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**Congratulations on birthday of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS)**



# Undeniable peace partner

## Iran says won't tolerate terrorists in Nagorno-Karabakh

**TEHRAN** – In a clear warning on Sunday, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif said Iran is all but sure about the presence of foreign terrorists in the war-torn region of Nagorno-Karabakh, warning that Iran won't tolerate their presence.

"As for the terrorist forces, we are almost certain that they were present in the midst of this is not in anyone's interest," the chief Iranian diplomat said, in what appeared to be the second official warning from Iran that it may take action against terrorists in the war zone if they pose a threat to the security of the country.

"In recent and even earlier negotiations, we have informed the authorities of Azerbaijan and Armenia, as well as Russia and Turkey, that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not tolerate such a thing," said the foreign minister, adding that these terrorists are not present at Iran's borders now. **→3**

## Iran's 7-month non-oil exports stand at \$18.2b

**TEHRAN** — Iran exported 65.5 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$18.2 billion during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-October 21), registering a 17.5-percent fall in terms of weight, compared to the figure for the previous year's same period.

According to the Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Mehdi Mirashrafi, the exports of the mentioned commodities declined 23 percent in terms of value, IRIB reported.

The official put the country's total non-oil trade in the mentioned seven months at \$38.3 billion, with a total weight of 85 million tons.

He noted that during the said time span some 19.3 million tons worth \$20 billion of goods have been imported into the country, of which 13.8 million tons were basic goods. **→4**

## Rural-to-urban migration down to zero: official

**TEHRAN** – For the first time in the country, the migration of people from rural areas to cities has reached zero, Mohammad Omid, the vice president for rural development, has said.

A total of 220 trillion rials (nearly \$5.6 billion at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been approved for the development of villages in the current year (March 2020-March 2021), IRIB quoted Omid as saying.

Some 140 trillion rials (about \$3.3 billion at an official rate of 42,000 rials) have so far been spent, he noted, adding, the unemployment rate in rural areas has reached 7.4 percent, which has decreased by over one percent compared to last year. **→7**

**M.A.Saki**  
Deputy editor-in-chief

## Trump: An unscrupulous president

Americans will reelect either Donald Trump or his Democratic rival Joe Biden on Tuesday, November 3.

In nearly four years of his presidency, Trump has made some remarks and behaved in a manner that have surprised the world, making him look like an abnormal person which was not fit at all for the post of president.

Possibly, his most astonishing statement was when he said global warming is a hoax invented by the Chinese, something that rattled scientists and was rejection of science. It is for that reason that Noam Chomsky makes a comparison between Trump and Adolf Hitler and believes he is more dangerous than Hitler.

Trump has repeatedly dismissed the climate crisis and spent much of his term overturning environmental standards imposed by Barack Obama. He unbelievably withdrew the U.S. from the 2015 Paris Accord despite the fact that his country is second largest polluter in the world before being superseded by China with more than 1.3 billion population in just over the past few years.

The U.S. is already to the blame for the warming planet. For long decades, or possibly more than a century, the U.S. was the single biggest producer of greenhouse gas emissions.

This autumn, as wildfires ravaged much of the U.S. west with a scale and intensity not seen for a century, he sought to blame bad forest management.

Wade Crowfoot, California's secretary for natural resources, said to Trump: "If we ignore the science and put our head in the sand and think it's all about vegetation management, we're not going to succeed together protecting Californians." Trump replied: "It'll start getting cooler. You just watch."

In Chomsky's view it is true that Hitler killed about six million Jews and more than 30 million Slavs, but Trump is trying to destroy the planet Earth.

"Definitely the worst one I can think of in history, Adolf Hitler was pretty hideous – [but] he wasn't trying to destroy organized human society on earth," Chomsky told the Independent. **→2**

## Fraud accusations will be widespread in U.S. election: professor

By Mohammad Mazhari

**TEHRAN** — An American academic predicts that the Tuesday presidential election will witness a lot of "technical challenges" and "widespread accusations of fraud".

Michael Hollingsworth, A professor at the University of South Alabama, predicts that "there will be riots and some civil unrest" in the aftermath of the election "but nothing as serious as an insurgency."

"There are a lot of technical challenges to this particular election, and accusations of fraud will be widespread," Michael tells the Tehran Times.

The following is the text of the interview:  
■ Do you expect any meaningful shift in U.S. policies if Joe Biden wins the presidential election?

A: There will be large shifts in policy if Biden wins the election. Some of that depends on the outcome of senate control as well. If Democrats

have a majority in the Senate in addition to the house and the presidency, there will be larger policy changes. These will be on both the domestic policy and foreign policy fronts. He has not been particularly transparent regarding actual plans for foreign policy changes. I believe it is likely that Biden will embrace liberalism as a strategy regarding international relations. This is contrary to Trump's realist approach and is similar to what the Obama administration implemented. This will possibly bring a willingness to renegotiate a nuclear plan of action with Iran, significantly reduce sanctions, and negotiate agreements with other countries. Whether he wins or not, the U.S. is likely to begin withdrawing troops from Afghanistan and other parts of the world.

■ The New York Times reporters have obtained decades of tax information Trump has hidden from public view. What is your comment? **→5**

## U.S. protests: At least 25 Americans were killed during protests and political unrest in 2020

At least 11 Americans have been killed while participating in political demonstrations this year and another 14 have died in other incidents linked to political unrest, according to new data from a non-profit monitoring political unrest in the United States.

Nine of the people killed during protests were demonstrators taking part in Black Lives Matter protests. Two were conservatives killed after pro-Trump "patriot rallies". All but one were killed by fellow citizens.

According to Guardian, the new data highlights the danger of the presence of guns during politically charged protests, and raises concerns about continued violence during and after election day, when many Americans anticipate delays, confusion and protests before the winner of the presidential race is confirmed.

■ Violence at U.S. protests  
The new data on fatalities and violence at American protests comes from a database created by the

Armed Conflict Location and Event Data project (ACLED), a non-profit, working in collaboration with a group of researchers at Princeton.

ACLED, a widely cited source for data on civilian casualties in Yemen, has been a non-partisan monitor of protests and violence in the Middle East, Asia, Europe and Latin America, and launched its U.S. Crisis Monitor in July, citing concerns over hate crimes and rising political violence.

ACLED found that the overwhelming majority of the more than 9,000 Black Lives Matter demonstrations that took place across the U.S. after the killing of George Floyd have been peaceful. News reports at the height of demonstrations over Floyd's killing cited dozens of deaths in connection with protests, but many of those turned out to be examples of deadly crimes carried out in the vicinity of protests, rather than directly related to the demonstrations themselves, the researchers concluded. ACLED's dataset only focuses on political violence.

## Why rural tourism is important?

By Afshin Majlesi

Let's have a look at rural tourism as a globally important economic and socio-cultural phenomenon, seeing what is it all about?

Rural tourism, as its name implies, takes place in non-urbanized areas such as hiking or camping in countryside areas, national parks, forests, oasis and desert villages, and mountain areas.

There are many destinations relying on rural tourism to bring in much-needed revenue for the local economies. However, the term is somewhat

ambiguous as there is no universally accepted definition of rural tourism.

For defining the term rural tourism it is primarily important to recognize what is and what isn't "rural".

Merriam-Webster defines "rural" as an adjective: "of or relating to the country, country people or life, or agriculture." Article 2 of the European Charter for Rural Areas defines a "rural area" a stretch of inland or coastal countryside, including small towns and villages, where the main part of the area is used for agriculture, forestry, aquaculture, and fisheries.

It's clear that rural tourism typically requires the use of natural resources, and these environmentally-friendly forms of tourism are narrowly aligned with the concept of sustainable tourism, given that rural tourism is characteristically linked to green, pristine spaces.

Now, let's take a look at the term "tourism"; the most accepted definition recognizes a tourist as a person who travels away from their home residence for at least 24 hours for leisure or business purposes. **→6**



## Large-scale air drills in central Iran

**TEHRAN** — The Islamic Republic of Iran Army Aviation (IRIAA) has undertaken large-scale drills in central Iran, enlisting as many as seven airbases and dozens of manned and unmanned aircraft, Press TV reported on Sunday.

The drills, codenamed Fada'eeyan-e Harim-e Velayat (Devotees of the Velayat Sanctuary), began on Saturday, with the designated aircraft being scrambled to the central province of Isfahan's Shahid Babayi Airbase, which is the main location of the maneuvers.

Speaking on Sunday, the IRIAA Commander Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh said the main and operational phase of the drills would begin on Monday. **→2**

## FFIRI's amended statutes ensures election's democracy at highest level: Barati

By Farrokh Hesabi

**TEHRAN** — Ahmadrza Barati, head of the Legal Committee of the Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI), believes the FFIRI's amended statutes will recognize the independence of the different bodies of the Iranian football federation. **→3**

## Invitation to inquiry

**BISOTON TAMIN paper Company**  
Tehran- Iran

BISOTON TAMIN paper Industrial Company intends to purchase Stock Preparation Line for its Board Grade paper production plant (225 t/day). Manufacturers who intend to participate in an aforementioned inquiry are requested to submit their. "Intention to participate" letter including references & resume via following email address not later than 7 days after the announcement.

Email address: [info@roninco.com](mailto:info@roninco.com)











# Comprehensive plan underway to control obesity among students

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** — The Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Education are implementing a comprehensive plan aimed at controlling obesity among students nationwide.

This program is based on the national nutrition plan for overweight and obese students, which has been developed by the office of community nutrition improvement and announced to the country's medical universities, Zahra Abdollahi, director of the community nutrition improvement office of the Ministry of Health said, IRNA reported.

Nutrition experts, in interaction with education experts, are required to provide nutrition counseling and diet adjustment services to obese students identified by school teachers and health care providers who referred to comprehensive health care centers, she explained.

With the implementation of the program, the height, weight, and body mass index of 14 million students in the country will be determined, to reduce the prevalence of obesity among students through extensive education and use of all available capacities in the field of healthy nutrition and promotion of physical activity, which are a risk factor for underlying diseases such as diabetes, fatty liver, high blood pressure, cardiovascular disease, and even an increased risk of developing COVID-19, she highlighted.

She went on to say that today, the problem of overweight and obesity in children and adolescents aged 5 to 18 years has become a common issue in the world and is increasing rapidly.

Obesity is due to a change in diet and consumption of high-energy foods with low nutritional value, snacks high in sugar, salt, and fat, insufficient consumption of fiber-rich foods, and on the other hand, reduced physical activity, and stress, she stated.



Adverse effects of obesity in childhood and adolescence include an increased risk of type 2 diabetes, hyperlipidemia, fatty liver, hypertension, asthma, respiratory problems, and cardiovascular disease, she lamented.

According to the results of national surveys, about 20 percent of students are overweight and obese, and about 21 percent suffer from abdominal obesity.

A study on the non-communicable disease and its risk factors conducted in the Iranian calendar year of 1395 (March 2016- March 2017), shows that 11.9 percent of the population suffers from diabetes, 27.9 percent have high triglycerides and the prevalence of hypertension in Iran is 26.4 percent that is caused by high salt intake, Shahram Rafiei-Far, head of education and promotion affairs at the Ministry of Health said in October 2019. Some 10.4 percent of Iranians consume

a high amount of salt, which will increase hypertension, and myocardial infarction, he said, adding, by reducing salt intake to less than 5 grams a day, the risk of stroke can be reduced to one third in society, he stated.

Also, the results of the survey showed that 56.3 percent of the people are physically inactive, while 22.7 percent are suffering from obesity, he noted.

### ■ 300,000 Iranians die of NCDs annually

In February 2019, the health ministry announced that some 300,000 Iranians die of NCDs annually in Iran, which means that one-fourth of the country's population (standing at 80 million) are overweight or obese which also results in developing NCDs.

Diabetes, non-communicable diseases, is a serious threat to people's health and is the fifth leading cause of death in the country.

Diabetes prevalence is 10 percent in Iran and is high among people aging 50 or more.

Cardiovascular diseases (mainly heart disease and stroke), which were the leading cause of death in 2012, diabetes, musculoskeletal disorders (especially osteoarthritis – a highly disabling degenerative disease of the joints), and some cancers (including endometrial, breast, ovarian, prostate, liver, gallbladder, kidney, and colon) are common health consequences of overweight and obesity, WHO warns.

Having too much sugar in the blood for long periods of time can contribute to serious health problems if it's not treated. Hyperglycemia can damage the vessels that supply blood to vital organs, which can increase the risk of heart disease and stroke, kidney disease, vision problems, and nerve problems.

Moreover, 30 percent of men and 36 percent of women aged 25 to 64 years also have high cholesterol due to overweight and obesity, consuming fast food, and insufficient physical activity.

### ■ NCDs, a global health threat

NCDs kill 41 million people each year, equivalent to 71% of all deaths globally. Each year, 15 million people die from an NCD between the ages of 30 and 69 years; over 85% of these "premature" deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries.

Cardiovascular diseases account for most NCD deaths, or 17.9 million people annually, followed by cancers (9.0 million), respiratory diseases (3.9 million), and diabetes (1.6 million). These 4 groups of diseases account for over 80% of all premature NCD deaths.

Tobacco use, physical inactivity, the harmful use of alcohol, and unhealthy diets all increase the risk of dying from an NCD. Detection, screening, and treatment of NCDs, as well as palliative care, are key components of the response to NCDs.

## 'Herbal insulin' sets foot in Iran

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** — Bitter melon with unique properties which is famous for treating diabetics and fatty liver has recently been cultivated for the first time in the country in a greenhouse in the northwestern city of Urmia, IRNA reported.

Also known as bitter melon or Momordica charantia, it is cultivated around the world for its edible fruit, widely grown in Asia, Africa, and the Caribbean. Its many varieties differ substantially in the shape and bitterness of the fruit.

This herbaceous, tendril-bearing vine grows up to 5 m (16 ft) in length. It bears simple, alternate leaves 4–12 cm (1.6–4.7 in) across, with three to seven deeply separated lobes. Each plant bears separate yellow male and female flowers. In the Northern Hemisphere, flowering occurs from June to July and fruiting from September to November.

In addition to its sharp flavor and distinct appearance, bitter melon has been associated with several impressive health benefits.

Bitter melon is a great source of several key nutrients,

including, vitamin A, vitamin C, potassium, zinc, and iron, and an important micronutrient involved in disease prevention, bone formation, and wound healing.

Bitter melon is a good source of catechin, gallic acid, epicatechin, and chlorogenic acid, too — powerful antioxidant compounds that can help protect cells against damage.

Thanks to its potent medicinal properties, bitter melon has long been used by indigenous populations around the world to help treat diabetes-related conditions.

In recent years, several studies confirmed the fruit's role in blood sugar control.

A 3-month study in 24 adults with diabetes showed that taking 2,000 mg of bitter melon daily decreased blood sugar and hemoglobin A1c, a test used to measure blood sugar control over three months, according to the Healthline website.

Research suggests that bitter melon contains certain compounds with cancer-fighting properties.

In a village located in Urmia city, a 700-square-meter greenhouse was established with the efforts of an invest-



tor and the Ministry of Agriculture as a technological and knowledge-based unit, which is now producing this valuable plant in addition to generating jobs.

## Iranian professor receives COMSTECH 2019 award

**SOCIETY TEHRAN** — Sajjad Jafari, a faculty member of the Amirkabir University of Technology, has won the COMSTECH 2019 award in Mathematics.

COMSTECH is the Ministerial Standing Committee on Scientific and Technological Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

Jafari was born in 1983. He received his BSc, MSc, and Ph.D. degrees in biomedical engineering in 2005, 2008, 2013 from the biomedical engineering department, Amirkabir University of Technology. He is currently



an assistant professor there (since 2013).

His research interests include nonlinear and chaotic systems and signals, and mathematical biology. Also, he also works on complex networks and collective behaviors in them, such as synchronization, Chimera states, and spiral waves.

He serves as editor in the International Journal of Bifurcation and Chaos, International Journal of Electronics and Communications, and Radioengineering. He has been one of the highly cited researchers in 2019 and 2020 according to Clarivate Analytics.

COMSTECH was established in January 1981, to increase the capability of the Muslim countries in science and technology.

The COMSTECH Executive Committee decided in its 15th meeting in 1996 to institute awards to recognize outstanding research work carried out by scientists who are citizens of and working in, OIC member states. Each award carries a certificate, shield of honor, and cash prize.

These awards are given in four basic sciences: Biology and Chemistry alternating biennially with Mathematics and Physics. Each award carries a cash prize of \$5,000.

### ENGLISH IN USE

#### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Relief foundation creates over 1.5m jobs for the deprived

Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation has generated over 1.5m job opportunities for those financially struggling since the past 7 years, Hojatollah Abdolmaleki, the Foundation's deputy director has announced.

Job generation for the underprivileged is among the most important and tough responsibilities of the Foundation, he stated, YJC reported on Monday.

Since Iranian calendar year of 1390 (March 2011– March 2012) to 1396 (March 2017– March 2018), the Foundation has earmarked 100 trillion rials (nearly \$2.4 billion) to open up over 1.4 million job opportunities in order to facilitate income generation for the deprived, he explained.

He went on to add that last year (March 2018–March 2019), a total of 148,000 jobs were created by the Foundation's budget of 23 trillion rials (around \$547 million).

## ایجاد بیش از یک میلیون و ۵۰۰ هزار شغل برای محرومان در کشور

عبدالملکی گفت: کمیته امداد امام (ره) از سال ۹۰ تاکنون بیش از یک میلیون و ۵۰۰ هزار شغل برای محرومان کشور ایجاد کرده است.

به گزارش خبرنگار باشگاه خبرنگاران جوان، حجت الله عبدالملکی معاون کمیته امداد امام خمینی (ره) اظهار کرد: ایجاد اشتغال امری سخت است، تولید اشتغال برای محرومان سخت‌ترین اقدام برای کمیته امداد است که در حال انجام است.

وی افزود: از سال ۹۰، یک میلیون و ۴۰۰ هزار شغل با تسهیلات ۱۰ هزار میلیاردی برای محرومان ایجاد شده است، در سال گذشته نیز برای ۱۴۸ هزار نفر با ۲ هزار و ۳۰۰ میلیارد تومان تسهیلات توسط کمیته امداد شغل ایجاد شده است.

## Rural-to-urban migration down to zero: official

### ➔ Rural development

Many efforts have been made over the past couple of years by the government to support villagers and slow down the trend of migration from rural areas to cities.

Rural tourism, agritourism, religious tourism, and ecotourism are alternatives or complementary economic activities that could further stimulate rural development while decreasing rural community dependency on one main economic sector (agriculture, forestry, energy, or mining).

In Iran, October 6 is celebrated each year as the National Day of Villagers and Nomads.



Currently, 26 percent of the country's population lives in villages, Mohammad Omid, the vice president for rural development, has said. He added that around 39,000 villages have more than 20 households and 23,000 villages have less than 20 households.

Thus, more than 97 percent of the country's rural population lives in villages with over 20,000 households.

### ■ Main reasons behind migration

Shahla Kazempour, a demographer and sociologist, said in October 2019 that over 53 percent of Iran's population was living in rural areas some four decades ago, but urbanization has influenced rural demographic trends, decreasing the rural population to 20 million, representing 25 percent of the country's population.

Referring to the three main reasons behind migration from villages to urban areas, she noted that the population in Iran was associated with high growth due to increased fertility, but since the rural economy is based on agriculture, rural areas lost attraction due to lack of farms.

Eventually, a population overflow happened in urban areas, that is, the population grew but the rural economy was not capable of attracting more villagers, so the villagers migrated to the cities, she said, adding, on the other hand, a high concentration of population in rural areas caused some populated ones to become cities.

Pointing to another factor contributing to the increased urbanization rate, she noted that in the period when cities expanded due to population growth and migration, some surrounding villages joined the urban complex, and the urbanization rate reached up to 75 percent.

About 24 percent of Iran's population is less than 15 years old, and some 6 percent is above 65 years old, while 70 percent of the population is 15-65 years old, she announced.

According to statistics, rural areas are holding a higher population of younger people, because fertility is still slightly higher than urban areas and migration from rural to urban areas generally occurs by the working population, in fact, about 27 percent of the rural population is aging less than 5 years old, she explained.

Although statistics showed that only seven percent of the rural women are working, it can be argued that in fact out of the 6.4 million women aged 15 to 65, about 40 percent are active as many of whom are involved in farming, animal husbandry, and poultry," she explained.

Referring to the healthcare among rural women, she said that the country's mortality rate is 5 per 1,000, but statistics show that the mortality rate is higher among men, with a rate of 6 per 1,000 while the figure is less than 5 per 1,000 among women.

Abolfazl Razavi, the deputy vice-president for rural development and deprived areas, has said that some 60 percent of migrations from rural to urban areas are caused by the lack of appropriate jobs and sufficient income for educated people.

Measures taken to reverse migration by making people move to rural areas including providing facilities and sustainable job-generating has increased the rural population in some provinces of the country, he highlighted.

## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 48)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

### ساختار

خط فارسی

حرف خاند غذا میز ژاپن صندلی ریاض

### ■ Imperative Verb فعل امر به کتاب کار

امر مفرد Singular : + present stem (intimate)

امر جمع Plural : + present stem + يد (polite)

امر takes the mediatory letter ی and changes to بی before the stem آ. ی is also pronounced ب in coordination with syllables including /o/:

مصدر	امر مفرد	امر جمع
خوابیدن - خواب	بِخواب /bexāb/	بِخوابید /bexābid/
گفتن - گو	بِگو /begu/	بِگویید /beguyid/
آمدن - آ	بِیا /biyā/	بِیایید /biyāyid/
رفتن - رو	بِرو /boro/	بِروید /beravid/

INTERNATIONAL DAILY  
www.tehrantimes.com

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

Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79 Tehrantimes79

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



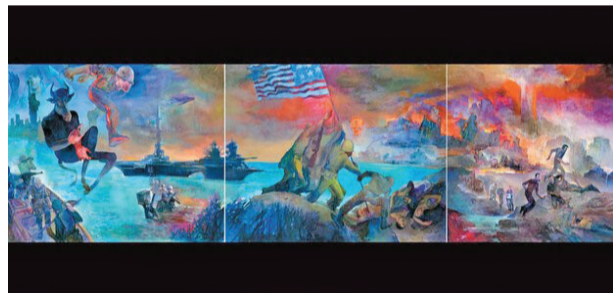
GUIDE TO  
SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The one who gets married has completed half of his/her religion.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

## Tehran art exhibit observes occupation anniversary of “den of spies”

**A R T TEHRAN** — An art exhibition opened at the Iranian Academy of Arts in Tehran on Saturday to observe the anniversary of the occupation of the U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1979, which was called by the revolutionaries “den of spies”.



“Crime against Humanity” by Iranian artist Habibollah Sadeqi.

The exhibition named “Crime against Humanity” will put on view paintings by Habibollah Sadeqi, an Iranian artist who is known for his artworks representing revolutionary themes. The exhibit will run until November 15.

The title of the showcase refers to Sadeqi’s triptych painting “Crime against Humanity”.

The academy is organizing the exhibition in collaboration with the Revayat Cultural Foundation.

Sadeqi has a Ph.D. in art research from Tehran’s Tarbiat Modarres University. He has also attended numerous courses held by Iranian art elites, including Hanibal Alkhas, Marco Grigorian, Javad Hamid, Mahmud Farshchian and Mahmud Javadipur.

On November 4, 1979, Iranian revolutionaries occupied the U.S. embassy in Tehran, which was dubbed “the den of spies” by Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic.

## “Slaughterhouse”, “Bandar Band” to compete in Hong Kong Asian filmfest

**A R T TEHRAN** — “The Slaughterhouse” and “Bandar Band”, two films by Iranian filmmakers, will be competing in the Hong Kong Asian Film Festival running from November 3 to 22.

“The Slaughterhouse” directed by Abbas Amini tells the story of Amir, who has recently been released from jail and finds himself in a difficult situation when his father, who works at a slaughterhouse, calls him to help him cover up a crime which has happened there.



A scene from “Bandar Band” by Manijeh Hekmat.

The movie won the Kim Jiseok Award at the 25th Busan International Film Festival on Friday.

“Bandar Band” by Manijeh Hekmat is about some Iranian women singers who are going to enter an unofficial competition in a coffee shop in Tehran.

Pregnant Mahla along with the other members of Bandar Band, her husband and one of their closest friends, starts her journey to Tehran from a southern province just when they have lost all they had in a flood.

They still keep their hopes alive, however, every road they take leads to a dead-end in a flood-stricken land. They intend to go to Tehran, but they wonder if it is just another turn around a vicious circle.

This year, the festival hosts films from 16 countries, spread across its 11 sections of various sizes and themes.

Besides the regular sections, special thematic programs take the shape of Tales from the Epicentre, dedicated to stories about the crisis-stricken city of Wuhan, Bruised Youth, in which films look at how young people recover from their traumatic experiences; United, We Stand, a showcase of the power of solidarity in testing times; and, Memories and Erasure, where documentaries warn not to let go of the past even if the pain is over.

# Maestro Ali Rahbari asks Muslim artists to return French honors to protest Macron’s cartoon defense

**A R T TEHRAN** — Ali Rahbari, the world-renowned Iranian composer and conductor who has worked with more than 120 European orchestras, has asked Muslim artists around the world to give back the official honors they have received from the French government in protest over President Emmanuel Macron’s defense of the insulting cartoons on the Prophet Muhammad (S).

Speaking to the Persian service of MNA on Sunday, Rahbari said, “Such a response from those Iranian artists who have received the honors could be really challenging and creative, and their actions would storm the press media around the globe.”

He also said, “I have worked with numerous orchestras in nearly all large cities of France and have many friends in the country, but I was really surprised by Macron’s comments, because no politician should make remarks like him.”

“I know many French people and I am sure they do not think the same as Mr. Macron, because they know such an action could threaten the lives of many people. In any case, France has a large Muslim population and it’s not rational to violate people’s freedom



Maestro Ali Rahbari in an undated photo.

in the name of another freedom,” he added. Rahbari, the former conductor of the Tehran Symphony Orchestra, also stated, “I believe that nobody should use

the concept of ‘freedom of expression’ to insult Muslims whose population reaches over one billion people around the world. Freedom of expression is certainly desirable, but if I deliberately make comments or do something hurtful to others, this is no longer freedom of expression.”

The Europe-based musician noted, “Although the European countries where I myself and many other people live enjoy freedom of expression, they have their own rules. For example, if someone does something insulting to Judaism, he/she will be treated very harshly.”

In 2014, in an open letter, Rahbari asked his fellow Iranian musician Hossein Alizadeh to reject the Chevalier of the Legion of Honor award, the highest decoration awarded by the French government.

Rahbari had called the frequent commemorations of Iranian luminaries by the French embassy “an epidemic of Chevalier” and said, “The value that the Iranian people place on Mr. Alizadeh is not comparable with any domestic or foreign medal.”

Consequently, Alizadeh declined to accept the order, stating that he doesn’t need decorations and that he derives satisfaction from his good name.

## “180° Rule” wins Meeting Point award at Valladolid festival



Pejman Jamshidi acts in a scene from “180° Rule”.

**A R T TEHRAN** — Iranian director Farnush Samadi’s drama “180° Rule” won the award for best feature film in the Meeting Point section of the 65th Valladolid International Film Festival – Seminci in Spain, the organizers announced on Saturday.

Argentine filmmaker and writer Enrique Gabriel, Romanian producer Razvan Lazarovici and Spanish producer Paco Poch were the members of the jury for Meeting Point, which is the festival’s alternative competition for feature films and shorts.

“180° Rule” tells the story of Sara, a school teacher whom her students love and who is married to Hamed. As her family gets ready to attend a wedding in northern Iran, an unforeseen obligation falls on Hamed and derails their plans. When Sara’s husband suddenly forbids her to attend the event without him,

she makes a decision that sets her on the painful path of atonement.

Samadi adds one more Seminci award to her record, as she is the only filmmaker to have won two consecutive Seminci Golden Spikes: in 2016, for “The Silence” and in the following year, this time for “Gaze”.

“Preparations to Be Together for an Unknown Period of Time” by Hungarian filmmaker Lili Horvát received the Golden Spike for best film at the festival this year

Horvát also was picked as best director by winning the Pilar Miró award, and the film’s star Natasa Stork was named best actress.

The Meeting Point award for best international short film went to “Omelia Contadina” by JR and Alice Rohrwacher from Italy. The award for best Spanish short in this category was also presented to “Stanbrook” by Oscar Bernacer.

## IIDCYA animations competing in Italian festival

**A R T TEHRAN** — Three Iranian animations produced by the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults are competing in the Corti a Ponte Short Film Festival, which is currently underway in Italy.

“Am I a Wolf?”, “The Cycling Wind” and “The Fisherman and the Spring” have been selected to be screened in the official competition.

“Am I a Wolf?” by Amir-Hushang Moin is about a group of students who are performing a play called “The Wolf and the Seven Little Goats” in which everybody has a role.

The students are totally taken in by their roles in a way that the boundary between reality and acting can hardly be distinguished. Meanwhile, the child



A scene from “The Cycling Wind” by Iranian director Nazanin Sobhan Sarbandi.

who is acting as the wolf and is doomed to be defeated feels lonely and irritated. He takes his role too seriously, and there is a bit of chaos. At the end, the presence

of the other children and his friends near him take him out of this atmosphere.

The movie has received awards in several Iranian and international events, including the award for best film at the 8th Canlandiranlar Film Festival in Turkey, the Grand Prix at the 12th Paris International Animation Film Festival and the Light of Asia Grand Prize at the 15th Indie-AniFest Korea Independent Animation Film Festival in September 2019.

The film also won the Golden Dove for best animated film at the 62nd DOK Leipzig in Germany in November 2019 and a prize worth 1 million yen at the 18th Hiroshima International Animation Festival in Japan in August 2020.

“The Cycling Wind” by Nazanin Sobhan Sarbandi tells the story of a young wind that comes into possession of a

bike, which helps the wind to blow even faster without expending much energy and to truly enjoy its time.

“The Fisherman and the Spring” by Seyyed Hassan Soltani is about a fisherman who is waiting for the spring to arrive. His waiting is over now and he tries to find out why spring is late. However, he cannot find an answer until he sees a beautiful blossom.

The Corti a Ponte festival has been divided into two sections, the first of which ran in May and the second began on October 31 and will be running until November 6.

“The Truth of My Life” produced at Iran’s Sahar and Salman Art Workshop competed in the first section of the festival and received the 11-13 Senior Jury Special Mention.

## Nikesh Shukla’s “The Good Immigrant” published in Persian

**CULTURE TEHRAN** — A Persian translation of “The Good Immigrant”, a collection of essays by British writers of color about race and immigration, written by Nikesh Shukla has been published by Tadaei Publications.

The book has been translated into Persian by Saeid Kalati.

“How does it feel to be constantly regarded as a potential threat, searched at every airport? Or be told that, as an actress, the part you’re most fitted to play is ‘wife of a terrorist?’” the book asks.

“How does it feel to have words from your native language misused, misappropriated and used aggressively towards you? How does it feel to hear a child of color say in a classroom that stories can only be about white people? How does it feel to go ‘home’ to India when your home is really London?” the book continues.

“What is it like to feel you always have to be an ambassador for your race? How does it feel to always tick ‘Other?’” it says.

Bringing together 21 exciting Black, Asian and minority ethnic voices emerging in Britain today, “The Good Immigrant” explores why immigrants come to the UK, why they stay and what it means to be an “other” in a country that doesn’t seem to want them, doesn’t truly accept them – however many generations they’ve been here – but still needs them for its diversity monitoring forms.

Inspired by discussion around why society appears to deem people of color as bad immigrants, job stealers, benefit scroungers and undeserving refugees, until by winning Olympic races or baking good



Front cover of the Persian translation of British author Nikesh Shukla’s “The Good Immigrant”.

cakes, or being conscientious doctors, they cross over and become good immigrants.

“The Good Immigrant” won the reader’s choice at the Books Are My Bag Awards.

Shukla has compiled a collection of essays that are poignant, challenging, angry, humorous, heartbreaking, polemic, weary and, most importantly, real.

Shukla’s debut novel “Coconut Unlimited” was shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award 2010.

Along with his second novel “MeatSpace”, Shukla has written for The Guardian, Esquire, BuzzFeed and LitHub.

Visual point of view



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