

# TEHRAN TIMES

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## Report

### Biden appeals for calm as riots follow U.S. court verdict

TEHRAN - Violent civil unrest has gripped the United States again after a court acquitted a 19 year old white man of all charges after he shot dead two people and injured another during demonstrations against racial injustice in America. The trial has raised more questions about the fate of the suspect if he had been a black American instead of white.

In Portland, Oregon frustrated protesters have broken windows and thrown projectiles at police in reaction to the court's verdict. Portland sheriffs have declared a "riot" after what they said was "violent, destructive behavior by a significant part of the crowd." Such is the anger of the demonstrations; reports emerged the protesters had planned to burn down the city's Justice Center. Police say the gate to the Justice Center has been damaged. ▶ Page 5

## Interview

### Iran's football expert Maziar criticizes teams' performance in current season

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Football pundit Asghar Maziar believes that there is a direct correlation between the quality of Iran Professional League (IPL) games and the teams' tactical and physical readiness. He also claims that numbers alone tell the story of the current condition of defending champions Persepolis.

A total of four matches ended in a draw out of eight matches on Matchday 5, and only 10 goals were scored in a total of the games.

"We should analyze how the teams have prepared themselves for the league, tactically and physically," Maziar told Tehran Times.

"When you look at the matches, there are a lot of inconsistencies in the movements of the players which signals their tactical unpreparedness and lack of teamwork," he added.

"The question is whether the teams have not acted well in the transfer window or the players, especially the new signings, have not been able to show their abilities so far?" Maziar asked the question before answering his own question.

"Esteghlal and Sepahan, for example, have signed good players, at least on the paper. But they have not been successful in terms of performance, and the caliber of the new players was not outstanding in the past two games. ▶ Page 3

### Iran condemns UK decision to declare Hamas a terrorist organization

TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has reacted to a controversial UK decision to declare the Palestinian resistance group Hamas as a "terrorist organization."

"We condemn the UK's decision to declare the popular resistance movement of HAMAS a terrorist organization," the foreign minister said on Twitter, adding, "Rights of Palestinians cannot be trampled on by distorting facts. The only political solution for Palestine lies in holding a referendum among all indigenous residents."

UK Home Secretary Priti Patel on Friday announced the move, sparking outrage and condemnation around the world. In blacklisting Hamas, the UK joined the European Union and the United States which designated Hamas a terror group in 1995.

"Priti Patel has today (19 November) laid before Parliament an order to outlaw the militant Islamist terrorist movement Hamas in its entirety from the UK," the UK government said in a statement. ▶ Page 3

# UAE-Israel Ties Under the Spotlight Amid Emirati Outreach to Iran

▶ Page 3



### Iran plans to create 10GW capacity of renewable power plants in 4 years

TEHRAN - Head of Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA) has said the country plans to create 10,000 megawatts (MW) capacity of new renewable power plants across the country within the next four years.

Mahmoud kamani made the remarks in the opening ceremony of the 6th edition of Iran's International Renewable Energy Conference and Exhibition (Iran REC 2021) on Saturday, IRIB reported.

According to Kamani the mentioned power plants are going to be constructed mostly by the private sector and so far, several private

companies have announced readiness for generating 4,000 MW of the mentioned capacity.

"Following the call for the construction of these power plants, applications have been submitted for the construction of power plants for generating 40,000 megawatts of electricity so far, and we will conclude the required contracts in this field after receiving the necessary approval from the Economic Council."

The official put the current capacity of the country's renewable power plants at 905 MW, saying that such power plants account

only for one percent of the country's total power generation capacity.

"Currently, 30 percent of the world's electricity needs are provided by renewable energy sources, and some countries have even declared 2030 as the final year of using fossil fuels," he said.

"We are far behind the global standards in the development of renewable energy," he regretted.

Referring to another program for the development of renewable energies in the domestic sector, Kamani noted that to encourage households for ▶ Page 4

### Imam Mosque restoration enters final stage

TEHRAN - A masterpiece of Islamic architecture, Imam Mosque has entered its final stage of restoration, more than ten years since work began.

Imam Mosque, which is impressive because of its sheer size and incredible decorations, stands tall at the southern end of UNESCO-registered Naghsh-e Jahan Sq. (Imam Square) in Isfahan, central Iran.

"In the most optimistic case, the restoration of the dome of the Imam Mosque will be completed within the next month," ILNA quoted the director of the UNESCO site as saying on Friday.

"At present, portions 15th and 16th (of the floral dome) are being restored at the same time, and about two to three (square) meters have remained," Fariba Khatabakhsh said.

"Moreover, the scaffolding will be opened after a final inspection of the dome is carried out." ▶ Page 6



### CISM Wrestling Championship opening ceremony held

TEHRAN - The opening ceremony of the 5th CISM World Military Wrestling Championship was held in Tehran's Azadi Hall on Saturday.

A total of 300 athletes from 22 countries are expected to take part in the competition in two freestyle and Greco-Roman categories. The International Military Sports Council or Conseil International du Sport Militaire (CISM) is an international sports association, established in 1948 and headquartered in Brussels.

### TENDER RENEWAL INVITATION No: 400-03 MS

IRAN ALUMINIUM COMPANY (IRALCO), Would like to invite eligible producers/suppliers for the supply of 6000 PCS ceramic fiber plates on the basis of tender document (instruction and contract template). Interested companies may send their competitive offer till 5th December 2021, to below mentioned address.  
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Name of office: Secretariat of the Transaction Committee, Iranian Aluminum Company.  
Tel: +98 86 32162014 +98 86 32162181 Attention: Mr. Omidi - Mr. Nabiuni;  
Note:  
1- If participants are not able to send sealed envelopes on the base of above mentioned tender instruction, they can send their document through email to secretariat of the transaction Commission to this address: [tenders@iralco.ir](mailto:tenders@iralco.ir)  
2- Received emails should be based on terms and condition of tender document and required supporting document should send in two separated files (A, B)  
For more information  
Attention: Mrs. Mohammadi (Head of Spare part & Machinery department) Tel: +98 8632162402 Email: [e.mohammadi@iralco.net](mailto:e.mohammadi@iralco.net); [e.mohammadi@iralco.ir](mailto:e.mohammadi@iralco.ir)  
For more information, please visit our website <http://www.iralco.ir/> then click tender.

Public Relations Department of Iran Aluminum Company



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## Interview

### Iran is only Asian power that can help China to balance U.S. influence in West Asia: Egyptian professor

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN - A professor of political science at Beni Suef University says Iran is the only Asian player that can help China to contain the U.S. in West Asia.

"There is a Chinese conviction that Iran is the only Asian power militarily and geographically suitable to help China find a balance with the United States in the Middle East (West Asia), and to play the role of security guarantor of China's economic and vital interests," Nadia Helmy tells the Tehran Times.

"China has begun to adopt the approach of 'increasing presence in the Middle East (West Asia) issues' with the transformation of its policy to be a 'central player' in the affairs of the region, which represents a challenge to U.S. influence," Helmy remarks.

She notes that the "alliance between China, Russia and Iran in the face of the United States is getting stronger and more solid on the impact of a 'new cold war' between the West and China or the West and the East." ▶ Page 5

## Report

### Children's world tied up with coronavirus

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN - World Children's Day has been different over the last two years due to the prevalence of coronavirus, by imposing mandatory restrictions on them, causing many changes in social relations, education, and hobbies.

World Children's Day was first established in 1954 as Universal Children's Day and is celebrated on November 20 each year to promote international togetherness, awareness among children worldwide, and improving children's welfare.

On November 20, 1959, the UN General Assembly adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child. It is also the date in 1989 when the UN General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Since 1990, World Children's Day also marks the anniversary of the date that the UN General Assembly adopted both the Declaration and the Convention on children's rights.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how inequality affects the rights of every child. ▶ Page 7





## Iranian ambassador says it's necessary to clarify truth from false narratives

TEHRAN— Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations Office in Geneva said on Thursday that it is essential to make a distinction between truth and false narratives, according to IRNA.

Esmail Baghaei Hamaneh made the remarks as ambassadors of OIC states in UN offices in Geneva met with members of the UN Commission of Inquiry to investigate the Zionist regime's crimes against the oppressed people of Palestine.

While pointing to the crimes of the Zionist regime in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Baghaei Hamaneh noted: "The Commission of Inquiry has a historic responsibility to prevent the normalization of systematic human rights and humanitarian violations by the Israeli apartheid regime."

The ambassador underlined, "It is the duty of all of us to clarify the truth from false narrations. The narrative, which equates the victims of the Israeli regime's crimes with their killers, is shocking from humane perspective, legally unfounded, and morally shameful."

He added, "Therefore, we must raise the voice of justice-seeking and not allow the commission of war crimes, crimes against humanity and gross violations of human rights to become normal."

Due to the continuing crimes of the Zionist regime in Gaza and other parts of Palestine, a special meeting of the Human Rights Council was held on May 27, 2021 at the request of Islamic countries to halt the killing of the oppressed Palestinian people by the Zionist regime and a resolution was passed against the regime.

Accordingly, a commission consisting of three international lawyers was formed to investigate the crimes of the Zionist regime in Palestine.

## In new intelligence fiasco, Israeli minister's home cleaner charged with spying for Iran



Already disgraced by a spate of hackers' attacks, which led to an extensive leak of information related to Israel's critical facilities and top political figures, the regime's claims to intelligence invulnerability has been further debunked by a new report that a man working as a cleaner in the home of the Israeli minister of military affairs has been charged with spying for Iran.

According to an indictment published by Israel's so-called justice ministry on Thursday, Omri Goren Gorochovsky, a cleaner in the home of Israeli minister of military affairs Benny Gantz, was arrested on November 4.

Gorochovsky, a 37-year-old resident of the central city of Lod, has been charged with attempting to spy for the Black Shadow hacking group, which is alleged to be linked to Iran.

The indictment alleged that Gorochovsky and his partner worked as cleaners in Gantz's home in Rosh Haayin outside Tel Aviv, AFP reported.

The new revelation came after it was reported late last month that Black Shadow has broken into the servers of Israeli internet hosting company Cyberserve, bringing down a number of widely-used websites and warning the firm that it was in possession of data that could be leaked.

Following last month's cyberattack, Gorochovsky allegedly contacted Black Shadow, offering to pass on information from Gantz's home, sending photographs of various items in the Israeli minister's house to prove his credibility as an insider. Those included Gantz's work desk, a package with a sticker that contained an IP address, souvenirs from Gantz's previous role as Israeli armed forces chief of staff, family photos and a property tax



In addition to the Iranian ambassador, the ambassadors of Turkey, Bangladesh, Malaysia, Maldives and Palestine, as well as the representative of Egypt, spoke at the meeting, which was chaired by the Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Pakistan in Geneva as Coordinator of the OIC member states.

The participants at the meeting, while emphasizing the implementation of the tasks assigned to the members of the Commission of Inquiry by the Special Session of the UN Human Rights Council, stated that the Israeli regime should be held accountable for violating fundamental human rights and regime's impunity for its crimes must come to an end.

The Commission of Inquiry is scheduled to submit a report to the Human Rights Council in June next year.

Navi Pillay from South Africa, Miloon Kothari from India, and Chris Sidoti from Australia are members of the Commission of Inquiry.

The members of the commission, while highlighting the existing obstacles due to the political support of Western countries for the Israeli regime, called for the support of Islamic countries to compile reports and perform the tasks assigned to them by the resolution of the special session of the UN Human Rights Council.

payment receipt, AFP reported.

The report comes a day after the identity of a senior Israeli officer who was involved in cyberattacks on Iran was revealed.

According to a report by Fars news agency, the Israeli officer identified as Ohad Zeidenberg was working in the so-called "Unit 8200," which is an "Israeli Intelligence Corps unit" of the regime's military that is responsible for collecting signals intelligence and code decryption.

Zeidenberg is the CEO of Cyber Threat Intelligence (CTI) company, assisting in planning anti-Iran operations by the Israeli regime's security agencies and spy services, including Mossad, Fars said.

In yet another intelligence defeat for Israel, a hacker group called Moses Staff said on Monday that it had successfully conducted a massive cyberattack against Israel, broken into the servers of major companies and that it was in possession of comprehensive data that could be leaked.

The group announced that it had targeted a number of Israeli firms in its latest attack and acquired a vast trove of critical facilities' maps, which include information on the location and characteristics of vital systems across the occupied Palestinian territories.

Moses Staff stated that the information it had was of immense significance, amid international sanctions that prevent accurate access to aerial images of critical areas inside the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories.

The group later released a video showing photos and maps of the Tel Aviv regime's vital facilities.

Also, on November 3, Moses Staff said it had carried out a cyberattack on three Israeli engineering companies, less than two weeks after it leaked files it said it had obtained in an attack on the Israeli ministry of military affairs.

The group announced at the time that it had targeted Ehud Leviathan Engineering, David Engineers, and HGM Engineering in the attack.

The data leaked from the three companies included projects, maps, contracts, pictures, letters, and videoconferencing images.

(Source: Press TV)

TEHRAN - General Qassem Soleimani was able to organize the axis of resistance and thwart the conspiracy of the United States to the extent that the decline of the U.S. and its withdrawal from the region are the results of the efforts of Gen. Soleimani, a former Iranian diplomat has said.

In an interview with IRNA published on Saturday, Mohsen Pak'aeen called ISIS a "means" for the United States to partition the countries in the region.

Highlighting the goals that the U.S. sought by creating the takfiri terrorist groups in the region, Pak'aeen said, "The U.S. goal to create terrorist groups in the West Asia region, especially ISIS, is to destabilize Muslim countries and weaken the opposition to the Zionist regime to ensure its security."

The expert on international affairs noted that the United States considers the security of the Zionist regime as one of its strategic plans, and in this goal both the Democrats and Republicans are unanimous in upholding this strategy.

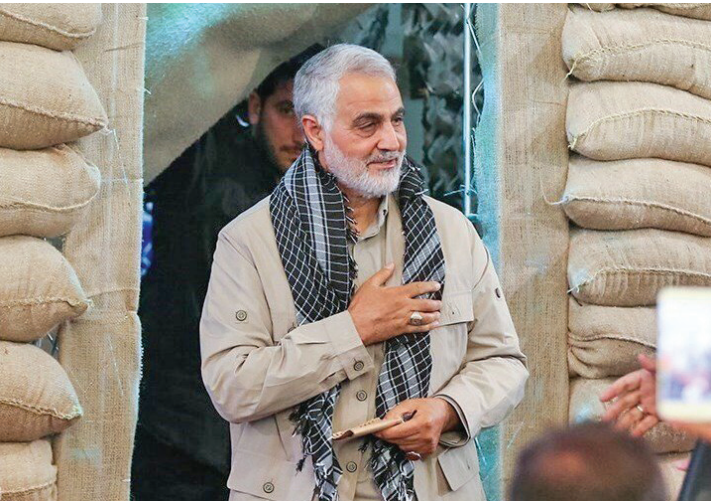
"During a period, the U.S., both because of financial problems and the pressure on their troops, decided to withdraw from the region," he said, noting that during this period, the United States sought to establish terrorist groups to pursue its goals in West Asia, including Syria and Iraq.

Arguing that ISIS was created to pursue this goal, Pak'aeen said in line with this strategy some reactionary countries in the region also armed and financed ISIS.

The former Iranian ambassador to Azerbaijan said, "The goal of the United States, Europe and reactionary countries was to overthrow the legitimate government of Bashar al-Assad by the ISIS leverage and to bring a government into power in Syria that will be pro-American, and at the same time they were interested in disintegrating Syria to several parts."

"This strategy is also being pursued by the Americans in relation to other Islamic countries, who are trying to weaken the big Islamic countries to ensure the security of the Zionist regime by partitioning Islamic countries and turning them into several small countries," Pak'aeen pointed out.

The analyst also said the Americans intended to overthrow the Bashar al-Assad government and disintegrate Syria. The Europeans also supported such a policy in Syria under the name of establishing democracy in Syria, he



## Ex-diplomat: Gen. Soleimani thwarted U.S. plot in the region

added.

The Americans armed ISIS in different parts of Syria and then pursued their goals, causing countless damage, he stated.

"They also inflicted a lot of damage and killed innocent people, and we saw that it did not matter to them whether the killed and the injured were Shias or Sunnis, and after Syria, they extended the same project to Iraq."

The expert highlighted, "They tried to divide Iraq into three parts, Shia, Kurdish and Sunni, and weaken the two powerful Muslim countries in the region, Iraq and Syria, which had anti-Zionist motives, and eliminate them from the fight against the Zionist regime."

Further in his remakes, he explained the role and position of General Soleimani, the commander of the Quds Force of the IRGC, in extinguishing the sedition of ISIS.

"General Soleimani was able to find out the sedition of ISIS, and through his insight he identified all the plans of the Americans and their European and regional supporters and stood against

the plans of the Americans with his own plans. After 6 years he succeeded in defeating ISIS, and the release of Al Bukamal promised that the end of ISIS would come in another three months, which happened."

Pak'aeen noted that Gen. Soleimani was a person who, apart from Islamic, mystical, ideological dimensions and trust in God, was gifted with deep insight to predict events and thwart the enemy's plan to the extent that U.S. generals "usually respected him", and despite the fact that General Soleimani was an enemy of the United States, they considered him a military legend who, through his special tact, could stand against the United States and thwart their plans.

The former diplomat reiterated, "General Soleimani put the establishment of the Axis of Resistance on his agenda to counter the American conspiracies. Considering that the anti-Zionist movements in the region, including in Lebanon, Palestine and other regions, trusted him and believed in his honesty, he was soon able to form the Axis of Resistance consisting of Hezbollah, and Palestinian forces such as Hamas

and Islamic Jihad, as well as the internal forces of Syria, Iraq, Afghanistan and Yemen."

The expert underscored that today, the Axis of Resistance is in fact the most important institution that has stood against the United States and the Zionist regime in the region, following the decline of the United States and the Zionist regime.

The former diplomat stated, "If today it is said that the United States is on the decline and no one doubts it, or it is predicted that the Zionist regime will move on the path of decline, this is due to General Soleimani's plans to create and support the Axis of Resistance."

Pak'aeen went on to say that Gen. Soleimani as a courageous commander stood side by side with the Axis of Resistance, and as a result, he succeeded in isolating not only ISIS but also the United States and the Zionist regime.

If the United States did leave a record of an influential country in West Asia, it was due to General Soleimani who nullified the plots of the United States and the Zionist regime through his insightfulness.

On whether the assassination of Gen. Soleimani was a retribution for undermining ISIS in the region, he said, "The United States put the assassination of General Soleimani on the agenda because of his role in curbing and destroying the sedition of ISIS, and cowardly, illegally and desperately martyred this great general and his Iraqi associate Abu Mahdi Muhandis"

"At the same time, in order to be able to exploit the remnants of ISIS, and after defeating them in Iraq and Syria, the U.S. transferred them to Afghanistan with the help of the Zionist regime, and today we see that ISIS in Afghanistan also implements U.S. policies to destabilize Afghanistan."

He expressed hope that the ruling groups in Afghanistan and all Mujahedeen groups would be able to stand against ISIS and not allow the United States to turn Afghanistan into another Syria to dominate the country.

The expert said, "Of course, in this regard, the countries of the region, especially Iran, Russia and China, and countries with a history of fighting terrorism must be vigilant and not allow ISIS in Afghanistan to meet U.S. goals in Afghanistan through their own plans and contacts with the current Afghan governing body"

## Iranian humanitarian aid reaches Afghanistan

TEHRAN — Neda Mohammad Nadim, Commander of Nangarhar Police, on Saturday confirmed that Iran's humanitarian aid has reached Nangarhar.

The local security official made the remarks in a meeting with Majid Sadeghi Dolatabadi, Consul General of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Jalalabad.

According to a statement issued by the Nangarhar provincial press office, the meeting was held at Nangarhar airport about Iran's humanitarian aid to the Afghan people.

The statement said, "A plane carrying humanitarian aid from Iran is scheduled to arrive at Nangarhar airport soon and the aid will be distributed to the families of the martyrs and the wounded."

Recently, Seyyed Hassan Mortazavi, Iran's Deputy Ambassador to Afghanistan, said that twelve aid cargoes carrying Iranian aid have been delivered to the people of Afghanistan.

He noted that the Leader of the Islamic Revolution has emphasized the continuation of humanitarian

assistance to "the oppressed" people of Afghanistan.

Mortazavi also noted that the humanitarian aid from the Islamic Republic to the people of Afghanistan has been continuing over the past three months, during the time that Afghanistan has been the scene of drastic political changes.

The Iranian diplomat also stated that the aid from the Islamic Republic has increased, especially after the terrorist attacks in the provinces of Kunduz and Kandahar.

**MORE EXPENSIVE THAN PEOPLE'S LIVES**

Bernie Sanders, the junior United States senator from Vermont says "one out of five Americans cannot afford the prescriptions their doctors write, and thousands die each year because they lack the money to buy the medicine they need."



# UAE-Israel ties under the spotlight amid Emirati outreach to Iran

TEHRAN – The United Arab Emirates is again reaching out to Iran to defuse tensions, but this time it's doing so under different circumstances in the region, where ever-changing dynamics necessitate new approaches.

Two days after a senior Emirati official vowed to de-escalate tensions with Tehran, world media reported that a high-level Emirati delegation will visit Iran soon.

Citing Iranian and Persian Gulf officials, Reuters said the visit comes as the UAE works to de-escalate tensions with Iran.

The officials declined to confirm whether UAE's top national security adviser Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed Al Nahyan would lead the visit.

Sheikh Tahnoun, a brother of Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Zayed, has been at the forefront of the UAE efforts to cool tensions with two archrivals of the Emirates – Turkey and Qatar. He paid surprise visits to both countries and met with their leaders. So, it's not surprising if he shows up in Tehran.

In October 2019, Sheikh Tahnoun paid a secret visit to the Iranian capital amid rising tensions, according to the Middle East Eye.

While in 2019 the Emirati diplomatic contacts with Iran were necessitated by a dangerous escalation of tensions in the Persian Gulf under Donald Trump, the UAE's current diplomatic outreach comes against a backdrop of renewed Emirati push to mend ties with all major players in the region, with Iran coming last in place after Qatar and Turkey.

But will the UAE's drive for



de-escalation with Iran succeed this time? Obviously, the answer largely depends on the seriousness of the Emirati side.

Back in 2019, the UAE said it wanted de-escalation with Iran. “At every turn, the UAE has avoided conflict with Iran. We will continue to take all measures to de-escalate tensions and reduce the potential for hostilities.... We seek a pragmatic, diplomatic path to lowering tensions and creating an opening for meaningful talks,” said then UAE Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Anwar Gargash.

As was the case in 2019, Gargash, now a diplomatic advisor to the UAE president, has recently said his country wants de-escalation with Iran. “We have taken steps to deescalate tensions, as we have no interest in a confrontation. The whole region would pay the price of such a confrontation for decades to come,” he told the Abu Dhabi Strategic Debate conference.

The UAE's renewed interest in patching up relations with Iran sparked speculation over whether the Emiratis would succeed in making progress in

terms of de-escalating tensions with Iran.

Gargash has said they are “deeply concerned” about Iran's policies in the region and hinted that Iran's cessation of what he called “interference” in the region would pave the way for better relations between Tehran and Abu Dhabi.

This is a non-starter as it deals with the whole situation only through the Emirati perspective and fails to address the concerns of Iran.

Tehran has long complained about the UAE's growing ties with Israel whether after Abu Dhabi's normalization of ties with Tel Aviv or beforehand. Now that the UAE seeks to improve relations with Iran, these ties will likely turn into a major obstacle.

When the UAE normalized relations with Israel in 2020, Iran's message was clear: don't give Israel a foothold in the Persian Gulf.

The UAE, however, moved so far as to strengthen military and intelligence cooperation with Israel, something that even Jordan and Egypt, the first among Arab states to sign peace

deals with Israel, did not do.

The Emirates seeks to improve relations with Iran at a time when Israel-UAE relations are being portrayed as a coalition against Iran. This assessment has been reinforced with recent exchanges of visits by the top commanders of Israeli and Emirati air forces.

On Thursday, the Emirati military-industrial Edge Group signed a “strategic agreement” with Israel Aerospace Industries, a leading aerospace company, for the joint design of a series of best-in-class 170-m adjustable unmanned vessels for the full range of military and commercial applications.

This kind of Israeli-Emirati interaction is incompatible with Abu Dhabi's stated goal of improving ties with Iran. Because they put a big question mark over the goal.

In Iran, decision-makers seem to be warily dealing with the Emiratis. Many observers believe that Iranian officials will cautiously welcome the UAE's willingness for de-escalation but at the same time, they will keep a watchful eye on the UAE's next moves and the Arab country's possible involvement in Israeli-led anti-Iran adventures.

The UAE may seek to justify its relations with Israel as a sovereign issue with no direct impact on its relations with Iran. But this is not how things are seen in Tehran. Many in Iran and beyond believe that Israeli-Emirati relations can't be separated from those between Iran and the UAE.

This makes it all the more important to the UAE to clarify its intentions and distance itself from ill-advised Israeli-American adventurism.

## SPORTS

### Iran move up in FIFA ranking

TEHRAN – Iran national football team moved up one place to 21st in the latest FIFA ranking released on Friday.

Dragan Skocic's defeated Lebanon and Syria last week and need just one win to book their place in the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Iran are the best Asian team in the ranking, followed by Japan (26th), South Korea (33rd), and Australia 35th).

Belgium remain in the top of the updated list, followed by Brazil and France.

The next FIFA World Ranking will be published on Dec. 23, 2021.

### Jitske Visser elected Chairperson of Athletes’ Council

The International Paralympic Committee (IPC) has announced that Jitske Visser has been elected as Chairperson of the IPC Athletes' Council for the next three years.

Visser takes over the role of Chairperson from Canadian Chelsey Gotell, who was elected to the Council in 2017. The 29-year-old, who won gold with the Netherlands Women's Wheelchair Basketball team at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympic Games, was elected to the IPC Athletes' Council in September.

The IPC Athletes' Council is a group of elected athlete representatives who act as the collective voice of Paralympic and Para athletes within the IPC and the greater Paralympic Movement. Its role is to provide feedback and advice, and report to the IPC Governing Board on behalf of and in the interest of the athletes in all IPC matters. The Chair is elected by their fellow Athletes' Council members.

A four-time Paralympian, Visser's first Paralympic Games as an athlete was at the Beijing 2008 Paralympic Games, where aged just 15 she was the youngest member of the Dutch delegation. She won bronze with the Netherlands Women's basketball team at both the London 2012 and Rio 2016 Paralympic Games. Her finest moment came at Tokyo 2020 when the Netherlands beat China 50-31 in the gold medal match. Her Netherlands team are also the reigning world champions.

The IPC Athletes' Council is made up of nine athletes in total, which includes the six summer athletes and three winter athletes. The five summer sport members in addition to Visser are: Martina Caironi (Italy, Para Athletics), Daniel Dias (Brazil, Para Swimming), Omara Durand Elias (Cuba, Para Athletics), Takayuki Suzuki (Japan, Para Swimming), and Zahra Nemati (Iran, Para Archery). The three winter sport council members are Marie Bochet (France, Para Alpine Skiing), Birgit Skarstein (Norway, Para Nordic Skiing), and Rudolf Klemetti (Finland, Para Nordic Skiing).

In addition to the nine elected members, the IPC Athletes' Council can co-opt up to three additional members on two-year terms, to ensure there is balance between gender, regions, sports and disability groups, Paralympic.org reported.

Zahra Nemati, Iranian archer who won her third consecutive gold medal at a Paralympic Games in Tokyo, said “Athletes with disabilities are capable individuals who laugh in the face of world challenges. I want to be a loud voice of these strong individuals in IPC and all around the world.”

### Iran to play Romania in 2021 World Women’s Handball opener

TEHRAN – Iran will start the 2021 World Women's Handball Championship with a match against Romania.

The match will take place in Spain's Castelló on Dec. 3.

Iran will also meet Norway and Kazakhstan in Group C on Dec. 5 and 7, respectively.

The Iranian side won their berth for the first time in the 2021 AHF Asian Women's Handball Championship in Jordan in September where the Persians came fourth after South Korea, Japan and Kazakhstan.

“We have a lot of hope for the championship in Spain. I know it will be a great experience for my teammates and me. Everything is good and we will try to show a good performance in Spain,” said Shaghayegh Bapiri, Iran's top scorer at the AHF Asian Women's Handball Championship, with 32 goals in six games.

The tournament will be held in four Spanish cities namely, Llíria, Torrevieja, Castelló and Granollers from Dec. 1 to 19.

### Iran to compete at World Taekwondo Women’s Open C’ships

TEHRAN – Iran will send an eight-member team to the first World Taekwondo Women's Open Championships in Riyadh next week.

The three-day G-4 event, due to start on November 25, will be the first major women's taekwondo event held in Saudi Arabia and has attracted entries from 170 athletes representing 36 countries.

Athletes will compete in eight weight categories in matches comprising three two-minute rounds at the Green Halls in the Saudi Arabian capital.

The competition will implement a single-elimination system with the first two days of competition dedicated to preliminaries and semi-finals before the finals on November 27.

Winning athletes will secure 40.0 ranking points with second and third place taking 24 and 14.4 ranking points respectively.

#### Iran’s Women’s Team:

- 46kg: Saeideh Nasiri
- 53kg: Ghazal Soltani
- 57kg: Nahid Kiani, Zahra Sheidaei
- 62kg: Kowsar Asaseh, Narges Mirmouroollahi
- 73kg: Melika Mirhosseini
- +73kg: Zeynab Esmaeili

### Iran’s football expert Maziar criticizes teams’ performance in current season

From Page 1 ► “Persepolis, on the other hand, lost some key players and now lack the requisite strength and depth required to tackle multiple competitions. Numbers alone tell the story of the current squad of Persepolis. Just look at the stats of the created chances and shots on target in each game by Persepolis and compare it with that of the team's previous seasons,” the Iranian football expert added.

Holders Persepolis were held to a 1-1 draw by Mes in Rafsanjan. They have just two wins out of the five games in the current season.

Aluminum are at the top of the IPL table with 11 points ahead of Esteghlal due to superior goal difference.

“At the beginning of every football season, some teams may get good results, but over time their position in the table will probably change. Aluminum and Gol Gohar have had an impressive run so far, but let see what happens in the next weeks. I think that same as the previous season, Esteghlal, Sepahan, and Persepolis, even with the Red's current problems, have the potential to race for the IPL title more than other teams,” Maziar concluded.

## Iran condemns UK decision to declare Hamas a terrorist organization

From Page 1 ► It added, “The organisation’s military wing is already banned in the UK but following a new assessment the Home Secretary has concluded it should be proscribed in its entirety.”

The UK government further said, “Hamas’ military wing was proscribed by the UK in March 2001. At the time it was the Government’s assessment that there was a distinction between the political and military wings of the group. This distinction is now assessed to be artificial, with Hamas as an organisation involved in committing, participating, preparing for, and encouraging acts of terrorism.”

The British move drew criticism from many groups in the region, including the Palestinian Authority in Ramallah.

the Palestinian Foreign Ministry condemned the British government's decision to designate the Hamas movement as a terrorist organization, describing it as an “unjustified attack on the Palestinian people.”

In a statement, the Palestinian Foreign Ministry underlined that the British government, with this decision, placed obstacles in the way of achieving peace and obstacles in the way of efforts to consolidate the truce and rebuild the Gaza Strip.

The Palestinian statement said, “Unfortunately, this British decision comes a week after the Israeli Prime Minister asked his British counterpart on the sidelines of the climate summit meeting in Glasgow to designate Hamas as a terrorist organization. We believe that in line with this request, the

British Home Secretary (Priti Patel) announced this decision during her visit to Washington.”

The statement put the spotlight on Patel's track record in supporting Israeli occupation.

“The same minister who, in previous years, visited the settlements of the Golan Heights in coordination with the settlements council there and without obtaining the approval of her government,” the statement said, adding, “This time, there is approval for this step by her government and a reflection of a dangerous shift in the traditional British policy towards the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, by adopting Israeli positions under flimsy justifications and arguments.”

The Palestinian Foreign Ministry called on the British government to stop “the policy of double standards” and “immediately retract this decision,” warning that it will study with the concerned authorities “the effects and consequences of this decision on the Palestinian-British bilateral relations and its impact on Britain's traditional role in the region.”

In addition, a parliamentary group in Iran also condemned the British decision. International Conference on Palestinian Intifada, a parliamentary group in the Iranian parliament, described the move as inhumane.

“We condemn the British government's inhumane move to designate the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas as a terrorist entity,” the Conference said in a statement.

It added, “Undoubtedly, this cowardly act is a move to continue the betrayal of Balfour's

statement on the occupation of Palestinian land and the displacement of millions of Palestinians and the massacre of thousands of innocent men, women and children.”

The Balfour Declaration was a public statement issued by the British government in 1917 during the First World War, which laid the foundations for the entity of Israel.

Mohammed Ali al-Houthi, a member of Yemen's Supreme Political Council, also pointed to the same thing. “The decision is not surprising at all as Britain is the founder of the (Israeli) occupation,” he said, adding, “The move coincides with the anniversary of the Balfour Declaration, and underscores Britain's continued support for the criminal regime.”

Khalil al-Hayya, deputy head of the Hamas political bureau, also denounced the British move, saying, “We had hoped that Britain would not commit a new crime against the Palestinian nation following the Balfour Declaration.”

He added, “We hope to obtain our rights without any bloodshed. However, there is no one in the world to have won their freedom without resistance. Britain will bear the brunt of any Israeli escalation as a result of its decision.”

He pointed out, “We are not ashamed to say that we are resisting the occupation. Resistance is a right guarantee in accordance with international law and regulations.”

A coalition of Palestinian factions also denounced the move. They called on the British Parliament to overturn the government's decision.

historical ties with the Republic of Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia and Turkey which is also an important component of providing a ground for compromise.”

The parliamentarian highlighted that easing tension between the countries of Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan could lead to restoring security and stability to the South Caucasus region.

Maleki, a former diplomat, noted:



“We hope that the ‘Caucasus 3+3’ talks will lead to favorable results so that we can witness regional synergy.”

## Iran’s entry in six-party talks will help stabilize South Caucasus: MP

TEHRAN – A member of the parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee has said that Iran's participation in the six-party talks on the South Caucasus conflict would bring security and stability back to the region, IRIB news agency reported on Saturday.

Reacting to an emphasis by Russia and Turkey on Iran's participation in the “Caucasus 3+3” talks, Fada-Hosseini Maleki

said: “What is happening near the northern borders of our country is a matter of concern.”

The representative of Zahedan in the parliament said the armed conflicts between Baku and Yerevan were provoked by the Israelis.

Pointing out that Iran is the power with no rival in the region and its presence in the six-party Caucasus talks will be very effective, the MP stated: “Iran has deep-rooted



## Iran plans to create 10GW capacity of renewable power plants in 4 years

From page 1 ► constructing such power plants the Energy Ministry has announced that it will buy their surplus generated electricity at a guaranteed price.

He further pointed to the indigenization of the knowledge for the construction of the equipment used in renewable power plants as another priority of the Energy Ministry and SATBA, saying: “Currently, the construction of solar panels and wind power plants is completely indigenized, and we must strengthen our producers to finally become able to build all the required equipment from



start to finish, in this regard, of course, some enterprises have announced their readiness.”

## Iran, Pakistan reach barter trade agreement



TEHRAN – Iran and Pakistan have reached an agreement to use barter trade in order to boost bilateral trade in the face of U.S. sanctions, Pakistani news outlets reported on Friday.

As reported by DAWN newspaper, the decision was announced by Pakistani Commerce Secretary Sualeh Faruqi in a meeting of the Senate Standing Committee on Commerce.

According to Sualeh, due to the lack of banking channels with Iran, some issues existed in trading with Tehran and the barter trade agreement is expected to resolve such issues. He further said that barter trade with Iran would start in a month.

Earlier this month, Iran and Pakistan had also announced that a free trade agreement between the two sides was going to be implemented within the next three months as the two sides looking to expand the annual trade exchanges to \$5 billion by 2023.

The MOU for the new trade target

was reached during the ninth meeting of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee which was held on November 6 in Tehran.

Co-chaired by Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi Amin and Pakistan's Adviser to Prime Minister on Commerce and Investment Abdul Razak Dawood, the meeting was attended by high ranking Iranian and Pakistani officials as well as traders and businessmen from the two countries.

Banking relations, customs cooperation, border markets, barter trade, and coronavirus pandemic issues were among the subjects discussed at the meeting, after which the businessmen from the two sides held B2B meetings to explore avenues of mutual cooperation.

Speaking in the meeting, Fatemi Amin expressed Iran's readiness for removing barriers in the way of the activities of Pakistani companies in Iran, saying: “With the measures taken, the existing barriers will be removed within the next three months and the trade processes will be facilitated. Hopefully, the Pakistani government will also provide Iranian companies with the same facilities.”

“By removing the existing problems and obstacles to the development of economic and trade cooperation between Iran and Pakistan the volume of trade between the two countries will increase to five billion dollars in the next two years,” he added.

# Monthly loading, unloading of goods rise 12.5% in ports

TEHRAN – Loading and unloading of goods increased 12.5 percent in the ports of Iran during the seventh Iranian calendar month Mehr (September 23-October 22), as compared to the same month in the past year, according to the data released by Iran's Port and Maritime Organization (PMO).

The PMO's data indicate that 11.968 million tons of commodities have been loaded and unloaded in the ports during the seventh month, while the figure was 10.642 million tons in the same month of the previous year.

Loading and unloading of basic goods also rose 29.5 percent to 2.621 million tons in Mehr of this year from 2.024 million tons in Mehr of past year.

Meanwhile, as previously reported, loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran rose 10.7 percent during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), as compared to the same period in the previous year.

According to PMO's Ports Affairs Director Ravanbakhsh Behzadian, loading and unloading of goods at the country's commercial ports



reached 82.24 million tons in the mentioned period, while the figure stood at 74.31 million tons in the past year's same time span.

During the said seven months, unloading and loading operations in the container sector reached 11.09 million tons, for dry bulk the figure stood at 26.56 million tons, in liquid bulk the figure was 2.56 million tons, while

for general cargo (general and miscellaneous goods) it was 11.46 million tons and for the petroleum products loading and unloading volume

amounted to 30.57 million tons, Behzadian said.

He noted that the loading and unloading operations in the dry bulk sector grew by 14.5 percent in the mentioned period compared to the last year's same time span, while in the liquid bulk sector the figure increased by 27.5 percent, in the general cargo sector the growth was 8.8 Percent and the petroleum sector also experienced a growth of 17.1 percent compared to the same period last year.

While Iran is combating the

U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play some significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition, to facilitate loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

It is worth mentioning that PMO has defined a high number of projects to develop and improve the country's ports, as the country aims to double the capacity of its ports in a course of five years.

According to the Ports and Maritime Organization, the capacity of the country's ports has increased from 180 million tons in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (ended in March 2014) to 250 million tons in the previous calendar year.

The total capacity of the country's ports is expected to reach 280 million tons by the end of the current fiscal year (late March 2022).

## Aluminum ingot production up 23% in 7 months on year

TEHRAN – Production of aluminum ingot in Iran rose 23 percent during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) announced.

The country's seven-month aluminum ingot output stood at 305,101 tons, while the figure was 247,335 tons in the same time span of the previous year.

As previously announced by IMIDRO, the production of aluminum ingot in Iran rose 61 percent during the previous Iranian calendar year 1399 (ended on March 20), compared to the figure for the preceding year.

The country's aluminum ingot output stood at 446,800 tons in the previous year.

Iran's major aluminum producers had managed to produce 278,318 tons of the product in the Iranian calendar year 1398.

The country's aluminum ingot production in the Iranian calendar year 1398 had



declined eight percent in comparison to the figure for its preceding year.

IMIDRO data show that among the country's top producers, Iranian Aluminum Company (IRALCO) had the best performance in the previous year producing 185,000 tons of aluminum ingots.

Aluminum ingot production in the country reached 41,000 tons in the last month of the previous year (February 19-March 20), registering a 38 percent rise compared to the 30,000 tons in the preceding year's same period.

Annual production of the aluminum

ingot in the country is planned to increase 63 percent by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2022).

Last year, during the inauguration ceremony of Iran's biggest aluminum production complex (in the central Fars province), the former industry minister said the country's aluminum production is expected to be doubled with that unit going operational.

The official put the value of the Iranian mining industry's production at about \$22 billion, saying that the country is relatively self-sufficient in minerals and a great deal is also exported every year.

He went on underlying the country's capacities in the sector, saying that Iran is ranked 18th among the world's top aluminum producers, and with this new plant going operational the country will climb four places to stand at 14th place.”

Iran plans to reach the annual production of 1.5 million tons of aluminum ingot by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025-March 2026).

## NIOC seeking new strategies for attracting investment

TEHRAN – The Managing Director of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has said his company is seeking new win-win strategies for attracting investment in the country's oil and gas industry, Shana reported.

“When talking about the need to improve contracts and increase the bargaining power and attractiveness of projects, we do not necessarily mean changing the nature of previous approaches, but it means seeking to improve and create win-win situations in the investment sector,” Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr said on Saturday.

Khojasteh-Mehr stated

that oil activities are both capital-intensive and income-generating and that the profitability of activities in this industry is highly dependent on investment.

Stating that the National Iranian Oil Company in the current situation should consider a variety of approaches, the official said: “NIOC has important missions ahead in the next few years, and in this regard, it is necessary to manage the company's investment and business affairs in coordination with other sectors.

He further underlined the negative impact of the U.S. sanctions on the country's oil industry, especially with regard



to foreign investment in this sector, and said: “When it is not possible to make full use of international capacity, we must maximize our domestic revenues. Fortunately, in recent years, good decisions have been made by the board of directors of the National Iranian Oil Company, which will help complete the industry's value chain to generate more revenue.”

The NIOC head also stated that the ground must be provided for enterprises active in the downstream sector to invest in the upstream sector.

“When the upstream sector provides feedstock for the downstream sector, so the downstream sector can also participate in the development of that sector, which also has suitable attractions.”

The official also emphasized the significance of exporting engineering and technical services, saying: “The export of technical and engineering services must be improved and promoted and we must put serious measures on the agenda in this regard.”

Organization (SEO) has said the government is following new strategies to avoid pre-ordered pricing in the stock market in the long term.

“The government's policy, in the long run, is to avoid pre-ordered pricing. This policy has been repeatedly stressed by the president and the government's economic team and has been placed on the government's agenda,” Majid Eshqi said on November 14.

TEDPIX lost 46,000 points (3.2 percent) to 141 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

During the past week, the indices of Isfahan Refining Company, Mobarakeh Steel Company, Social Security Investment Company, and Barekat Pharmaceutical Group were the most widely followed ones.

Head of Iran's Securities and Exchange

## Majlis reviewing a plan for “elimination of obstacles” in electricity industry

TEHRAN – The Energy Committee of the Iranian Parliament (Majlis) is reviewing a comprehensive plan for the elimination of obstacles in the way of the development of the country's electricity sector, a member of the mentioned committee said on Saturday.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of Iran's International Renewable Energy Conference and Exhibition (Iran REC 2021) Malek Shariati said: “The plan for the elimination of obstacles in the electricity industry is being finalized, and six programs of this plan have been allocated to the renewable energy sector.”

According to Shariati, the said plan was proposed to the parliament following the continuous power outages during the current year's summer peak consumption period.

“After being finalized in the Energy Committee, the plan will be reviewed in an open session of the parliament for final approval and then it will be implemented,” he noted.

Pointing to some of the provisions of the mentioned comprehensive plan, the official said, based on this plan we have considered the construction of 10,000 megawatts capacity of new power plants by major industries of which at least 1,000 MW should be renewable power plants.

The official also noted that based on the



mentioned plan, major government entities will be obliged to meet at least 10 percent of their electricity needs from renewable sources.

Allowing private contractors to be able to export their generated electricity without the need for exporting through the Energy Ministry is also another program that is being considered under the said comprehensive plan, according to the official.

The 6th edition of Iran's International Renewable Energy Conference and Exhibition is being held in Tehran during November 20-21.

This international conference and exhibition are aimed at examining the challenges facing the development of renewable energies in Iran and providing solutions to improve the business environment in this area during the coronavirus pandemic and amid sanctions.

## TEDPIX loses 27,200 points on Saturday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 27,292 points to 1.383 million on Saturday.

As reported, over 5.308 billion securities worth 40.284 trillion rials (about \$959 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index lost 22,802 points, and the second market's index dropped 46,150 points.



From page 1 ► Following is the text of the interview:

**How do you see Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed's visit to Syria? What are its implications?**

To answer this question, it is necessary to verify and respond to number of inquiries and some other different analyses, such as:

A) The UAE's motives for taking such a step of rapprochement with Syria, through the visit of the UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed to Damascus on November 9 and the meeting with Syrian President Bashar Al-Assad.

B) Rather, will this Emirati step encourage the rest of the Arab countries to follow its footsteps and open up to the Syrian regime?

C) What is the fate of the Syrian opposition to the Emirati-Syrian rapprochement, and is this UAE move aimed at weakening the Syrian opposition track, especially the Syrians opposing the regime of President Bashar Al-Assad abroad?

D) Then, it will remain to analyse the Syrian opposition's options if more Arab countries open up to Al-Assad's government.

E) Will there be a Syrian-Emirati consensus towards the step of solving the return of Syrian refugees from abroad and the settlement of their situation with the current Syrian regime?

F) Finally, the question arises, regarding the impact of the intensity of American and international criticism of the UAE's step of rapprochement with the Syrian regime and President Bashar Al-Assad on the completion of the remaining Arab steps seeking to integrate and return Syria once more to its membership in the League of Arab States?

G) In fact, the most dangerous and important analysis for me remains completely analytical, namely: What was raised about the fact that the UAE obtained the green light from the United States of America itself and from the Israeli side before the visit of the UAE Foreign Minister Bin Zayed to the Emirates, in pursuit of forming UAE-Israeli alliance against Iran, and seeking to neutralize the Syrian regime in the face of these Iranian moves as a closely related ally of the Iranians? Accordingly, we can analyse that, as follows:

1. Perhaps what reinforces and supports my recent view regarding the Israeli (Persian) Gulf mobilization with the help of the UAE and Washington's support to confront Iran through Syria is the joint security coordination between Israel and the Emirati and Bahraini naval forces to conduct joint naval manoeuvres in the Red Sea, which lasted for five full days, which began on Wednesday, November 10, 2021, which comes at the same time as the UAE rapprochement with Syria, meaning:

2. As I mentioned, the joint naval manoeuvres between Israel and the UAE at the same time as the UAE visit confirms the continuation of joint security coordination between Israel and the UAE, especially to curb and limit Iranian influence. Knowing that the step of joint security coordination between the Emirates and Israel began three years ago, when the naval forces of the (Persian) Gulf states, mainly the UAE and Bahrain, began conducting joint naval manoeuvres with the Israeli side, which were the first for them ever with their Israeli counterpart, in cooperation with the forces of the United States of America's Navy.

3. We find that the current joint naval manoeuvres in the Red Sea with the participation of the UAE and Israel, with the participation of warships from the Emirates, Bahrain and Israel, in addition to the United States of America, is a "joint Israeli-Gulf assertion" to send a message to the Iranian side, that these naval manoeuvres with Israel, aims to:

4. This was confirmed by the U.S. Naval Forces Central Command, in an official statement, to confirm that:

"The Israeli, Emirati, and Bahraini training aims to enhance the ability to work collectively among

# Iran is only Asian power that can help China to balance U.S. influence in West Asia: Egyptian professor



the forces participating in the manoeuvres."

5. From here, we understand that the step of joint Israeli-Emirati security coordination, and the consequent step of the joint naval manoeuvres, came after the signing of the Abraham Accords in September 2020 and the normalization of their relations with Israel by the UAE and Bahrain. Since then, it has strengthened the diplomatic, intelligence relations between Israel, the UAE and Bahrain, as the two most important (Persian) Gulf countries that share Tel Aviv's concerns about Iran's activities in the Red Sea and the region.

6. The most prominent here, is the visit of the head of the Israeli intelligence service Mossad in a public visit to Bahrain at the time of the joint naval manoeuvres with Israel in the Red Sea, with the commander of the UAE Air Force heading at the same time also on a first-of-its-kind visit to Israel in October 2021.

7. In general, the reopening of Emirati and Bahraini embassies in Damascus in December 2018 was considered at that time as a major change in the (Persian) Gulf policy towards Syria, and it was among the first indications of a more comprehensive normalization. There is no doubt that these steps came after consulting Saudi Arabia. However, it seems that Saudi Arabia, as usual, is taking a cautious and secretive attitude towards the move of rapprochement with Syria due to its fear of the Al-Assad government's relations with Tehran.

8. The most important analytical question for me is whether Abu Dhabi has completely severed its relations with Damascus at all, given the continued presence of prominent Syrian figures loyal to Damascus living and working in the Emirates.

9. In general, this continuous stream of signals emanating from Damascus and other Arab capitals, led by the Emirates for rapprochement with Syria, indicates that the former opponents of the Syrian government have come close to reaching mutually beneficial arrangements with the Syrian government, some of which pledged a few years ago to drop it.

10. The most important gains for the Syrian government from that rapprochement with the UAE and the rest of the Arab

countries will be reconstruction contracts for Syria and energy deals, in addition to the markets that will be opened to it if they reconcile with the Arab countries, which may later pave the way for "inclusion of Damascus again and returning its membership in the League of Arab States", which is of course the most important strategic step for the UAE and the (Persian) Gulf states to help Syria to return back to the "Arab House", and consequently put pressure on it not to have cordial ties with Iran, as it is a rival opponent for the UAE and the (Persian) Gulf states.

In this context, the Syrian capital, Damascus is now hoping for influential Arab voices to exert international pressure in order to lift the severe sanctions imposed on the Syrian regime, which aims to punish Syrian officials and Syrian organizations for their alleged involvement in human rights violations.

**Do you predict Syria would get out of the isolation imposed by Arab states of the Persian Gulf?**

We find that throughout the years of the Syrian war there were a number of indications of secret cooperation between some Arab governments in secret with the government of President Bashar al-Assad, and accusations were also levelled indicating the involvement of other governments in supporting and arming Syrian opposition groups against the Syrian regime, especially the (Persian) Gulf countries that sought to revenge against the regime of President Bashar Al-Assad for Syria's close alliance with Iran. Here we can analyse and understand the following:

1. The UAE rapprochement with Syria comes as part of a (Persian) Gulf strategy called "the almost certain regional rehabilitation of Bashar Al-Assad." Here, we find that the speed of the train of Arab and (Persian) Gulf normalization, mainly with Syria, has increased significantly, and what is deeper than that can be analysed by confirming that a number of Arab governments have not completely severed their ties with Damascus since the beginning of the events in Syria.

2. The state of Jordan is currently considered one of the most prominent of those Arab countries that exert pressure for normalization with Damascus as Jordan's neighbor in terms of its northern borders, where recent indications are that the Kingdom

of Jordan is on the verge of restoring full relations with Syria. In fact, it is possible to analyse the reasons for the start of the Jordanian capital, Amman, as a close ally of the United States of America, to open the way for Washington's other allies in the (Persian) Gulf region to rapprochement with Syria, in order to neutralize the Syrian government and exert subsequent pressure on the Iranian side to accept the American conditions in the Iranian nuclear file.

3. On the other hand, Lebanon needs the Syrian energy networks to help alleviate the fuel crisis that has paralyzed Beirut. We can as well identify Syria's situation in the strategy of supplying Lebanon with fuel as a result of the current Lebanese fuel crisis has an important analytical aspect, especially after Jordan's approval on October 6, 2021, to send the surplus of Jordan's electric power to Lebanon through the Syrian network, which indicates the American flexibility.

4. However, there are fears from a number of Lebanese political forces and of an increase in Iranian and Syrian influence in Lebanon, especially after Hezbollah's move to bring Iranian fuel into Lebanon through Syria. Likewise, the public positions of the Lebanese government not to visit or normalize relations with Syria without the blessing of the international community, stressing Lebanon's desire to distance itself from conflicts in the region.

5. We find here the support of the Lebanese Shia movements for President Bashar Al-Assad. In particular, the Iran-backed Hezbollah movement is the main supporter of rapprochement with Syria, especially with the role of Hezbollah forces along with the Russian air force, in changing the course of the civil war in favor of Bashar Al-Assad inside Syria. The political bureau of the Amal Movement in Lebanon, the other main Shia party in Lebanon, renewed its calls for strengthening relations with Syria in an official statement on October 4, 2021. On the other hand, there are other Lebanese political forces that have remained staunchly opposed to what the other side calls "Syrian and Iranian interference" in the country's affairs.

6. Here, we find that this new shift in the UAE's (Persian) Gulf position for rapprochement with Syria is due to the visit of Jordanian monarch King Abdullah to the United States of America in July 2021. He will remain in office, and then the international community will have to deal with him one way or another.

(To see the full interview scan the following QR Code)



## Biden appeals for calm as riots follow U.S. court verdict

From page 1 ► Just hours after the court's decision was announced, police across various states began working on plans to contain potential violence with some Police Bureau Chiefs saying it was "reasonable to expect there will be some type of reaction to the verdict."

Protests also took place in other U.S. cities, including New York as Kyle Rittenhouse was cleared of all charges in connection with an incident in Kenosha, Wisconsin last year when anti racism protests spread across the United States following the public execution of Black American George Floyd by the police.

Amnesty International warned the verdict will likely to lead to more violence.

Rittenhouse, a member of an armed white militia, killed two anti-racism protesters after shooting them with an assault rifle as he was patrolling the streets, staying out after a curfew with the approval of police officers on duty at the time, who infamously handed out water to groups of armed civilian men who are part of militia groups.

The court found Rittenhouse not guilty for intentional homicide, reckless homicide, attempted intentional homicide among other counts. The judge even cleared Rittenhouse of a charge that he was a minor (aged 17 at the time of the shooting) in possession of a dangerous firearm. The courtroom claims he acted in self-defense but there was no accountability for even manslaughter which means the victims who lost their lives and their loved ones will not see any justice.

For many, Rittenhouse's case will be seen as further evidence of favorable treatment by police of white Americans in comparison to Black American. A young white armed militia supporter essentially got the best treatment from the police and judicial system, the complete opposite of the attitude the police and judicial system offer black Americans and anti-racism protesters who support the struggle and suffering of black Americans.

President Biden has appealed for calm but anger is boiling on the streets of America and among various anti-racism groups, activists and gun control advocacy organizations.

Following the verdict, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) took to social media and issued this statement "the verdict in the Kyle Rittenhouse case is a travesty and fails to deliver justice on behalf of those who lost their lives as they peacefully assembled to protest against police brutality and violence."

Bernice King, a minister and the daughter of Martin Luther King Jr, said "justice is not just about verdicts. It is a continuum. We can galvanize around changing our culture, including challenging the difference in how a Black male teen would have been engaged in Kenosha."

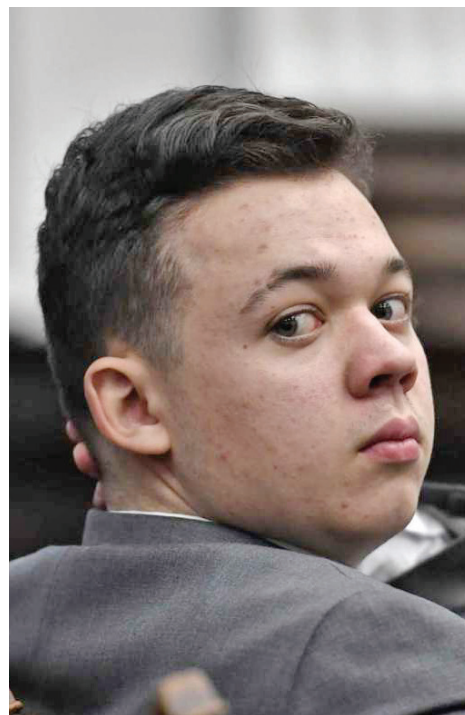
Missouri representative Cori Bush slammed the verdict saying she was "hurt," "angry," and "heartbroken." She wrote "It's white supremacy in action. This system isn't built to hold white supremacists accountable. It's why Black and brown folks are brutalized and put in cages while white supremacist murderers walk free."

Strong condemnation of the court's outcome also came from Representative Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez who noted this verdict is not limited to just one case saying "what we are witnessing is a system functioning as designed and protecting those it was designed for. My heart still breaks for the communities and families whose grief now compounds, and the countless others who will be denied and deprived in similar scenes across the country."

Research shows institutionalized racism has its ugly face in many American societies. While the murder of George Floyd by police (which happened to be filmed on a mobile phone) gave birth to the latest anti-police brutality and racism in America movement. The protests on the day Rittenhouse shot at demonstrators were in response to the police shooting of another black American by the name of Jacob Blake.

When you draw some comparisons, it highlights disturbing facts on racial discrimination by American law enforcement.

The police officer who shot Jacob Blake seven times in the back was not charged with a crime. Unfortunately, there is a racist perception in the U.S. that black people pose a threat because of the color of their skin. For instance, Blake shot seven times in the back



was not even case of self-defense; while police from the same department who killed Blake allowed a 17-year-old Rittenhouse to walk back and forth alongside them carrying a dangerous firearm at a time of angry protests.

So the question is did police not sense a threat or danger to the public by Rittenhouse? The chief executive and President of NAACP Derrick Johnson says it's a "reminder of the treacherous role that white supremacy and privilege play within our justice system." While the prominent civil rights campaigner, reverend Al Sharpton says "These continue to be dark days for Black people killed at the hands of people that believe our lives do not matter. [The men killed and wounded by Rittenhouse were white, but the shootings came amid protests following the police shooting of Jacob Blake and murder of George Floyd.] This verdict was not only outrageous and dangerous, it was also an obvious signal that encourages and notifies 'vigilantes' that they can continue to use violence to assert their power, and more importantly that they are above the criminal justice system when they do."

Another prominent civil rights lawyer Ben Crump (who has represented many Black American gunned down at the hands of police brutality) also weighed in saying "The Rittenhouse case has pulled back the curtain on profound cracks in our justice system - from deep bias routinely and unabashedly displayed by the judge, to apathy of officers who witnessed Rittenhouse's actions and did nothing."

Rashida Tlaib, a Democrat from Michigan chipped in by denouncing the judiciary "our justice system is broken. It protects white supremacy. The two people who were killed deserved justice and so did our communities who continue be targeted with violence like this."

This is while former President Donald Trump, who is accused of stirring up racism in America praised the court's verdict even going as far as congratulating Rittenhouse.

Observers have repeatedly said America always had a culture of racism, with tens of millions of people sharing racist sentiments and a fascist ideology. Trump of course was certainly not the one who started this ideology; black Americans died at hands of the police and white extremists before and after Trump came and left power.

However, what the ex-American President did do successfully was tap into that ideology, which a vast number of Americans still share for political reasons; his rhetoric made it acceptable for the public to express that sentiment more publicly than it had been before Trump entered office. Before he came to power that anti-black ideology was not displayed so much in public for a short while but it never disappeared. Another point worth mentioning is Trump makes very little these public statements these days, why did he offer his thoughts on the Rittenhouse case? To mobilize his supporters for the next Presidential election maybe?

But perhaps the Black Lives Matter movement summed the state of affairs in the United States (following the court verdict) most accurately by simply stating "disappointed but not surprised. This is not justice. This is not accountability. However, this is America."





## Gilan handicrafts export jump fivefold despite obstacles

TEHRAN – Exports of handicrafts from the northern province of Gilan have increased fivefold despite challenges such as harsh sanctions and the outbreak of coronavirus, the deputy provincial tourism chief has announced.

According to official statistics, Gilan province exported \$1.7 million worth of handicraft products during the Iranian year 1398 (March 2019-March 2020), excluding suitcase trade (allowed for duty-free and tax-free transfers), Farzad Farshidi said on Saturday.

During 1399 (March 2020-March 2021), Gilan's export of handicrafts reached \$9.5 million, representing a fivefold increase in the export of handicrafts, the official added.

Efforts were made by the province's cultural heritage department last year to utilize the capacity of non-governmental organizations and other cultural stakeholders to create the infrastructure for the production and sale of handicraft products in Gilan, he noted.

The participation and identification, as well as the training and promotion of design, packaging, and commercialization processes have been going on for some time now, he explained.

Back in October, the tourism ministry announced that Iran exported \$47 million worth of handicrafts in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 21).

## Soltanieh Dome hoped to be more striking as landscape project starts

TEHRAN – On Saturday, an all-inclusive landscape project commenced on properties of Soltanieh Dome amid hopes to make the UNESCO-designated mausoleum more attractive for visitors.

"The UNESCO-designated Soltanieh Dome has undergone a landscape project which includes cleaning, fencing, painting, restoration of previous excavation fields, planting trees and ornamental flowers, and the installation of signboards in three languages," CHTN quoted the director of World Heritage as saying on Saturday.

The project started a day after the visiting tourism minister Ezzatollah Zarghami issued a decree to "re-organized" the UNESCO site, the official said.

"During his visit to Soltanieh Dome, the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami issued a decree to re-organize the premises and properties of the site."

According to UNESCO, the Mausoleum of Oljaytu is an essential link and key monument in the development of Islamic architecture in central and western Asia. The extremely rich interior of the mausoleum displays glorious glazed tiles, brickwork, marquetry, stuccowork, frescoes, and vivid illustrations, amongst other decorations.

The very large dome is the earliest extant example of its type and became an important reference for the later development of the Islamic dome. Similarly, the extremely rich interior of the mausoleum, which includes glazed tiles, brickwork, marquetry, or designs in inlaid materials, stucco, and frescoes, illustrates an important movement towards more elaborate materials and themes.

Its interior has long been under renovation, chockfull of scaffolding poles. However, its

Exports in these three months totaled \$47 million with an approximate weight of 20163 tons.

Most of the handicrafts were mainly exported to Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, and Singapore.

The country also exported \$530 million worth of handicrafts, weighing 112,554 tons, during the past calendar year 1399 (ended March 21).

Of the figure, some \$322 million worth of handicrafts were exported officially through customs, and about \$207 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer) through various provinces.

Wooden furniture, copper utensils, and glassware were among the main handicrafts exported to Iraq, Oman, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Azerbaijan last year.

With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next.

Iran's ceramics, pottery vessels, hand-woven cloths as well as personal ornaments with precious and semi-precious gemstones are traditionally exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, and other countries.



decoration is such impressive that scholars including A.U. Pope described it as 'anticipating the Taj Mahal'. It is the earliest existing example of the double-shelled dome in Iran.

According to UNESCO, the Mausoleum of Oljaytu is an essential link and key monument in the development of Islamic architecture in central and western Asia. Here, the Ilkhanids further developed ideas that had been advanced during the classical Seljuk phase (11th to early 13th centuries), during which the arts of Iran gained distinction in the Islamic world, thereby setting the stage for the Timurid period (late 14th to 15th centuries), one of the most brilliant periods in Islamic art.

UNESCO says, "Excavations carried out in the 790-ha Mausoleum of Oljaytu property have revealed additional vestiges of the old city, and a large part of this property has retained its archaeological character. As the ancient capital of the Ilkhanid dynasty, Soltanieh represents an exceptional testimony to the history of the 13th and 14th centuries in Iran."

A great-grandson of Hulegu, founder of the Il-Khanid dynasty, Oljaytu was a Mongol ruler who, after dabbling in various religions, adopted the Shia name Mohammed Khodabandeh.

The property is named after the town of Soltanieh ("Town of the Sultans"), which was briefly the capital of Persia's Ilkhanid dynasty (a branch of the Mongol dynasty) during the 14th century.

# Imam Mosque restoration enters final stage

From page 1 ► Elsewhere in her remarks, the official said that restoration of Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque's iconic dome has been stopped due to the death of one of its old hand-restorers due to coronavirus infection.

"We are consulting with several other masters to continue work... but we have not yet found the right person so far."

Consequently, the restoration of the dome has come to a standstill till a qualified master is hired, the official added.

Restoration of the creamy dome has been one of the most challenging and controversial renewals in the field of cultural heritage to some extent that almost every stage of it has been attacked by some critics and cultural heritage enthusiasts.

The criticism has involved various aspects from the variation in coloration, and the method used to reinstall the restored tiles or the newly-made replicas to a phenomenon that snow did not cover some restored parts of the dome.

A very scenic huge entrance portal leads visitors to Imam Mosque whose courtyard walls feature sunken porches framed by seven-colored tiles of deep blue and yellow. Each iwan leads into a vaulted sanctuary covered with particularly fine floral motifs on a blue background. Some visitors say each part of the Imam Mosque is a masterpiece that leaves a lasting impression.

On the other side of the square stands the very delicate Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque. Constructed between 1603 and 1619 during the reign of Shah Abbas I, the mosque was dedicated to the ruler's father-in-law, Sheikh Lotfollah, a revered Lebanese scholar of Islam who was invited to Isfahan to oversee the king's mosque (now the Imam Mosque).

The exterior panels boast collec-



tions of arabesques and floral designs that have become a signature motif of the masterpiece. The portal itself contains some stalactite-type stone carving used to decorate doorways and window recesses with rich concentrations of blue and yellow motifs. Inside the sanctuary, there are thousands of mosaics that adorn the walls and its extraordinarily gorgeous ceiling that features a series of shrinking, yellow motifs, itself a masterpiece of design. Photography is allowed but using a flash is not.

### Half the world?

Soaked in a rich history, Isfahan was once a crossroad of international trade and diplomacy in Iran and now it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons.

It is filled with many architectural wonders such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards. It's a city for walking, getting

lost in its mazing bazaars, dozing in beautiful gardens, and meeting people.

Isfahan is renowned not only for the abundance of great historical bridges but also for its 'life-giving river', the Zayandeh-Rood, which has long bestowed the city an original beauty and fertility.

## Restoration of the creamy dome has been one of the most challenging and controversial renewals in the field of cultural heritage.

The city has long been nicknamed as Nesf-e-Jahan which is translated into "half the world"; meaning seeing it is relevant to see half the world. In its heyday, it was also one of the largest cities in the region with a population of nearly one million.

The cool blue tiles of Isfahan's Islamic buildings, and the city's majestic bridges, contrast perfectly with the encircling hot, dry Iranian countryside.

Imam Square is hemmed on four sides by magnificent buildings: to the east, the Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque; to the west, the palace of Ali Qapu; to the north, the portico of Qeysarieh;

and to the south, the eminent Imam Mosque.

"The square was at the heart of the Safavid capital's culture, economy, religion, social power, government, and politics. Its vast sandy esplanade was used for celebrations, promenades, and public executions, for playing polo and for assembling troops," according to the UNESCO website.

Right at the northern limit of the Imam Square, one will find "Qeysarieh Gate", which leads to the unique and unforgettable "Grand Bazaar of Isfahan". This vaulted marketplace is one of the largest and most labyrinthine bazaars in the country. Shops offering handicrafts, souvenirs, jewelry, silverware, traditional ceramics, and authentic Persian carpets.

Modern Isfahan is now home to some heavy industry, including steel factories and a nuclear facility on its outskirts, however, its inner core wants to be preserved as a priceless gem. The city is also home to a gigantic, professional, and state-of-the-art healthcare city, which is a major destination in the realm of medical tourism.

## Historical Mirror Room to turn into cultural center

TEHRAN – The Qajar-era (1789-1925) Mirror Room in Shahr-e Kord, the capital of southwestern Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari province, is planned to be repurposed into an art and cultural center in the near future.

The highly-decorated chamber, which is located in Mahmoudieh Mansion, has been ceded to the private sector, the head of the Fund for Development of Handicrafts and Handmade Carpet and Revitalization and Utilization of Historical and Cultural Places has announced.

"Mirror Room has been given to the private sector exclusively for cultural and artistic activities," Hadi Mirzai said on Saturday.

Through private investments, the structure is planned to be fully restored and revitalized, the official explained.

Offering attractive and timely services to



investors and tourists in this region can help reveal the hidden tourism potential of the province, he noted.

A central courtyard, courtyard, backyard, warehouses, and rooms with mirrorwork are included in its alcove architecture, which was common in the Qajar residential architecture.

In the Pahlavi era, most of this building was

destroyed; only the Mirror Room, some rooms, a part of the north yard, and its backyard remain.

The association of calligraphers of Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari is currently based there.

Some historical sites and monuments across Iran have been temporarily ceded to the private sector during the past couple of years under the close supervision of the Fund, to achieve higher productivity and better maintenance.

The lack of a sufficient government budget for the restoration of all centuries-old sites is the main reason behind the ceding projects.

In 2019, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts announced that of the numerous historical buildings and structures that are scattered across Iran, some 2,500 ones need restoration.

## Historical relics donated to cultural heritage directorate

TEHRAN – A total of 50 historical relics have recently been donated to the cultural heritage and tourism

directorates of west-central Hamedan province, a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage has said.

"Through a cooperation between local trustees and the Nahavand city cultural heritage department, 50 historical objects have been donated to the department in an attempt to gain public trust in cultural heritage preservation," CHTN quoted Hassan Mehri as saying on Saturday.

The relics, which date back to the Seljuk era (1037-1194) and Islamic

times, include earthenware utensils and metal objects, the official added.

Seljuk, also spelled, Seljuq, was a ruling military family of the Oguz (Ghuzz) Turkic tribes that invaded southwestern Asia in the 11th century and eventually founded an empire that included Mesopotamia, Syria, Palestine, and most of Iran. Their advance marked the beginning of Turkish power in West Asia.

Known in classical times as Ecbatana, Hamedan was one of the ancient world's greatest cities. Pitifully little remains from antiquity, but significant parts of the city center are given over to excavations. Ecbatana

was the capital of Media and subsequently a summer residence of the Achaemenian kings who ruled Persia from 553 to 330 BC.

Hamedan has had many names: it was possibly the Bit Daiukki of the Assyrians, Hangmatana, or Agbatana, to the Medes, and Ecbatana to the Greeks. One of the Median capitals, under Cyrus II (the Great; died 529 BC) and later Achaemenian rulers, it was the site of a royal summer palace.

About 1220 Hamedan was destroyed by the Mongols. In 1386 it was sacked by Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, and the inhabi-

tants were massacred. It was partly restored in the 17th century and subsequently changed hands often between Iranian ruling houses and the Ottomans.

Sitting on a high plain, Hamedan is graciously cool in August but snow prone and freezing from December to March. In summer the air is often hazy.

Ali Sadr cave, Ganjnameh inscriptions, Avicenna Mausoleum, Hegmataneh hill, Alaviyan dome, Jameh mosque, and St. Stephanos Gregorian Church are amongst Hamedan's attractions to name a few.

## Cultural heritage elements added to national list

TEHRAN – A total of nine cultural elements, which are practiced in Kerman province, have recently been added to the National Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts on Saturday announced the inscriptions in separate letters it submitted to the governor-general of the southern province, CHTN reported.

The skill of making local vinegar, the Tirgan ritual,

the skill of making Hango Ash, and the local game of Qale Qosa were among the elements added to the prestigious list.

The big and sprawling Kerman province has been a cultural melting pot since antiquity, blending Persians with subcontinental tribe dwellers. It is home to myriad historical sites and scenic landscapes such as Bazaar-e Sartasari, Jabalieh Dome, Ganjali Khan

Bathhouse, Malek Jameh Mosque, and Shahdad Desert to name a few.

Kerman province is bounded by the provinces of Fars on the west, Yazd on the north, South Khorasan on the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan on the east, and Hormozgan on the south. It includes the southern part of the central Iranian desert, the Dasht-e Lut.



# Breeding in the wild: DOE plans to protect Asiatic cheetah

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment (DOE) plans to breed Asiatic cheetah in the wild so that the species is protected from extinction.

Currently, an action plan has been defined for 19 endangered species in the country. Our policies for the conservation of endangered species are set out in this roadmap, which needs necessary funds for the implementation, Hassan Akbari, an official with DOE, has said.

Emphasizing the need for natural growth of the species to have the ability to continue living in nature, he said that a creature that is born in a fictitious and artificial space does not have the ability to survive and continue living in the environment. "If we want to save the life of this species, we must protect its habitat."

Local communities should exploit the environment as long as it does not cause serious damage to the natural resources. So, we are trying to put alternative livelihoods on the agenda as much as possible to reduce local communities' dependence on biological resources, he added.

"We work with related organiza-



tions NGOs, universities, and scientific associations to protect the country's biodiversity," he concluded.

According to the latest scientific data in 2017, Iran has less than 40 cheetahs, showing that the cheetah population is shrinking. The cheetah habitat in the southern part of the country is stretching to over three million hectares but is hosting only a few cheetahs.

According to the latest scientific data in 2017, Iran has less than 40 cheetahs.

## Fastest mammal endangered

Over the past 60 years, Iran is home to the last known population of Asiatic cheetah, which once roamed across vast ranges of the west and south Asian countries, from the Middle East to India. Listed as critically endangered by the IUCN, the Asiatic cheetah is among the rarest cats in the world at the subspecies level, with fewer than 50 believed to remain in Iran.

Cheetahs' habitats in Iran are stretching over 12 million hectares of land area and over the past 16 years only experts collaborating with the CACP project have strived to count 48 cheetahs using trap cameras and other technical methods, Majid Kharrazian-Moqaddam, director of aquatic wildlife and biodiversity office at the DOE, said in August 2018.

Roadkill constitutes 70 percent of cheetahs' fatalities, as some 42 Asiatic cheetahs have been killed in the country during the past 16 years, 28 of them died in road crashes and 14 others were either killed in conflicts with guard dogs or due to other unknown reasons, he lamented.

For one Abbasabad-Mayami road, linking north-central Semnan province to Mashhad, the northeastern province of Khorasan Razavi, is one of the deadliest roads for Asiatic cheetahs as 8 cheetahs have been killed in this area over the past 10 years.

Roads fragmenting cheetahs' habitats are the main threats for the species, while guard dogs and stray dogs, drought spells, decreasing population of the prey species to support the cheetahs, and habitat loss are also other factors endangering the sparse population of the cheetahs in the country.

## Iran to vaccinate refugees against coronavirus

TEHRAN – Refugees in Iran will be vaccinated in cooperation with international organizations, Mehdi Mahmoudi, the director of bureau for aliens and foreign immigrants at the Ministry of Interior, has announced.

Due to the importance of vaccinating refugees and foreign nationals to prevent transmission, Iran holding numerous meetings with international institutions, after obtaining the necessary permits from the Ministry of Health, was able to receive the first consignment of COVID-19 vaccine, amounting to 1.6 million doses through COVAX facility.

Iran is one of the countries affected by the pandemic that has been able to widely implement vaccination programs in recent months and vaccinate refugees living in the country at the same time as Iranian nationals.

Iran has always been a major supporter of refugees and displaced persons, and the provision of services to asylum seekers for four consecutive decades is a testament to this.

Without any discrimination, Iran has provided various services to a large number of refugees and foreign immigrants in the fields of education,



health, treatment, livelihood, vocational training, and employment, with minimal assistance from the international community.

## World's fourth-largest refugee community

Iran is hosting the world's fourth-largest refugee community. The country has generously hosted approximately 1 million refugees for the past 30 years. The majority, which mainly came from Afghanistan and Iraq, live in urban areas. Approximately 31,000 of the most vulnerable refugees live in 20 settlements located throughout the country.

Based on the latest statistics, over 3 million Afghans are living in Iran - some 780,000 Afghan

refugees, over 2 million undocumented Afghans, and another 600,000 Afghan passport-holders with Iranian visas.

However, in light of the pandemic, all refugees, even those undocumented, benefited from access to free primary health services and free COVID-19 related testing, treatment, and hospitalization, just like Iranian nationals.

The same happened for the vaccination when the country has generously considered refugees over the age of 75 for vaccination against coronavirus.

In order to support the refugees living in the country, the seventh phase of the health insurance plan will cover 120,000 vulnerable refugees through a memorandum of understanding signed between the Health Insurance Organization and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

In Iran, UNHCR is seeking \$16.2 million for its COVID-19 emergency, while requires an additional \$98.7 million to support Iran in maintaining and sustaining its commendable inclusive refugee policies, under the umbrella of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR).

## 700,000 liters of smuggled oil products confiscated

TEHRAN – Over 700,000 liters of smuggled oil products worth more than 50 billion rials (nearly \$1.1 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) have been discovered last week across the country, police official Jalal Amini said on Saturday.

The plan included "several provincial and regional operations to combat smuggling of goods and currency, with priority given to controlling major fuel consumers, fuel tankers, fuel supply stations and manufacturing, industrial and agricultural companies", which was implemented over the past week.

The discovered goods were handed over to the organization for the

collection of smuggled fuel of the National Petrochemical Company, and smugglers were arrested and handed over to the judicial authorities, he explained, IRIB reported.

On November 15, smuggled goods worth 400 billion rials (nearly \$9.5 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) have been seized across the country.

## \$20-25 billion of smuggled goods annually

Every year, \$20-25 billion worth of goods are smuggled in and out of the country, which, if stopped, will create hundreds of thousands of jobs, Hassan Norouzi, a member of the Parliament, has said.

In the Iranian calendar year 1396 (March 2017-March 2018), \$12 billion was smuggled into Iran and \$900 million out of the country, according to the Headquarters for Combating the Smuggling of Commodities and Foreign Exchange.

According to some reports, over ten million liters of gasoline are smuggled out of Iran on a daily basis, adding up to 3.65 billion liters every year. Other reports put the number higher. On December 19, 2018, a government spokesman said every day 11.5 million liters of gasoline are smuggled out of Iran. Ali Adyani, a member of the Iranian Parliament's Energy Committee has quoted various sources as putting the figure at

10, 15, and even 20 million liters a day.

Mohammad Hassan Nejad, another member of the committee, says the smuggled fuel amounts to 22 million liters per day. With a 50 cent per liter profit, the total daily income adds up to 400 trillion rials annually or \$3.3 billion, nearly the same as the country's annual development budget.

In addition to gasoline smuggling, other fuels such as kerosene and diesel are also smuggled; not in lesser quantities.

In June 2020, the first phase of the national anti-smuggling plan was implemented with the priority of customs, tobacco, and transit goods nationwide.

# SOCIETY

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Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

7

## Children's world tied up with coronavirus

From page 1 ► From climate change, education, and mental health, to ending racism and discrimination, children and young people are raising their voices on the issues that matter to their generation and calling for adults to create a better future.

This World Children's Day is celebrated with the theme of "A Better Future for Every Child".

Many children are still denied access to health services, which are their basic rights. Disease, malnutrition, polluted air, unsanitary water, inadequate shelter, etc. kill millions of children in the world every year.

At the international level, war and its aftermath, displacement and homelessness, asylum, etc. have put children most at risk of death.

Poverty affects children disproportionately. Around the world, one out of six children lives in extreme poverty, living on less than US\$1.90 a day.

Despite great progress in school enrolment in many parts of the world, more than 175 million children are not enrolled in pre-primary education, missing a critical investment opportunity and suffering deep inequalities from the start.

In 2019, 1.6 billion children (69%) were living in a conflict-affected country, and approximately 426 million children (over one in six) were living in a conflict zone. Millions of children, many of whom are unaccompanied or separated from their families are being displaced by armed conflict.

However, in addition to these problems, we are facing a major crisis by the global pandemic, which has targeted the lives, peace, and health of all human beings, from children and adults, and so on.

This year, the coronavirus prevalence and the



change in the life of children and adolescents, has caused changes in children's mood, behavior, and social interactions, and in addition to mental and psychological damage, it has also caused physical problems, inactivity, and obesity at these ages.

As a result, such conditions have led to children's social isolation, which can have many long-term adverse effects on their social skills and mental health.

## The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how inequality affects the rights of every child.

Finally, another important issue that has been raised in recent research is the issue of parental conflicts with children. In a closed environment, the boundaries between family, work, and school are intertwined. Parents play the role of parents, teachers, and workers; In addition, children have both the role of child and the role of a student at home.

The closure of schools and centers, staying at home, and being deprived of social relations have created many problems for families, parents, and children, some of which are inevitable.

The most important factor in reducing the tensions between children and parents and creating a calm and loving environment at home is to increase the resilience of parents to certain behaviors of children and to avoid behavioral violence and express more love to them.

## Ocean scientists call for global tracking of oxygen loss that causes dead zones

A team of ocean scientists from six continents have made an urgent call for a global system to track the loss of oxygen from parts of the ocean and coastal waters that causes dead zones, where almost nothing can live.

Ocean heating caused largely by burning fossil fuels is making the problem worse, experts say, with serious consequences for communities, fisheries and ecosystems around the world, the Guardian reported.

Fifty-seven scientists from 45 institutions in 22 countries have laid out the urgent need for the global monitoring system, which they say could help protect ecosystems such as coral reefs and fisheries around the world.

Dead zones with low or no oxygen can last from days to months in so-called hypoxic events that can kill fish, plants and crustaceans.

Coastal events are usually triggered by extra nutrients running into estuaries, and are made worse by warming waters.

There are hundreds of hypoxic zones on coastlines around the world, with some evidence oxygen levels in parts of the open ocean are also falling.

Prof Karin Limburg, of State University of New

York, is one of the scientists calling for a global system to monitor ocean oxygen, to be established under the UN.

"There is a pressing need to document and predict hypoxic episodes and hotspots of low oxygen in order to take protective actions for aquaculture, put in place precautionary measures for affected fisheries, and monitor the wellbeing of important fish stocks," Limburg said.

"Without this understanding, we are in the dark about impacts that have large economic-ecological implications."

Prof Jodie Rummer, of James Cook University, is a co-author of an article to appear on Sunday in the journal Frontiers in Marine Science laying out the case for the monitoring system.

"Everything needs oxygen in the water. Most life in the ocean is not hypoxia tolerant," Rummer said.

"These problems are getting worse because we are not solving the problems of nutrient run-off and our waters are continuing to warm.

"We still don't know the long-term implications of these problems that affect fisheries and aquaculture that feed human populations."

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON NOVEMBER 20

New cases	5,539
New deaths	118
Total cases	6,073,098
Total deaths	128,852
New hospitalized patients	616
Patients in critical condition	3,416
Total recovered patients	5,771,363
Diagnostic tests conducted	37,673,877
Doses of vaccine injected	101,492,535

## ENGLISH IN USE

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### Existing vaccines are effective against mutated coronavirus: Iranian expert

The COVID-19 vaccines, which have been so far produced in the world are also effective on the mutated virus, so people who receive the vaccines will be protected against the new virus strain, Massoud Mardani, a member of the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, has said.

What raised concerns about the newly-produced vaccine was the ineffectiveness against the mutated virus, which fortunately studies show, the mutation of the virus and the chromosomal alteration are not enough to change its general nature, he explained.

According to Mardani, it is possible to detect the new coronavirus in Iran. All British and European passengers are tested at the airport for a quick and PCR test, while so far no case has been confirmed in the country, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

### واکسن کرونا بر روی ویروس جهش یافته هم اثر می کند

مسعود مردانی عضو ستاد ملی مقابله با کرونا می گوید واکسن تولید و تایید شده در دنیا بر روی ویروس جهش یافته هم اثر می کند و افرادی که واکسن تایید شده را بزنند علیه این ویروس هم مصونیت پیدا می کنند. مردانی روز سه شنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: آنچه نگران آن هستیم این است که واکسن تولید شده برای کووید ۱۹ در دنیا نسبت به ویروس جهش یافته بی اثر باشد که خوشبختانه بررسی ها نشان می دهد، جهش ویروس و تغییر کرموزومی ویروس به قدری نیست که ماهیت کلی آن تغییر کند. به گفته او، امکان تشخیص ویروس کرونا جهش یافته در ایران وجود دارد. از همه مسافران انگلیس و اروپا در فرودگاه تست سریع و از موارد مشکوک تست دقیق تر «بی سی آر» گرفته و بررسی می شود و تاکنون موردی از این ویروس در ایران تایید نشده است.



