Iran's second exchange-traded fund (ETF), ISNA reported on Sunday.

The underwriting process, which began on last Wednesday will continue for two weeks until Wednesday, September 9, and while there is no need for having a trading account at the first step, the applicants for buying the shares through this ETF can do the underwriting by their national ID code and then open trading account in the coming months.

The shares will be tradable one month after the underwriting is finished.



As reported, the government shares in Tehran, Tabriz, Isfahan, and Bandar-Abbas refineries will be offered through this ETF, at the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) which is the main stock exchange of Iran.

The offering of the second EFT had been postponed several times due to some technical problems so that rumors of its cancellation were being heard, however in late June Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Farhad Dejpasand announced August 26 as the date for the offering of the second EFT and put an end to those rumors.

The offering of this EFT comes as the value of shares offered via the first exchange-traded fund has also increased significantly.

On May 2, the TSE listed the first exchange-traded fund from a series of three ETFs, through which shares of some state-owned organizations and companies are planned to be offered.

In mid-June, the finance and economic affairs minister announced that the value of shares that are offered by the first exchange-traded fund had doubled.

Referring to the offering of the shares via the first ETF, Dejpasand said, "The offering was our first experience in this field. About 3.6 million persons purchased the units of shares offered by the first fund."

An ETF is an investment fund traded on stock exchanges, much like stocks. An ETF holds assets such as stocks, commodities, or bonds and generally operates with an arbitrage mechanism designed to keep its trading close to its net asset value, although deviations can occasionally occur.

Iran, Turkmenistan discuss situation of borders, transportation

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami held talks with Turkmenistan's Minister of Foreign Affairs Rasit Meredov via video conference to discuss the situation of road and rail transportation on the common borders between Iran and Turkmenistan.

As reported by the portal of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA), in the meeting, the two sides stressed the need for taking urgent measures to lift transit restrictions between the two countries, and to expand regional cooperation, and develop strategic, economic and trade collaboration, especially during the pandemic.

Eslami also called for Turkmenistan cooperation for the re-opening of Sarakhs and Incheboron border terminals and for removing obstacles to railroad links in border crossings.

Referring to the healthcare measures taken in Iran, which have led to the reduction of the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic in the field of transportation, Eslami



said: "Currently, Iran's trade exchanges are established at 30 border crossings with neighbors, and health protocols are strictly enforced at border points."

Iranian borders are facilitators of trade relations with the neighboring states, the minister said, expressing hope that the volume of trade exchange with the friendly states including Turkmenistan would reach the previous level before the pandemic.

Sarakhs, Bajgir, Lotfabad, and Incheboron are four land border crossings with Turkmenistan in the east of the Caspian Sea and northeastern Iran.

Despite several rounds of talks and promises, Turkmenistan has not yet decided to reopen its land borders with Iran.

Back in June, Iran opened a key bridge connecting cities on the two sides of the Sarakhs border with Turkmenistan amid efforts to expand trade with countries in the Central Asia region.

Sarakhs Border Bridge was officially inaugurated in the presence of Iran's minister of transport and urban development, the minister of construction and architecture of Turkmenistan, and the ambassadors of the two countries.

TEDPIX drops for 3rd consecutive week

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

The index stood at 1.718 million points at the end of the past week, IRNA reported.

As reported, most of the trades were conducted through the indices of National Iranian Copper Industry Company, Ghadir Investment company, Bank Saderat, Mobarakeh Steel Company, and Bandar Abbas Oil Refining Company, while information and communication, base metals, wooden products, computer and electronic devices were the most traded items at the TSE during the previous week.

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

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

While Iran's stock market has not received any external shocks such as those from the foreign currency exchange rate,

inflation, parallel markets, and international issues, some internal factors have caused the recent drops in this market.

One of the major factors was canceling the offering of shares through the second exchange traded fund (ETF) on due time.

Liberalization of "Justice Shares", so that trading them in the stock market would be possible, was another contributing factor for the drop in the market.

The government's plan named "Economic Breakthrough" was the other issue affecting the stock market, as no details were announced about this plan.

On April 15, Iran's stock market witnessed its largest-ever initial public offering, as Social Security Investment Company (SSIC, also known by its Persian acronym Shasta) offered eight billion shares, which account for 10 percent of its stakes, for sales in Tehran Stock Exchange.

Shasta's index, which experienced a sharp decline after being closed for three days, has been another contributor to the TEDPIX's recent fall.

There are also some other factors leading to the recent drops in the stock market, of them it could be referred to reducing the value of brokerage credit, and conducting trades in two shifts per day at the TSE.

Trade via Mehran border increases

ECONOMY TEHRAN — Trade between Iran and Iraq has increased via Mehran border crossing, according to the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Ruhollah Latifi said that trade activity at Mehran border has increased from two to four days a week, IRNA reported.

With the coordination made between the customs officials of the two countries including the director-general of the customs department of Iran's Ilam Province, Mehran border, which was previously active in two days (Sunday and Wednesday) a week, will be active in four days (from Sunday to Wednesday) a week, Latifi announced.

Shalamcheh border in Khuzestan province is active two days a week while Khosravi border in Kermanshah province has been active on all days of the week since the past two weeks, he said, adding, "It should be noted that Chazabeh border is still closed."

Earlier this month, Mahnaz Hemmati, the head of standard department of Ilam Province, announced that Iran has exported 18,884 tons of commodities to Iraq through Mehran border since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).



She also said that 158,000 tons of goods were exported to Iraq from this border point in the past Iranian year, adding that the main exported goods were construction materials, chemicals, and auto parts.

Shahid Soleimani border point, also known as Mehran border point, only 230 km away from Baghdad, is the closest Iranian border point to the Iraqi capital.

The economic and political relations between Iran and Iraq have increased significantly in the past few years and the two neighbors are seeking ways to facilitate financial transactions and boost their trade ties.

The two countries have it on the agenda to increase the value of their bilateral trade to \$20 billion by 2021.

Resistance movement represents the nobility of Imam Hussein: Islamic scholar

1 → A: The history of nations cannot be separated from their present. History in its path is composed of the accumulations and experiences that shape a society's character. It was indeed subjected to changes that modified its path, but these changes turned into main elements of the nation's collective consciousness.

Therefore, in his movement Imam Hussein, peace be upon him, did not limit his perspective to fight the tyranny of the Umayyad dynasty, but he was concerned about the reality of the Ummah and retrogression of Muslims.

Justice is the main goal of all prophets, as God said: "We have sent Our Messengers with proofs and sent them with the Book and the Scales so that people might establish the justice."

The Umayyads' crime was not only distorting the message of Muhammad (peace be upon him and his family) but also diverting the path of the Abrahamic religions and the calls of the prophets.

The Umayyads wanted to replace the rule of justice with a tyrannical king's rule and the necessity of obedience.

They invented false statements attributed to the Prophet (peace be upon him and his family), ordering obedience to the rulers and kings, regardless of injustice and depraved life they had, banning disobedience.

Therefore, the message of Imam Hussein was to prevent the distortion of Islam, telling Ummah: Islam is not the religion of the Sultan (ruler), but its mission is to bring justice for the world after establishing it among the Ummah.

The Muslim historian Al-Tabari, in his book, refers to a message from Imam Hussein, (peace be upon him) to the people of Kufa in which he said: "I swear by my life, the Imam is who follows the holy book (Quran), who rises for the justice and who applies the educations of religion and devote his life for God."

The Sultan (ruler) has no legitimacy unless by following God's book, religion, justice, preserving the true religion from falsification, shun selfishness or self-interest for God's sake.

Karbala was not just a spot of land on which a group of the oppressed people were killed. Karbala was the voice of truth in history and representation of the divine human nature that sees living with the oppressors as humiliation.

Karbala was not only a historical event but was an epic that included all the values, concepts, and truths of religion: faith, love, truth, justice, asceticism, generosity, sacrifice, patience.

So all the lands are Karbala, and every day is Ashura.

It is our duty to read and compare Karbala with our life, with our place, with our era. The U.S. today is following the lies of the Umayyad when it describes the Islamic Republic, which extends its hand to weak and oppressed people, as a rogue state.

When Amr bin Al-Hajjaj, one of Yazid's (the second caliph of the Umayyad caliphate) army commanders, addressed Kufa's people describing Imam Hussein like a rebel, saying: "people of Kufa! Obey the ruler, and do not hesitate to kill the apostates."

Thus, America today encourages oppression, injustice, and aggression under the slogan of following the international community.

It accuses those who work to defend the rights of the Lebanese, Palestinians, and Yemenis as rogue groups, of being abnormal, although the international community today is beginning to take departure from the American dictates. "When we wish to be with Imam



Hussein, to reach great salvation, it should be instilled in us that we search for our own Karbala in our lives in order to be against Yazid of our era. Every era has its Yazid, and every period has its Hussein."

Yazid represents aggression, injustice, immorality, selfishness, violation of religious values and morality for the sake of self-interest.

But Hussein represents justice, truth, sacrifice, morality, values, and supporting oppressed people.

If we read our reality today, we find out that all Yazid's crimes are embodied in the Zionist-American axis, and we find the Hussein nobility in the axis of the Islamic Republic and the resistance.

Although we did not attain the honor of fighting beside Hussein (peace be upon him), this honor presents itself to us today when we do not hesitate to confront the hegemony of the U.S.

We do everything possible to resist American arrogance without fatigue, boredom, weakness or being influenced by the mainstream media pressure.

We must support the Hussein revolution in our era by backing the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic resistance to establish justice and support the oppressed people.

■ What is the status of Imam Hussein among the Sunnis and their books?

A: To answer this question, it will suffice to mention some hadiths of Prophet Muhammad with brief comments:

In Sunan al-Tirmidhi it is quoted from Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him and his family) that says: "It was an angel never descended on the earth before that night. He asked God for permission to greet me and tell me that Fatima (daughter of Prophet Muhammad) is the master lady of the women of paradise and that Hassan and Hussein are the masters of paradise's youth."

In the Sunan of Ibn Majah, Sunan al-Tirmidhi, the Musnad of Ahmad and Mu'jam al-Tabarani, and Mustadrak al-Hakim on the two Sahih and authenticated by al-Dhahabi, it is quoted that Prophet Muhammad, (peace be upon him and his family) said: "Hussein is from me, and I am from Hussein. Allah loves anyone who loves Hasan and Hussein. They are two of my distinguished descendants."

In Sunan al-Tirmidhi and Mustadrak al-Hakim, it is quoted from Umm Salamah saying: I saw the Prophet Muhammad, in a dream with dust on his head and beard, so I asked him what happened to him? He said: "I witnessed the killing of Hussein earlier."

In Al-Mustadrak of Sahih Al-Hakim authenticated by Al-Dhahabi, it is

quoted from Ibn Abbas, who said: God told Prophet Muhammad: "I killed seventy thousand in revenge for Yahya ibn Zakariyya (John Son of Zechariah), and I will kill double of this number in revenge for your daughter's son."

In the Musnad of Ahmad, Musnad al-Bazzar, and Mu'jam al-Tabarani it is said: Naji al-Hadrami was walking with Imam Ali when he said that "be patient Abu Abdullah! Be patient Abu Abdullah on the coast of the Euphrates!" I asked him what that is. He said that he had met the Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him), one day, and as if he was tearful and asked him if someone had made him angry? He answered that Angel Gabriel arose from him before a moment and told him that Hussein would be killed in the Shatt al-Furat (Euphrates).

Imam Ali asked Hadrami, "Do you like to smell it from its soil?" and he said yes. So, Imam Ali grabbed a fist of soil and gave it to him.

Prophet Muhammad (peace be upon him and his family) cried for Hussein before his martyrdom because he could not witness Karbala's tragedy. The Lord of existence informed the prophet about Karbala and presented to him the soil of Karbala to smell it.

■ How can the martyrdom of Imam Hussein unite Muslims, Sunnis and Shiites?

A: We must show the truth of Ashura and that it is the uprising of Islam against distortion.

With their four schools of thought, Sunni scholars unanimously agree on the debauchery of Yazid, his perversion, and his criminality, though the Wahhabis (the followers of Ibn Taymiyyah and Ibn Abd al-Wahhab) refused to follow the consensus of Sunnis.

Therefore, the two wings of Islam (Sunnis and Shiites) must follow the Book of God that calls for justice and forbids wrongdoing, and the history and statements must be compared to the Book of God, and not to read history through the eyes of tyrants. As Sunnis and Shiites unite in the position of condemning injustice and immorality of Yazid, they must unite today in the face of arrogance by the Zionist regime and the U.S.

Muslims must stand by the resistance in Palestine, Lebanon, Yemen, and Syria, and support every oppressed around the world, and deal with their differences in a scientific way in an atmosphere of Islamic brotherhood.

■ How did the Islamic Ummah reach such a stage that a person like Yazid came to power and manipulated the tradition of Prophet Muhammad and killed Imam Hussein?

A: In fact, Imam Hussein (peace be upon him) described the reality of the Ummah in his letter to the nobles of Basra, as al-Tabari has reported in his book (History of Nations and Kings) The Imam says: "I invite you to the Book of God (Quran) and the tradition of the Prophet. The Sunnah (tradition of the prophet) is dead, while heresy has been revived, and if you hear my words and obey my advice I will guide you to the path of rectitude."

In another speech quoted in al-Dhahabi's book History of Islam, Imam Hussein says: "The world has changed and repudiated Righteousness, don't you see the right is not fulfilled, and falsehood not prevented? So that the believer desires to meet with God. Because of that, I don't see the death but happiness and life with the wrongdoers an ignominy."

This is the reality of the Ummah in the era of the Umayyads. The Sunnah is dead, and people have quitted the Book of God and the tradition of his Prophet, while the truth is suspended and falsehood rules the society.

Al-Bukhari narrates in his book Sahih that al-Zahri (one of the prophet's companions) went to Anas Ibn Malik (another prophet of the prophet) in Damascus while he was crying, and asked the reason of his sadness. Anas said: "Nothing remained from the prophet's tradition except this prayer, and this prayer has been lost."

This is an explicit confession by a companion of the prophet quoted in Sahih Al-Bukhari, which shows Islam has gone entirely.

To know how the Ummah reached this decline to the extent that a tyrant like Yazid rules the society, needs a deep and detailed study, and here I should suffice with key factors:

Since Imam Ali and the prophet's family (Ahl al-Bayt) have been eliminated in Ummah, the danger has begun to loom over Islam's horizon, while the prophet had warned about it before.

There are many hadiths (Prophet's words) in the books of Sunnis; for example, in Musnad al-Bazzar and Mu'jam al-Tabarani, Prophet Muhammad said: "You will be tested in my family (Ahl al-Bayt)."

In Sunan al-Nasa'i, it is quoted that when the prophet, returned from the farewell pilgrimage (the final Hajj in which the Prophet Muhammad participated) and reached Ghadeer Khumm, he ordered to stop.

Then he said: It seems that God has invited me, and I accepted his call. I am leaving among you, two valuable things; one of them is greater than the other; the Book of Allah and my family (Ahl al-Bayt), and they will not separate.

Then he said: "God is my lord, and I am the master of every believer." Then he took Ali's hand and said: "For whoever, I am his master, now Ali is his master. May God be a supporter and friend of whoever supports Ali and hostile to whoever is hostile to Ali."

So, the danger began to loom over Ummah when it excluded one of the two valuable things (Quran and Ahl al-Bayt). Undoubtedly, the deviation increased during the era of Muawiyah, who distorted the path of Islam and entered predestination doctrine into Muslims' beliefs to tell people that the rulers of the Umayyads are a destiny from God.

When his son Yazid inherited the rule, Muawiyah said that is the will of God.

This is how the Umayyads spread throughout the Ummah that their evils and criminality are God's wills, which cannot be objected to.

News

Nasrallah: Normalization, free service from UAE to embattled Netanyahu, Trump

Hezbollah's secretary-general says the United Arab Emirates (UAE)'s move earlier this month to normalize relations with Israel was a "free-of-charge service" provided by Abu Dhabi to the politically-embattled officials in Israel and the United States.

"The Emirates' move was service given free of charge to Donald Trump, the president of the United States, and Benjamin Netanyahu, the prime minister of the Zionist regime," Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah said during his annual address marking Ashura, the martyrdom anniversary of the third Shia Imam, Imam Hussein (PBUH).

Trump announced on August 13, 2020 that the UAE and Israel had agreed to normalize ties.

The agreement was met with uniform condemnation on the Arab street.

It came in the middle of near-daily mass rallies by Israeli people demanding Netanyahu's resignation over corruption and incompetence. It also coincided with widespread unrest in the United States over racial discrimination and brutality by the police.

When the deal was announced, Israel was openly speaking of plans to annex the occupied West Bank and the Jordan Valley. Emirati officials claimed Tel Aviv had agreed to suspend those plans in return for the normalization of ties.

But shortly after the deal was made public, Netanyahu denied that those plans had been frozen.

Japan's Suga hopes to succeed PM Abe, race heats up

Japan's Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga will join the race to succeed his boss Shinzo Abe as prime minister, local media said on Sunday, as the competition heats up to succeed Japan's longest-serving leader.

Suga, a longtime lieutenant of Abe's in a key supporting role, had denied interest in the top job but attracted attention with a series of interviews, to Reuters and other news organizations, in the days before Abe's abrupt resignation for health reasons, Reuters reported.

A Suga government would extend the fiscal and monetary stimulus that defined Abe's nearly eight years in office.

Abe's announcement on Friday, citing a worsening of a chronic illness, set the stage for a leadership election within his Liberal Democratic Party. The LDP president is virtually assured of being prime minister because of the party's majority in the lower house of parliament.

Suga decided to join the LDP race judging that he should play a leading role, given expectations for his ability to manage crises, such as the COVID-19 pandemic and Japan's deepest postwar economic dive, Kyodo news agency said, citing an unnamed source.

Police fire pellet guns on Kashmir Muharram procession

1 → Witnesses told Kashmir Observer that a huge number of policemen intercepted the mourners who were chanting "Labaik Ya Hussain" and "Hussainiyat Zindabad".

"When the mourners showed resistance and tried to march towards their destination (Imam Bargah), the cops resorted to baton and fired teargas canisters to disperse them," Mohammad Ali, an eyewitness told Kashmir Observer.

Ali said the situation took an ugly turn when cops fired at the mourners with pellet guns, leaving many injured. "The police action angered the mourners. They started chanting pro-freedom and anti-India slogans and engaged the cops in pitched battles."

He said nearly six mourners were also taken into custody by the police and taken to the nearby police post.

"The mourners in the procession were adhering to social distancing norms and were wearing masks as well. I fail to understand why police used force against a peaceful procession," Kifayat Hussain, a local said.

He said the procession would have concluded peacefully if the police had not used 'brute force' to disperse the mourners. He also alleged that police also thrashed many women and children while breaking up the procession.

"The procession was not just peaceful but was also following health protocols," said Sajjad Hussain, a witness. "They [government forces] unleashed such violence and did not spare even women mourners."

According to the witnesses, the clashes in the area continued till late evening leaving around 40 people injured, five of them with serious pellet wounds in the face and eyes. The injured were removed to the nearby Imam Hussain (AS) hospital for treatment.

Medical workers told The Associated Press they treated at least 30 people, some of them with pellet and tear gas injuries.

Resistance News

Israeli army bombs two sites in Gaza

INTERNATIONAL TEHRAN — The Israeli occupation army at dawn Sunday bombed two resistance sites in the east of the besieged Gaza Strip, with no reported casualties.

A reporter for the Palestinian Information Center (PIC) said that at least two artillery projectiles targeted two observation posts belonging to the Palestinian resistance in the east of Deir al-Balah city (central Gaza) and the east of Fakhari town (southern Gaza).

The sites sustained material damage in the Israeli shelling. A spokesman for the Israeli army said that tanks shelled sites belonging to Hamas in response to the ongoing launch of incendiary balloons across the border, which sparked wildfires in southern Israel.

The recent sporadic skirmishes between Gazan youths and Israeli soldiers near the border and the repeated balloon launches are linked to popular demands for an end to the crippling Israeli siege on Gaza.

Meanwhile, the Israeli government ignores Palestinian calls for ending its blockade on Gaza in return for calm, and insists on "calm in return for calm."

The Israelis have always failed to honor previous ceasefire pledges to ease the Gaza siege.

U.S. philosopher talks of Hussein's uprising, today's Yazid

By Payman Yazdani

TEHRAN— Prof. Taliaferro believes that today the successors of Yazid's reign are the people and institutions that seek to preserve the status quo of white privilege in America and Europe.

The Day of Ashura is the 10th day of Muharram in the Lunar Hijri calendar. This day is significant for Shia due to Karbala's occurred in the year 61 AH (October 10, 680 CE). On that day, Imam Hussein (PBUH) and his true companions were martyred in the battle against the Umayyad army led by 'Umar ibn Sa'd.

Many freedom seekers have been inspired by Imam Hussein and his uprising over history.

On the occasion of Ashura, we reached out to Charles Taliaferro, a philosophy professor at St. Olaf College in the U.S.

Following is the full text of the interview:

■ Every year, the freedom-lovers

of the world keep the memory of Imam Hussein alive in the month of Muharram. Why is the uprising of Imam Hussein still dynamic despite the passage of many years?

A: His resistance to tyranny was absolute and to death. He and his family paid the ultimate price for standing up with integrity to overwhelming forces. No wonder that the great freedom fighters of the 20th century, Gandhi and Mandela were inspired by his martyrdom.

■ In his uprising, Imam Hussein sacrificed his position, wealth, and even his own family to fight against the oppressive ruler. What are the guidelines and messages of his uprising for the popular uprisings in the contemporary time?

A: His message is that we should never give up in the fight against systemic racism and tyranny. When Mandela was in prison and was going to capitulate to the government, he was inspired by Imam Hussein to persevere, and because



of this inspiration, South Africa came to dismantle apartheid and repent its crimes against black Africans.

■ Imam Hussein fought against Yazid to institutionalize the message of freedom and resistance to oppression. In your opinion, who are the oppressors of today's world?

A: I believe that today the successors

of the reign of Yazid are the people and institutions that seek to preserve the status quo of white privilege in America and Europe, marginalizing people of color, Muslims, and the poor and under-employed. In so many parts of the world, there is a harsh bifurcation of the wealthy and the working class. The need for more equity and justice is very great.

■ What can today's freedom-seekers movements, including the anti-racist movement in countries like the United States, learn from this uprising?

A: I think that the lesson of the last stand at Karbala is that those of us who are fighting racism should never give up. We can sometimes forget that some ideals are worth dying for. They are also worth living for. My fervent hope is that justice may be achieved in the United States and elsewhere non-violently. The malice and blindness to the racial injustice of the current President are not helpful.

Children's tourism company makes debut in Iran

→ With its winding lanes, the forest of badgirs (wind catchers), mud-brick houses, atmospheric alleyways, and centuries of history, Yazd is a delightful place to stay, referring to as a 'don't miss' destination by almost all travel associates in the region. The oasis city is wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and the southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain ringed by mountains. Yazd Jameh Mosque, Dowlatabad Garden, the Yazd Atash Behram, also known as Atashkadeh-e Yazd, Towers of Silence, and adjacent desert landscape are among its tourist sites.



Iran is a treasure house for some of the most gorgeous Islamic architecture on the planet. Seemingly at every turn, Islam's historical commitment to aesthetic beauty and exquisite architecture reigns supreme. The sublime, turquoise-tiled domes and minarets of Isfahan's Naqsh-e Jahan (Imam) Square gets so many appreciative gasps of wonder, and rightly so, but there are utterly magnificent rivals elsewhere, in Yazd and Shiraz among others.

Iranian police bust gangs of illegal excavators

→ Iranian police have recently busted five gangs of illegal diggers and antique dealers in the past month in the northwestern West Azarbaijan province.



In the latest seizure, which took place in Goytapa near the provincial capital of Urmia, three illegal excavators were detained and surrendered to the judicial system for further investigation, said Behzad Hejazi, a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage, IRNA reported on Sunday.

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

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

Ground broken for first recreational pier in Mazandaran

→ Construction of the first recreational pier in the northern province of Mazandaran began on Wednesday, August 26, in the city of Ramsar, neighboring the Caspian Sea.

Some 150 billion rials (\$3.5 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been allocated to the project, which aims to enhance coastal and maritime tourism in the region, according to Mazandaran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department General.



The private sector jointly with the province's cultural heritage department general will construct the pier with a width of three meters and a length of 100 meters.

This pier is one of the 134 piers, which are decided to be built in the future across the province's coastal strip, provincial tourism chief Mehran Hassani said.

The project, which will come on stream in one year, will also include restaurants, water sports space, and boat mooring.

Stretched along the Caspian Sea and Alborz mountain range, Mazandaran is a popular destination for domestic holidaymakers and it is home to more than 3500 villages and rural areas.

Ancient human settlement found in Qazvin

HERITAGE TEHRAN – Iranian archaeologists have discovered a human settlement, believed to be prosperous during the medieval Islamic times (6 to 7 AH), in Qazvin, west-central Iran.

The discovery was made during a demarcation project, held near Erich Tepe, during with some centuries-old relics and shreds were unearthed from archaeological trenches, according to the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism.

The survey probed evidence of human settlements through stratigraphy [rock layers] across Erich Tepe (Alvand Tepe) in Qazvin province, said Iranian archaeologist Fariba Mohammadi who led the project.

"23 trenches measuring one by one meters and another measuring one by two were caved during the project to propose legal boundaries of the archaeological site and studding its stratigraphy," she explained.

The survey led to the discovery of a



human settlement, which dates back to the centuries 6 to 7 AH, and it also yielded some pottery pieces and fragments of the time as well, she noted.

Qazvin sits in a wide, fertile plain at the southern foot of the Alborz Mountain range. Originally called Shad Shahpur, Qazvin was founded by the Sasanian king Shapur I about 250 CE. It flourished in early Muslim times (7th century), serving as a base for Islamization, and was surrounded by strong fortifications by Harun al-Rashid. Genghis Khan laid waste the city, but it revived under the Safavids when Shah Tahmasp I (ruled 1524–1576) moved the capital from Tabriz to Qazvin.

Modern Qazvin is a regional communications center, connected by road and rail with Tehran and Tabriz and by road with the Caspian Sea and Hamadan. Industries include cloth weaving, cotton ginning, wool carding, flour milling, food processing, and electrical equipment manufacturing.

Committee formed to safeguard ancient cisterns, watermills in Meybod

TOURISM TEHRAN – A cultural heritage committee has been set up tasked to lay the ground for safeguarding ancient cisterns, watermills, public bathhouses, and qanats (subterranean aqueducts), which are scattered in and around the oasis city of Meybod, central Yazd province.

"Meybod is famed for having rich water-related structures because it is home to over 150 historical cisterns and some 30 watermills, a number of hammams (public bathhouses), qanats and mud-brick yakhchals (ice storage structures)," provincial tourism chief Rasoul Moshtaqian said on Thursday.

A cultural heritage committee has established to oversee and devise roadmap towards better conservation of historical Ab-Anbars (cisterns) and other centuries-old water structures in Meybod, the official said.

Situated some 50km north of Yazd, the capital of the

province, Meybod is a sprawling mud-brick town with hundreds of years of history. It is home to some historical mosques, caravanserais, mansions, with the pre-Islamic Narin Castle amongst one of the most celebrated.

Over the past couple of years, the Islamic Republic is following up on possible inscription of Meybod and its cultural landscape on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

The term Ab-Anbar is common throughout Iran as a designation for roofed underground water cisterns. It associates with water management systems in arid areas that are reliant on permanent springs or on seasonal rainwater. Such underground reservoirs or Ab-Anbars are parts of the iconic qanat systems, which rely on snow-fed streams flowing down from surrounding mountains. Qanats, according to UNESCO, provide exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate.



Tehran-Sulaymaniyah flights resumed after six-month halt

HERITAGE TEHRAN – Iran resumed direct flights from Tehran to Sulaymaniyah, a city in Iraq's Kurdistan, after almost six months halt caused by the coronavirus pandemic.

The service started again on August 30 by Mahan Air, a Tehran-based private airline.

According to the flight schedule, the once-per-week service takes off on Sundays at



23:00 local time [from the Imam Khomeini International Airport based on permission issued by Iran Civil Aviation Organization] and it leaves the Sulaymaniyah International Airport for Tehran on 23:00 of the same day.

Over the past couple of months, many countries, including the Islamic Republic, imposed travel restrictions to help curb the spread of novel coronavirus. In this line,

incoming and outgoing flights have been suspended, and road travels restricted to a great extent.

The pandemic has taken a huge toll on Iran's civil aviation sector with reports showing that airlines lost hundreds of millions of dollars because of flight cancellations during the busy New Year travel season in late March.

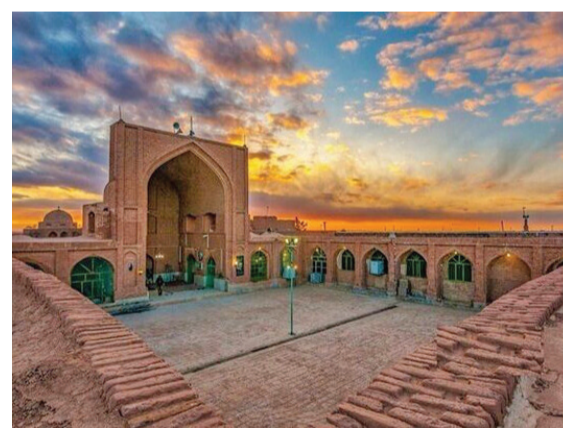
Over \$150,000 spent to restore Khorasan Razavi's historical mosques

TOURISM TEHRAN – A budget of 6.6 billion rials (some \$158,000 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been spent on restoring and reviving six historical mosques across Khorasan Razavi province, northeast Iran, over the past three years, provincial tourism chief has said.

Some 12 historical hosayniyas (places used for religious mourning ceremonies) have been also restored during the time, CHTN quoted Abolfazl Mokarramifar as saying on Thursday.

He also noted that historical Mihrabs as well as handicrafts related to the mosques and the culture of prayer are being documented.

Mihrab is a semicircular niche in the wall of a mosque that points out the qibla; the direction of the Kaaba in Mecca and hence the direction that Muslims should face when praying.



Iran is home to countless mosques and holy shrines in the country, many of which represent a combination of symmetry, geometric designs, and vibrant colors creating an astonishing view which no visitor can forget easily. The architecture of the mosques in the country varies from one region to another. However, they often boast very complex structures in which color variations, tiles, and symbolic designs are utilized.

The holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Shia Imam, in Khorasan Razavi's capital city of Mashhad, attracts thousands of pilgrims, who come from various Iranian cities, neighboring countries, and even across the globe each day.

Dozens of five-star hotels and hostels are dotted around the holy shrine. The city has also the highest concentration of water parks in the country, and it also embraces a variety of cultural and historical sites which are generally crowded.

Qajar-era mansion turned into eco-lodge unit

HERITAGE TEHRAN – The historical Bina mansion in the city of Khushf, eastern South Khorasan province, has recently been repurposed into an eco-lodge unit after being fully restored.

With a budget of two billion rials (about \$48,000), the eco-lodge unit was inaugurated on Thursday on the occasion of the Government Week (August 24-30), the cultural heritage department general of the province announced.

The six-room eco-lodge, which is the city's fourth eco-lodge unit, has generated job opportunities for 23 people.

Bina mansion, which dates back to the Qajar era (1789–1925), was inscribed on the National Heritage list in 2005.

The house has a central courtyard. It also has a porch with a crescent arch, as well as badgir (wind catcher).

South Khorasan province is home to many historical and natural attractions such as Birjand Castle, Dragon Cave, Furg Citadel, and Polond Desert.

It is also known for its famous rugs as well

as its saffron and barberry which are produced in almost all parts of the province.

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.



If tourism brings us together, then travel restrictions keep us apart: UNWTO Secretary-General

TOURISM TEHRAN – In his latest message regarding the impact on the COVID-19 pandemic on tourism, the United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) Secretary-General has said "If tourism brings us together, then travel restrictions keep us apart."

Zurab Pololikashvili added, "Tourism needs to thrive, and this means that travel restrictions must be eased or lifted in a timely and responsible manner. It also means that policy decisions need to be coordinated across borders to face up to a challenge that does not care about borders! 'COVID-19 and Transforming Tourism' is a further element in the roadmap for the sector to regain its unique status as a source of hope and opportunity for all."

"More importantly, restrictions on travel also prevent tourism from delivering on its potential to build a better future for all."

Last week, Pololikashvili launched the "Policy Brief COVID-19 and Transforming Tourism", which UNWTO



assumed the lead role in producing. The landmark scheme makes clear what is at stake – the threat of losing tens of millions of direct tourism jobs, the loss of opportunities for those vulnerable populations and communities who stand to benefit most from tourism, and the real risk of losing vital

resources for safeguarding natural and cultural heritage across the world, according to the UNWTO website.

"The pandemic is far from over. As cases across the world make clear, we must be ready to act fast to save lives. But it also now also clear that we can also take decisive action to protect jobs and safeguard the many benefits tourism delivers, both for people and planet," he concluded.

In June, the World Tourism Organization praised efforts made by Iran's tourism ministry to manage the travel industry during the coronavirus pandemic. UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili said in a letter to Mounesan that the country's measures have truly earned plaudits to mitigate the impact on tourism. "A series of measures that the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts of Iran has taken, in accordance with the guidelines and recommendations of UNWTO, has truly earned plaudits as an effective practice to mitigate the impact on tourism," part of the letter reads.

Mugger crocodile breeding an untapped potential in southern Iran

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN — Mugger crocodile breeding is one of the new economic projects in Chabahar port that can bring employment prosperity while preserving the environment in the southeastern region.

The mugger crocodile, also called marsh crocodile, broad-snouted crocodile and mugger, is a crocodilian native to freshwater habitats from southern Iran to the Indian subcontinent. It is extinct in Bhutan and Myanmar and has been listed as vulnerable on the IUCN Red List since 1982.

In English, the species is called Mugger, which is rooted in Hindi meaning sea monster, but the locals of southern Iran have chosen the name "Gando" for this large reptile, which in Balochi means walking on the belly.

Gando, one of the tourist attractions in the Chabahar Free Zone, is the only crocodile native to Iran and the largest reptile of the country.

It is interesting to know that the species is one of the rarest in the world and has a shorter snout than other similar species, which can be a valuable potential for attracting tourists and preserving wildlife in Iran.

"Wherever Gando is, there is plenty of water" is a common belief in southern regions of Sistan-Baluchestan, as they consider the animal as a symbol of blessing and prosperity and believe that with the migration and death of this animal, drought and famine will overshadow their lives.

By digging canals that are several meters deep and up to 15 meters long, Gando provides shelter for themselves to rest during the hot hours of the day and prevent water from evaporating and by storing water in the canals during warm seasons and drought spells.

The easiest and least troublesome way to see this shy reptile is the "Crocodile Pond", which is actually a protected pool that hosts adult mugger crocodiles, where you can safely see the rare species up close.

Another place to find the species is its main habitat the Bahu Kalat protected area (with an area of 465,181 hectares, Bahu Kalat has been designated a protected area under the management of the Department of Environment, and in 1982, it was renamed Gando protected area).



"Wherever Gando is, there is plenty of water" is a common belief in southern regions of Sistan-Baluchestan, as they consider the animal as a symbol of blessing and prosperity and believe that with the migration and death of the animal, drought and famine will overshadow their lives.

The mugger crocodile inhabits freshwater lakes, rivers, and marshes, and prefers slow-moving, shallow water bodies. It is also known to thrive in artificial reservoirs and irrigation canals.

On the Iranian Makran coast near Chabahar lives a population of around 200 mugger crocodiles. Due to human activity and a long drought in the late 1990s and early 2000s, it had been pushed to the brink of extinction. Following several tropical cyclones in 2007 and 2010, much of the habitat of the mugger crocodiles has been restored as formerly dry lakes and hamouns were flooded again.

Although the crocodile is a very intelligent and shy species, it is, therefore, difficult to

observe directly, so given the high probability of not being observed by census teams, the estimated number of this species in the region is twice the number observed about 400 crocodiles.

The mating season of the Gando is in mid-March and lays about 30 eggs in May, which hatch in June and July.

Economic potential
These animals are sold to wildlife centers in order to preserve their species.

Also, some breeding and research centers in the field of wildlife need baby crocodiles.

Crocodiles are used for their skin, flesh, and blood, as their skin is highly fire-resistant, their flesh is used in traditional medicine,

and their blood has about 10 times more antibiotic properties than medicine and has been successful in eradicating some viruses.

Threats to the species

Heavy floods in their habitat and the hunting of baby crocodiles by the adults are natural factors threatening the Iranian broad-snouted crocodile.

Sistan-Baluchestan province has experienced drought spells on average every 30 years, and this raises concern over the extinction of the precious species.

The effects of drought have drastically reduced the habitat of Muggers, so human conflicts raised. Muggers have also moved into artificial canals and rivers where it is more in danger from humans. Some of them strayed into artificial ponds where humans are present. One of the biggest problems for Muggers is the fact that more and more people want to live in the same places that they do.

Habitat destruction for agricultural purposes, improper water withdrawal by pumping and digging canals, various chemical contaminants such as pesticides, herbicides, fungicides, motor oils, and detergents can be catastrophic and directly or indirectly endanger their offspring.

Some crocodiles are also threatened on the routes due to car accidents.

Attacks on humans

The mugger crocodile might potentially dangerous to humans. Fatal attacks have been reported, though less frequently than by saltwater and Nile crocodiles. Human victims are dragged into the water and drowned but are rarely consumed. Each year, several attacks of muggers on humans are reported in southern Iran.

As water scarcity is hitting the Sistan-Baluchestan province, children or adult locals get near the muggers' habitat to get water and the animal defends his habitat by attacking the locals.

Attacks out of the water are unlikely - the element of surprise is lost because most of them cannot move fast on the land. But some meetings are harmful especially for children.

Since large muggers occasionally take livestock, this leads to conflict with local people living close to the mugger habitat.



'Sympathetic Iran' to donate more 6m food packages

SOCIETY TEHRAN — A national campaign called Iran-e Hamdel (literally meaning sympathetic Iran) will distribute 6 million warm foods to help the financially struggling families during forty days from Tasua (the ninth day of Muharram) to Arbæen.

The first phase of the campaign was launched at the beginning of the holy month of Ramadan (April 23) aiming to provide financial assistance to the needy affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has collected

1.5 trillion rials (nearly \$35 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials).

The second phase of the sympathetic Iran movement with the aim of cooking and distributing warm foods among the deprived started on Eid al-Ghadir Khumm (August 9) and will continue until the end of Safar (the second month of the lunar-based Islamic calendar).

Iranian benefactors, charity centers, and religious organizations take part in the campaign by cash and kind contributions.

Infants exposed to air pollution have less lung power as adolescents – study

Infants exposed to even low levels of air pollution experience reduced lung function as children and teenagers, researchers have found.

Their study found that exposure to air pollution in the first year of life reduced lung function development from the ages of six to 15, even at pollution levels below EU standards, the Guardian reported.

The study included 915 children living

in the Munich and Wesel regions of Germany. The children had tests to measure their breathing power at the ages of six, 10 and 15.

The researchers compared the results with estimated levels of pollution in the areas the children had lived until they were one year old. After controlling for factors including parental smoking, the researchers found that the higher the

level of pollution exposure as babies, the worse their lung function was as adolescents. The impact was even greater on children who developed asthma.

A second study, also presented at the congress, found that adults who were exposed to air pollution, even at low levels, were more likely to develop asthma.

In a study of 23,000 Danish nurses, the researchers found a 29% rise

in asthma risk for each increase of 6.3 micrograms per cubic metre ($\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$) in small particulate matter known as PM_{2.5}. They also found a 16% rise in asthma risk for each 8.2 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ increase of nitrogen dioxide.

The WHO limit for PM_{2.5} is an annual average of 10 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, and the EU limit is 25. Both the WHO and EU limits for nitrogen dioxide are 40 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

E-motorbikes come to curb air pollution in metropolises

The first phase of electric motorcycles development project will be implemented aiming at reducing air pollution in Tehran and other metropolises, IRNA news agency reported.

Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said on Tuesday that electric motorcycles will be promoted in big cities in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade.

Through the first phase of the project, electric motorcycles will replace the regular ones used by the Ministry of Energy and state-run companies, he explained.

Ardakanian went on to say that, in addition to electric motorcycles being manufactured and marketed from now on, existing motorcycles will also change to use electricity sources.

آغاز طرح برقی کردن موتورسیکلت‌ها با هدف کاهش آلودگی هوا

مرحله نخست طرح برقی کردن موتورسیکلت‌ها با هدف کاهش آلودگی هوای تهران و دیگر کلانشهرها آغاز می‌شود.

به گزارش ایرنا، رضا اردکانیان وزیر نیرو روز سه شنبه گفت برقی کردن موتورسیکلت‌ها با همکاری وزارت صنعت، معدن و تجارت انجام خواهد شد.

وی افزود: هدف این طرح در گام نخست، برقی کردن موتورسیکلت‌های مورد استفاده وزارت نیرو و شرکت‌های دولتی است.

اردکانیان اضافه کرد بر این اساس علاوه بر اینکه از این پس موتورسیکلت برقی تولید و وارد بازار می‌شود، موتورسیکلت‌های موجود نیز برای مالکان آنها برقی می‌شوند.

Blood donation campaign launched nationwide during Muharram

1 → More than 85 percent of all donated blood worldwide is used to produce blood products, while the rate is 65 percent in Eastern Mediterranean countries. Iran ranks among the highest-income countries in terms of converting more than 97 percent of the blood donated by people to plasma-derived medicinal products (PDMP).



Only 55 of 171 countries produce PDMP through the fractionation of plasma collected in the reporting country. A total of 90 countries reported that all PDMP are imported, 16 countries reported that no PDMP was used during the reporting period, and 10 countries did not respond to the question, according to WHO.

Iran currently has the highest blood donation rate in the Eastern Mediterranean region so that out of 9.9 million blood donation units in this region, more than two million belongs to Iran.

Also, the index of blood donation is 25 per 1,000 populations, while in the member states of the Eastern Mediterranean region, this number is 14.9 per 1000.

Blood donation saves millions of lives

According to the World Health Organization, blood transfusion saves millions of lives and improves health, but many patients requiring transfusion do not have timely access to safe blood. Providing safe and adequate blood should be an integral part of every country's national health care policy and infrastructure.

About 117.4 million blood donations are collected worldwide, 42 percent of these are collected in high-income countries, home to 16 percent of the world's population.

About 12,700 blood centers in 170 countries report collecting a total of 100 million donations. Collections at blood centers vary according to income group. The median annual donation per blood center is 1,300 in the low-income countries, 4,100 in lower-middle-income countries, and 8,500 in upper-middle-income countries, as compared to 23,000 in the high-income countries.

Data about the gender profile of blood donors show that globally 32 percent of blood donations are given by women, although this ranges widely. In 14 of the 119 reporting countries, less than 10 percent of donations are given by female donors.

Moreover, 62 countries collect 100 percent of their blood supply from voluntary, unpaid blood donors. Some 108 million blood donations are collected globally, half of these are in high-income countries. Meanwhile, blood donation by 1 percent of the population can meet a nation's most basic requirements for blood.

LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 12)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

we have disregarded its usage in phonetic spelling for the sake of facility and ease of learning.

Letters with the Same Form – There are several groups of similar letters in Persian. The letters of each group are written in the same way but usually differ in the number and place of dots, like the two letters س and ش, or the letters ک and گ.

Letters with the Same Sound – There are also groups of different letters but with the same sound, like the letters ث, س and ص as /s/.

I CVC /man/ مَن
what is CVCC /cist/ چیست*

Word Structure – Persian words consist of one or more syllables up to about eight:

we /mā/ *ما
pencil /so+mā/ شُ + ما
student /dā+neš+ju/ دَا + نِش + جُو

Word Stress – Word stress generally falls on the final syllable. It is marked in the transcription by the sign /' /, which precedes the stressed syllable:

hello /sa'lām/ *سَلَام
student /dāneš'ju/ دَانِشْجُو
students /dāneš'ju'yan/ دَانِشْجُوِيَان

Exceptions are verbal forms, conjunctions and some others:

I am /'hastam/ هَسْتَم*



Every action has a reaction. We have one planet; one chance.

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

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
editor@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
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No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran
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Zip Code: 1599814713



GUIDE TO
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

I do not see death except prosperity and life along with the oppressors except anguish. O Allah! You know that all there was from us was not in competition to seek power, nor to gain refuse of the world [i.e. wealth], but it was nothing other than to present the signs and essence of Your religion, and to promote reform in Your land, [so that] oppressed members of your servants find safety and security, and Your laws, orders and obligations are acted upon.

Imam Hussein (AS)

Selection of Qatran Tabrizi's divan published in Azerbaijan

→1 "His best qasidas were written in his last period, where he expressed gratitude to the prince of Ganja, Shaddadid Fadlun, for the numerous gifts that were still recollected by the famous Jami."

"Qatran's poetry follows in the wake of the poets of Khorasan and makes an unforced use of the rhetorical embellishment."

Selections of works by several Persian poets including Molana Jalal ad-Din Rumi and Nezami have been translated into Azerbaijani by Zeki.

Tazieh represents Iranians' culture of defending the oppressed and pacifism: actor Kurosh Zarei

A R T TEHRAN — Actor Kurosh Zarei, who is also the director of the Art Bureau's Center for Dramatic Arts, has said that tazieh represents Iranians' culture of defending the oppressed and their pacifism.

"Tazieh and other ritual performances are considered the certificate of art and culture of Iran. A major part of the habits, traditions and religious beliefs of the country are rooted in these ritual performances, which indicate the deep and rich culture of Iranians," he said.

"Out of different ritual performances, tazieh is the crème de la crème of the plays rooted in religious beliefs and has been a symbol for commemorating the uprising of Imam Hussein (AS) and the Ashura movement," he said.

He added that Islam is the religion of kindness, sacrifice and peace, and the lives of Prophet Muhammad(S) and Imams(AS) are the good examples for these issues.

"Tazieh tries to depict part of the life of the Imams especially Imam Ali (AS), the first Imam of the Shia, and Imam Hussein (AS), the third Imam of the Shia," he noted.



Thespians perform a tazieh in Tehran in an undated photo. (IRNA/Farzaneh Piri)

He added that tazieh performers try to reflect part of the lives and ethics the Imams as the most positive role models for Muslims.

"Concurrent with the spread of coronavirus in the country and the big changes in our lifestyles, we organized festivals of tazieh and naqqali [a

dramatic style of storytelling]," he said. "Ritual performances attract larger audiences because of their simple and freestyles of narrations. And, fortunately, the center has been able to produce and release a number of ritual plays on social networks, something that has been warmly received by individuals," he remarked.

The Art Bureau's Center for Dramatic Arts has recorded ten tazieh performances broadcasted from the Iranian TV channels during the first days of the lunar month of Muharram, which is observed every year with rituals for the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions.

Tazieh masters and performers from the different cities of Arak, Qom, Tafresh, Isfahan, Qazvin and Tehran performed the passion plays, and morshed Mohsen Mirza-Ali was the coordinator for the project.

The center is planning to commemorate Arbaeen across the country with several additional programs.

Arbaeen marks the end of the 40-day mourning period following the martyrdom of the Imam and his loyal companions on Ashura.

"None of Your Business" wins special jury award at South Korean documentary festival



"None of Your Business" directed by Iranian filmmaker Kamran Heidari.

A R T TEHRAN — "None of Your Business" directed by Iranian filmmaker Kamran Heidari has won the special jury award at the EBS International Documentary Festival in Seoul, South Korea.

A co-production between Iran and Czech, the film won the honor in the Asian cinema competition during the closing ceremony of the event last Monday.

The documentary is about the life and death of Ebrahim Monsefi, aka Ebram, a popular singer, songwriter and guitarist from the southern part of Iran. He was born 70 years ago in Bandar Abbas, and passed away at the age of 50. It was just after his death that his works gradually became known and were published.

Iranian short films "Asho" by Jafar Najafi and "Gando" by Teimur Qaderi were also screened at the festival.

The grand prix in this section was presented to "Welcome to X-World" by South Korean filmmaker Han Tae ee.

It is about Doosan Apartment, Guro-dong. There are three people living in this house: mom, grandpa and "me". Dad passed away 12 years ago but mom and "I" still live with his father. From troubled marriage to moody father-in-law, mom has a million reasons to move out, but why doesn't she? While "I" struggle with all these unanswered questions, grandpa tells them to move out.

"Daughter of the Light" by Chinese filmmaker Khashem Gyal won the Audience Award. Although 13-year-old Metok Karpo lives in a Tibetan boarding school for orphans, her divorced parents are alive and well, leaving her to be raised by her maternal grandparents, who make her school-holidays hell by continually denouncing her father. While her mother unsuccessfully remarries, Metok embarks on a journey to find her father.

In the international competition, "Cinema Pameer" by Swedish filmmaker Martin von Krogh won the grand prix.

The documentary tells the story of a cinema in Afghanistan where people come to escape everyday life and dream away from the war that surrounds them, "Cinema Pameer" uses a slice of everyday life in Kabul as a looking glass into Afghanistan today.

The special jury award in this section went to "499", a co-production between Mexico and the USA by Rodrigo Reyes.

It is about a 16th-century conquistador who finds himself stranded in modern-day Mexico encountering real-life ordinary citizens whose lives have been upended in ways that the Conquistador could never have envisioned 499 years prior, when Mexico was colonized by men like him.

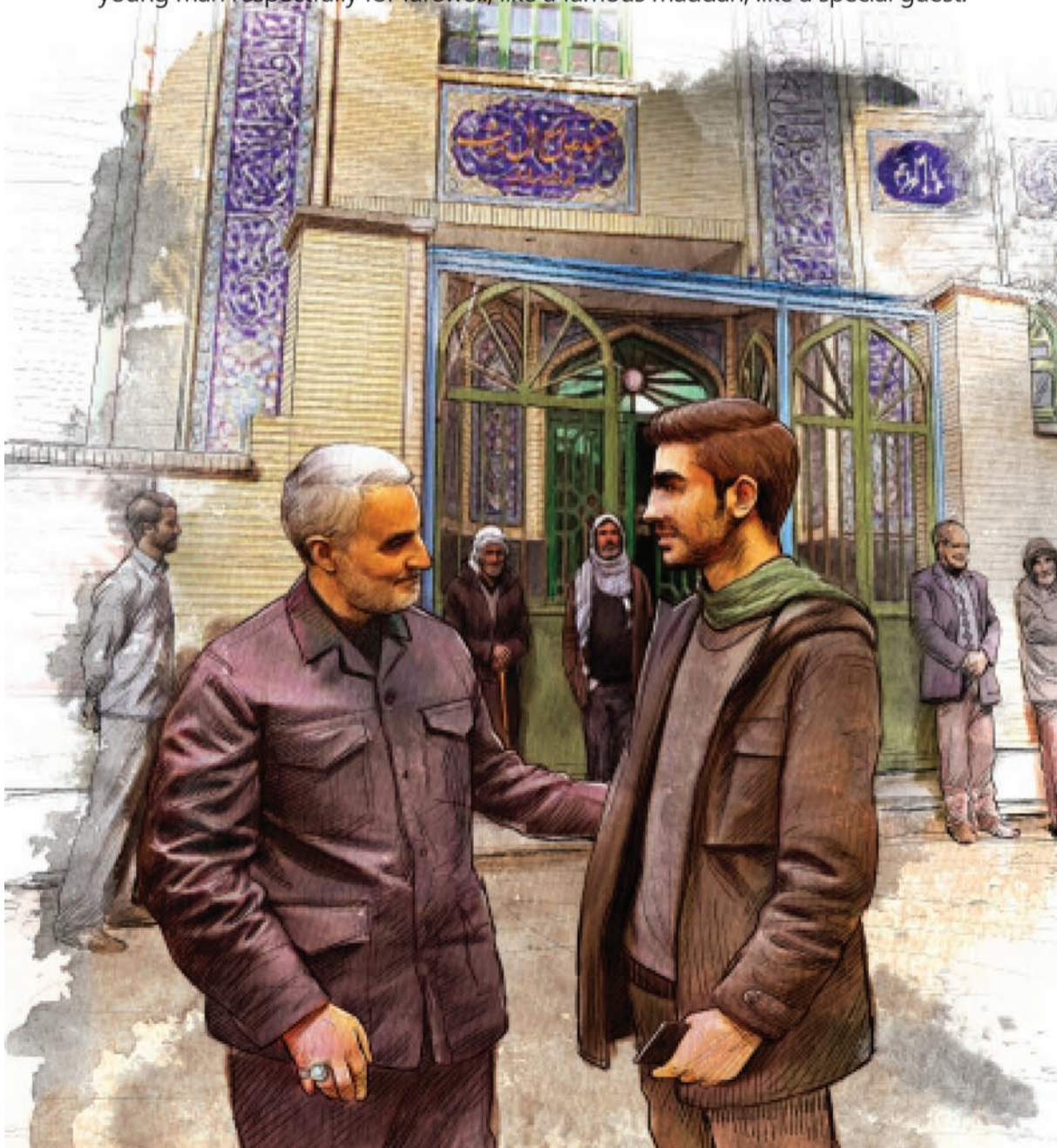
The Audience Award went to "How Big Is the Galaxy?", a co-production between Russia and Estonia directed by Ksenia Elyan.

The documentary is about the Zharkov family that belongs to the Dolgan community, one of the last indigenous peoples pursuing their traditional nomadic lifestyle in the extreme north of Siberia. Nowadays, they can get homeschooling from teachers assigned to them by the Russian authorities. Seven-year-old Zakhar's first year of schooling is with Nelly, a young but serious teacher. Each day, he has a hundred new questions about the world.

Only for God

In a mourning ceremony of Imam Hossein (AS) martyrdom, everyone was waiting for the maddah (Shiite eulogist). One person pointed to a seventeen-year-old man and said "the maddah came ..." - contrary to the belief that a maddah should be an old experienced person.

He got up and went to greet him. After the ceremony, he himself followed the young man respectfully for farewell, like a famous maddah, like a special guest.



Movies from Iran win awards at Hiroshima Intl. Animation Festival

A R T TEHRAN — Three Iranian films have been honored at the 18th Hiroshima International Animation Festival this year, the organizers have announced.

The acclaimed short "Am I a Wolf?" by Iranian director Amir-Hushang Moin has won the Hiroshima Prize.

The jury praised the animation for its distinction between reality, theater and film.

"The film is blurred by the outstanding and beautiful sound; a work full of suspense, adapted from the fairy tale 'Wolves and the Seven Goats,'" the jury said in their statement last week.

Produced at Iran's Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA), the movie tells the story of a group of children who perform the familiar story of the wolf and the yearlings in school as a puppet show. The nanny goat grieving for its yearlings and the angry wolf in its solitude face each other.

"Crab", also an IIDCYA production by director Shiva Sadeq-Asadi, has received an International Jury Special Prize. "It is a cruel story that makes our heart burst. It reveals the brutal nature of humans," the jury said.

The movie tells the story of a shy schoolboy who is interested in performing in a play with his school's theater troupe. But the only part offered to him is to play the role of a crab. "Divinity" (Malakout) by director Fernush Abedi has won the Excellence Award.

"An extremely high respect for doll animation and the enthusiasm for reconstruction by making full use of a computer is a challenging work strongly felt from all of the screen. The production of the classic horror movie, the texture of the doll, which was unlikely to occur, and



A scene from "Malakout" by Iranian director Farnush Abedi.

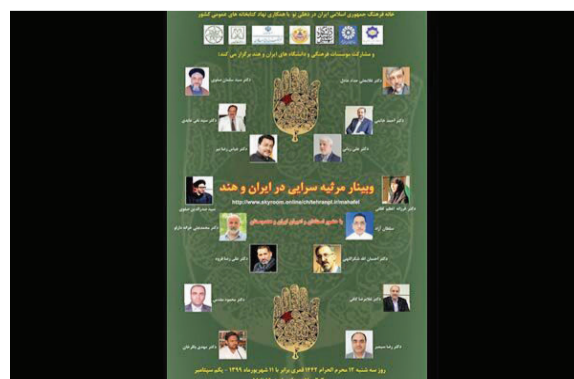
the high quality of the art settings were both above the standard and the original style was being established," the jury commented.

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

Moreover, the Grand Prix of the festival went to "Daughter" by Dahlia Castieva from Czech.

"Each of the simple gestures of the dolls, which is caused by the disturbing and sometimes violent camerawork, was a shocking animation experience we had never seen before. However, what is drawn is a human play that depicts the heartfelt interaction of a daughter and father who pass each other while thinking about each other," the jury said.

Scholars to discuss Persian requiems in Iran and India



A poster for a webinar on requiem in Iran and India.

CULTURE TEHRAN — A number of Iranian and Indian scholars will discuss Persian requiems in Iran and India in a webinar on Tuesday.

The Cultural Center of Iran in New Delhi will organize the webinar in collaboration with the Iran Public Libraries Foundation, the center has announced.

Academy of Persian Language and Literature director Gholam-Ali Haddad-Adel, poet Alireza Qazveh and scholar Farzaneh Azam-Lotfi are among the lecturers from Iran.

Poet Mehdi Baqir Khan and Abbas Raza Nayyar of Lucknow University are among the Indian scholars attending the webinar.

Iran's cultural attaché in New Delhi Mohammad-Ali Rabbani said, "Due to the -700year-long period of use of the Persian language in India, composing Persian requiems in the country has a long history."

"A great number of poets have emerged in India and composed requiems for the martyrs of Karbala in both the Persian and Urdu languages," he said.

He said that India has been one of the major centers to host mourning ceremonies for the martyrs of Karbala, however, this year have been placed on holding mourning rituals due to the outbreak of coronavirus, and the ceremonies are being held either in restricted numbers or have gone online.