



**We will increase range of our weapons, says IRGC chief** **2**



**Iran, Mali friendly confirmed** **3**



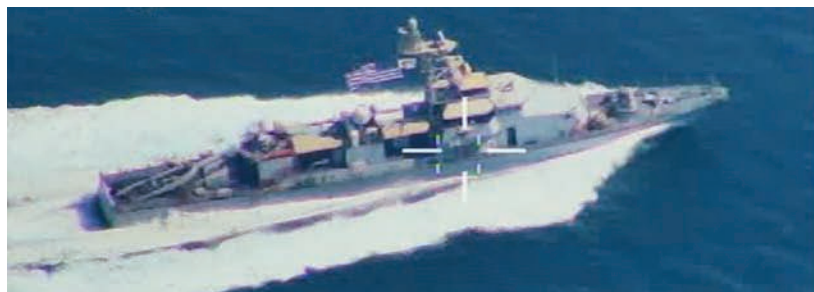
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# Reachable

It's better for U.S. forces to come to Persian Gulf to be within our reach: IRGC deputy chief



## Over €35b of non-oil income injected to NIMA in 5 months

**TEHRAN** — Iran's non-oil exporters injected €35 billion of their revenues into the Forex Management Integrated System, locally known as NIMA, during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-August 21), the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) stated.

Releasing a report on return of the non-oil exports revenue to the economic cycle since the year start, Hamid Zadboum

said 68 percent of the income earned via non-oil exports has been returned, TPO published on its website on Wednesday.

NIMA, which seeks to boost transparency, creates competitiveness among exchange shops and promotes a secure environment for traders, is a new chance for importers to supply their required foreign currency without specific problems and for exporters to re-inject their earned foreign currency to domestic forex market. **→4**

## U.S. sanctions on Iran amount to 'crimes against humanity': envoy

**TEHRAN** — Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the UN office in Geneva says U.S. sanctions on Iran amount to "crimes against humanity".

The imposition of unilateral sanctions is an international offence, Esmail Baghaei Hamaneh said in a statement to the regular session of the UN Human Rights Council on Tuesday.

Baghaei Hamaneh said those who

imposed such sanctions and those who enforced them will both be held responsible in the international arena, IRNA reported.

He called for shared efforts and tough stance of the international community against the injustice.

The Iranian ambassador pointed to the U.S. disregard for numerous requests by the UN secretary general. **→2**

## Iran launches intl. poster, cartoon contest in sympathy with Palestine

**TEHRAN** — Iran's Art Bureau of the Islamic Ideology Dissemination Organization has organized an international cartoon, caricature and poster contest to show solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine.

In a press conference held at the bureau on Tuesday, Art Bureau director Mohammad-Mehdi Dadman and the director of the bureau's Visual Arts Office, Masud Shojaei-Tabatabai, elaborated on different aspects of the Palestine

Is Not Alone International Cartoon, Caricature and Poster Contest.

Dadman said that the contest is slated as a forerunner for the new activities of the bureau to help develop its international activities.

He added that the bureau is ready to provide artists who are active on the resistance frontline with all the knowledge and experience the bureau has accumulated over the past 40 years. **→8**

## Sign languages for everyone, move toward unity

By Faranak Bakhtiari

This year, the World Federation of the Deaf has defined the theme of International Day of Sign Languages as "Sign Languages Are for Everyone", which seems to have been underestimated in Iran as people suffering from hearing loss do not have the same sign language yet, and needs more serious attention.

According to the Welfare Organization, currently, 211,346 people with severe hearing loss are supported by this organization.

The UN General Assembly has proclaimed September 23 as the International Day of Sign Languages in order to raise awareness of the importance of sign language in the full realization of the human rights of people who are deaf.

The International Day of Sign Languages is a unique opportunity to support and protect the linguistic identity and cultural diversity of all deaf people and other sign language users. In 2020, the World Federation of the Deaf is issuing a Global Leaders Challenge, which aims to promote the use of sign languages by local, national, and global leaders in partnership with national associations of deaf people in each country, as well as other deaf-led organizations.

According to the World Federation of the Deaf, there are approximately 72 million deaf people worldwide. More than 80 percent of whom live in developing countries. Collectively, they use more than 300 different sign languages.

Sign languages are fully-fledged natural languages, structurally distinct from the spoken languages. There is also an international sign language, which is used by deaf people in international meetings and informally when traveling and socializing. It is considered a pidgin form of sign language that is not as complex as natural sign languages and has a limited lexicon.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities recognizes and promotes the use of sign languages. It makes clear that sign languages are equal in status to spoken languages and obligates states parties to facilitate the learning of sign language and promote the linguistic identity of the deaf community.

Sign language is a right for all children, women, the elderly, and all people with hearing loss. **→7**

## Russia could defy U.S. sanctions by selling weapons to Iran

**TEHRAN** — As the U.S. announced the return of all UN sanctions on Iran, many Russian officials underlined that the defense cooperation with Iran would continue despite U.S. sanctions, a move that could further undermine the U.S. pressure campaign against Iran.

While the U.S. insists that all UN sanctions have been restored on September 20, all parties to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), including Russia, strongly opposed the U.S. measure at the UN Security Council. Several high-ranking officials said the U.S. measure was null and void.

In a statement on September 19, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo announced the return of "all previously terminated UN sanctions" on Iran.

"Today, the United States welcomes the return of virtually all previously terminated UN sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran.... Sanctions are being re-imposed on Iran pursuant to the

snapback process under UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 2231," Pompeo said.

All participants to the JCPOA rejected the U.S. move, saying the U.S. had no legal right to resort to triggering the return of UN sanctions because it has lost the legal authority to do so after withdrawing from the 2015 nuclear deal on May 8, 2018. However, the U.S. claimed it was eligible to restore the international sanctions based on UNSCR 2231, which stipulates that "a JCPOA participant state" can reinstate the UN sanctions on Iran in case it didn't uphold its obligations under the nuclear deal.

The U.S. resorted to the reinstatement of UN sanctions mainly to prevent the lifting of a UN arms embargo on Iran, which is due to expire in mid-October in accordance with the provisions of the JCPOA. However, the U.S. may have inadvertently undermined the UN arms embargo on Iran. **→3**

## U.S. protests: Louisville declares state of emergency ahead of Breonna Taylor decision

A state of emergency was declared in Louisville, Kentucky, in anticipation of protests following an imminent grand jury decision on the police killing of Breonna Taylor.

Taylor, a 26-year-old who worked as an emergency room technician, was killed on 13 March by police serving a no-knock warrant as part of an investigation into an ex-boyfriend, The Guardian reported.

Taylor was at her apartment with her boyfriend, Kenneth Walker, when police barged in. Walker, who said officers did not announce themselves, fired his gun, believing the police were intruders. One officer was shot in the leg and police fired in return.

No money or drugs were found in the apartment. One of three officers involved in the shooting was fired for "wantonly and blindly" firing his weapon into the home, but no charges have been filed

against him or the other officers.

Reports have indicated the Kentucky attorney general, Daniel Cameron, has presented evidence to a grand jury, which would ultimately decide whether to indict any of the three officers involved in the shooting. Cameron would also present the result of his office's investigation into the case.

It is unclear exactly when he will make an announcement or if the grand jury has begun deliberations.

The Louisville police department announced early on Tuesday morning that it will restrict vehicle traffic downtown "due to increased attention and activity in anticipation of an announcement" and to "ensure the area is as safe as possible for those coming downtown to express their first amendment rights".

## Trump exited JCPOA to prepare Americans for possible hostile act against Iran: academic

By Mohammed Mazhar

**TEHRAN** — An American academic tells the Tehran Times that Donald Trump's move in withdrawing from the 2015 nuclear deal — JCPOA — was meant to prepare "U.S. citizens for any possible future hostile actions targeting Iran."

Colin S. Cavell, a full professor of political science at Bluefield State College in West Virginia, also says another reason for this action was that Trump wanted to negate the international nucle-

ar agreement clinched by his African American predecessor, Barack Obama.

The following is the text of the interview:

■ What were the motives that prompted Trump's administration to unilaterally withdraw from the 2015 nuclear deal and reimpose sanctions on Iran?

A: Trump's unilateral withdrawal of the U.S. from the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the Iran nuclear deal, on May 8, 2018 was done largely for two reasons: 1. to negate

an international agreement negotiated by his African American predecessor, Barack Obama, declaring it "the worst deal ever negotiated" and 2. to lambaste Iran as a country that is untrustworthy to abide by this or any agreement, thus preparing U.S. citizens for any possible future hostile actions targeting Iran.

■ How do you assess Trump's foreign policy in the last four years? Is the foreign policy a determining factor in winning the November presidential election? **→5**



## Sacred Defense exhibition glorifying sacrifices

The exhibition glorifying the sacrifices of the Iranian soldiers during the Sacred Defense runs from September 23 to 30. The exhibition, held at the Sacred Defense Garden Museum, hosts visitors from 9:00 a.m. to 16:00 p.m. Simultaneously, the exhibition is held in eight other provinces. General Qassem Soleimani, a commander during Iraq's war against Iran who was assassinated in a cowardly U.S. terrorist attack in early January 2020 in Baghdad, features high in the exhibition. The Iranians' resistance against Saddam Hussein's invading army in the 1980s is referred to as the Sacred Defense.

## Uraman 'well prepared' for UNESCO World Heritage tag: ICOMOS

**TEHRAN** — Hessam Mahdi, the representative of the International Council on Monuments and Sites (ICOMOS), has said that the case for the inscription of the Uraman cultural landscape on the UNESCO World Heritage list has been well prepared and he has been impressed by the status of Uraman rural landscape.

He made the remarks on the sidelines of a visit to the western province of Kermanshah to assess the possible inscription of the cultural heritage site on the UNESCO list.

"I am proud of being chosen to assess the case and traveling to Iran as I could visit the local people in the region," he said in a meeting with tourism minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan.

He also noted that as the cultural aspects of the landscape are especially important to the UNESCO, he would try to understand this cultural perspective.

For his part, Mounesan said that the inscription could introduce Iran's valuable tangible and intangible cultural heritage more to the world.

"This global registration will lead to the boost and development of tourism in the region... We hope that the region will host more foreign tourists after the registration."

Stretched on a steep slope in Uraman Takht rural district of Sarvabad County, the village is home to dense and step-like rows of houses in a way that the roof of each house forms the yard of the upper one, a feature that adds to its charm and attractiveness. **→6**



## 188 combat drones, copters delivered to IRGC naval fleet

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — 188 combat drones and helicopters developed by Iranian aviation experts have been delivered to the naval fleet of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC).

Speaking during a ceremony in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas on Wednesday, the IRGC Navy chief said the drones can be used for aerial photography in combat zone to help with the acquisition of moving and stationary targets at sea.

Alireza Tangsiri said the unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) are also capable of monitoring all maritime movements.

The rear admiral said three of the drones, namely vertically-launched Sepeher, Shahab-2 and Hodhod-4, have been unveiled for the first time, Press TV reported.

The sea-launched drones can be used for reconnaissance missions.



Mohajer, one of the UAVs joining the IRGC naval fleet, has a flight range of more than 200 kilometers and is capable of carrying four missiles in all weather conditions, the commander noted.

Of the helicopter types that were unveiled during Wednesday's ceremony, two can land on water, while four others have combat capabilities and can carry missiles, he added.

■ **'IRGC drones detected U.S. strike group near Hormuz Strait'**

Tangsiri also said, "With the drones having joined [the naval fleet], all missions of the Guards navy will be covered by indigenous drones."

In the most recent mission, the admiral explained, IRGC drones intercepted the American USS Nimitz aircraft carrier, along with its flotilla of navy ships, before they cruised through the Strait of Hormuz and into the Persian Gulf last week.

Also speaking at Wednesday's ceremony, IRGC Chief Major General Hossein Salami said the naval power has not remained confined to the surface of the sea and the Navy has promoted its capabilities in aerial and subsurface warfare.

"We are decisively and steadily bolstering our power. We will never stop and will increase the range of our weapons," he said.

He said the United States is today largely despised by the people of the world and even Americans themselves.

"All world nations are standing against the United States, and so are we. We will grow stronger day by day. The Iranian nation's patience and presence shines before the eyes of the world, and the world learns lessons of resistance from Iranians," Salami added.

In the past, whenever the U.S. faced a challenge, it would solve it through warfare, "but today America is no longer able to heal its wounds," Salami underlined.

"We see that the enemy has not succeeded in either direct or proxy wars," he said. "The enemy is now standing alone at the Security Council and the United Nations."

The top general was referring to strong opposition to the U.S. moves to extend arms embargo against Iran and return the terminated United Nations sanctions against Iran in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 that endorsed the 2015 nuclear agreement.

The commander said the global arrogance has resorted to wars, draconian sanctions, psychological operations and political pressure to gain dominance on Islamic Iran, but all their hostile measures have failed by God's grace.

## Speaker: U.S. global awe shattered by General Soleimani

**TEHRAN (FNA)** — Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf said that martyred Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani broke down the American awe in the world, adding that any form of West-intoxication will be wiped out in Iran as the result of his blood.

"The martyrdom of General Soleimani brought down the pomp and awe of the U.S. at the international level, and in the second phase of Islamic Revolution it will eradicate any west-intoxication in the country", Ghalibaf said.

Describing martyr Soleimani as one the influential commanders during the 8-year imposed war, the speaker noted that, even after the war, General Soleimani dedicated his life in defending the borders of the country against terrorist outfits.

"General Soleimani defeated the U.S. in the Persian Gulf region for nearly 20 years," he went on to say.

Ghalibaf reiterated that General Soleimani led a glorious and moral life and his martyrdom totally changed the equations in West Asia.

He likened the martyrdom of General Soleimani to that of Iran's first Judiciary Chief Ayatollah Seyed Mohammad Hosseini Beheshti whose blood annihilated hypocritical currents in the first years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution and foundation of the Islamic Republic.

In relevant remarks, Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Major General Hossein Salami warned that Iran is resolved to retaliate for the U.S. assassination of former IRGC Quds Force Commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, and said that all collaborators in the terrorist act are potential targets.

"Mr. Trump, do not doubt about our revenge because it is completely destined and serious," General Salami said, addressing IRGC commanders and officials in Tehran on Saturday.

Iran will take revenge in a fair manner, he added, noting, "This is why we did not target your soldiers at Ein al Assad."

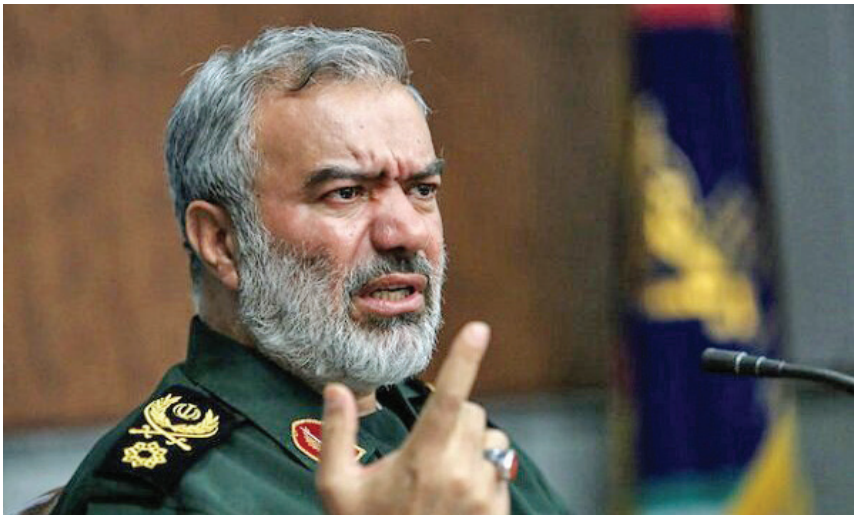
"We will target those who have had a direct or indirect role in the martyrdom of Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani," General Salami said.

"Do you think that we will target a female ambassador in ransom for the blood of our martyr," asked Salami, referring to U.S. media allegations that Iran had plotted to assassinate U.S. ambassador to South Africa in revenge for the assassination of General Soleimani.

"Americans should know that we will target anyone who has had a role in the cowardly assassination of General Soleimani and this is a serious warning," he said.

# Reachable

It's better for U.S. forces to come to Persian Gulf to be within our reach: IRGC deputy chief



**The IRGC has flown home-made surveillance drones over the USS Nimitz aircraft carrier and publish images of it. The images show fighter planes parked on the carrier's deck.**

entered the Persian Gulf. On September 11, the Iranian Army began three-day military exercises in the Sea of Oman and parts of the Indian Ocean. The exercises, code-named "Zolfagar-99", took place in areas spanning 2 million square kilometers. During the exercises, Iran's armed forces unveiled and tested their state-of-the-art weapons, including a number of cruise

missiles and combat drones.

Analysts believe that the Zolfagar-99 exercises were meant to send a clear message to the U.S. that Iran is fully prepared to thwart any U.S. military action.

"Iran conducted the Zolfagar-99 exercises to show that it is able to defend itself in the face of any U.S. military action," Seyed Jalal Sadatian, Iran's former

**"If the Americans commit new folly, they will be faced with unimaginable force."**

## We will increase range of our weapons, says IRGC chief

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — The chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) said on Wednesday that Iran will increase the range of its weapon and will deepen its navy's activities.

"We are steadily increasing power here, never stopping, but increasing the range of our weapons and deepening the depths of our navigation," Major General Hossein Salami said.

He also said the U.S. used to solve its problems by waging wars but it is not capable of doing so anymore.

"The president of the U.S. directly says that 'I wanted to assassinate the Syrian president'. This means the dementia of a power," he asserted.

Pointing to the normalization deals that Israel has signed with the UAE and Bahrain, the general said Washington has reconciled reactionary regimes with the Zionists, causing the hatred of all Muslims.

"Such hatred will not remain at the surface, but weapons and Jihad will come out of it," he said.

General Salami challenged American authorities to walk in any city in the Muslim world, saying they cannot do this "because all [Islamic] nations are against them."

He said even American citizens are today shouting "Death to America", adding, "Today in the U.S., there's nothing but smoke, fire, poverty, racial prejudice, polarization and loss of freedom."

## U.S. sanctions on Iran amount to 'crimes against humanity': envoy

**1 →** UN human rights commissioner and different human rights mechanisms, saying the U.S. approach is a "serious alarm" to the world.

He pointed out that Washington's efforts to reimpose the old international sanctions against Iran is another example of its bullying and its disregard for international law and the UN Charter.

On Saturday, the U.S. asserted that all UN sanctions eased or lifted by the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), are reimposed and must be enforced by UN member states.

However, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said that the United



ed Nations will not take any action, "pending clarification by the Security Council" on whether sanctions that

have been lifted should be reimposed.

China and Russia have strongly rejected the U.S. stance, while Britain, France and Germany — the so-called E3 — pointed out that the U.S. move did not have legal effect.

Back in May 2018, U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew Washington from the JCPOA. He later adopted a "maximum pressure" policy against Tehran to force it to negotiate a new deal.

According to Baghaei Hamaneh, the fact that numerous calls from the UN bodies and others for lifting unilateral sanctions have gone unheeded by Washington is an alarming sign that the international community needs to

get united against this scourge before it gets too late.

"The U.S. has constantly intensified its unilateral sanctions against the targeted states and very recently turned a new low by invoking certain discarded UNSC resolutions to further demonstrate its contempt for international law and multilateralism," he stated.

"Iran is determined to continue its maximum resilience and resistance against the U.S.'s unjust and unlawful pressure campaign," he added.

The ambassador further said that states have an obligation under international law not to give any effect to other states' wrongful acts.



## Macron: Europe will not compromise with U.S. over Iran sanctions

**POLITICAL d e s k** **TEHRAN** — French President Emmanuel Macron said on Tuesday that Europe would not compromise with Washington over its move to reimpose international sanctions on Iran in violation of the 2015 nuclear agreement.

"We will not compromise on the activation of a mechanism that the United States is not in a position to activate on its own after leaving the agreement," Macron told the UN General Assembly's 75th session by video from Paris, France 24 reported.

"This would undermine the unity of the Security Council and the integrity of its decisions, and it would run the risk of further aggravating tensions in the region," he warned.

Macrons warned that the so-called snapback mechanism could undermine the UN Security Council and increase tension in West Asia.

He also censured the United States' "maximum pressure" policy on Tehran, saying it had failed to ensure Iran would not acquire a nuclear weapon — an allegation that Tehran has vociferously rejected.

The U.S. administration of Donald Trump has announced that it is reimposing all UN sanctions on Iran lifted under the nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The JCPOA was signed in 2015 under the Obama administration. Observers argue that Trump's hostility toward Obama is a major reason for his withdrawal from the deal in May 2018.

Colin S. Cavell, a full professor of political science at Bluefield State College in West Virginia, tells the



Tehran Times that Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out of the nuclear deal "to negate an international agreement negotiated by his African American predecessor, Barack Obama."

Washington says it can reimpose the sanctions because a UN resolution that enshrines the pact still names it as a "participant" in the accord, a position denounced by all other participants to the deal and non-permanent members of the UN Security Council.

Tehran has compared Washington's argument to a hypothetical argument by a person who has divorced from another person but still claims their marriage certificate still names them as spouses.

Macron also said additional frameworks were needed for effectively dealing with Iran's nuclear program, adding there needed to be a "capacity to complete" the 2015 pact.

These would ensure that "we will provide responses to Iran's ballistic activity, but also to its destabilization in the region," he said.

Macron insisted that France, along with its European allies Britain and Germany, would keep up its demand for "full implementation" of the Iran nuclear deal.

He added that they would "not accept the violations committed by Iran," which has ramped up its nuclear activity in response to the U.S. withdrawal and inaction by the remaining parties, especially Europeans, to offset sanctions imposed by the Trump administration.

In May 2019, a year after the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA, Tehran declared that 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.

On January 5 of this year, Iran took a fifth and last step in reducing its commitments and said it would no longer observe any operational limitations on its nuclear industry, whether concerning the capacity and level of uranium enrichment, the volume of stockpiled uranium or research and development.

However, Iran has insisted if the Europeans honor their obligations it will immediately reverse its decisions.



# U.S. seeks regime change in Iran, Rouhani says

Rouhani likens Saddam's bloody war on Iran in 1980s to Trump's current economic war

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — President Hassan Rouhani said on Wednesday that the U.S. is pursuing the policy of regime change in Iran but it failed to do so.

Speaking in a cabinet meeting, the president said, "When Saddam [Hussein] attacked Iran, he told reporters that, within few days, he will be making an interview with them in Ahwaz. In 2018, the Americans, while imposing an economic war [on Iran], also said they would be entering Tehran in few months and that these guys will not be able to celebrate the 40th anniversary of the victory of the Revolution."

Rouhani was comparing Saddam's war on Iran with the Trump administration's policy of "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran.

On September 22, 1980, Saddam Hussein, the former Iraqi dictator, launched a massive war on the newly-established Islamic Republic that lasted until the summer of 1988. The war martyred hundreds of thousands of Iranian people. After eight years of fighting, Iran and Iraq reached an agreement to end the war. Every year in September, Iran commemorates the memory of war during a week called the "Sacred Defense Week," which marks the beginning of the Iran-Iraq war.

Rouhani likened the Sacred Defense to the U.S. maximum pressure campaign against Iran. U.S. President Donald Trump announced the U.S. withdrawal from a 2015 nuclear deal between Iran and world powers



on May 8, 2018, adopting a new policy against Iran aimed at forcing Iran into signing what Trump called a "better deal" instead of the existing one. To this end, the U.S. imposed sweeping economic sanctions on Iran. Last week, the U.S. turned up the heat on Iran by unilaterally announcing restoration of all previously terminated UN sanctions.

This year, Iran celebrated the Sacred Defense Week in the midst of diplomatic tensions with the United States. On September 19, the U.S. announced the return of UN sanctions on Iran.

"Today, the United States welcomes the return of virtually all previously terminated UN sanctions on the Islamic Republic of Iran.... Sanctions are being re-imposed on Iran pursuant to the snapback process under UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 2231," U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said in a statement on September 19.

Rouhani said the U.S. is following Saddam's lead in pursuing the policy of regime change in Iran and it even held talks with the Europeans about toppling the Islamic Republic.

"The U.S. asked the Europeans to give it only a three-month time span. Two European leaders told me that the U.S. told them that 'if you refrain from helping them [Iran], the job will be done in three months given the economic pressures we have put on them'," he said, according to the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) news agency. The president added, "Saddam's goal was to topple the establishment, hurt the country or at least rip an agreement. The Americans wanted the same thing. They wanted to overthrow the establishment, create unrest, or destroy an agreement. But they failed to achieve their goals and their calculations were wrong."

In 1980, Saddam tore apart the 1975 Algiers Agreement delineating the Iran-Iraq border and launched war against Iran on September 22, 1980. At the end Saddam failed to achieve any of his whims.

Rouhani also said the 2015 nuclear deal, which the Americans said they had destroyed, and UN Security Council Resolution 2231, have isolated the U.S. in the Security Council. "You saw that in an unprecedented event in history, 13 countries opposed the United States at the United Nations," Rouhani boasted.

No countries, except for the Dominican Republic, have supported the U.S. measures at the UN, he added.

"Even the European countries, which are traditional U.S. allies, stood against the U.S.," the president said.

## Zarif to visit China soon to discuss long-term agreement

Vaezi expresses hope that 25-year partnership between Iran and China will be finalized in the Rouhani government

**POLITICAL** **THERAN** —Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif will pay a visit to China "in near future" to discuss a long-term agreement between Iran and China, according to Mahmoud Vaezi, the Iranian president's chief of staff.

The cabinet of Hassan Rouhani approved the draft of a 25-year comprehensive cooperation plan between Iran and China on June 21 and tasked Zarif with negotiating with China over the plan in order to finalize it. Three days later, the foreign minister held talks by phone with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi.

During the talks, the chief Iranian diplomat expressed hope that the 25-year partnership would be signed soon.

"Foreign Minister Zarif then highlighted the strategic comprehensive relations between the two countries, expressing hope that the document on comprehensive cooperation would be soon signed by the two sides," the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Writing on his Twitter page in Chinese after the phone call, Zarif also said, "On the eve of the Dragon Boat Festival in China, I am very pleased to hold a video conference meeting with Wang Yi, State Councilor and foreign minister of China. We agreed on deepening the comprehensive strategic

partnership between the two countries, promoting the 25-year bilateral cooperation plan, and strengthening mutual support in international affairs."

The partnership plan, officially known as "Comprehensive Cooperation Plan between the People's Republic of China and the Islamic Republic of Iran," is still under negotiation.

Speaking on the sidelines of a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Vaezi said, "The documents of 25-year relations between Iran and China is very important. Iran-China relations have been expanded and deepened in various political and economic sectors. This document will make it possible for us to purposefully draw plans for the activities of various institutions of the country."

The president's chief of staff pointed out that the 25-year agreement would affect the Iran-China relations as well as regional issues.

"We have held discussions in the cabinet and in other places in this regard and we hope that this document would be finalized during the Rouhani government," Vaezi was quoted as saying by the Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA).

Vaezi also said the Iranian foreign minister will visit China to negotiate over some issues, but he didn't disclose the date of the visit.

"The foreign minister will travel to China in the near future to discuss some issues in person. This trip is a great opportunity and an economic team will be accompanying him. We hope these issues will be finalized," the presidential chief of staff noted.

Some details of the 25-year partnership have been leaked to the press. According to the leaks, China will invest a whopping \$400 billion in various Iranian sectors including oil and gas. In exchange, Iran will ensure steady energy supplies to China for a period of 25 years at a discounted rate.

In a cabinet meeting on June 21, Rouhani elaborated on the strategic partnership between Iran and China, saying that the agreement is a positive step towards increasing the importance of global energy and sustainable development of oil and gas resources, as well as renewable energy and joint investment in free zones.

"This cooperation is a ground for Iran and China's participation in basic projects and development of infrastructure, including the large 'Belt and Road' initiative, and an opportunity to attract investment in various economic fields, including industry, tourism, information technology, and communication," the presidential website quoted Rouhani as saying in June.

## Iran helps Venezuela export its oil: Bloomberg

**POLITICAL** **TEHRAN** — An Iranian supertanker, which has delivered a cargo of oil condensate to Venezuela last week in defiance of U.S. sanctions, is now loading Venezuelan oil to export it, Bloomberg reported.

Citing a shipping report, Bloomberg said, "The Iran-flagged supertanker Honey, also known as Horse, is loading Venezuela's top exported grade Merrey 16 at Venezuela's government-controlled port of Jose."

Iran and Venezuela, two OPEC nations under U.S. sanctions, have made efforts to boost their oil trade despite U.S. sanctions.

In May, Iran sent five oil tankers carrying fuel for Venezuela. The much-needed fuel cargo was delivered to Venezuela over the objections of the U.S., which sought to prevent the oil trade between the two sanctioned countries with no success.

In August, the U.S. claimed that it intercepted 1.116 million barrels of gasoline going from Iran to Venezuela. In July, the United States also claimed that it seized over 1 million barrels of Iranian fuel bound for Venezuela, a claim Iran strongly denied.

Last week, foreign news media outlets broke the news that Iran is shipping

fuel to the Latin American country once again. The vessel, which is deemed to have discharged 2 million barrels of Iranian condensate, was still in Venezuela to load Venezuelan oil.

Bloomberg reported that the ship was discharging its contents in Venezuela last week though ship-tracking signals still show the ship off the coast of Dubai.

It's not clear yet where the Venezuelan oil on board of the Iranian supertanker would be sold. Bloomberg said the cargo is expected to be sold in Asia, the main destination of Venezuelan crude.

However, a Reuters report said Venezuela's state-run oil company PDVSA is selling the oil to Iran's national oil company.

"The Iranian-flagged very large crude carrier (VLCC) arrived in Venezuela's main oil port of Jose this month carrying 2.1 million barrels of Iranian condensate to be used as diluent for Venezuela's extra heavy oil production, according to company documents. The tanker is now due to transport up to 2 million barrels of Venezuela's heavy Merrey 16 crude on its way back, in a sale agreed by PDVSA and the state-owned National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC)," Reuters reported late on Tuesday.

## Russia could defy U.S. sanctions by selling weapons to Iran

**1→** because after the U.S. announced the return of UN sanctions, Russian officials called into question the arms embargo. They underlined Russia's determination to continue military cooperation with Iran.

"We are not afraid of U.S. sanctions, we are used to them," Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov told reporters on Monday, a few days after the U.S. announced the restoration of UN sanctions, including the UN arms embargo. "It will not affect our policy in any way. Our cooperation with Iran is multifaceted, defense cooperation will progress depending on the two countries' needs and mutual willingness."

"That said, another executive order will not change our approach," the senior Russian diplomat emphasized, according to the Russian TASS news agency. Ryabkov's comments came after Western news media reported that the White House was planning an executive order to enforce the UN sanctions.

In a clear sign that Russia would continue the military cooperation with Iran, First Deputy Head of the Federation Council Foreign Affairs Committee Vladimir Dzhabarov said Russia will continue military-technical cooperation with Iran despite U.S. President Donald Trump's executive order punishing foreign states for supplying arms to Tehran.

"So, let them impose sanctions, one less, one more of it. I believe that our military-technical cooperation with Iran will be continued, and I hope that these sanctions will not affect it," Dzhabarov told Interfax on Monday in comments on Trump's executive order.

"There are UN Security Council sanctions, and they are compulsory for fulfilment. There are sanctions of one state, namely, the U.S., which thinks for an unclear reason that they are even higher than the UN Security Council," he added.

In addition, Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov has said there were no limitations on arms deals with Iran right from the start and after mid-October, there would be no limitations whatsoever on arms supplies to and from Iran.

"There is no such thing as an arms embargo against Iran. The Security Council, when it was adopting the comprehensive Resolution 2231, which endorsed [the] Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which settled the nuclear issue for Iran, and this was adopted by consensus under

**Su-30SM fighter jets, the K-300P Bastion-P mobile defense missile system, and the S-400 Air Defense System are among defense weapons that Russia could sell to Iran, according to the Russian website Russia Beyond.**

the chapter 7 of the United Nations' charter," the chief Russian diplomat said in an interview with Alarabiya's correspondent in New York.

Lavrov added, "The Security Council in that resolution said that the supply of arms to Iran and from Iran would be subject to consideration by the Security Council and that on the 18th of October, 2020 this regime of sales to Iran would stop. There is no embargo and there would be no limitations whatsoever after the expiration of this timeframe established by the Security Council."

In the months leading to the expiration of the UN arms embargo, some Russian media outlets showcased the weapons that Iran could purchase from Russia after the expiration of the arms embargo.

Su-30SM fighter jets, the K-300P Bastion-P mobile defense missile system, and the S-400 Air Defense System are among defense weapons that Russia could sell to Iran, according to the Russian website Russia Beyond.

"These hi-tech metal monsters from Russia could bolster Iran defenses from air and naval threats by the end of 2020, unless Iran is once again banned by the UN from purchasing weapons from abroad," said the website in a report published in January 13, 2020.

Lavrov said there would be no limitation on arms deals with Iran by mid-October. Therefore, after October, Russia would be able to sell defensive arms to Iran. After the expiration of the UN arms embargo, there would be no legal obstacle to Russia selling weapons to Iran. It is expected that the Russians would abide by their statements.

## SPORTS

### Persepolis's path to ACL knockout stage; difficult but not impossible

By Farrokh Hessabi

**TEHRAN** — The group stage of the 2020 Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Champions League will end for Persepolis. The Iranian team have a difficult task to seal their berth in the Round of 16 with a must-win game against UAE's Sharjah on Thursday.

Sharjah cruised to a 6-0 victory over Al Taawoun of Saudi Arabia to move above Persepolis into second place in Group C of the 2020 AFC Champions League (ACL), while on the same day, Persepolis suffered a 1-0 defeat against Qatar's Al Duhail.

The defeat made it difficult for the Reds to book their place in the Round of 16. They need all three points in their battle against Al Sharjah because their opponent has a superior goal difference over Persepolis.



The 2018 ACL runners-up Persepolis, who clinched their fourth consecutive Iran Pro League title in July, will be looking to carry their domestic form on the Continental stage when they enter the pitch on Thursday in Doha.

The Iranian champions have already demonstrated that they can have the best performance in difficult conditions.

With a transfer ban was placed on Persepolis in 2018, the Tehran based side could find their way to the Champion League final with their marvelous shows and brave hearts.

Despite the defeat in the previous match, Yahya Golmohammadi's men remain hopeful for qualifying. A not-so-unexpected win in their next match against Al Sharjah can put them firmly on track to secure one of the two qualification spots.

The departure of two key players, Mehdi Torabi and Ali Alipour, and the arrival of seven new players before the re-start of the 2020 AFC Champions League caused inconsistencies in the tactical plans of Persepolis. Still, the abilities of the Iranian representative are far more than the current problems of the team.

Persepolis fans, who lost their chance to support their team at home due to the coronavirus pandemic outbreak, hope that Persepolis, will make the most of their capabilities in the crucial and decisive Matchday Six.

The key to success is the team's mindset. The quality of players that Golmohammadi has to choose from and the tactical method he chooses will play a huge role in his side's success.

### Iran, Mali friendly confirmed

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** — The friendly match between Iran and Mali football teams has been confirmed.

The match will be played as part of preparation for the 2022 World Cup qualifiers in Antalya, Turkey on Oct. 13.

The 'Persian Leopards' will first meet Uzbekistan national football team on Oct. 8 in Tashkent.

The 2022 World Cup qualifiers scheduled this year were postponed to 2021 due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Iran, who sit third in Group C behind Iraq and Bahrain, have four must-win matches ahead in the competition.

The eight group winners of the World Cup qualification's group stage and four best runners-up will advance to the AFC Asian Cup China 2023 Finals and the final round of qualifying for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022.

The next best 24 teams from the second round of the joint qualifiers will compete in a separate competition for the remaining 12 slots in the 24-team AFC Asian Cup China 2023.

The FIFA World Cup in Qatar will run from November 21 to December 18, 2022.

### Fargad Ghaemi officially joins Al Rayyan of Qatar

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** — Iran national volleyball team outside spiker Farhad Ghaemi was officially unveiled as Qatari club Al Rayyan player on Wednesday.

The 31-year-old player had joined the Persian Gulf Arab country in April.

Ghaemi will be one of the main Iranian players at the Olympic Games in Tokyo. Al Rayyan have also signed former France opposite Antonin Rouzier.

Al Rayyan are a professional Volleyball team based in Al Rayyan, iranvolleyball.com reported.

Al Rayyan compete in the Qatari Volleyball League. The Qatari team participated in the 2012 edition of the FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship held in Qatar after winning the Hei Apparent Cup.

The best achievement for the Al Rayyan volleyball team was in 2014 when they finished in second place in the FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship.

### Iran's Esteghlal into 2020 ACL Round of 16

**SPORTS** **TEHRAN** — Iran's Esteghlal football team defeated Al Ahli of Saudi Arabia to book a place at the 2020 AFC Champions League Round of 16.

Esteghlal beat Al Ahli 3-0 at the Al Janoub Stadium in Doha in Group A.

Mehdi Ghaedi opened the scoring for the Blues in the 29th minute.

Ali Karimi made it 2-0 in the 39th minute and Cheick Diabate scored the Blues' third goal with a header in the 54th minute.

Al Ahli advanced to the knockout stage as the first team with six points.

Esteghlal and Al Shorta of Iraq earned five points but the Iranian team qualified for the Round of 16 with a superior goal difference.

Iranian teams Shah R Khodro and Sepahan failed to qualify for the next stage.

Persepolis can book a place in the knockout stage if defeat Sharjah of the UAE in Group C on Thursday.



## Iran, Afghanistan discuss co-op in electricity infrastructure

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Iran's Deputy Energy Minister Homayoun Haeri, who has travelled to Afghanistan on the head of an Iranian energy delegation, discussed the ways for the expansion of Iran-Afghanistan ties in the field of electricity infrastructure with the Afghan officials.

In his meeting with Afghanistan's Acting Minister of Finance Abdul Hadi Arghandiwal, Haeri put emphasis on strengthening the two countries' energy ties especially in the field of electricity.

The Afghan official, for his part, stressed the necessity for the development of the relation between the two countries, and expressed his all-out support in this due, especially for the expansion of ties in the field of electricity.



Haeri then met Mohammad Haneef Atmar, Afghanistan's acting minister of foreign affairs, and called for the Afghan official's support to the two countries' cooperation in the energy sector.

Atmar, for his part, appreciated Iran's efforts for the development of his country and said that he will support every measure for the expansion of ties between the two neighbors.

It should be mentioned that Haeri's meetings with the mentioned Afghan officials came after he inaugurated Iran's first specialized exhibition of water and electricity industry in Kabul on Tuesday.

Over 70 Iranian companies are showcasing their latest products and achievements in the fields of energy, urban services, engineering, and telecommunications during this three-day event.

Speaking in the inaugural ceremony of the exhibit, Haeri said: "As the chair of the two countries' joint economic committee, the energy minister has paid special attention to the expansion of relations between the two countries and has announced its readiness to further develop energy cooperation."

He thanked the Iranian companies that attended the exhibition despite the problems created by the pandemic.

## Hendijan oil field's platform 8 installed on offshore spot

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — Platform 8 of Iran's Hendijan oil field was installed on its designated offshore spot in the Persian Gulf on Tuesday, Shana reported.

As reported, the 1,000-ton structure is planned to produce 10,000 barrels per day (bpd) of oil from the field.

Platforms 7 and 8 of Hendijan oil field had been loaded earlier this month at Iran Shipbuilding and Offshore Industries Complex (ISOIC)'s Bandar-Abbas Yard to be shipped toward their offshore spot.



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

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

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

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

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

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

# Proper ground for investment making prepared at ports of Iran

By Mahnaz Abdi

**TEHRAN** — Iran, which has adopted the strategy of boosting its non-oil export to counter the U.S. sanctions on its economy, has many programs underway for the development of its ports, regarding the significant role of the ports in the promotion of exports.

In this regard, the country has attraction of investment to the ports on agenda, and despite the restrictions and limitations created by the outbreak of the coronavirus, Iranian ports managed to attract 3.57 trillion rials (over \$85 million) of investment in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20).

The mentioned investments have been done mainly with the aim of developing and maintaining infrastructure and equipping ports.

Also to facilitate business in the country's ports, 2.836 trillion rials (about \$67.5 million) was invested by the private sector in the form of five contracts during the said period.

Accordingly, the total amount of non-governmental investment in the country's commercial ports has reached 161.235 trillion rials (about \$3.83 billion) in the form of 333 contracts.

Meanwhile, as announced by Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO)'s Deputy Head for Ports and Economic Affairs Farhad Montaser Kouhsari, investment in the country's ports increased by 61 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) compared to its preceding year.

According to the official, in the past few



years, PMO has changed its approach and strategies from authority and ownership to supervision and support and that has had a great impact on the involvement of the private sector in the port projects and has increased the level of investments.

All such measures have led to an increase in exports via the ports.

As recently announced by a provincial official, export of non-oil products via Chabahar port, in the southeast of Iran, has increased 95 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar

year (March 20-August 21), compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Behrooz Aqaei, the director-general of Sistan-Baluchestan Province, where the strategic port lies, said that the rise in the exports has been resulted through providing some equipment and preparing some infrastructure in the port.

Lying on the coast of the Gulf of Oman in Iran's southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province, Chabahar is the country's only oceanic port, and given its strategic location in the International North-South Transport

Corridor (INSTC) development of the port is of high significance for Iran.

Meanwhile, preparing the ground for investment making in the ports is meeting the satisfaction of the private sector, whose investment making is of high significance.

A member of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mine and Agriculture (ICCIMA) has recently said that the ports enjoy proper potential and capacity for investment making.

Mehrdad Bazargan although stressed that the administrative bureaucracy should be reduced in the ports, and the maritime capacities should be paid more attention.

Sha'ban Foroutan, another ICCIMA member, has also said, "The ports of the country have become more active now and the PMO's cooperation with the traders and private sector's investors has been improved and is satisfactory at the moment; so, in order to expedite the development of ports, I recommend the reduction of bureaucracy."

While the PMO plans to attract more investment of the private sector, this sector's intention also promises the expansion of investment making in the ports.

In a recent remark, Kouhsari has mentioned the PMO's plan for the attraction of private sector's investment in the ports and announced that the organization has planned to attract 18 trillion rials (about \$428.5 million) of investment to the ports in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20), of which nearly 3 trillion rials (about \$71.4 million) has been already attracted.

## Over €35b of non-oil income injected to NIMA in 5 months

**1 →** It was inaugurated to allow exporters of non-oil commodities to sell their foreign currency earnings to importers of consumer products.

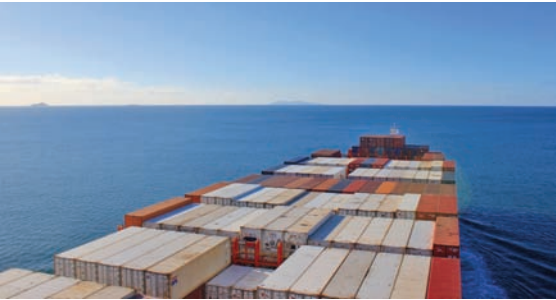
In late May 2019, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) unveiled a directive package that provided the country's exporters with guidelines about how they should re-inject their foreign currency incomes into the country's economy.

Based on the new directive, for the petrochemical sector, the exporters should present at least 60 percent of their foreign currency incomes into NIMA, and a maximum 10 percent could be injected into the financial

system in the form of hard currency and the rest could be used for importing necessary goods.

As for other exporters, at least 50 percent of the total earnings should be presented at the NIMA system and a maximum of 20 percent could be distributed in form of hard currency and the rest can be used for imports.

The instructions aimed to lead the export revenues from the non-oil exports back into the country's economy through NIMA, mandate all the exporters of goods and services to guarantee to bring back to the country the foreign currency amount allocated to them by the government at lower prices than the free market.



## Inflation rate rises 0.2%: SCI



The SCI put the inflation rate at 26.2 percent in the urban areas and at 25.4 percent in the rural regions during the mentioned time span, and announced that the figure shows a 0.2-percent rise in the urban areas while no change in the rural regions.

Central Bank of Iran (CBI) in a statement in April announced that the annual inflation rate for the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2021) is set to be 22 percent. The statement published on the website

of the CBI read, "Given the adopted policies and taken measures and also taking the country's macro-economic factors into account, the CBI believes that based on the realistic scenarios, the inflation rate in the current year will continue its downward trend."

Last year, CBI Governor Abdolnaser Hemmati had said, "Our goal is curbing inflation rate and no estimation shows an inflation rate of over 20 percent for the next year".

## Thermal power plants' capacity up 1,239 MG since late March

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — An official with Iran's Thermal Power Plants Holding Company (TPPH) announced that 1,239 megawatts (MW) has been added to the generation capacity of the country's thermal power plants since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20).

Hamidreza Azimi, the deputy managing director for planning affairs in TPPH, said that through putting new units into operation in Dalahoo, Ferdowsi, and Qeshm power plants during the past Iranian calendar month (August 22-September 21), the country's nominal power generation capacity has reached 68,388 MW, IRNA reported.

The official said that the private sector accounts for 68 percent of the generation capacity of the thermal power plants.

He further evaluated investment making for the construction of thermal power units as proper in this year, and said investment making in this field has so far experienced a two-percent increase.

As announced by the director-general of Planning, Operation and Electricity Market Office of TPPH, the annual overhaul program of Iran's thermal power plants has begun for 100,000 megawatts capacity of the country's power plants.

Parisa Narimisa said that the 100,000-megawatt annual program for overhauling the country's power plants began to increase the power plants' readiness for the next summer's



peak consumption period.

The official noted that based on the assessments made by the company, the capacity of power plant units that go through the overhaul program this year has increased by 11 percent compared to the previous year.

"This shows the increase in the capability of operators and companies active in this field, which have succeeded in reducing repair times and improved their performance considering the growth of the installed capacity in the country," Narimisa said.

In order to ensure the proper operation of power plants in

the peak consumption period, the annual overhaul program starts every year in early September and will continue until late May in the next year, the official said.

Emphasizing that the knowledge for producing 80 percent of the equipment and spare parts of the power plants have been localized by Iranian experts in cooperation with knowledge-based companies and research centers, she continued: "During this period, more than 11,000 personnel constantly work in the unbearable hot whether above 50 degrees Celsius to complete the annual repair program of the country's power plants on time and ensure the stable supply of electricity to customers during peak days."

Summer months constitute Iran's peak demand periods, so most of the power plant overhaul programs are scheduled to take place during autumn, winter, and spring seasons.

Over two-thirds of Iran's thermal power plants are owned and operated by the country's private sector and private owners are currently generating nearly 67 percent of Iran's thermal power.

Currently, a total of 478 thermal power plants are operating throughout Iran which includes both gas power plants and combined cycle plants.

Iran's total power generation capacity currently stands at about 85,000 MW, more than 90 percent of which is supplied by thermal power plants.

## TEDPIX gains 30,274 points on Wednesday

**ECONOMY** **TEHRAN** — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), increased 30,274 points to 1.611 million on Wednesday, IRNA reported.

As reported, 14.447 billion securities worth 144.742 trillion rials (about \$3.446 billion) were traded at the TSE on Wednesday.

The first market's index rose 23,656 points and the second market's index gained 55,043 points.

TSE, Iran's major stock exchange, which had witnessed drop of its main index in five consecutive weeks, experienced growth in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on September 18).

The index had dropped four percent in the week ended on September 11, while it had also experienced a five-percent decrease in the week ended on September 4, a two-percent fall in the week ended on August 28, an 11.3-percent drop in the week ended on August 21, and a two-per-



cent fall in the week ended on August 14. TEDPIX 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 five 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.



# Trump exited JCPOA to prepare Americans for possible hostile act against Iran: academic

“Trump has characteristically suggested that he will resort to any mechanism, subterfuge, stratagem, ploy, or artifice to advance his own personal interests”

**1 →** A: Donald Joseph Trump took office as the 45th U.S. President on Friday, January 20, 2017. His foreign policy actions to date have included:

January 23, 2017: Trump withdraws the U.S. from the Trade-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement with Asian countries.

January 27, 2017: Trump issues his first travel bans against nationals from six Muslim countries from coming to the U.S. (the ban is later expanded).

April 17, 2017: Trump authorizes cruise missile strike on Syria.

May 20-27, 2017: Trump sets off on his first excursion abroad as President, visiting first Saudi Arabia, then Brussels and Italy.

June 1, 2017: Trump withdraws the U.S. from the 2015 Paris Climate Accord.

June 5, 2017: Trump initially supports Saudi Arabia after it severs ties with Qatar.

June 16, 2017: Trump reinstates trade and travel restrictions on Cuba.

July 5-8, 2017: Trump delivers address in Warsaw, Poland emphasizing civilizational struggle for the survival of the West. Then travels to Germany and attends the Group of Twenty conference and meets with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

August 8, 2017: Trump threatens North Korea with “fire and fury” if it continues to threaten missile launches on Guam.

September 19, 2017: Trump threatens to “totally destroy” North Korea in order to defend U.S. allies.

October 13, 2017: Trump announces he will not certify Iran's compliance with the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

November 3-14, 2017: Trump attends Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit in Vietnam and announces his America First vision on trade. Travels to other Asian capitals.

December 6, 2017: Trump breaks with U.S. precedent and recognizes Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

March 1, 2018: Trump imposes tariffs on foreign-produced steel and aluminum, especially on China.

April 4-December 1, 2020: U.S. and China engage in tariff-trade war.

April 13, 2018: Trump orders airstrikes on three Syrian facilities which he says manufacture or house chemical weapons.

April 6, 2018: Trump administration announces “zero-tolerance policy” against illegal immigrants from Mexico and elsewhere. Children of parents entering the U.S. illegally will be separated from their parents.

May 8, 2018: Trump unilaterally withdraws the U.S. from the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) nuclear agreement with Iran and other signatories.

May 14, 2018: Trump moves U.S. Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

June 12, 2018: Trump has summit meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong-Un in Singapore and both call for the “complete denuclearization” of the Korean Peninsula.

June 19, 2018: Trump withdraws U.S. from the United Nations Human Rights Council citing the Council's bias against Israel.

July 16, 2018: Trump holds two-hour summit meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin in Helsinki, Finland. Discussions are not made public, though a subsequent press conference announces Trump's doubts regarding Russia's meddling in the 2016 U.S. presidential election.

September 30, 2018: The U.S., Canada, and Mexico announce the United States-Canada-Mexico Agreement, a trade agreement to replace the 1994 North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA).

October 2, 2018: Trump expresses support for Kingdom of Saudi Arabia de facto leader Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman following the killing of dissident Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi in Saudi Consulate in Istanbul, Turkey.

December 19, 2018: Trump says he will withdraw U.S. troops from Syria declaring that the Islamic State (ISIS) group has been defeated.



**“President Trump praised Saudi Arabia after its agents cut up and killed journalist Jamal Khashoggi in late 2018 stating in November 2018 that de facto leader Mohammed bin Salman was a good friend and reliable buyer of U.S. military equipment.”**

January 23, 2019: Trump recognizes unelected politician Juan Guido as interim president of Venezuela claiming the government of Nicolas Maduro to be illegitimate.

January 25, 2019: After a 25-day shutdown of the U.S. federal government, the longest in history, Trump relents on Congress not providing any funds for his southern border wall.

May 9, 2019: Trump raises tariffs on \$200 billion of Chinese goods to 25%.

June 30, 2019: Trump becomes first U.S. sitting president to visit North Korea.

July 6, 2019: Trump Administration bans those traveling through another country from applying for asylum requiring applicants to remain in country of origin.

October 6, 2019: Trump withdraws U.S. troops from Kurdish-controlled northern Syria. Subsequent deal allows Kurds to withdraw while Turkish, Russian, and Syrian forces take over the northern border area.

October 11, 2019: Trump reinforces Kingdom of Saudi Arabia with fighter jets, missile technology, and three thousand troops while blaming Iran for September 14, 2019 attacks on Saudi oil facilities at Abqaiq though Yemeni liberation fighters claimed responsibility.

October 26, 2019: Trump announces that Islamic State (ISIS) leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi has been killed by U.S. forces in northern Syria.

January 3, 2020: U.S. drone strikes kill top Iranian General Qasem Soleimani of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps in Baghdad, Iraq along with Iraqi militia commander Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis. Soleimani led to numerous defeats of daesh/ISIS taqfiri forces in the region.

January 28, 2020: Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu announce new plan to end Palestinian-Israeli conflict by awarding most of the West Bank and Jerusalem to Israel and weakening U.S. support for a two-state solution to the ongoing conflict.

February 5, 2020: Trump acquitted by a 52-48 Senate vote of abuse of power charges related to pressuring the Ukrainian president to investigate Joe Biden, his 2020 likely presidential opponent.

February 29, 2020: U.S.-Taliban agreement to end U.S. 18-year war in Afghanistan with U.S. pledging to withdraw troops within fourteen months.

March 13, 2020: Trump declares national emergency over COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic and prompting Congress to spend trillions of dollars on response. Trump alleges that China is responsible for what he calls the “Chinese Virus” or the “Kung-Flu” virus. [Compilation influenced by Foreign Policy

article “Trump's Foreign Policy Moments: 2017-2020”, 2020].

Given these actions, one may conclude that Trump is pursuing a nationalistic ‘America First’ strategy, not engaging in regime-change was initiated by previous administrations, while adhering to maintaining U.S. military presence in the Middle East (West Asia) region, and strongly shifting U.S. support for Israeli hegemonic ambitions. Trump will run his 2020 re-election campaign as a ‘peace president’ who has not initiated new overt wars. Foreign policy actions of the U.S. president play a dominant role in presidential elections only so long as domestic economic issues remain stable and more or less secure. With the U.S. economy contracting 32.9 percent in the second quarter of 2020, exacerbating the largest financial crisis in U.S. history, it is unlikely that foreign policy will take precedence in the upcoming election so long as Trump does not initiate a war before November.

■ Isn't it likely that Trump would initiate a war against Iran if he becomes certain that he will be a loser in the November election?

A: President Trump has characteristically suggested that he will resort to any mechanism, subterfuge, stratagem, ploy, or artifice to advance his own personal interests, including his reelection as the U.S. president for another four years. The one consistent aspect of Trump is that he is highly unpredictable in specifics that he will undertake albeit specific in that it will consist of actions of self-aggrandizement.

■ Trump supports the protest outside the U.S. while calls for suppressing the demonstrations at home. How can an observer analyze this contradiction?

A: Trump is aware that most U.S. citizens have little knowledge of what the country does in its foreign policies, so he is largely exempt from consequences arising from such actions unless it involves war or threat of war. Internally, Trump has adopted a full-court press strategy of stoking racism by targeting Black Lives Matter protesters as dividing the country and wreaking havoc in American cities. Sending federal officers, often unidentified, into Washington, DC, Portland, Washington, Chicago, Illinois, Albuquerque, New Mexico, Kansas City, Missouri, and elsewhere plays favorably to Trump's base who are in support of white supremacy and, hence, favor ‘law and order’ tactics.

■ How do you read the relationship between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia? Isn't inconsistent with American values and democracy to support tyrannical regimes like Arab sheikhdoms because of economic interests?

A: The first U.S. president, George Washington, warned of foreign entanglements in his 1796 Farewell Address adding:

It is our true policy to steer clear of permanent alliances with any portion of the foreign world; so far, I mean, as we are now at liberty to do it; for let me not be understood as capable of patronizing infidelity to existing engagements (George Washington, September 19, 1796).

However, since the twentieth century, the U.S. finds itself ensconced in entanglements with many countries through multiple treaties, both multilateral and bilateral. As a country that was birthed in opposition to monarchy, however, it is interesting how the U.S. has now become largely tied to monarchs, dictators, and wholly undemocratic regimes in many parts of the world, particularly the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. I must remind your international readers that the U.S. pledged in its 1776 Declaration of Independence its belief that all men are created equal with unalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness and, yet, some 244 years later, many are still trying to secure such basic rights for African Americans, Latinx, Native Americans, et al.

■ What is your comment on Western states' approaches toward human rights? Canada sold a record amount of military hardware to Saudi Arabia in 2019. Britain has also resumed arms sales to the country, despite concerns about Saudi human rights violations in Yemen. Why do we see these kinds of double standards?

A: The United States and Canada are Western capitalist countries. The driving motor of capitalism is the accumulation of profit, a surplus extracted after accounting for materials, plant, and labor power used in the manufacture of a product. Profit is the return on capital invested, in other words, it is ‘surplus value’. Every capitalist is primarily motivated by the search for constantly expanding markets, and they wish to sell to any and every one everywhere they can, so long as it is profitable. President Trump praised Saudi Arabia after its agents cut up and killed journalist Jamal Khashoggi in late 2018 stating in November 2018 that de facto leader Mohammed bin Salman was a good friend and reliable buyer of U.S. military equipment. Trump stated:

After my heavily negotiated trip to Saudi Arabia last year, the Kingdom agreed to spend and invest \$450 billion in the United States. This is a record amount of money. It will create hundreds of thousands of jobs, tremendous economic development, and much additional wealth for the United States. Of the \$450 billion, \$110 billion will be spent on the purchase of military equipment from Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Raytheon and many other great U.S. defense contractors. If we foolishly cancel these contracts, Russia and China would be the enormous beneficiaries – and very happy to acquire all of this newfound business. It would be a wonderful gift to them directly from the United States! (November 20, 2018)

Such a farcical statement would only play well in a Monty Python movie. Thus, on pain of extinction, many capitalists would sell their families down the river if they believed they would benefit from the action.

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## Saudi Arabia, UAE fighting regional wars on behalf of Israel: Ansarullah

The spokesman for Yemen's Houthis Ansarullah movement has denounced Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) over submission to Israel, saying the regime will not engage in any military confrontation in the West Asia as long as Riyadh and Abu Dhabi act as its proxies and wage wars on its behalf.

“As long as the Saudi and UAE regimes fight on behalf of the Zionist regime and spend millions of dollars in its stead, the latter will not engage in any war in the region,” Mohammed Abdul-Salam said in an exclusive interview with London-based and Arabic-language Nabaa television news network on Tuesday evening.

According to Press TV, he noted that the United States, together with Saudi Arabia and the UAE, decided to launch a devastating military campaign against Yemen after realizing that the country was seeking to assert its independence.

“Had the September 21 Revolution (the 2014 popular uprising that toppled the Saudi-backed government of former Yemeni president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi) not broken out, the Americans would have put Yemen in the line to normalize relations with Israel,” Abdul-Salam pointed out.

## At UN, Qatar emir questions world inaction on Israeli occupation

Qatar Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani has questioned the credibility of the international community as it “stands by, unable to take any effective action to confront Israeli intransigence and its continued occupation of Palestinian and Arab land”.

In his video speech at the 75th session of the United Nations General Assembly, the emir questioned the role of countries and organisations for failing to uphold the resolutions against the continued Israeli occupation of Palestinian territories and its expansion of settlement building.

According to al Jazeera, he accused Israel of carrying out “flagrant violation of international resolutions and the two-state solution as agreed upon by the international community”.

## Brussels unveils plan to share responsibility for migrants

The European Commission launched an effort Wednesday to rally skeptical member states around a plan to better share responsibility for settling refugees and sending rejected asylum seekers home.

The long-awaited proposal for a “New Pact on Migration and Asylum” comes two weeks after a devastating fire in an overcrowded camp on the Greek island of Lesbos, and five years after Europe's last major migrant crisis, AFP reported.

It proposes that EU member states that do not want to volunteer to house more migrants -- and reduce pressure on Italy and Greece, where most arrivals land -- can instead take charge of sending those whose asylum requests are rejected back to their homelands.

“We want to live up to our values, and at the same time face the challenges of a globalized world,” the president of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, said, warning that the old system “no longer works”.

## Maduro: Trump administration approved CIA terrorist ops in Venezuela

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro says the U.S. President Donald Trump administration has approved “covert and terrorist operations” by the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) in the Latin American country.

“They (American officials) have given the CIA the green light to come with direct agents to [conduct] covert and terrorist operations against oil, electricity, military, electoral targets, and other dirty covert actions like those used by the CIA,” Maduro said in a televised address to the nation on Tuesday.

He said the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) was an accomplice in Washington's efforts to overthrow the leftist Venezuelan government.

“It (the U.S. administration) has placed the DEA as the operator agency of the attack against Venezuela, what is new today is not that the DEA is involved with the Colombian drug trafficking group to attack Venezuela, the new thing is that they have approved that the CIA get involved in operations... terrorist attacks against Venezuela,” he added.

Earlier this month, Maduro announced the capture of a U.S. spy near Venezuela's largest oil refinery, who was in possession of “heavy, specialized weapons and a large amount of cash.”

## Resistance News

## Hamas says UN has failed to defend Palestinians against Israel

**INTERNATIONAL DESK** TEHRAN— The Palestinian resistance movement Hamas has censured the United Nations for inaction in the face of Israel's aggressive policies, calling on the world body to “rectify” its mistakes and help end Israeli atrocities.

“The UN, which prompted the creation of the Israeli occupation, failed to protect the Palestinians from all forms of terrorism practiced against them on a daily basis for more than 72 years, or help them restore their rights to liberation, independence and self-determination, which is part of one of its long-standing principles,” Hamas said in a statement issued on Tuesday.

“This failure will continue haunting the United Nations until it makes things right and rectify this mistake.”

Referring to an official event held on Monday in commemoration of the UN's establishment in 1945, the statement said, “No one unfortunately addressed the catastrophic failure of the international body... to replace the rule of force with the rule of law.”

“But, it seems that this rule does not apply to the Israeli occupation.” According to Press TV, the statement said, “The ongoing Israeli aggression against the Palestinian people is one of the major reasons behind the failure to bring about international peace and security.”

## Lack of legitimacy, unilateral actions reasons for U.S. failure: Japanese professor

By Payman Yazdani

**TEHRAN** — Prof. Suzuki says that U.S. failure at the UNSC is the result of the country's unilateralism and lack of legitimacy, adding that Trump's reelection will mean Americans endorse unilateralism.

The Trump administration claims that it has activated the snapback mechanism while E3 and Russia and China have rejected the White House claim.

In a letter penned to the UN secretary-general and president of the UN Security Council, Iran reminded that in response to the U.S. move, not only none of the members of the UN Security Council acknowledged the authority of the U.S. to activate the snapback mechanism and return UN sanctions on Iran, but also through individual or joint letters were written to the President of UN Security Council, 13 members have categorically rejected the legal credibility and acceptance of the U.S. letter in this regard.

To shed more light on the issue, we reached out to Kazuto

Suzuki vice dean and professor of international politics at Public Policy School of Hokkaido University, Japan.

Following is the full text of the interview with him:

■ From your point of view, is the U.S. move lawful?

A: Legally speaking, the U.S. could have the right to submit its notification to the Security Council by the letter of the UNSCR 2231. However, its legality is not accepted by most Security Council members and the international community. It may be legal but not lawful.

■ Why does Trump focus on the Iran issue at the UNSC despite opposition from different countries, even from the U.S. allies in Europe?

A: I think it is a political act in order to please his supporters, who are mostly anti-Iran/pro-Israel. Even if snapback is taken place, the arms embargo based on UNSCR may not have the full extent of implementing power because many states do not agree with the decision. But the U.S. Administration does not care about its effectiveness. It is demonstrating that the Administration is doing everything

for its supporters against all the odds.

■ What are the reasons behind the U.S. failure and isolation at UNSC?

A: Lack of legitimacy and the consequence of taking unilateral action. The power of UNSCR can be generated from the willingness of the international community as a whole. International law is not like domestic law. It has to be backed with the willingness and commitment of the international community. Unilateral action is not the way forward to build international consensus.

■ How do you see the consequences of the U.S. administration's unilateralism for world peace and stability?

A: It depends on the election in November. If Mr. Trump is reelected, the world would see that the American people endorsed his unilateralism policy, which eventually creates a hostile environment for many countries and eventually undermines international peace and security. If he loses, there is a chance that the U.S. can rebuild its international reputation and bring back peace and security in the international arena.



## Iranian museums to offer free admission on World Tourism Day

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – The entry to all museums and historical sites affiliated with the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Ministry will be free on Sunday on the occasion of the World Tourism Day. Mohammadreza Kargar, the tourism ministry's director of museums and historical properties said on Wednesday.



There are 600 museums across Iran, some half of which are associated with private collectors or various institutions, he said. Some three million historical objects are currently being kept in Iranian museums which are affiliated with the tourism ministry. Iran is home to one of the world's oldest continuous major civilizations, embracing settlements dating back to 4000 BC. The name of Iran, formerly known as Persia, mostly conjures up the first Persian Empire, ruled by the Achaemenids (550 – 330 BC) and sites such as Pasargadae and Persepolis. However, there are tens of prehistorical sites as the Burnt City in Sistan-Baluchestan, Tepe Sialk in Kashan, Susa and Chogha Zanbil in the Khuzestan province, and Ecbatana in Hamedan which predate the Achaemenid period. From a wider point of view, Iranian history can be divided into Pre-Islamic and Islamic eras. The Medes unified Iran as a nation and empire in 625 BC. The Islamic conquest of Persia (633–656) that put an end to the mighty Sassanid Empire (224–651) was a turning point in the history of the nation.

## Tehran-Semnan rally to promote ecotourism, camping

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – The newly-established Camping and Caravanning Club of Iran is scheduled to hold a car rally with an itinerary studded with a variety of tourist spots across Tehran and Semnan provinces. Participants, in tens of campers and camper vans, will start the rally from the Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex in northern Tehran early on Friday, passing through Sharifabad, Pakdasht, Eyvanekey, Sorkheh, and Garmsar towns before reaching the oasis city of Semnan.

Supervised by the Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran (TACI), the rally will be held under strict health protocols amid the coronavirus pandemic, the TACI announced in a press release on Monday.

The vehicles, camper vans, and related facilities will be on show at the grounds of the palace complex on Thursday. The open-air exhibit, according to organizers, seeks to promote traveling, especially rural tourism, ecotourism, and nature tourism during



the pandemic and encourage tourists and people to embark on land trips using camper vans.

The coronavirus pandemic has globally decimated almost every possible travel and transportation-related business, from air travel to car sales to cruises. However, the number of people and families traditionally using camper vans has not decreased so much globally. Some camper fans say that the reason is surprisingly straightforward: camper vans are a personal and reliable way to travel, granting freedom from quarantine while still adhering to social distancing rules.

Covering an area of about eleven hectares, the Niavaran historical complex is composed of several landmark buildings, museums, and monuments constructed in the 19th and 20th centuries during the Pahlavi and late Qajar eras.

## Coronavirus cuts arrivals in Mazandaran by 71 percent

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – The number of travelers visiting Mazandaran province has decreased by 71 percent during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21) in comparison with the same period last year over the lockdowns and travel limitations amid the coronavirus pandemic.

"A total of 18,214,360 overnight stays were recorded in Mazandaran during the first half of the year and the figure is related to official accommodation places across the province," deputy provincial tourism chief Mehran Hassani said on Wednesday.

The virus outbreak has also significantly affected accommodations in private places and no foreign visitor visited Mazandaran during the six-month period as almost all inbound flights were halted...., the official noted.

The sharp decrease in visits to Mazandaran has caused about 5.3 trillion rials (some \$126 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) of damage to accommodation units, catering centers, as well as recreational and entertainment complexes across the province, he explained.

Traditionally, over 30 million travelers tour Mazandaran within a year, who register over 90 million overnight stays, the official noted.

Stretched along the Caspian Sea and Alborz mountain range, Mazandaran is a popular destination for domestic holidaymakers and it is home to more than 3,500 villages and rural areas, hosting millions of domestic night-stays in a year.

# Uraman ‘well prepared’ for UNESCO World Heritage tag: ICOMOS

➔ **1** As the cultural landscape covers 300 villages and in terms of architecture and landscape, it is one of the most beautiful and presentable heritages in the world, the dossier is really important to Iranians, the minister added.

Earlier this month, Pouya Talebnia, the director of the cultural landscape, announced that the visit of the UNESCO assessor will be the last step for reviewing the status of Uraman rural landscape for the World Heritage list.

"That will be the last [field] step for the global registration of Uraman, and the UNESCO evaluator [will probably] recommend us to solve issues within six months, and next year, on such days, a voting session will be held for the registration of Uraman on UNESCO list."

Iran submitted the UN body a dossier for the Uraman cultural landscape in 2019. Some eighty experts in various fields compiled and developed the dossier in terms of anthropology, archeology and



history, natural sciences, architecture, historical documents, and other related fields.

Uraman is considered a cradle of Kurdish art and culture from the days

of yore. Pirshalyar, which is named after a legendary local figure, is amongst time-honored celebrations and rituals that are practiced annually across the region.

## UNESCO-tagged Pasargadae being reconstructed in 3D model

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – Documenting and creating three-dimensional models of a number of architectural works located in an area of 190 square kilometers inside the UNESCO-tagged Pasargadae in Fars province, southern Iran, is currently underway.

In order to study and introduce identified works in this historical complex, which includes the remains of the tomb of Cyrus the Great, Mozaffari Caravanserai, Stone Tower, Tal Throne, King Garden water ducts, the facilities of the Achaemenid Dam of Bostankhani as well as several palaces, three-dimensional models are being designed, Afshin Ebrahimi, the director of the World Heritage site announced on Wednesday.

The highlight of the project is designing the 3D model of the tomb of Cyrus the Great, which still stands almost intact. Constructed of huge white limestone blocks, its gabled tomb chamber rests on a rectangular stepped plinth, with six receding stages.

The models have been designed based on aerial photographs taken by professional cameras and drones with the use of digital technologies, the official added.



Having the ability to rotate 360 degrees, makes the models unique in terms of having all details of inscriptions and reliefs, besides the architectural features of each structure, he explained.

The project which is being carried out in collaboration with the private sector will come to an end by the end of

October.

Situated in about 50 km north of Persepolis, Pasargadae embraces outstanding examples of the first phase of royal Achaemenid art and architecture and exceptional testimonies of Persian civilization.

However, during the time of Darius I (reigned 522–486 BCE) Persepolis replaced Pasargadae as the dynastic home and Pasargadae stood alone.

Cyrus was the founder of the Achaemenid Empire which at its greatest extent stretched from the Balkans to the Indus Valley, spanning 5.5 million square kilometers. The Persian king declared the world's first charter of human rights, also known as the Cyrus Cylinder.

Despite the minimal nature of the ruins, they make a good introduction to the wonders of Persepolis, some 60km to the south. Best visited en route from Yazd or Isfahan to Shiraz, most people fit them into an extended tour from Persepolis with stops at Naqsh-e Rostam and Naqsh-e Rajab.

The complex was designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 2004.

## Over 170 MOUs signed to develop Ali Sadr Cave tourism

**TOURISM** **TEHRAN** – Some 174 memorandums of understanding (MOUs) have been inked since the beginning of the current Iranian year 1399 (started on March 20) to develop tourism and increase visitors to Ali Sadr Cave.

Although the cave is one of the top destinations for domestic and foreign sightseers, the outbreak of the coronavirus cut the number of visitors by 86 percent in the first six months of the current Iranian year, manager of the site Mehdi Majidi announced on Wednesday.

While the tourism industry was one of the first businesses to suffer the most with the coronavirus pandemic, Ali Sadr Cave

and its subsidiaries were also hit severely, the official explained.

Located in some 70km north of Hamadan in west-central Iran, Ali Sadr is a gigantic water-filled cavern widely believed to date from the Jurassic era.

To promote the tourism capacities of the cave, several good offers and discounts are provided for the visitors on the occasion of the World Tourism Day on Saturday, the official added.

He also emphasized that as the economy of the region depends on the activity of this tourist complex, the cave cannot be closed, therefore, visits following strict health pro-

ocols are possible.

Back in April, the official announced that Ali Sadr Cave has taken 70 billion rials (about \$1.5 million) hit from the impact of coronavirus over the last two months, while two-thirds of the employees of the tourist site have also lost their jobs temporarily.

The cave embraces a huge matrix of sunless channels, ponds, grottoes, and water passages which are stretched along with imposing rock formations and stalactite-covered tops in a span of several kilometers.

Sightseeing there is connected with traversing in well-lit labyrinths of waterways via paddle boats, walking on subterranean



islets, as well as observing rock carvings of hunting scenes, artifacts, paintings, and vessels which are associated with prehistorical troglodytes.

## Photo exhibit puts spotlight on Muharram rituals in Qajar-era Iran

**HERITAGE** **TEHRAN** – A public exhibition, featuring photographs and postcards printed during the Qajar era (1789–1925) in Iran, opened its doors to the public in downtown Tehran on Wednesday.

The works show scenes how Iranians people of the 19th century commemorated the month of Muharram, and the epic passion and courage of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Shia Imam, and his 72 loyal companions, who were all martyred in the Battle of Karbala in 680 CE.

[A selection of] 40 photographs and postcards, depicting people observing Muharram rituals, such as tazieh, and eulogy sessions for Imam Hussein (AS) are on show during the event, which will be running through October 6 at a gallery situated on the historical Si-e Tir St., opposite the entrance to the National Museum of Iran, cultural heritage official Alireza Naseri said on Monday.

During the Qajar era, Tekyeh Dowlat, a royal theater in downtown Tehran, served as one of the main centers for the mourning ceremonies in Muharram. Being completed in 1868 by the order of Naser al-Din Shah Qajar, Tekyeh Dowlat, literally meaning "State Theater", was



one of the most famous of all the tazieh performance spaces in the country. It has a capacity for more than 4,000 people.

## Khorshid palace: an amalgam of Iranian, Indian arts, cultures

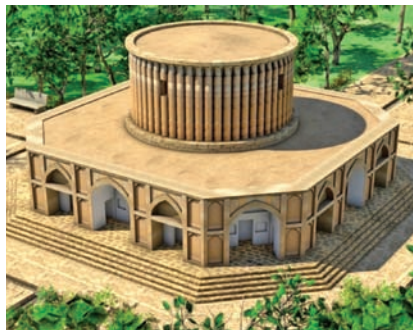
By Dr. Seyed Hossein Hosseinseddig

(Part 2/2)

Nader died suddenly at the hands of his commanders in Khorasan. Due to his actions in the last years of his life, many riots took place in different parts of Iran. He had gone to Khorasan to quell one of these riots, but was killed at night in his tent because he was angry with his commanders. Thus, neither the construction of this place was completed nor Nader was buried in this tomb.

Years later, during the Qajar period, changes and repairs were made to the building and this palace became the residence of the ruler of Kalat-e Naderi.

This building has three floors, in the shape of an octagon, which was made by Iranian and Indian artists, and the combination of Iranian and Indian culture can be easily found in the exterior and interior designs of the mansion. Images of non-native



tropical fruits such as bananas, pineapples and birds like parrots reflect Indian culture, and any viewer without this information can easily recognize that they are not Iranian by seeing these images. The Sun (Khorshid) Mansion is located in the middle of a lush and beautiful garden. The height of this palace is 20 meters. Of course, this height is without considering the third floor. The

third floor of this building is a cylindrical tower that was the residence of the king and his family.

The lower floor is a central crypt with eight pavilions around it. The air in this crypt is very cool. This crypt was supposed to be Nader Shah's burial place. During the Qajar period and after changes in the building, this part was used as a prison and then as a bath. The ground floor is a large octagonal hall built on four sides on pyramidal stairs. After climbing the stairs, there are entrances to the main hall of the palace on eight sides. The interior of the hall is very similar to the architecture of the Timurid period. The interior of the hall is decorated with an inscription that is decorated with Naba chapter, one of the chapters of the Holy Quran. Also in the upper part of the arch, Islamic motifs can be seen.

The exterior of the palace is similar to Safavid architecture. The exterior and in-

terior decorations of the architecture have been done by Indian artists. In fact, the main beauty of the palace is this exterior. Around the palace there are beautiful small pools with 156 water fountains. In addition to beautifying the exterior of the palace, these fountains were also responsible for irrigating the garden.

What attracts attention when you see these fountains, as well as the remains of the palace water pottery pipes in the mansion museum, was the water supply system of the palace at that time. Nader used the power of his engineers to use the fresh water of Qarahsou River, which was located 6 km from the mansion, and built a water supply system. After determining the water transfer route, the engineers dug a canal in the water transfer route, observing the slope that regulated the water pressure in the fountains around the mansion, and laying pipes using pottery pipes and covering the pipes with soft soil.



# Dutch diplomat: Various cities in Iran are capable of being bike-friendly

By Faranak Bakhtiari

**TEHRAN** — On September 22, ambassadors of four European countries to Tehran along with the city's mayor hit the streets on bicycles on the occasion of the World Car-Free Day to encourage people to use public or non-motorized transport.

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, the Deputy Ambassador of the Netherlands to Tehran, Andre van Wiggen, said that his country has adopted a so-called cycling diplomacy, aiming to promote cycling in various countries in an effort to serve the environment and all human beings on the planet.

"In Iran, we started similar plans two years ago on a relatively small base," he noted.

**Tehran on right track to promote cycling**

Pointing to the challenges facing Tehran to get on the right track for promoting cycling, Wiggen noted that Tehran is such an enormous city with an over 10 million citizens, and is surrounded with the mountains, so it is very difficult to find a circulation system where you can do more than driving.

So in that sense, because the city grew so fast after the 30s and 40s of the last century, it took time for the municipality to adopt, he said, adding, lots of nice parks in the capital shows that the municipality is taking effort to keep the city green but the population might be a challenge.

Therefore, we are very supportive of the idea to promote cycling, walking, using step bicycles, or also pubic transport like the metro system, but it all comes together.

It is very encouraging to see that the municipality particularly, the mayor of Tehran paid sufficient attention to it, which is of great importance.

So, the city is on the right track, but there is still a lot to do. You can only achieve results in the long run by working step by step.

**High potential to be bike-friendly**

Highlighting public awareness and government efforts as the main elements in this path, he stated that it works both ways, first of all, it needs more awareness amongst the people, as they have to realize the heavy burden of pollution as a result of car driving, particularly, in the winter, and there is mutual benefit from it, if you cycle,



Deputy Ambassador of the Netherlands to Tehran, Andre van Wiggen (C) is surrounded by cyclists in downtown Tehran on September 22, which marks World Car-Free Day.

you maintain healthier.

Cycling is a common mode of transport in the Netherlands, with 36 percent of the people listing the bicycle as their most frequent mode of transport on a typical day as opposed to the car by 45 percent and public transport by 11 percent. Cycling has a modal share of 27 percent of all trips (urban and rural) nationwide.

The Netherlands is a flat country with almost no mountain in the surroundings so that it was much easier to promote cycling, but today, new techniques and technologies are paving the way for other countries to take step toward greener transport and cycling, for example, e-bikes that function like fast-moving motorcycles, he explained, implying that however, it needs infrastructure development, as well as setting up separate lanes, which takes more time and patience, as well as more campaigns and movements.

There are various ideas to get on the right path, and that is why the Netherlands Embassy supports an Iranian organization that offer advice and works with Iranian municipalities like Tehran Municipality.

In Iran, various cities are capable of being bike-friendly cities, such as Yazd, Shiraz, Mashhad, Qazvin, and so on, he also stated.

**Neighborhoods first to start cycling promotion**

Referring to the major barriers in this

path, he said that the most important step is to settle in people's minds that cycling is beneficiary to every one of us, and encouraging them to use less private cars, which is more convenient when there is relatively little public transport, and reducing people reliability on their cars.

He further highlighted the distances, saying that "cycling long distances is almost impossible, but cities can start with setting up bike tracks in the neighborhoods.

Some neighborhoods are relatively flat and can turn to car-free areas where people are also more eager to use bicycles instead of cars for short trips in the neighborhood.

So creating such small spaces can promote the use of bicycles gradually, Chitgar is also a proper place in this regard."

**All Iranians should benefit cycling**

Pointing to the cycling experience with the Tehran mayor, he expressed interest and emphasized the need for taking more efforts by the municipality.

He went on to say that although the streets were closed off for the event, we could recognize drivers that were surprised watching a group of cyclists in the streets so that changing people's perspective takes more time and patience.

In the Netherlands, pedestrians and cyclists have a lot of advantages and priorities over other vehicle users, and it is easier to

ride bicycles in the lanes in an atmosphere where people got used to this strategy, while it is not widely known here due to few bikes on the streets.

However, the government is pushing to make it available to all Iranians, and that is the point, he added.

**The Netherlands ready to share experience with Iran**

In the Netherlands, we have the so-called cycling diplomacy, through which we organize events in different countries with good cooperation of municipalities, like in Egypt, where we used to organize the orange bicycle day, which is attended by thousands of Egyptians each year.

In Iran, we started similar plans since two years ago on a relatively small base, he noted, expressing hope over further development.

He also expressed pleasure to give advice and share the experience with Iran in this regard, and prepare the fine infrastructure, raise awareness, and promote the cycling culture to get as many people as possible on the bicycle.

**A future with most pedestrians and cyclists**

Iran kicked off the 'Car-Free Tuesdays' campaign in 2016 by NGOs aiming to decrease the number of private cars in cities, hence mitigate air pollution, but lost momentum after almost a year probably because of the inefficient infrastructure in the country.

Mehdi Hassanzadeh, a clean transport consultant, said that Wold Car-Free Day is celebrated in the country over the past two years aiming at promoting clean transportation including walking and cycling.

For the first time this year, a campaign is organized to close off one street in each city in favor of pedestrians and cyclists, while holding cultural and recreational events. It aimed to attract the attention of both people and officials towards a future in which most of the people are pedestrians and cyclists.

The event was held in 45 cities across the country and related organizations and NGOs shared their experiences.

It is scheduled to reduce the time interval of these events from once a year to once a month or even less to encourage officials to move towards human cities through setting up bike lanes, developing sidewalks, and better infrastructure, Hassanzadeh said.

## Sign languages for everyone, move toward unity

**1→** It is hoped that the responsible organizations, in cooperation with non-governmental organizations, will achieve all matters related to the rights of the deaf, such as "having the same sign language", "free or low-cost sign language training" and "sign language translator availability".



**520,000 hearing impaired citizens living in Iran**

Mohammad Farhadi head of the national committee for hearing health said in March 2019 that about 520 thousand hearing impaired citizens are living in Iran and 1,500 infants suffering from profound hearing loss are born in the country annually.

In premature infants, the range of hearing impairment is 20 to 40 percent while the average hearing loss in Iranian full-term infants is 2.7 per 1,000 births, he said.

He said that eleven governmental cochlear implant centers are currently active in Iran.

Over 10,000 Iranians benefit from cochlear implants during past 26 years, he announced.

A cochlear implant is a surgically implanted neuroprosthetic device that provides a sense of sound to a person who suffers severe to profound sensorineural hearing loss.

Hearing loss may be caused by genetic causes, complications at birth, certain infectious diseases, chronic ear infections, the use of particular drugs, exposure to excessive noise, and ageing. However, 60 percent of childhood hearing loss is due to preventable causes.

Unaddressed hearing loss incurs an annual global cost of \$750 billion. Interventions to prevent, identify and address hearing loss are cost-effective and can bring great benefit to individuals.

People with hearing loss can benefit from early identification; use of hearing aids, cochlear implants and other assistive devices; captioning and sign language; and other forms of educational and social support.

## China, top global emitter, aims to go carbon-neutral by 2060

Chinese President Xi Jinping says his country will aim to stop adding to the global warming problem by 2060.

Xi's announcement during a speech Tuesday to the U.N. General Assembly is a significant step for the world's biggest emitter of greenhouse gases.

Calling for a "green revolution," Xi said the coronavirus pandemic had shown the need to preserve the environment.

"Humankind can no longer afford to ignore the repeated warnings of nature," he said.

Citing the Paris Agreement that he and former U.S. President Barack Obama helped forge in 2015, Xi said his country would raise its emissions reduction targets with "vigorous policies and measures."

"We aim to have CO2 emissions peak before 2030 and achieve carbon neutrality before 2060," he said.

The term "carbon neutrality" means releasing no additional CO2 into the atmosphere, though technically it allows countries to keep emitting if they ensure that an equal amount is captured again in some form.

The announcement was cheered by climate campaigners. Greenpeace executive director Jennifer Morgan called it "an important signal" that showed climate change is "top of agenda for China."

"A big shift for curbing emissions and a significant step forward in international cooperation" U.N. climate chief Patricia Espinosa said.

The goal will be a challenge for China, which relies heavily for its electricity on coal, one of the most carbon-intensive fossil fuels.

## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 32)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

### Comprehension

● Exercise 1. Put (صحیح) or (غلط) according to the text.

Correct the false ones:

۱. ( ) آقای دکتر نامدار اهل ایران است.
۲. ( ) او دانشجوی زبان فارسی است.
۳. ( ) خانم نامدار دو دختر و یک پسر دارد.
۴. ( ) مهسا یک دختر ایرانی است.
۵. ( ) خاندهی آقا و خانم نامدار قشنگ است.
۶. ( ) خاندهی آنها دو اتاق کوچک دارد.

### Writing

● Exercise 1. Answer in complete sentences according to the text:

۱. خانم نامدار اهل کجاست؟
۲. دکتر نامدار استاد چیست؟
۳. آنها چند بچه دارند؟
۴. اسم بچه‌های آنها چیست؟
۵. خانه‌ی آنها چطور است؟
۶. این خانه چند اتاق دارد؟

● Exercise 2. Rewrite the text changing نامدار بهمین نامدار

من. Make necessary changes.

## Iran calls for collective response to contain COVID-19 effect on food, agriculture

**SOCIETY** **TEHRAN** — Iran called on the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) to move forward to collective policies and response programs for member countries in the region to place food and agriculture at the center of the COVID-19 socio-economic response, at the 35th FAO Regional Conference for the Near East.

The two-day conference, held virtually by the Sultanate of Oman, gathered 30 FAO Members as well as representatives from partner organizations, civil society, the private sector, and academia, to identify innovative policy solutions to transform food systems and materialize poverty reduction and zero hunger, amid COVID-19 pandemic.

The Iranian delegation, represented by the country's ad interim envoy to FAO, Shahin Ghoraishizadeh, also shared the main adaptive strategies implemented by the Government to tackle challenges posed by COVID-19 to food and agriculture activities of the country.

According to Ghoraishizadeh, "in [this] region, the spread of COVID-19 has affected the vulnerability of millions of small producers and agricultural workers and intensified challenges for this large part of the population."

"If this situation is not effectively addressed in the region, the risk is that all the progress made in overcoming poverty and hunger and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) will come to nothing."

Iran hopes "FAO, through this conference, provides a starting point to move forward collective policies and response programs for member countries in the region; to place food and agriculture at the center of the COVID-19 socio-economic response strategies," Ghoraishizadeh said in his concluding remarks.



**COVID-19 affects both food security and livelihoods**

The Near East and North Africa region is not on track to eliminate hunger and malnutrition; hunger is on the rise in the region; overweight and obesity levels amongst adults and children are spiraling upwards, and the COVID-19 pandemic affects both food security and livelihoods; these were among the major challenges highlighted at the 35th FAO Regional Conference for the Near East.

Mentioning the heavy burden caused by the pandemic on food and agriculture sectors, FAO Director-General QU Dongyu asserts that it "is primarily a health crisis, but its impact has touched all parts of our lives, most importantly food security and incomes," FAO Director-General noted that the pandemic, and measures to contain it, pose significant challenges, especially to the most vulnerable communities, as a compounding threat to existing crises such as conflict, natural disasters, climate change, pests, and plagues. "This underscores the need for evidence-based, coordinated policy action and investment to make food systems healthier and more sustainable," Qu added.

Underscoring the need to change the region's food systems

to ensure sustainable and healthy diets for the region's growing population in a context of water scarcity and advancing climate change, Qu indicated four important elements to kick start such transformations: well-designed multi-sectoral policies that create an enabling environment; innovation of processes and agricultural inputs; well-targeted public and private investments; and vital agricultural activity.

**Regional Conference**

At the end of the first day of the conference, members approved a Ministerial Declaration confirming their commitment to further strengthen regional collaboration and effectively address common challenges, including food security and nutrition, water scarcity, climate change, and challenges of transboundary pests and diseases, mobilizing support to mitigate the adverse impacts associated with these challenges.

On the second day, the meeting reviewed the recommendations and conclusions of the Regional Consultative Technical Meetings, a series of preparatory technical sessions that took place earlier this year, gathering senior officers from the ministries of agriculture, water, environment, and health from 30 countries, as well as Permanent Representatives of governments to FAO, FAO staff and representatives of regional organizations, private sector, and academia. The Conference agreed on the final set of recommendations and actions for countries, FAO, and other stakeholders.

FAO Members in Near East and North Africa meet every two years to discuss issues of common concern and guide FAO's work in support of the region's food and agriculture. This year's Regional Conference will further strengthen FAO's impact across the region, as well as defining its work priorities in the coming two years.

## ENGLISH IN USE

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## 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، یک‌میلیون 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.



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Beware! Do not be among those who are concerned about the sins of others while neglectful of their own sins.  
*Imam Hussein (AS)*

## Book City Institute to hold seminar on Rumi, Shams

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — Iran's Book City Institute plans to hold a seminar next Monday on the Persian poet and mystic Molana Jalal ad-Din Rumi Shams-i Tabrizi, the wandering sage who later became the mentor of Rumi in the 13th century CE.



A bust of Shams-i Tabrizi near his tomb in Khoy.

Several scholars and experts on Rumi and Shams will be delivering speeches during the three-day seminar named "Around the Table of Shams and Rumi", the Book City deputy director Ali-Asghar Mohammadkhani said in a press release on Wednesday.

Asghar Dadbeh, Maryam Hosseini, Maryam Moshref, Zahra Hayati, Hamidreza Tavakkoli, Shirin Razmjou and Samira Qayyumi are among the participating scholars who will be discussing different aspects of Rumi's poetry and the articles of Shams.

Rumi undertook one or two journeys to Syria, during one of which he met the dervish Shams.

However, he was deeply influenced by Shams during their second visit in Konya on November 30, 1244.

For months, the two men constantly interacted, and as a result, Rumi neglected his disciples and family, who could not tolerate the close relationship.

One night in 1247, Shams disappeared forever. This experience turned Rumi into a poet. The Divan of Shams is a true translation of his experiences into poetry.

The programs will be available online at the Instagram of the book city.

## J.K. Rowling's "Pottermore Presents" appears in Persian

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** —A Persian translation of "Pottermore Presents", a book series by J.K. Rowling, has been published by Tandis Publishing House in Tehran.

The book has been translated into Persian by Vida Eslamieh. "Pottermore Presents" is a collection of Rowling's writing from the Pottermore archives, and short reads originally featured on pottermore.com with some exclusive new additions.

These stories take readers beyond the Harry Potter stories as Rowling reveals her inspiration, intricate details of characters' lives and surprises from the wizarding world.

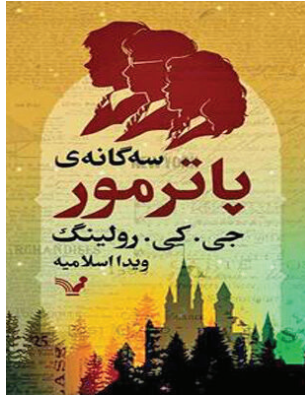
Rowling also gives readers a peek behind the closed curtains of Sybill Trelawney's life, and the readers will encounter the reckless, magical-beast-loving Silvanus Kettleburn along the way.

Rowling is best known as the author of the seven Harry Potter books, which were published between 1997 and 2007. The enduringly popular adventures of Harry, Ron and Hermione have gone on to sell over 500 million copies, be translated into over 80 languages and made into eight blockbuster films.

Besides the Harry Potter series, Rowling also wrote three short companion volumes for charity: "Quidditch through the Ages" and "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them", in aid of Comic Relief, and "The Tales of Beedle the Bard", in aid of Lumos.

In 2016, Rowling collaborated with playwright Jack Thorne and director John Tiffany to continue Harry's story in a stage play, "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child", which opened in London.

In the same year, she made her debut as a screenwriter with the film "Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them". Inspired by the original companion volume, it was the first in a series of new adventures featuring wizarding world magizoologist Newt Scamander. The second, "Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald", was released in 2018.



Front cover of the Persian translation of J.K. Rowling's book "Pottermore Presents".

# Iran launches intl. poster, cartoon contest in sympathy with Palestine

→ He also said that the bureau will make its best efforts to help establish an artistic movement against the Zionist regime so that the Palestinian artists can better form an artistic battle.

Shojaei-Tabatabai also for his part pointed to the recent republication of cartoons insulting Prophet Muhammad (S) by the French satirical magazine Charlie Hebdo, and said that they are intended

to create and promote hatred, and hurt the hearts of millions of Muslims across the world.

"The issue of Palestine and its identity is one of the major topics during these days when deals between some Arab states and Israel are being framed to look normal, while people and artists from the countries whose governments are trying to normalize their relations, disagree with these relations,"



A billboard shows a graphic design by Iranian artist Bahram Gharavi Manjili that was selected as one of the top ten works at the 13th edition of Art Moves – the International Festival of Art on Billboards underway in Torun, Poland.

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — Iranian graphic designer Bahram Gharavi Manjili has been selected as one of the top ten artists at the 13th edition of Art Moves –

## Bahram Gharavi among top ten artists at Poland's Art Moves festival on pandemic

the International Festival of Art on Billboards now underway in Torun, Poland.

"Epidemics – a global catastrophe, a punishment, or a chance to reinvent yourself and the world?" is the theme of this year's competition.

The official opening of the festival took place on September 11 at Rapackiego Square with an artistic performance named "What Is It Worth Getting Infected With?"

Gharavi Manjili's design shows a quote icon wearing a face mask.

The list of the top ten artists also includes Zoran Georgiev from Germany, Alex Gourinovski from Belarus, Alina Kashitsyna from Greece, Carilla Karahan from Turkey, Erick Ginard & Katherine R. Paz from Cuba, Magdalena Sikora and Piotr Depta-Klesta from Poland, Sichen Kong

## "That Night's Train" to compete in Dutch Cinekid film festival



A scene from "That Night's Train" by Iranian director Hamidreza Qotbi.

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — "That Night's Train" by Iranian director Hamidreza Qotbi will be competing in the Cinekid Festival, the largest international film, television and new media event for children in the Netherlands, Iran's Farabi Cinema Foundation has announced.

The film will be screened in the Screening Club section of the festival, which will go online in Amsterdam from October 7 to 16.

"That Night's Train" is about a writer who also works as a teacher. She narrates the story of an orphan girl to her students. Each student continues the story with her own imagination and this gives the teacher material for her new story.

The film was crowned best at the 49th Roshd International Film Festival in Tehran in November 2019.

"This Side, Other Side" by Lida Fazli is also an entry to the International Animated

Short Competition category of the festival.

The animated movie is a production from Iran's Documentary and Experimental Film Center.

We are always so afraid of the other side, even though we are all the same. When a war rips their world apart, a little girl and little boy from two sides come together to heal it with their magical crayon. But we all know that's just fantasy. Real wars are not so easy to stop; the damage is not so easy to fix.

## Director Majid Movasseghi on Videoex panel

**A R T** **TEHRAN** — The Switzerland-based Iranian filmmaker Majid Movasseghi was a member of the jury at the 22nd Videoex Experimental Film & Video Festival, which was organized in Zurich from September 11 to 20.

Movasseghi along with Australian art history expert Adam Jasper, who was another member of the jury, judged 36 movies from 20 countries to select winners.

"Past Perfect" by Portuguese director Jorge Jácome was named best film at the event, which is Switzerland's largest festival dedicated to experimental film and video.

In addition, "Charcoal Alley" by Iranian-British filmmaker Niaz Saghari won a special mention.

"This Day Won't Last" by Mouaad el Salam, "My Galactic Twin Galaction" by Sasha Svirsky, and "D. ^ ^ . \$ . @ ." by Samuel Fouracre were other movies receiving honorable mentions.

Focusing on films and videos beyond conventional narrative cinema, the Videoex festival also has the Swiss Competition section, in which "And a Porcelain Cat" by Juana Robles won first prize and "Membrane" by Max Philipp Schmid was the runner-up.

Movasseghi has been selected as a member of juries in numerous international events, including the 62nd DOK Leipzig in 2019 and the Visions du Reel International Film Festival in 2018.



Jury members Adam Jasper (L) and Majid Movasseghi (C), and Videoex president Partick Huber pose in an undated photo. (Videoex/Lorenzo Pusterla)

## Gabrielle Zevin's "Elsewhere" comes to Iranian bookstores

**CULTURE** **TEHRAN** — "Elsewhere" by Gabrielle Zevin, an internationally bestselling American author whose books have sold millions of copies and have been translated into over thirty languages, has recently been published in Persian in Tehran.

Khazeh is the publisher of the book translated by Mehrnaz Shirazi. The book was originally published by Farrar Straus Giroux in 2005.

"Elsewhere" is where fifteen-year-old Liz Hall ends up, after she has died. It is a place so much like the Earth, yet completely different. Here Liz will age backward from the day of her death until she becomes a baby again and returns to the Earth. But Liz wants to turn sixteen, not fourteen again. She wants to get her driver's license. She wants to graduate from high school and go to college. And now that she's dead, Liz is



Front cover of the Persian translation of American writer Gabrielle Zevin's novel "Elsewhere".

being forced to live a life she doesn't want with a grandmother she has only just met. And it is not going well. How can Liz let go of the only life she has ever known and embraced a new one? Is it possible that a life lived in reverse is no different from a life lived forward?

This moving, often funny book about grief, death and loss will stay with the reader long after the last page is turned.

"Elsewhere" is Zevin's best known young adult novel, which is an American Library Association Notable Children's Book. Of "Elsewhere", the New York Times Book Review wrote, "Every so often a book comes along with a premise so fresh and arresting it seems to exist in a category all its own..." "Elsewhere", by Gabrielle Zevin, is such a book."

She is a graduate of Harvard University and lives in Los Angeles.

Her eighth novel, "The Storied Life of

A.J. Fikry" (2014), spent months on the New York Times Bestseller List, reached #1 on the National Indie Best Seller List, and has been a bestseller all around the world. The Toronto Globe and Mail called the book "a powerful novel about the power of novels."

Her debut, "Margarettown", was a selection of the Barnes & Noble Discover Great New Writers program. "The Hole We're In" was a New York Times Editor's Choice title.

She is the screenwriter of "Conversations with Other Women", for which she received an Independent Spirit Award Nomination for Best First Screenplay.

In 2009, she and director Hans Canosa adapted her novel "Memoirs of a Teenage Amnesiac" into the Japanese film, "Dareka ga Watashi ni Kiss wo Shita". She has occasionally written criticism for the New York Times Book Review and NPR's All Things Considered.