

# TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 100,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 44th year | No. 14266 | Sunday | July 17, 2022 | Tir 26, 1401 | Dhul Hijjah 17, 1443



Congratulations on Eid al-Ghadir

# E3 Assumes the Role of Bad Cop

Page 3

STAY UPDATED #JCPOA

Interview

## Chinese ambassador: Beijing continues cooperation with Tehran in line with international law

TEHRAN — In an exclusive interview with the Mehr news agency published on Saturday, Chinese ambassador to Tehran Chang Hua outlined his visions on Iran-China ties, the JCPOA revival negotiations, and the Tehran-Beijing comprehensive cooperation plan.

During the interview, Chang said that this year China, as the host of the 2022 BRICS summit and as a country that has been able to overcome the negative effects of the spread of coronavirus on its economy, has successfully organized several international forums.

"Accordingly, on June 23 and 24 of this year, China successfully held the 14th BRICS Summit. During this meeting, China managed this round of high-level international discussions with the idea of BRICS+," he noted.

"During the BRICS summit, apart from the leaders of the five member-states, the leaders of Iran and some other countries with emerging and developing markets were also present, and this presence had Page 2

Report

## Delusional Israel bombs Gaza after Biden trip

If there was ever evidence needed that the trips of American politicians to Israel bring nothing but insecurity to the region, then the regime's bombardment of the besieged Palestinian Gaza Strip is evidence of that.

Many had warned before U.S. President Joe Biden made his trip to Israel that American politicians visiting West Asia and in particular the Israeli apartheid regime occupying Palestinian territories just destabilizes the region.

They were proven right as on the backdrop of Biden's visit to the Zionist regime, Israeli leaders felt emboldened to continue their aggression in the reign as Israeli warplanes carried out bombing missions in the Gaza Strip which is also described by UN agencies as the world's largest open-air prison.

The Israeli occupation's warplanes used dozens of missiles to bombard sites belonging to the Palestinian resistance in central and the west of the Gaza Strip.

Later the occupation's bombing of Gaza ended as reports surfaced that the Palestinian resistance responded to the raids with anti-aircraft fire.

The regime's fighter jets reportedly targeted, with three separate raids, the site of Nusseirat Martyrs, in central Gaza, and a site affiliated with the Palestinian resistance near the al-Baydar area, southwest of Gaza City, with at least ten missiles.

Gaza witnesses have been cited as saying at least one of the sites struck was a training facility belonging to the Hamas movement.

Reports also suggest that the Palestinian resistance responded with at least two missiles from Gaza towards the occupied territories, in conjunction with the Israeli raids on the Strip. Sirens are reported to have sounded in the settlement of Ashkelon and the settlements near the northern and eastern borders of the Gaza Strip. Page 5



## Iran Navy unveils drone carrier

TEHRAN — The Iranian Army's Navy has unveiled the first drone carrier that includes a variety of modern and advanced types of drones that were produced and manufactured by Iranian experts in the Army and the Ministry of Defense.

The naval division, which joined the southern

fleet, consists of military ships and submarines carrying a broad range of combat, reconnaissance and suicide drones, according to Tasnim.

The event, held on Friday, was attended by Army Commander Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi and Navy Commander Rear Admiral Admiral Shahram Irani.

General Mousavi affirmed the growing progress of Iran's defense capabilities, noting that the drones and reconnaissance planes have increased the intelligence of Iranian ships and their monitoring capabilities in international waters, according to Al Alam. Page 3

## 211 idle industrial units revived in 100 days

TEHRAN — Head of Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) said 211 idle industrial units have been revived in the country's industrial parks and zones in 100 days since the beginning of current Iranian calendar year (March 21).

"We have planned to revive 1,600 idle units in the present year, which is predicted to create jobs

for 28,800 persons", Ali Rasoulian stated.

"The mentioned 211 units returning to the production cycle, our target for this year has been materialized by 13 percent", he stated.

By reviving these units, jobs have been created for 4,481 persons, which shows that the job cre-

ation target has been materialized by 16 percent, the official added.

Rasoulian has previously announced that 2,067 idle industrial units were revived in the country's industrial parks and zones during the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20). Page 4



**Fajr Intl. Fashion, Clothing Festival wraps up**  
The 11th Fajr International Fashion and Clothing Festival came to an end on Friday. Fashion designers from across Iran and some other Muslim nations showcased their latest works at the event which was held after two years of hiatus due to the coronavirus pandemic.

## Conference discusses sustainable development in Uramanat

TEHRAN — A host of researchers and academics have come together in a two-day international conference discussing sustainable development goals in the UNESCO-registered Uramanat, which is situated in western Iran.

Organized by Kermanshah's Razi University in collaboration with the province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department in collaboration with, the conference commenced on Saturday.

The conference is planned to explore the region's history, archaeology, handicrafts, cultural heritage, literature, local dialects, geography, environment, tourism, art and culture, urban planning, economics, architecture, employment, and sustainable development, according to organizers.

Furthermore, the event is aimed to introduce and identify the capacities of the World Heritage site to the global community.

Uramanat is home to dense and step-like rows

of houses in a way that the roof of each house forms the yard of the upper one, a feature that adds to its charm and attractiveness.

Stretched on the slopes of Sarvabad county at the heart of the Zagros Mountains, and shared between the provinces of Kordestan and Kermanshah in western Iran, the Uramanat cultural landscape embraces hundreds of villages, 106,000 hectares of land, and 303,000 hectares of surrounding properties. Page 6

From Inside

- From "pariah" to "strategic partnership" P2
- Russia's Putin to meet Ayatollah Khamenei in Tehran: ambassador P3
- Biden trip to region aims to salvage Israel: MPP P3
- TPO considers launching medical equipment export consortium P4
- Tehran Oil Refinery to be upgraded into petro-refinery P4
- Iran is hoping to win UNESCO recognition for Sassanid fortress P6
- Voluntary divers to clean Lake Ahanak P6
- Switzerland seeks to develop health relations with Iran P7
- Let's shed our fears to save endangered snakes P7
- Niavaran art exhibition celebrating Eid al-Ghadir P8
- "A Separation" star Leila Hatami picked for Venice Film Festival jury P8

Interview

## Iranian and American negotiators are under pressure: professor

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN — A professor of government at Georgetown University in Qatar says both Iranian and U.S. negotiating teams are under extreme pressure to extract more concessions.

"both sides are trying to extract the most concessions but the Iranian and the American negotiating teams are under extreme political pressure at home and they have to deliver on an agreement that somehow can be sold to domestic constituents," Mehran Kamrava tells the Tehran Times.

For example, Kamrava says, "The Iranian side has to deliver an agreement that somehow appears better than what was reached in 2015 or at least is not as bad in constraining Iran's activities as the 2015 agreement was."

He adds, "The American negotiating team also has to deal with an intransigent Congress which is not willing to come to an agreement with Iran." Page 5

Opinion

## Iran football federation in a dilemma over Skocic

By Masoud Hossein

TEHRAN — The technical committee of Iran Football Federation has previously announced its decision about parting company with Dragan Skocic but the federation is in dilemma about how to tackle the current crisis.

With little more than four months to go to the 2022 FIFA World Cup finals, the technical committee made a controversial decision about the future of the Croatian coach in the National Team.

So many experts and fans hit out at the decision and said that it's not the right time to change the coaching staff.

Carlos Queiroz and Branko Ivankovic were two candidates to replace Skocic but the technical committee disagreed with them and announced the National Team should be led by an Iranian coach in the World Cup.

Afshin Ghotbi, Javad Nekounam, Amir Ghalenoei and Ali Daei are shortlisted for the hot seat but they have not received positive feedback yet. Page 3

## Diplomat: Swedish court verdict on Nouri is baseless, political

TEHRAN — Iran's ambassador to Stockholm says the Swedish legal system has violated the most basic principles of international law by sentencing Hamid Nouri, a detained Iranian citizen, to life imprisonment.

Ahmad Masoumifar responded to the Swedish Expressen newspaper, saying that the verdict issued by the Stockholm court is "baseless and political."

The Iranian ambassador further noted that the first and most important point is that the Swedish legal system does not have jurisdiction over the aforementioned case, because the application of universal jurisdiction depends on the existence of an international crime.

None of the lawyers involved in this case or international lawyers familiar with this case believe that Nouri has committed an international crime, the envoy noted.

Stating how the Swedish legal system has violated the most basic principles of international law, Masoumifar added, "Due to the prosecutor's completely one-sided investigation, failure to investigate the alleged crime scene, failure to allow expert witnesses

introduced by Mr. Nouri to testify in court and the many contradictions in the testimony of the witnesses indicate the lack of legal validity of this ruling."

In addition, he pointed out, all the witnesses whose voices were heard in court are members of the Iranian terrorist group Mojahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO), who are known as terrorists in Iran.

The organization was previously designated as a terrorist organization in the United States, Canada, and the European Union.

The Iranian ambassador further emphasized, "Iranian people believe that the actions of the Swedish judiciary are hostile actions to support terrorists and enemies of the Iranian people. Also, Iranian officials have already contacted the Swedish government to emphasize the necessity of the Swedish legal system not being affected by the political approach."

In conclusion, Masoumifar reminded that Iran will not tolerate interference in national affairs or actions that harm its sovereignty, independence and national interests from any country.

## Iran dismisses U.S. allegations it plans to send drones to Russia

TEHRAN- Tehran says the U.S. is pursuing particular political purposes by claiming that Iran wants to deliver hundreds of combat-capable drones to Russia.

In a phone conversation with his Ukrainian counterpart Dmytro Kuleba late on Friday, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian refuted recent charges hurled against Tehran by the U.S. national security adviser Jake Sullivan.

The Iranian minister stated that such claims, which coincide with the U.S. President Joe Biden's travel to the occupied Palestinian territories, are consistent with the White House's specific political interests.

On July 11, Sullivan claimed that the U.S. had obtained intelligence indicating that Iran was prepared to supply Russia with up to several hundred UAVs (unmanned aerial vehicles), including weapons-capable UAVs on an accelerated timeline for use in Ukraine's ongoing conflict.

Elsewhere, the Iranian foreign minister assured his Ukrainian counterpart that Tehran's principled attitude is founded on resistance to violence everywhere in the globe. He stated that Iran will continue its efforts to bring the conflict between

Russia and Ukraine to an end.

"As we have announced since the beginning of the crisis in Ukraine, we are against war in Afghanistan, Yemen, Palestine and Ukraine," the top diplomat stated.

"The principled and explicit stance of the Islamic Republic in opposition to war and support for an end to the war is not similar to the dual approach of certain Western countries, which is based on double standards," he added.

According to Iran's senior diplomat, the government is willing to deepen relations with Ukraine in all areas, notably commercial and agricultural sectors.

For his part, the Ukrainian foreign minister praised Iran's anti-war stance and attempts to help establish a truce or resolving the existing situation.

Ukraine, according to Kuleba, is eager to begin a new chapter in its relations with Tehran. He emphasized that Iran and Ukraine should not allow outsiders to sever their ties through falsehoods.

The senior Ukrainian diplomat asked Iran's minister to visit Kiev.

## Tehran blasts UN rapporteur for applauding conviction against Nouri

TEHRAN- Iran's top human rights official has slammed the UN special rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran for hailing a Swedish court's conviction against Iranian national Hamid Nouri.

Kazem Gharibabadi, the deputy chief of the Iranian Judiciary and secretary of the High Council for Human Rights, called Javid Rehman's words very upsetting in a statement issued on Friday.

"It is extremely disappointing that Javid Rehman has chosen to publicly support arbitrary detention and sham trial of an Iranian citizen instead of calling out the Swedish authorities and holding them to account for the gross violations of fundamental human rights of the victim," he remarked.

Rehman praised the conviction of Nouri, a former Iranian judicial officer who was sentenced to life in prison by a Swedish court on Thursday for his alleged role in the death of imprisoned dissidents in the late 1980s.

Nouri has been kept in solitary confinement for nearly two years after being arrested upon arrival at Stockholm Airport in November 2019.

He has categorically denied all claims leveled against him at the request of the MEK terrorist organization.

"The process and verdict in Sweden constitute a landmark and important leap forward in the pursuit of truth and justice for a dark chapter in Iranian history. It is also a clear signal that denial, despite substantive evidence, and impunity can no longer be tolerated," Rehman said.

"I urge other States to take on similar investigation and prosecution of serious human rights violations in Iran using principles of universal jurisdiction. There is a serious accountability gap for past and present gross violations of human rights law, and national courts in other States play a fundamental role in filling that gap," he added.

Gharibabadi went on to underline that "Rehman's press statement in support of a grave injustice was yet another indication of his inherent inclination to use his UK-sponsored mandate for a self-aggrandizing campaign to please Iran's adversaries at the cost of sacrificing the basic principles of human rights."

Gharibabadi raised grave concern over egregious human rights breaches committed by Swedish authorities against Nouri in a letter to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights last week.

"I request you to take all necessary measures to hold Sweden accountable and to prevent further violations and to secure the release of Mr. Nouri," he said in a letter to Michelle Bachelet.

On Thursday, Nasser Kanaani, the spokesperson for Iran's Foreign Ministry, called the Swedish court's decision "unacceptable," adding it was based on baseless charges made by the MEK terrorist organization.

Kanaani added this is a politicized decision made based on baseless and fabricated pretensions against Iran, its courts, and Nouri as well.

TEHRAN— "Khashoggi was in fact murdered and dismembered, and I believe in the order of the Crown Prince, and I would make it very clear. We were not going to, in fact, sell more weapons to them. We were gonna, in fact, make them pay the price and make them, in fact, a pariah that they are."

These are the words of Joe Biden in a Democratic presidential debate in 2019, before gaining power in January 2021. His election mottos, much like his statements now, were full of empty promises. He met with the Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman (MBS) on Friday evening, despite vowing not to meet him during his election campaign.

A fist bump between Biden and MBS raised speculations about MBS being not so friendly towards the 79-year-old president. Analysts called it a cold fist bump out of politeness, saying that the welcoming ceremony was not as glorious as the one Riyadh held for Trump.

However, Biden, who had promised before being elected president, that he would not meet MBS, the energy crisis proved that the U.S. leader is not afraid to back down when it comes to kissing the ring of anyone to make up for the energy crisis. That's the reason Biden changed Saudi Arabia's status in the U.S. foreign policy framework from "pariah" to "strategic partner". The title is even mentioned in the joint statement of MBS and Biden.

### Strategic partnership

"The two sides reviewed the historical relations and partnership between the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States of America that was established nearly eight decades ago with the meeting between King Abdulaziz Al-Saud and President Franklin D. Roosevelt on board the USS Quincy. They underscored the importance of continuing to strengthen their 'strategic partnership' to serve the interests of the governments and peoples of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States," the joint statement said.

According to the joint statement, the two sides also emphasized the pivotal role this historic partnership has played in promoting regional



## From "pariah" to "strategic partnership"

stability and prosperity.

"They stressed that the U.S.-Saudi partnership has been a cornerstone of regional security over decades, and affirmed that the two countries share a vision of a more secure, stable, and prosperous region, interconnected with the world," the statement read.

However, as mentioned above, there is no mention of Khashoggi's brutal murder in the joint statement. Reporters present in the meeting said the topic was raised.

Writing on her Twitter account, Kethevane Gorjestani, White House correspondent for France 24, quoted Biden as saying, "With respect to the murder of Khashoggi, I raised it at the top of the meeting, making it clear what I thought of it at the time and what I think of it now... I made my view crystal clear."

When faced a question about how MBS reacted to the issue, Biden said, "He basically said that he was not personally responsible for it. I indicated that he probably was. He said he was not personally responsible for it and that he took action against folks who were responsible."

Asked whether he regretted calling Saudi Arabia a "pariah," Biden said, "I don't regret anything that I

said. What happened to Khashoggi was outrageous."

Yet, it wasn't outrageous enough for the old U.S. president to meet Khashoggi's murderer. Setting Khashoggi's killing aside, the Saudi de facto ruler is solely responsible for killing and injuring hundreds of thousands of people in his disastrous war that he launched against Yemen in March 2015. The Saudi kingdom is still violating the ceasefire brokered by the UN on April 2 and renewed for another two months on June 2. Moreover, according to the UN, Yemen's "humanitarian catastrophe" is set to worsen.

"Whatever we're getting from this meeting - maybe, maybe, a slight fall in gas prices - is it really worth selling out the family of Jamal Khashoggi, the people of Yemen, and our own moral authority and values?" Mehdi Hasan, a prominent political analyst for MSNBC, asked on Friday.

Nonetheless, the Biden administration decided to hamper the basic moral values and contribute to a cover-up for all the Saudi "shows of force." As mentioned in their joint statement, the two sides also made the claim to "resolving international disputes through peaceful and diplomatic means, and alleviating

humanitarian crises through economic and financial support to the region's countries most in need. They affirmed the importance of the principles of sovereignty and territorial integrity. They stressed the need for supporting governments in the region facing threats from terrorists or proxy groups backed by outside powers." Yet, MBS has not done anything to put an end to the ongoing war in Yemen, and has continuously violated the UN-brokered ceasefire.

To kiss the ring of the Saudis, Biden extended the validity of the Saudis' business and tourism visas from 5 to 10 years "to facilitate closer people-to-people ties and economic cooperation."

In the meeting, Biden strongly affirmed the United States' continued commitment to supporting Saudi Arabia's security and territorial defense, and facilitating the Kingdom's ability to obtain necessary capabilities to defend its people and territory against external threats.

The two sides also underscored the need to deter what they called Iran's "interference in the internal affairs of other countries, its support for terrorism through its armed proxies, and its efforts to destabilize the security and stability of the region."

They also said, "The Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the United States stressed the importance of preventing Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon," according to their joint statement.

Such remarks were made despite the fact that Iran's nuclear activities are under the watch of the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Iranian Foreign Ministry said on Thursday that it "views the security of its neighbors as its own."

Respect for human rights is a big joke for the United States, and some expect these men to commit to democracy and revive an international pact with Iran. A pact violated by Biden's predecessor, Donald Trump unilaterally.

Ironically, MBS has called on Iran to cooperate with the regional countries, according to Reuters.

Biden and Trump are two sides of the same policy.

## Chinese ambassador: Beijing continues cooperation with Tehran in line with international law

From page 1 ► a symbolic importance as well as a significant international influence. In the course of these talks, the leaders of different countries deeply exchanged views on accelerating the improvement of the world's economic situation, deepening pragmatic cooperation, operationalizing initiatives related to global development, realizing a new era in cooperative relations in the field of global development, and such matters. They spoke powerfully about the era of joint realization of development-oriented prosperity," he elaborated.

Chang also called Iran "an important country in West Asia and one of the important developing countries."

He added in recent years comprehensive strategic partnership between China and Iran has been developed, mutual trust between the parties has been consolidated in a continuous process, and bilateral cooperation in various fields has been growing steadily.

The diplomat also said BRICS remains open and inclusive. "The field of cooperation between the BRICS member countries is open and inclusive, and we will be waiting for the entry of more partners into the big BRICS family. We are confident that under the joint efforts of different countries, the path of BRICS cooperation will become wider day by day, and in this atmosphere, countries will create a beautiful future in the field of global development by gathering the growing force of dignified cooperation."

### 'Iran, China have always supported each other resolutely'

Responding to a question on the Iran-China 20-year comprehensive cooperation plan, the ambassador noted that in 2016, Xi Jinping, China's President, visited Iran and during that time the two countries announced the promotion of their relations to the level of comprehensive strategic partnership.

"The two countries have always resolutely supported each other's national interests and the dignity of each other's nations, and in addition, they support each other's undertaking in the path

they have chosen. At the same time, the two sides provide mutual support to each other decisively and consistently in the field of issues related to each other's fundamental interests and major concerns," Chang noted, adding that China and Iran are also seeking to strongly and mutually deepen strategic trust and resolutely protect justice in the international system.

Additionally, the envoy said that in March 2021 during the visit of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi to Iran, the two sides signed a comprehensive cooperation program.

"Both China and Iran are countries with long-standing civilizations and important influences, and without a doubt, deepening the relations between the two countries is a measure that is in line with the traditional friendship of the two sides and is one of the essentials of the relations of comprehensive strategic partnership and provides for the national interests of the two countries. In addition, it is a move in line with protecting peace and stability in the region and the world," the ambassador highlighted.

### U.S. seriously endangers regional security

In another part of the interview, the Chinese diplomat underscored that over the years, the United States military has repeatedly sent its aircraft carriers, nuclear submarines and other advanced military equipment to the Persian Gulf and the South China Sea under the pretext of freedom of navigation and passage of airspace.

"With its incendiary approaches, the U.S. has seriously endangered the security of the countries in the region and has also escalated the tense situation in the region. By paying attention and giving importance to the safety of others and protecting everyone's safety, one can truly secure one's own safety, and that is an important issue," Chang highlighted.

He added that China has always been playing a constructive role in promoting world peace and is one of the actors in global economic development and maintaining international order.

And in this context, the ambassador said, China

will firmly and without any hesitation continue its role in promoting peace.

"China's development actually means creating opportunities for the whole world and does not pose any threat to anyone. China is ready to cooperate with all the peace-loving countries committed to development, hand in hand with other nations and together with them, to realize Mr. Xi Jinping's global peace initiative and to take effective steps in the field of opening new horizons on the road to completion," Ambassador Chang stated.

### 'Diplomacy is the only path to resolve Iran nuclear issue'

In the last part of his interview, the envoy noted that diplomatic negotiations are the only correct solution to Iran's nuclear issue in line with the common and collective interests of the international community.

"China has always supported the political processes of resolving the Iran nuclear issue, and while it will continue to play a constructive role in the negotiations, it will make every effort to return the negotiations to its correct track as soon as possible, while protecting the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty," he underscored.

At the same time, he added, Beijing will firmly defend its rights and legitimate interests.

"China has always firmly opposed the unilateral, illegal, and irrational sanctions of the United States and its encroaching approach and interference in other people's affairs," the envoy noted.

He then asked the American side to abandon the incorrect path of resorting to sanctions and play a positive role in reviving the negotiations and protecting the JCPOA.

"In this regard, it is necessary to point out that the international community, including China, will continue its usual cooperation with Iran within the framework of international law. This approach is a logical, legal, and behavioral approach that does not harm third parties and should be supported and respected," the diplomat concluded.

TEHRAN- While the United States seems to be keen to continue indirect talks with Iran, some European officials have moved to declare the end of negotiations.

Over the last few days, some European officials have moved in the opposite direction and announced the end of negotiations with Iran at a time when Iran and the United States both appear to be willing to move ahead with the talks until reaching a good and strong deal.

A senior European Union official has told Reuters that negotiations to revive the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), have come to an end and that it is unclear if they would lead to a deal.

"We are very, very advanced in the negotiations. We have had a round of so-called proximity talks in Doha; they produced no results and the reason is very clear because we have negotiated everything that was on the table," the official claimed.

"We can be more precise on some details that are still pending, we are waiting for some ideas from Tehran and what the Americans have to say...I don't know (if it is) the end



of the process, but the end of the negotiation, yes," the official added.

Neither the EU nor the E3 has officially announced the end of negotiations. But it seems that the Europeans are signaling their desire for engaging in a new blame game. Last week, the new French foreign minister, Catherine Colonna, claimed that there were only a few weeks to revive the nuclear deal. "There is still a window of opportunity... for Iran to finally decide to accept an accord which it worked to build, but time is passing," she said. "The window of opportunity will close in a few weeks. There will not be a better accord to the one which is on the table."

Iran and the U.S. have recently

held another round of talks in Doha after which the U.S. and its European allies accused Iran of not showing enough seriousness. On the other hand, Iran said it presented innovative initiatives to push the talks forward but the U.S. failed to step up to the plate and make the political decisions required to conclude the talks.

Instead of nudging the U.S. into changing course, the Europeans seem to have designated themselves as the attorney for the United States. European diplomatic sources in Paris told the Asharq Al Ahsat newspaper that they presented their final proposal to Iran which they described as a "valuable gift."

The sources told the newspaper that the Westerners accepted, in

accordance with Tehran's desire, to abandon the demand to link the nuclear negotiations with two other files, namely Iran's missile ballistic capabilities and its influence in the region. The sources alleged that Iran has refused the Europeans' proposals.

They went further to say that Iran's position is harming U.S. President Joe Biden and undermining him politically. The Iranian position, the sources claimed, makes Biden "unable to make further concessions, something that does not serve Iran's interests."

This is while Iran has made it clear that it wants a strong and lasting deal that is not affected by the coming and going of U.S. presidents. Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said on Friday that Iran will continue to pursue such a deal.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will robustly and logically continue its path of achieving sustainable economic development and trying to remove sanctions with dignity. We will never back down from the inalienable rights of the great Iranian nation," he said on Twitter. "Our goal is to reach a good, strong, and lasting deal. Undoubtedly, the White House and Zionism's puppeteering in the region will make us more determined."

## Iran Navy unveils drone carrier

From Page 1 ▶ The UAVs aboard the naval division include advanced aircraft manufactured by the Army and the Defense Ministry in cooperation with the knowledge-based centers, including Pelican, Homa, Arash, Chamrosh, Jubin, Ababil-4 and Bavar-5 drones, which flew over the Indian Ocean waters.

Apart from various types of Iranian sea-based drones that flew in the event, a number of vertical take-off and landing (VTOL) combat drones went into the air from the homegrown Fateh and Tareq submarines.

In comments at the event, Major General Mousavi said Iran needs to boost its defense power constantly considering the aggressive nature of the hegemonic system.

"Given the aggressive tendency and authoritarian spirit of the aggressors, we had to increase our defensive capabilities in all fields. Reconnaissance planes have increased our ships' monitoring capabilities to cover hundreds of kilometers outside the country's borders," he said.

The senior commander said the expansion of military capabilities encompasses various spheres, including the drone industry which is highly significant.

On Wednesday, the commander of Army Ground Force had unveiled plans for the establishment of five new military units operating with unmanned aerial vehicles.

Pointing to the sophisticated UAVs that the Army's "Drone Base 313" has taken possession

of, including cruise drones and the Heidar drones, Brigadier General Kiomars Heidari said the Ground Force has submitted a proposal for the establishment of five drone units.

"We are facing harsh and very complicated hybrid warfare"

Earlier, Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Baqeri warned against a tough and complicated hybrid warfare that the enemies have waged against the Islamic Republic, stressing the need for the constant enhancement of the country's deterrent power, Tasnim said.

"We are facing harsh and very complicated hybrid warfare. We must gear up for such type of war," Major General Baqeri warned.

## Biden trip to region aims to salvage Israel: MP

TEHRAN - An Iranian lawmaker has said that United States President Joe Biden's visit to the West Asia region is aimed to save Israel from the crises it is entangled in.

"As regards Biden's trip to the region, there are several noteworthy points. First, the situation of the usurping Zionist regime is unfavorable, critical, and special. Many governments tried to solve the problems of this regime, but they all failed," Mehرداد Veis-Karami told Iran's state news agency IRNA.

He added, "Internal threats of the Zionist regime, martyrdom-seeking operations that have challenged the security of the Zionist regime, incidents with unknown sources such as frequent fires have put this regime in a difficult situation."

Referring to the drone and missile power of the Resistance Front in Palestine and Lebanon's Hezbollah, he said in the past "the Zionist regime responded to a single Kalashnikov bullet with a F-16 aircraft, but now we see that it is in a weak position."

The lawmaker said, "The very analysis that this child-killing regime has been subjected to serious decline and downfall is one of the debates that are seriously discussed in the media of the Zionist regime."

In such a situation, he said, the American Zionists are putting pressure on President Biden to "stabilize this regime by traveling to the occupied territories and give it legitimacy and credibility."

Veis-Karami noted, "Currently, the Zionist regime is surrounded by resistance, the fragile maneuvers of this regime with some reactionary Arab countries will not be able to guarantee the survival of this occupying regime."

He said one of the motivations of Biden's trip to the region is to create an alliance between the Zionist regime and reactionary Arab countries. "This alliance will never be realized," he asserted.

He said, "The American president will not be able to save the regime that is rotten from the inside."

During his visit to Israel, U.S. President Joe Biden issued threats

against Iran and spoke in such a way as to signal Washington's readiness to use force against Iran.

In Jerusalem, President Biden signed a document called "The Jerusalem U.S.-Israel Strategic Partnership Joint Declaration," which makes two references to Iran in the context of the U.S.'s commitment to preserving Israel's security.

The Declaration accused Iran of pursuing nuclear weapons and highlighted a U.S. commitment to "use all elements of its national power to ensure" that Iran does not acquire nuclear weapons. Needless to say, Iran has long said that it does not seek such weapons. But this commitment clearly shows the extent to which the Biden administration fell under the influence of the Israeli regime, which settles for nothing other than a U.S. military action against Iran. In fact, this was conveyed by Israeli officials to the Biden administration. They told Biden that the U.S. should threaten Iran with military action.

Despite all this, Iran remained

patient and calm. Amir Abdollahian said Iran is still ready to reach a deal with the U.S., one that would be "good, strong, and lasting."

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will robustly and logically continue its path of achieving sustainable economic development and trying to remove sanctions with dignity. We will never back down from the inalienable rights of the great Iranian nation," he said on Twitter. "Our goal is to reach a good, strong, and lasting deal. Undoubtedly, the White House and Zionism's puppeteering in the region will make us more determined."

In addition, Iran expressed readiness to respond to any aggression. Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi has warned the Americans that Iran is now stronger than ever. "I tell the Americans and their allies in the region that the great nation of Iran does not accept any insecurity and crisis in the region and any mistakes committed in this region will receive a decisive and regretful response," he said, addressing the people of Kermanshah on Thursday.

## Russia's Putin to meet Ayatollah Khamenei in Tehran: ambassador

TEHRAN - Russian President Vladimir Putin will meet with Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, during his visit to Tehran later this week, the Russian ambassador to Iran has said.

"We expect (Putin) to meet with the supreme leader of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and his meetings with President (Ebrahim) Raisi," Levon Dzhagaryan told the Rossiya-24 television, Tasnim News reported.

Dzhagaryan said he had "the highest expectations" that the exchange of opinions on a wide range of both bilateral and regional issues raised by the Russian and Iranian presidents at the sixth Caspian Sea summit

would be continued during Putin's visit.

On Tuesday, Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov announced that on July 19 Putin would make a visit to Tehran where he would meet with the Iranian and Turkish presidents.

Mohammad Reza Pour Ebrahimi, chairman of the Iranian parliament's Economic Committee, has said the visit aims to boost economic cooperation between Tehran and Moscow.

He stressed that Russia is serious about expanding its economic relations with Iran and that planning for this goal will be at the top of Putin's agenda in his meeting with Iran's high-ranking officials.

He added that the U.S. and European sanctions on Russia have caused a sharpening of Russian interest in economic and commercial dealings with Iran.

The lawmaker explained that after the January visit of the Iranian president, Ayatollah Ebrahim Raisi, to Russia, a positive atmosphere was created in Moscow regarding economic cooperation with Iran. Very good agreements were signed during that visit, he added.

Iran-Russia cooperation has increased in recent months, with the two sides mulling expansion of ties in various economic fields. In July, Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Governor Ali Saleh-Abadi traveled to Moscow.

## SPORTS

### Iran football federation in a dilemma over Skocic

From Page 1 ▶ Iran, headed by Skocic, booked their place at the 2022 World Cup in January as the first Asian team.

Skocic earned 15 wins out of 18 games in charge but lost two of his last three matches, including a 2-1 friendly defeat by Algeria in Qatar last month.

Now, the football federation faces dilemma over how to tackle the crisis.

Iran will participate at the World Cup for the sixth time in the country's history and on a third consecutive occasion.

The Persians will kick off their campaign against star-studded England on Nov. 21 before taking on Wales and the U.S in Group B.

### Iran not an easy opponent in World Cup: Jahanbakhsh

TEHRAN - Iran national football team captain Alireza Jahanbakhsh says that Team Melli will not be an easy team in the 2022 World Cup.

Iran is drawn in Group B along with England, the US, and Wales.

"It's a very, very tough group. With England, it's one of the best generations the country has ever had - they can field three very strong sides at the same time. The likes of Harry Kane have so much quality. I love watching the other players in my position too like Marcus Rashford and Jadon Sancho," Jahanbakhsh said in an interview with Daily Star.

He is no stranger to carrying the high hopes of a nation which has never made it into the knockout stages of the tournament, having captained Iran in 2018's nail-biting 1-0 defeat to Spain as a 25-year-old. And despite having worn the armband throughout Iran's World Cup qualification run, the midfielder still has to pinch himself whenever he leads out his teammates.

"It's just unbelievable. It's something that I dreamed of as a kid. Whenever I have the chance to wear the captain's armband I do it with all my heart because I know how much football means to people. We know how passionate people are back home. And if you're the one who is leading a team representing 85 million people into games, it's just a very proud feeling," he added.

Croatian head coach Dragan Skocic guided Team Melli to an almost flawless qualification to Qatar, but a shock 2-1 friendly defeat to Algeria in June and a lackluster training camp in the searing heat of Doha led to reports of a split dressing room.

Skocic's future is now up in the air as the Iranian Football Federation reportedly scramble for a replacement with just one training camp remaining before the World Cup finals. But Jahanbakhsh's focus remains on the pitch as he insists the players are eager to prove themselves once again.

"We showed in the last two World Cups we are not the easy opponent," Jahanbakhsh explained. "We saw the reaction - everyone was talking about Iran as a national team. That's because we worked hard and we put that responsibility on our shoulders, it was unbelievable.

"We didn't make it to the next round but the way people reacted... we are going to do our best to make our nation proud. That's all we can do, make the best out of it and work hard because it's a very difficult group," he concluded.

The draw also presents an opportunity for Iran's stars to replicate one of the nation's most historic sporting moments - defeating the United States at a World Cup. The 1998 'golden generation' did exactly that in France, holding off a late comeback to secure a dramatic 2-1 victory, where Mehdi Mahdavia emphatically scored the decider.

Being the first competition he grew up watching, Jahanbakhsh still holds the memories of 1998 dear and even counts Mahdavia as his biggest idol. He wholeheartedly believes Iran have a new golden generation on their hands based on talent alone, but insists preparation is key to progressing out of the group stage for the very first time.

### Ali Gholizadeh linked with Besiktas

TEHRAN - Iranian international winger Ali Gholizadeh has been reportedly linked with a move to Turkish club Besiktas.

The 26-year-old player currently plays in Belgium side RSC Charleroi.

Gazetefutbol.de has reported that 16-time Turkish champion is interested in signing Gholizadeh.

Gholizadeh is under contract with Charleroi until 2025.

Besiktas French coach Valerien Ismael wants the player who can work on both wings.

### Iran volleyball league to start on Sept. 28

TEHRAN - The 2022/23 Iran Volleyball Super League will start on Sept. 28, the volleyball federation of Iran announced.

The draw ceremony will be held on Aug. 31 in Tehran.

The matches will be held in two rounds of preliminary and playoffs. In the preliminary round the competition will be played in a two-legged system.

The top eight teams will qualify for the playoffs round.

The Iranian Super League (ISL) is a professional volleyball league in Iran at the top of the Iranian Volleyball League system. It was founded in 1975 as the Pasargard Cup, but after the Iranian Revolution it was renamed to the First Division. In 1997, the league system was revamped and the Iranian Super League was established.

Paykan Tehran, which have captured the Asian Men's Club Championship for 7 times including 6 in a row (2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011), have won 12, the most titles in the new Super League.

Shahdab Yazd are the defending champions.

### Ramin Rezaeian joins Sepahan

TEHRAN - Sepahan football club announced the signing of Persepolis winger Ramin Rezaeian Friday night.

Media reports had suggested that he would join the Qatari football team.

Sepahan have signed the player as replacement of Danial Esmailifar who joined Persepolis after parting ways with Sepahan, PLDC reported.

The 32-year-old winger has also played for Saba Qom, Rah Ahan, KV Oostende, Al Shahania, Al-Duhail, Al-Sailiya and Persepolis.

### Women volleyball team sweep Bulgaria U20: Friendly

TEHRAN - Iran's women's volleyball national team eased past Bulgaria U20 volleyball team in straight sets (25-22, 25-23, 25-16) in a friendly match.

Alessandra Campedelli's side is preparing for the 2022 Asian Women's Volleyball Championship, which will be held in the Philippines from August 30 to September 6.

Iran is drawn in Pool A along with the Philippines, Vietnam, China and South Korea.

Pool B consists of Japan, Thailand, Kazakhstan, Chinese Taipei and Australia.

### Foolad hold camp in Turkey

TEHRAN - Iran's Foolad football club will hold a training camp in Turkey.

Foolad hold a nine-day camp in the country.

Javad Nekounam's team prepare for the 2022-23 Iran Professional League.

The Ahvaz-based football club have also qualified for the 2022 AFC Champions League Round of 16, where they are scheduled to play Saudi Arabian team Al-Faisaly in February.

## 211 idle industrial units revived in 100 days

From page 1 ▶ According to the ISIPO head, with the reviving of the mentioned units job opportunities were created for over 39,000 people.

"ISIPO had put it on the agenda to revive 2,000 stagnant units inside and outside industrial parks and zones in the previous year and by the end of the year 2,067 idle units returned to the production cycle, which provided employment for more than 39,000 people," Rasoulzadeh said.

The official noted that 1,433 small workshop units were also established in the mentioned year most of which were production and knowledge-based units with high technology.

The necessary licenses were also obtained for establishing 26 new industrial parks and zones across the country in the previous year, he added.

In late February, the official said that 900 consultants from the private sector and knowledge-based companies were selected in the form of industry clinics across the country to recognize the weaknesses of industrial units with the aim of reactivating stagnant units or units that are operating below capacity.

He stressed that reviving idle production units is the main approach that the government

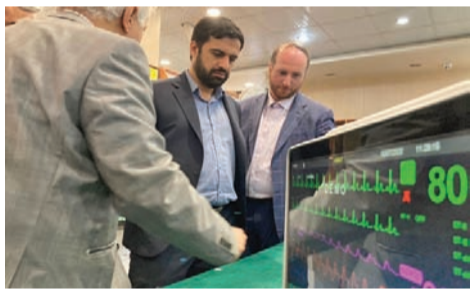


is currently following in the industry sector.

The government is seriously pursuing its programs to resolve production units' problems in collaboration with the private sector; Very good planning has been done in this regard, Rasoulzadeh said.

He mentioned providing infrastructure and supporting small businesses and enterprises as two major programs of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade in relation to industrial parks and said that 2,023 projects related to providing infrastructure for industrial parks, including water, electricity, and gas supply, with 60 trillion rials (about \$215 million) of credit is underway in different parts of the country.

## TPO considers launching medical equipment export consortium



TPO Head Alireza Peyman-Pak (C) visits a medical equipment manufacturing company in Tehran.

TEHRAN – Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has stressed the need for establishing a consortium of medical equipment exporters in order to increase the quality and export capacity of the products made in this sector, the TPO portal reported.

Alireza Peyman-Pak made the remarks during a visit to a knowledge-based medical equipment production company in Tehran on Saturday.

The TPO head's visit to the mentioned company comes as, during Peyman-Pak's recent visit to Serbia, the authorities of this country had expressed interest in the import of knowledge-based products, especially medical equipment from Iran.

Peyman-Pak said Eastern European

countries can be a gateway for the entry of Iranian products into the European Union, adding: "Meanwhile, the formation of a medical equipment export consortium will ensure the presence of qualified traders and companies in the destination markets to promote and maintain Iran's reputation and brand."

During the visit to the company, the official emphasized the government's complete support for the production and export of knowledge-based products.

He further stressed Serbia's interest in trade with Iran and said: "Trade Promotion Organization is doing everything in its power for the presence of knowledge-based companies in new and green markets like Serbia."

The TPO head also announced reaching an agreement with Russia's Sberbank to support joint production of knowledge-based products in Russia and called this an effective step to solve the problems of knowledge-based product manufacturers to be present in other countries.

He stressed the need to remove obstacles to the production and export of knowledge-based products and said: "Today, various countries have realized the quality of Iranian knowledge-based products, and for this reason, in meetings and negotiations, they demand imports, joint investments, and launching production lines in their countries."

# Tehran Oil Refinery to be upgraded into petro-refinery



TEHRAN - Manager of operations at Tehran Oil Refining Company has announced the company's plan for upgrading the refinery into a petro-refinery in order to expand its products basket, Shana reported.

Mostafa Tehrani stated that Tehran Oil Refining Company has taken fundamental measures to maintain, improve and increase the quality of its products.

Changing the water supply source of the refinery, upgrading the refinery's power grid, and upgrading the cathodic protection system of the refinery are among the measures taken in the movement

towards becoming a petro-refinery, according to the official.

Mentioning the company's new project to cut dependence on the Thran city's drinking water supply, the official said: "This company was dependent on the drinking water supply of the city of Tehran for its operation, however, considering the water crisis in the capital, we decided to define a project to use the water supplied from the treatment plant in southern Tehran instead of using drinking water."

Therefore, in the near future, a fundamental step will be taken in the direction of achieving sustainability by utilizing the

southern Tehran water treatment plan for industrial water, Tehrani added.

Referring to the significant measures taken to improve the refinery's cathodic protection system and move in the direction of becoming a petro-refinery, the operations manager of Tehran Oil Refining Company stated: "We do not have a plan to increase the capacity of the units, our effort is to increase the quality of the products by using the maximum available capacity of the company. Our most important action in this regard has been the construction and launch of the CCR project with

the aim of improving the quality of our gasoline output."

"We have also started primary studies on a project for converting heavy products into chemical and petrochemical products; With the launch of this project, while increasing the refinery's octane output, the benzene production will decrease," he said.

Tehran Oil Refinery is a non-integrated refinery owned by the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) located in southern Tehran. The refinery, which started operations in 1969, has a processing capacity of 250,000 barrels per day.

## IMIDRO to complete 12 semi-finished mining projects by late Mar. 2023

TEHRAN – Head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) Vajihollah Jafari said his organization is going to complete 12 semi-finished mining industry projects by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2023).

According to Jafari, the estimated amount of investment made in the mentioned projects is \$1.403 billion and they will provide direct employment for 2,887 people while indirect jobs will be created for more than 7,599 people, IRNA reported on Saturday.

The projects are in various fields including copper, steel, lead, zinc, ferrochrome, coal, hydrated lime, and phosphate, Jafari said.

The official noted that four of the mentioned projects are related to the copper chain, two will go operational in the steel chain, some mines will also be revived and



several infrastructure projects will also be inaugurated.

As the major state-owned holding company active in the mining sector in Iran, IMIDRO has been playing a significant role in developing the mining industry in the country.

In addition to new exploration and development projects, over the past few

years, the organization has been pursuing a program for reviving idle small-scale mines across the country.

Having 81 different types of minerals, Iran is one of the top 10 mineral-rich countries across the globe. In this regard, the Iranian government has been seriously pursuing several programs for promoting the mining sector as a major contributor to the country's economic growth.

Iran's proven iron ore reserves are 2.7 billion tons, while the country's copper reserves are 2.6 billion tons. The country also has 11 million tons of zinc reserves.

The total proven reserves of Iran's mines are estimated at about 60 billion tons, which is expected to reach more than 100 billion tons with the implementation of the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry's exploration programs over 500,000 square kilometers of new mineral zones.

## 4 major challenges facing Iranian economy

TEHRAN – Head of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) Masoud Khansari has said that considering the current global economic situation, the Iranian economy is facing four major challenges namely inflation, water crisis and food supply, financial turmoil in the banking system, and lack of enough attention to non-oil exports.

"The world has been facing complex issues in the past few months. The conflict with the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic, the war in Ukraine, the increase in the price and shortage of food (especially basic goods such as wheat, corn, oil, etc.),



the jump in energy prices, the acceleration of climate change, and the spread of droughts are among these challenges. In our country, however, in addition to the above-mentioned issues, sanctions and economic mismanagement have also been the cause," Khansari wrote in an article published on the TCCIMA portal on Saturday.

According to Khansari, if serious attention is not paid to the mentioned challenges

in the coming months and the governments do not make plans to solve them, they can become blind nodes to the point where, as the World Bank has stated in a report, there will be a risk of the world returning to 1970 and experience a widespread economic recession.

Mentioning inflation as one of the most important issues, Khansari noted that central banks across the world, including the Central Bank of Iran (CBI), should use other regulatory tools to control inflation instead of increasing interest rates.

He further underlined the water crisis in the country, saying that according to FAO Iran is facing a serious water crisis in the coming years which will increase the

country's dependence on imports of agricultural products if not properly managed.

Regarding the unfavorable condition of the country's banking system, the TCCIMA head noted that amending the current state of the country's banking system and changing the direction of banks from banking to corporate management has been proposed for more than a decade, but it has not yet been realized.

He finally stressed the importance of non-oil exports considering the current situation of the global economy, saying: "We have not been able to use our full capacities in exporting goods and services."

## Quarterly export from Kermanshah province increases 8% yr/yr

TEHRAN- The value of export from Kermanshah province, in the west of Iran, rose eight percent in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), as compared to the same quarter in the previous year, the director-general of the customs department of the province announced.

Bakhtiar Rahmanipour said that 1,543,118 tons of commodities worth \$649,851,516 were exported from the province in the first quarter.

He named rebar and ironware, tiles and ceramics, fruits and vegetables, constructional stones, dairy products, all kinds of plastic products, and disposable containers as the major exported items.

The official further said that 2,940 tons of products worth \$10,877,939 were imported to the province in the first quarter of the present year, with 64 percent drop in value and 74 percent fall



in weight as compared to the first quarter of the previous year.

He named aluminum alloy, labeling machine parts, and production line equipment as the main imported items.

As previously announced by the official, the value of export from Kermanshah province rose 15 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), from its preceding year.

Rahmanipour said that 525.305 million tons of commodities worth \$2.723 billion were exported from the province in the previous year.

In terms of the weight, the exports also indicate three percent annual growth, he added.

He named ceramics and tiles, rebars, iron products, fruits and vegetables, constructional stones, dairy products, and plastic products as the main exported items.

The official further announced

that 25,804 tons of products worth \$66.351 million were imported to the province in the past year, indicating 10 percent growth in terms of value.

He named aluminum alloy, factory production line, batteries, and tires as the major imported items.

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil exports reached \$13.69 billion in the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year, up 21 percent compared to the last year's same period.

Alireza Moghadasi said Iran exported 27.7 million tons of non-oil commodities in the mentioned three months.

Meanwhile, some 8.154 million tons of goods valued at \$12.464 billion were imported into the country in the said period to register an 18-percent rise in terms of value compared to the last year's

same quarter.

In total, the Islamic Republic traded about 36 million tons of non-oil goods worth \$25.5 billion with its trade partners in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year, up 19.5 percent in terms of value, Moghadasi said.

According to the official, the country's trade balance was \$605 million positive in the mentioned time span.

Iran's top export destination during this period was China with \$4.214 billion worth of imports from the Islamic Republic, followed by Iraq with \$1.824 billion, Turkey with \$1.737 billion, the United Arab Emirates with over \$1.645 billion, and India with \$424 million.

Meanwhile, the country's top five sources of imports during these three months were the UAE with \$3.426 billion, China with \$3.131 billion, Turkey with \$1.273 billion, India with \$512 million, and Germany with \$456 million worth of imports.

## TEDPIX drops 10,000 points on Saturday



TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 10,000 points to 1.48 million on Saturday (the first day of Iranian calendar week).

As reported, over 5.623 billion securities worth 31.48 trillion rials (about \$112.42 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index dropped 8,014 points and the second market's index lost 18,044 points.

TSE is on the four Iranian stock exchanges, the other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

Iranian stock market has been struggling for months to get back on track, however various internal and external factors have been hindering this market from reaching its true potential.

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

**How do you evaluate the recent round of nuclear talks between Iran and the U.S. in Doha? Is Qatar going to replace Oman's role in mediating between Iran and the U.S.?**

For a number of years Qatar has been trying to mediate between Iran and the U.S. in different ways. Mediation is one of the central pillars of Qatari foreign policy and whenever there is a dispute Qatar offered its good offices in order to mediate between the different parties.

The conflict between Iran and the United States of course lends itself to mediation and Qatar has been trying to play a mediating role between two countries.

For a number of years both the U.S. and Iran have been reluctant to allow Qatar to play a mediating role for a number of reasons.

Qatar has a particular style of mediation. Qatar also wants to be involved in setting the agenda of the mediation. This time, however, Qatar has simply offered to once again restart the talks providing a forum for discussion rather than being actively involved in setting the agenda for the mediation. In this respect Qatar has offered a welcome alternative venue for indirect talks between Iran and the United States.

My sense is that at this particular juncture Qatar's involvement is useful because everybody knows that Iran and the United States are talking. When they talked in Oman those discussions were held in secret and confidentially. Now Iran and the United States are talking indirectly through Qatar.

There is no secret about the fact that they are engaging in negotiation. In that respect Qatar is simply lending its good offices as a venue for mediation.

**Iran and the U.S. fault each other for the stalemate in the talks. Is it really a blame game or are they trying to extract the most concessions from each other?**

My sense is that both sides are trying to extract the most concessions but the Iranian and the American negotiating teams are under extreme political pressure at home and they have to deliver on an agreement that somehow can be sold to

# Iranian and American negotiators are under pressure: professor



domestic constituents.

The Iranian side has to deliver an agreement that somehow appears better than what was reached in 2015 or at least is not as bad in constraining Iran's activities as the 2015 agreement was.

The American negotiating team also has to deal with an intransigent Congress which is not willing to come to an agreement with Iran.

Neither the Americans nor the Iranians have the political courage or the political capital at home necessary to reach an agreement.

As a result they are trying to extract the most concessions from each other.

**To what extent does America need to revive the JCPOA in light of the Ukraine war and price of oil?**

It doesn't appear that the revival of the JCPOA has the same priority in the United States that it does for Iran. The Iranian side needs the JCPOA much more urgently and immediately for sanctions relief than the American side does. For the Americans there are a number of other priorities; there are domestic congressional elections coming up in November. There is the Ukraine War and there is America's reintegration back into the world.

The revival of the nuclear

agreement with Iran ranks probably third or fourth in importance as far as American foreign policy is currently concerned. So it doesn't appear that the Americans are as eager to come to the nuclear agreement as Iran is.

The price of oil might be somewhat influenced by reaching the nuclear agreement although I doubt if that is a motivating factor for the United States because there are a number of other sources.

**How do you see the positions of Persian Gulf Arab states towards the JCPOA? While countries like Qatar and Oman welcome it Saudi Arabia seems to be a harsh opponent of it.**

Since Iranian Revolution of 1979 the Arab states of the Persian Gulf have capitalized on tensions between Iran and the United States, not only have they filled the strategic and economic and commercial vacuum left by Iran in relation to the United States, they have also been able to engage in massive Arms purchases from the United States.

They have also attracted significant amounts of American investment in their domestic industries and domestic economies irrespective of their human rights records.

As a result none of these

countries welcome a revival of the JCPOA or any sort of dialogue between Iran and the United States. Even countries like Qatar and Oman that from an official standpoint support the JCPOA, but the Qatari Street (the average person in the street) or the Omani Street (the average Omani) does not necessarily support any sort of reintegration of Iran back into the international community, because there are aware that this would result in a loss of the leverage and comparative advantage in relation to the United States or the European Union.

**Do you think Iran needs a revival of the JCPOA in light of its strategic partnerships with Russia and China? Don't you think the world is going to be more polarized with China and Russia holding more sway?**

Certainly the world will be more polarized and certainly Iran has managed to either evade sanctions or find workarounds around them.

But here Iran needs investments not necessarily from the United States but from countries like Japan and South Korea. It needs trade with countries in Europe. It needs to be part of the international banking system.

So it's not just a question of the JCPOA; it's the secondary sanctions. It's the ability to engage in purchases in today's highly complex globally interdependent economy to engage in international commerce and trade. And while Russia-China axis may offer some reprieve to the country like Iran, it is ultimately insufficient when it comes to today's modern economy in order to foster meaningful economic growth and industrial development.

As a result Iran needs somehow the sanctions to be lifted on its banking system and it needs to be able to import high-tech goods, Iran's vast market needs access to semiconductors and microchips and millions of Iranians who live outside Iran need to be able to engage in trade with the country.

So it's not just the nuclear agreement on its own, it is all the other related restrictions that come with it that ultimately make it important for Iran to break out of its current stranglehold of sanctions.

## Delusional Israel bombs Gaza after Biden trip

From page 1 ► The Israeli regime later reported another two rockets were launched from the Strip toward the settlements. It is the first time in nearly a month that the Israeli occupation army has announced that it has detected rocket fire from the Gaza Strip.

"The aggression has never stopped against the Palestinian people," Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem told reporters, adding that "the increase in attacks was expected after Biden signed the Jerusalem al-Quds document with Tel Aviv."

Qassem pointed out that "the occupation is under the illusion that it has acquired the elements of new power through Biden's visit," calling for forming a comprehensive framework and high coordination in the axis of resistance.

The Palestinian Resistance movement's spokesman later wrote on a social media post that "the enemy's bombing of the Gaza Strip and terrorizing the region are part of its

gain the expertise, knowledge, and know-how - through whatever means available - to master the art of self-defense and manufacture for themselves indigenously made military equipment.

In the case of the Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip, the resistance went from throwing pebbles at Israeli army tanks in the First Intifada to firing Kalashnikovs in the Second Intifada, to launching an unprecedented number of missiles in Operation Sword of al-Quds last year.

When the Zionist regime claims "the strike on this site will significantly impede and undermine Hamas' force-building capabilities," the reality shows it actually won't.

The Palestinian resistance has mastered the art of manufacturing missiles indigenously, which means any strike on Hamas's military facilities that for argument's sake, damaged some of its



crimes and unstoppable terrorist behavior" against the Palestinian people.

The post added, "the Zionist occupation, with all the tools of terrorism and American support, will not be able to break the will of our steadfast people and their valiant resistance, and we will continue our resistance and legitimate struggle until the occupier is expelled from all of our Palestinian lands."

Another spokesperson Fawzi Barhoum said the Israeli bombing "reflected U.S. support and encouragement the Zionist entity had received to pursue its aggression and crimes."

The coastal enclave has been under an all-out Israeli blockade since 2007 when the democratically elected Hamas movement took control of the besieged territory.

The regime alleges it struck "an underground complex containing raw materials used for the manufacturing of rockets," boasting that the facility is "one of the most significant" of its kind in the Gaza Strip.

The apartheid regime went on to claim "The strike on this site will significantly impede and undermine Hamas' force-building capabilities,"

This is where the regime is under some kind of delusion.

Firstly, all legal scholars agree that the Palestinians in the besieged Gaza Strip have the right, under all the rules and regulations on this planet, including the UN charter to resist Israeli terrorism. This is their undeniable, inalienable right as a people whose children are being massacred and terrorized on a regular basis.

And this is their right as a people who are faced with Israeli war comes that are being investigated in the international criminal court.

Secondly, experts also agree that where a country or a territory is under blockade and is prevented from receiving military assistance to defend itself, from Iran - when it defended itself against the invasion of the former Iraqi regime of Saddam Hussein for eight years - to Yemen when it was under daily bombardment and blockade for eight years - to the Gaza Strip that has been under heavy bombardment and then an all-out blockade since 2007.

These nations will not sit idly by and allow their people to be massacred, they

missiles, Hamas will just manufacture more missiles.

Warmongers like Israeli leaders don't understand this, when it comes to equations - like one 1 plus 1 they understand it's 2; but when it gets to 2 plus 2 that's when they start facing difficulties in their delusional strategy.

Staying with algebra, one number Israel will never forget in the short term is five, that's the number of elections the regime is holding in the space of three years.

It's also a political crisis in apartheid, a terrorist entity which itself admits it may not be around in the eighth decade of its existence (after British colonialists handed over the land of the Palestinians to the Zionist settlers) because of the infighting and clashes within. It took eight parties to form the last coalition and it couldn't stay together for a year.

Eight is also the number of decades that Israeli leaders themselves feel will bring about the historical curse of their demise.

The prophecies of Israel in the Old Testament Tanakh (or the Hebrew Bible) say that the fall of the Israeli Kingdom has internal causes and is caused by conflicts between the Israeli tribes, and in the end, God will do what He did. Like King Solomon's kingdom which fell apart.

The majority of Israel's leaders believe in the 8th-decade curse. According to scholarly reports, most of Israel's governments collapsed after Solomon during the eighth decade. There are fears over the internal rift in the orthodox society and hatred between the right and the left, religious and secular, religious Zionists and religious Jews.

Reports say there were no injuries from the Israeli bombardment. However, journalists in Gaza often point to the effect the Israeli regime's "cutting edge" bombs, paid for by American taxpayers, have on the mental health of the children of Gaza.

Kids are traumatized when they wake up in the middle of the night to the sound of bombs being dropped in the largest open-air prison. It's not like families can move somewhere else during a bombing raid because there is nowhere else to move to.

Gaza, a small coastal sliver, is blockaded from the ground, air, and sea. Something that has been lost on the conscience of most of the international community.

## The U.S., aside from criminality, must be simply jealous of Russia...

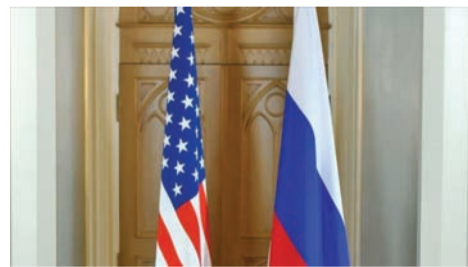
By Martin Love

Sitting smack in the middle of the proverbial "middle America" one can only wonder what's ahead, and it looks no good.

The problems are legion: Joe Biden is grossly senile. He has headed to Palestine and Saudi Arabia to suck up to Muhammad bin Salman and to the ever-changing Zionist government. He wants more oil, he wants to steer MBS away from China, he wants to applaud and shore up the so-called "Abraham Accords" and he wants the Saudis to initiate formal ties with the Zionist Apartheid state. If MBS has any sense he won't agree. Moreover, it appears Biden will let the JCPOA fall by the wayside and not be revived, all at the behest of the Zionists, even while many countries are eager to see the JCPOA revival including European countries.

Worse is the Ukraine situation. It's fair to say, on the one hand, Putin should not have invaded Ukraine even though, as experts claim, he was mightily provoked by the U.S. last winter. The leading political science mind in the U.S., John Mearsheimer at the University of Chicago, has often stated flatly and convincingly that the U.S. sparked the war in Ukraine, not the Russians. Yet the Russians fell into a trap BY invading; handing Europe and NATO minions full subservience to the U.S.

Meanwhile, the Biden Administration is utterly pleased about the war, and so is the Military Industrial Complex and the Pentagon inside the U.S. Many billions in weaponry and other support have been given to Zelensky. It's a proxy war that is verging on becoming a possible world war that could become



nuclear. To say this is frightful has to be the understatement of this century so far.

Perhaps the only way out of this mess is for Europeans to revolt because they are beginning to suffer from high energy costs amid burgeoning paucity. There already exists social unrest in Italy, the Netherlands, Albania and elsewhere and by winter it's likely to be a huge factor that could destroy the EU as well as NATO IF a wider war does not unfold. It would be good to see the U.S. public begin to revolt, too. A poll last week of Americans suggested that only 10 percent of Americans think the U.S. is on the right track. And Biden's "approval" rating is a very weak 30 percent.

One thing seems assured: Biden won't be reelected in 2024, and both houses of the U.S. Congress will go to the Republicans this coming November. Especially as more lives are lost in Ukraine and Putin "wins" the war and Europe and maybe even the U.S.U collapses in some fundamental way. Frankly, it's hard to know who has been a worse President, Biden or Trump.

On the other hand, if one listens to some leaders in the EU (who seem to have betrayed their citizens with gobs of propaganda) have convinced too many so far in Europe that Putin is an imperialist and a monster, that

he wants to recreate Russia's role as a super state, that he has designs on far more than eastern Ukraine. This perception is false however easily it is created in the public mind. Putin would never have invaded Ukraine, real experts claim, if the government in Kiev had supported the Minsk Accords giving the Russian speakers in Ukraine's east some autonomy, and also stopped Kiev's bombing and shelling that has murdered some 14,000 Ukrainian citizens since 2015 until the war began last winter. As well, Zelensky would have to have stated clearly that he had no desire for Ukraine to become a member of NATO. It does seem that much of what is happening in Ukraine since February has long been planned by the Neocons in the U.S. as the best outcome they could imagine in their attempt to destroy Russia as any kind of serious geopolitical competitor to the U.S. One may also opine that what motivates the U.S., aside from the drive to maintain world hegemony with its "allies", the worst of which has to be "Israel", is pure jealousy! Russia is a vast country with a surfeit of resources of all kinds that the U.S. would love to control. The U.S. dream is the "Balkanize" Russia and then more or less rape it. And many thousands of Ukrainians are paying the price as either dead or as refugees.

No one ever said getting to a multipolar world would be easy, but it appears to be ahead eventually. And there are some positive notes. The expansion of the "BRICS" countries to include new members, growing hatred of the U.S. worldwide, or at least outside the West, and China's continued ascension economically and politically. But above all a World War 3 must be avoided in this transition.

## Conference discusses sustainable development in Uramanat



From page 1 ► Archaeological findings dating back about 40,000 years, caves and rock shelters, ancient paths and ways along the valleys, motifs and inscriptions, cemeteries, mounds, castles, settlements, and other historical evidence attest to the continuity of life in the Uramanat region from the Paleolithic to the present time.

According to the UN body, Uramanat is an

exceptional testimony to a cultural tradition of the semi-nomadic agropastoral way of life of the Hawrami people, a Kurdish tribe that has resided in the Zagros Mountains for millennia. This outstanding cultural tradition is manifested in the ancestral practices of transhumance, the mode of seasonal living in Havars, steep-slope terraced agriculture, soil and water management, traditional knowledge for planning and constructing steeply terraced villages, and rich diversity of intangible heritage, all reflecting a harmonious co-existence with nature.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

## Voluntary divers to clean Lake Ahanak

TEHRAN – A clean-up project is planned to be commenced on Lake Ahanak in Firouzkuh, Tehran province, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

The depth of the lake will be cleaned of garbage by a team of voluntary divers, IRNA quoted Ali Rafiei as saying on Saturday.

The project is aimed to help develop and promote sustainable tourism on the one hand, and to help preserve nature, on the other hand, the official added.

The fauna and flora of this natural attraction will be preserved by cleaning the lake, he noted.

Lake Ahanak includes two twin ponds that are always full of water. Water from the lake is derived from the melting of snow at the heights of the region, and it is extremely transparent and clear.

Due to sulfur in the lake water, the lake water is not suitable for drinking and has a bitter taste. Its bottom is composed of very soft and light sand and mud, and its reeds, which have grown to about three meters high, have given it a beautiful appearance. The majority of trees around the lake are pine trees; however, there are some willow trees a little further away.



The first time Tehran is mentioned in historical accounts is in an 11th-century chronicle in which it is described as a small village north of Ray.

Ray, in which signs of settlement date from 6000 BC, is often considered to be Tehran's predecessor. It became the capital city of the Seljuk Empire in the 11th century but later declined with factional strife between different neighborhoods and the Mongol invasion of 1220.

Tehran has many to offer its visitors including Golestan Palace, Grand Bazaar, Treasury of National Jewels, National Museum of Iran, Glass & Ceramic Museum, Masoudieh Palace, Sarkis Cathedral, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, and Carpet Museum of Iran, to name a few.

## Centuries-old bathhouse undergoes restoration this time as travel destination



TEHRAN – Restoration work has commenced on an abandoned Hammam in western Iran intending to turn the centuries-old public bathhouse into a travel destination.

The bathhouse is located in the ancient city of Azna in Lorestan province. It will be turned into a destination for sightseers, features, and history buffs.

"Hammam-e Marzian has undergone restoration.... and the historical bathhouse will be renovated based on the original form," the provincial tourism chief Seyyed Amin Qasemi said on Saturday.

"Lorestan province embraces over 5,000 historical structures, of which 2,452 ones are registered in the national heritage list," the official said.

Public bathhouses in Iran were not only places for bathing and cleaning up. They had a social concept for people who gathered at these places weekly.

It was a place where people talked with each other about their daily life and shared

humor and news. There are still bathhouses in Iranian cities but they do not have their social function anymore since most people have bathrooms in their homes due to the modern lifestyle.

Some cities had separate bathhouses for men and women. They were usually built next to each other. However, there were some bathhouses, which were used by men and women at different times of the day.

There were also male and female public bathhouses; at daybreak, a longhorn (Booq-e javaz) was blown to announce that the bath was ready. Men came to the baths from daybreak till the afternoon. Women could use the bathhouses from then to sunset. In some cases, five days were allocated to men and two days to women.

Persian literature is full of proverbs, narrations, and folk stories about bathhouses, which indicate the importance of the place in the past time.

A region of raw beauty, Lorestan was once inhabited by Iranian Indo-European peoples, including the Medes, c. 1000 BC. Moreover, Cimmerians and Scythians intermittently ruled the region from about 700 to 625 BC. Lorestan was incorporated into the growing Achaemenid Empire in about 540 BC and successively was part of the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid dynasties.

Furthermore, ancient Lorestan is famed for its Luristan Bronzes for their eclectic array of Assyrian, Babylonian, and Iranian artistic motifs, dating from this turbulent period.

# Iran is hoping to win UNESCO recognition for Sassanid fortress

TEHRAN – Iran eyes UNESCO World Heritage tag for its Qale Falak-ol-Aflak, which is a Sassanid era (224–651) fortress located in Khorramabad, the capital of Lorestan province.

"UNESCO registration of Khorramabad's Falak-ol-Aflak fortress is of high importance as it is a public demand on the one hand, and is emphasized by the president [Ebrahim Raisi] on the other hand," IRNA quoted the deputy tourism minister Ali Darabi as saying on Saturday.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts is ready to compile a specific dossier on the ancient fortress and surrounding properties for possible inscription on the UNESCO list, Darabi said.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Lorestan's Governor-General Farhad Ziviar, the report said.

Moreover, the ministry is ready to invite UNESCO experts to visit and assess this unique historical work, Darabi said.

Ziviar, for his part, said practical measures have been taken to solve the problems over the UNESCO designation of the site.

"Measures have been taken to solve the problems of the historic fortress of Khorramabad after the visit of the president last year, and the province is ready to provide the



grounds for the world registration of this fortress," Ziviar said.

Last December, President Raisi paid a visit to the ancient fortress. He was accompanied by members of his cabinet, including the Energy Minister, Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister, Agriculture Minister, Culture Minister as well as Cooperatives, and Labor and Social Welfare Minister.

The unmissable eight-towered fortress dominates Khorramabad as one of the most visited travel destinations in the region for both domestic and foreign sightseers. The fortress seems particularly imposing and dramatic when floodlit at night, offering picturesque views of its encircling crenelated battlements.

Experts believe that the fortress is comparable with similar works

in Naqsh-e Rostam, Naqsh-e Rujab, Tape Chugan, and Firuzabad in Fars province.

In 2018, UNESCO added an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran -- titled "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region"-- to its World Heritage list. The ensemble is comprised of eight archaeological sites situated in three geographical parts of Firuzabad, Bishapur, and Sarvestan. It reflects the optimized utilization of natural topography and bears witness to the influence of Achaemenid and Parthian cultural traditions and of Roman art, which later had a significant impact on the architecture and artistic styles of the Islamic era.

The Sassanid era is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general

renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble. Crafts such as metalwork and gem-engraving grew highly sophisticated, yet scholarship was encouraged by the state. In those years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians.

Efforts made by the Sassanids also yield a revival of Iranian nationalism took place, for example, Zoroastrianism was declared the state religion. The dynasty evolved by Ardashir I and was destroyed by the Arabs during the period 637 to 651. The dynasty was named after Sasan, an ancestor of Ardashir I.

Under his leadership who reigned from 224 to 241, the Sassanians overthrew the Parthians and created an empire that was constantly changing in size as it reacted to Rome and Byzantium to the west and the Kushans and Hephthalites to the east, according to Britannica Encyclopedia. At the time of Shapur I (reigned 241 CE–272), the empire stretched from Sogdiana and Iberia (Georgia) in the north to the Mazun region of Arabia in the south; in the east, it extended to the Indus River and in the west to the upper Tigris and Euphrates river valleys.

## Shah Abbasi caravanserai hosts poetry night

TEHRAN – On Friday, a Safavid-era (1501-1736) Shah Abbasi caravanserai in the northeastern city of Neyshabur hosted a poetry night.

Pieces of Iranian Maqami music and local dances were also performed on the sidelines of the event, Neyshabur's tourism chief Saeid Daghestani said on Saturday.

Caravanserai is a compound word combining "caravan" with "serai"; the former stands for a group of travelers and the latter means the building. They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed around the courtyard and stables behind them with doors in the corners of the yard.

Iran's earliest caravanserais were built during the Achaemenid era (550 –330 BC). Centuries later, when Shah Abbas I assumed power from 1588 – to 1629, he ordered the construction of a network of caravanserais across the country.

For many travelers to Iran, staying in or even visiting a centuries-old caravanserai, can be

a wide experience; they have an opportunity to feel the past, a time travel back into a forgotten age.

Such roadside inns were once constructed along ancient caravan routes in the Muslim world to shelter people, their goods, and animals. The former Silk Roads may be the most famous example dotted by caravanserais.

Cozy chambers that are meticulously laid out around a vast courtyard may easily evoke spirits of the past. It's not hard to fancy the hustle and bustle of merchants bargaining on prices, recounting their arduous journeys to one another while their camels chewing hay! You can also conceive the idea of local architectural style and material in its heyday.

It's not hard to fancy the hustle and bustle of merchants bargaining on prices, recounting their arduous journeys to one another while their camels chewing hay!

Passing major roads in the country, one may see crumbling caravanserais many of which were abandoned for ages. In the Information Age, such guest houses have largely lost their



actual usage.

However, a couple of years ago, the Iran tourism ministry introduced a scheme to keep them alive and profitable; tens of caravanserais are ceded to private investors for better maintenance. Now, some are exclusively renovated and repurposed into boutique hotels and tourist lodgings.

They often had massive portals supported by elevated load-bearing walls. Guest rooms were constructed around the courtyard and stables behind them with doors in the corners of the yard.

## Festival dedicated to hydro tourism held in Bushehr

TEHRAN – A festival dedicated to hydro tourism was held in southwestern Bushehr province on Friday, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

Participants competed in wakeboarding, Frisbee, beach volleyball, and jet skiing among 11 other sports fields, Vahid Jamali explained on Saturday.

A handicrafts market was also set up on the sidelines of the festival, the official added.

Earlier this month, Bushehr's tourism chief Esmail Sajadimanesh announced that the province's tourism directorate seeks to develop water games



and sports.

Bushehr tourism enjoys a vast potential for water games as it lies on the shores of the Persian Gulf, he noted.

Private sector investors are welcomed and supported in this sector, the official added.

Despite its arid climate, Iran's tourism sector has tried to boost

hydro tourism or water tourism in recent years.

This branch of tourism involves traveling to places specifically to take part in water-based activities. Some individuals who do not wish to partake in water-related activities embark on water tourism trips so that they can visit tourist sites that sit close to bodies of water such as lakes, rivers, dams, oceans, etc.

While water tourism often includes active chases, some water tourists visit islands and shore regions to join more relaxed pursuits such as diving or swimming. Travel businesses organize tours of coral reefs and

arrange for local tour guides to preside over excursions on which travelers can swim with local marine life such as dolphins or even sharks. Some tour operators also cater to families who are primarily focused on swimming and tanning rather than interacting with aquatic life.

Water trips occasionally involve inland destinations such as lakes and rivers. Holidaymakers can sail or swim on lakes while many rivers are ideally suited to white water rafting. Additionally, some leisure businesses operate water parks that contain swimming pools, water slides, and areas for kayaking or canoeing.

## Farms receive agritourism permits in northern Iran

TEHRAN –Agritourism permits have been issued to three farms in the northern Mazandaran province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

Out of seven applications, three farms were granted agritourism permits, Mehdi Izadi said on Saturday.

Such permits are given to eligible farm owners in the country to launch their agritourism businesses, aiming to set certain standards in a move to ensure the quality of such services in the country.

There are a variety of activities associated with farm tourism, including agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, poultry breeding, as well as

other activities that tourists find interesting, the official added.

Agritourism is one of the newest forms of tourism with a direct and strong link to rural life, and by using these activities a region can witness sustainable development, he noted.

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

Experts believe that in addition to the customer services jobs, agritourism pays special attention

to the production sector, saying agricultural tourism is much more important and practical than other branches of tourism because it creates a new chain and diversity in the field of production and services.

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

# Let's shed our fears to save endangered snakes

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – Global warming caused by climate change, over-hunting, killing and excessive harvesting of snake venom have devastating effects on the species population.

July 16 happens to be World Snake Day, albeit unofficially. Planet Earth is home to more than 3,500 species of snakes, of which only 600 are venomous. Yet, these slithering, tubular reptiles are almost universally misunderstood — and only a handful of dedicated conservationists trying to protect them.

Barbad Safaei Mahroo, a senior expert on biodiversity, stated that nearly 85 different species of snakes are known in Iran.

One of the most special snakes in Iran is the spider-tailed horned viper, which hunts with its spider-like tail, he noted.

There are also types of sea snakes in Iran, which are among the most interesting snakes due to their habitat. Mountain vipers are also very important due to the fact that they live in the mountains and in the coldest parts of Iran, they play a very important role in the field of controlling other animals.

Snakes have a high diversity in the country. In terms of appearance and diversity, about 90 snake species have been identified in Iran and they are among the rich species among vertebrates. Some are up to two or three meters long, while some are very small in size and look similar



to earthworms, but they have vertebrae and are classified in the snake group.

Stating that snakes, like other animal species, die when the forest is destroyed or a fire occurs, he stated that a study conducted in the western Kordestan province in 2013-2015 shows that the diversity of reptiles in areas that suffer from fires, including snakes and lizards are greatly reduced, and this can be extended to the rest of the reptiles as well.

Most reptiles are more interested in tropical regions and research has shown that they have more diversity in these regions, but the temperature changes in recent years due to industrial development and climate change, have significant destructive effects because a snowy and cold environment suitable for mountain vipers has suddenly turned into a dry or semi-warm environment, which is considered an

unsuitable habitat for this species and causes the habitats to become fragmented and will eventually lead to the extinction of the species.

## Extinction of snakes causes irreparable damage to ecosystems

Malnutrition and habitat changes have also brought many destructive ecological effects, he lamented.

In Iran, most of the venomous snakes are facing extinction due to being killed by humans, and unsustainable exploitation in order to use their venom to prepare serums has continued for many years and has had a great impact on their population.

However, small species such as worm snakes and Eirenis have survived the extinction, because they are not used for their venom, nor are people afraid to kill them, he said.

Snakes are creatures that are

at the top of the food pyramid and hunt other animals, so removing them from nature can cause an outbreak of insects and rodents, which can be very harmful, he said.

Snakes are a great help to farmers and gardeners because they can keep rodents and insects away from gardens, he highlighted, expressing hope that the habitats of Iran do not get sick because the absence of snakes will cause irreparable damage to the ecosystems.

Just like other wildlife, snakes are also negatively impacted by climate change, disease, and habitat loss. Snakes help in maintaining the food web balance, they act as natural pest control and they are essential contributors to maintaining the balance in the natural food chain.

But the need for their conservation and their survival issues are hardly discussed, partly due to a prevailing negative attitude towards snakes and partly due to ignorance. Fear and negligence are the greatest barriers to snake conservation.

World Snake Day brings a great opportunity to shed your fears and let the precious species live.

In terms of appearance and diversity, about 90 snake species have been identified in Iran.

## Switzerland seeks to develop health relations with Iran

TEHRAN – Swiss Ambassador to Tehran Nadine Olivieri Lozano met with Health Minister Bahram Einollahi, emphasizing the need to develop bilateral relations in all fields, including the health sector.

In a meeting in Tehran on Friday, Lozano announced her country's full readiness to expand cooperation with Iran and called for developing bilateral relations in the field of health.

Einollahi also asked Lozano to use all efforts to develop bilateral cooperation in the field of health during her stay in Iran, pointing to the history of cooperation and friendship between Iran and Switzerland in the past.

Lozano also met and exchanged views with Mohammad Hossein Nicknam, the deputy health minister for international affairs.

Appreciating the presence of Swiss pharmaceutical, food, and medical equipment companies in Iran during the cruel U.S. sanctions, Nicknam called for the efforts of the two countries to ease the conditions and resolve

possible problems for the continued presence of these companies in Iran.

## Rise in pharmaceuticals, medical productions

The import of pharmaceuticals has declined in Iran by 91 percent, which shows the capability of the country's pharmaceutical industry, Mohammad Reza Shانهساز, former head of the Food and Drug Administration, said last October.

Today, all medicine used in the treatment of coronavirus are produced by domestic manufacturers, and if we wanted to import all the items, there would be a high exchange rate, he further stated, emphasizing that COVID-19 vaccine development indicates the pharmaceutical industry's capability.

In 2018, 67 percent of the active pharmaceutical ingredients (APIs) used to produce drugs in Iran were made locally.

A total of 227 knowledge-based firms are supplying medical equipment for health centers across the country, according to the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology.



Knowledge-based companies can produce any medicine effective in countering coronavirus or approved by the scientific committee within a week to 10 days, Sourena Sattari, vice president for science and technology, said.

Also, Iran is capable of production of biopharmaceuticals, which has so far reached 28 items, making Iran the third leading country in Asia.

Based on innovative indicators of health technology development in 2021, Iran was ranked 60th among 132 countries, which shows an improvement of 60 steps compared to 2014, the deputy health minister for research and technology, has announced.

Despite the sanctions that have existed since the beginning of the Islamic Revolution, Iran has the strongest health system in the region.

Based on innovative indicators of health technology development in 2021, Iran was ranked 60th among 132 countries.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Education, labor ministries ink MOU on out-of-school children

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare have signed a memorandum of understanding aiming to bring out-of-school children back to school.

The memorandum of understanding will pave the way for future steps, ISNA news agency quoted Education Minister Mohammad Bat'haei as saying on Sunday.

He made the remarks over the 8th session of council meeting for improving educational standards in underprivileged and underdeveloped areas at the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. "The meeting is aiming to live up to educational standards, however, the current conditions are unjustifiable, and we should move faster," he added.

## تفاهم وزراء برای بازگرداندن کودکان بازمانده از تحصیل به مدارس

وزارت آموزش و پرورش تفاهم نامه مشترکی با وزارت رفاه برای بازگرداندن کودکان بازمانده از تحصیل امضا کردند. به گزارش روز یکشنبه ایسنا، محمد بطحایی وزیر آموزش و پرورش گفت: امروز تفاهم نامه ای امضا می شود که نقشه کار برای ادامه مسیر کاملاً مشخص شود.

بطحایی در هشتمین جلسه شورای هماهنگی بهبود و ارتقای شاخص های آموزشی و پرورشی مناطق محروم و کمتر توسعه یافته که در وزارت رفاه برگزار شد گفت: هدف اصلی این برنامه و شورای هماهنگی ارتقای شاخص ها بود، هرچند این روند قابل قبول نیست و باید با سرعت بیشتری حرکت کنیم.

## Iranian students among world's top ten in IMO 2022

From page 1 ▶ IMO is the World Championship Mathematics Competition for High School students and is held annually in a different country. The first IMO was held in 1959 in Romania, with 7 countries participating. It has gradually expanded to over 100 countries from 5 continents. The IMO Board ensures that the competition takes place each year and that each host country observes the regulations and traditions of the IMO.

Over the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 20, Iranian students won seven gold medals, 11 silver medals, and nine bronze medals at different international Olympiads.

According to the Ministry of Education, Iranian students have won 192 gold medals, 371 silver medals, and 204 bronze medals since 2005, IRNA reported.

In the field of mathematics, they have grabbed 46 gold medals, 99 silver medals, and 45 bronze medals. In the field of physics, they have grabbed 36 gold medals, 57 silver med-



als, and 35 bronze medals, and in the field of computers, they have won 27 gold medals, 58 silver medals, and 23 bronze medals.

Moreover, they have gained 37 gold medals, 50 silver medals, and 24 bronze medals in the field of chemistry; 10 gold medals, 47 silver medals, and 27 bronze medals in the field of biology; 30 gold medals, 49 silver medals, and 40 bronze medals in the field of astronomy; and 6 gold medals, 11 silver medals, and 10 bronze medals in the field of astronomy.

## Astrology and astronomy in Iran

Part 14

As mentioned above, the sun and moon were removed from the category of planetary bodies; their two demonic opponents replaced them.

These are referred to in Bundahishn, chap. 5.4, p. 49.13-15 (depicting the polarity of good and evil throughout the cosmos) as Dark (i.e., presumably "eclipsed") Sun and Dark Moon (cf. Shkand-gumanig wizar 4.46).

These hostile entities which intercept the light of the luminaries are the head and tail of the dragon Gochihr (q.v.) (Bundahishn, chap. 5 A. 5, pp. 52.12-53.1, Dadistan i denig 69 [tr. West, SBE]).

At the beginning of celestial motion the head (the ascending node of the moon's orbit upon the ecliptic, Sanskrit Rahu) was in Gemini, the tail (Sanskrit Ketu) in Sagittarius. The dragon's body is thus arched threateningly across the sky.

The sun has another enemy in the "tailed Mush Paris," apparently a comet. It is tied to the sun's chariot but occasionally becomes loose and does great harm (Bundahishn, chap. 5.4, 5 A.6-7, pp. 50.6-7, 53.1-5; Shkand gumanig wizar 4.46). Such erratic bodies as comets and meteors would naturally be judged as ill-omened; cf. Dadistan i denig 37.55 and Book of the Zodiac, pp. 140-41.

### Judicial astrology and genethiology

Denkard, bk. 3.419 (ed. Madan, p. 402.12) refers in passing to the "nativities of people" (zavishn i mardom). Denkard, bk. 7.79 (p. 650.17-18), describing the state of affairs in year 400 of the Religion (i.e., the end of the first cent. A.D., since that era was identified with the Seleucid one), describes the use of astrology to see into the future: "At this [time] then occurs a state of benightedness.

The material creatures observe the planets and stars with the revelation of mathematics." The surviving horoscopes of Masha'allah (Kennedy and Pingree, *Astrological History of Masha'allah*) to some extent reflect Sasanian astrology, but the only complete horoscope in Zoroastrian literature is that of the world (zaych i gehan) at

the moment of mingling with evil (Bundahishn, chap. 5 A, pp. 51-53; MacKenzie, "Zoroastrian Astrology," Zatspram 2.21).

All the planetary bodies are placed at their points of exaltation for this dramatic beginning of celestial motion. A portion of "Gayomard's fate" is given in Bundahishn, chap. 6 F, pp. 68-69 (see also Zatspram 2.21 and MacKenzie, op. cit., p. 522, with note on the terms for "lucky" and "unlucky").

This account emphasizes the roles of Jupiter and Saturn and so is in harmony with the conjunction astrology of the Sasanian period, which emphasized the 980-year Jupiter-Saturn cycle (Pingree, "Astronomy and Astrology," p. 245; Kennedy, "Ramifications," p. 41).

Two examples of prognostication may be cited from the Kar-namag (ed. Antia, 3.5, 4.6). (1) The rise of a new king is discerned: "The zodiac has fallen. The planet Jupiter has again come into exaltation. Mars and Venus are conjoining in the sector of Ursa Major and the sign Leo and are giving support to Jupiter." (2) The course of Ardashir's flight is divined: "The moon is departing from Saturn and Mars to Jupiter; it has united with Jupiter and Mercury.

The lord of the mid-sky (i.e., Gochihr) stands under the determination of the sun" (cf. Shkand-gumanig wizar 4.47).

Astrological signs are a prominent motif in Zoroastrian apocalyptic texts (Ayadgar i Jamaspig is distinctive in almost ignoring them).

As the end of the current, tenth millennium approaches, there will be signs, miracles, and wonders (nishan, abdi, shkoftih; Denkard, bk. 8.14.12-14, pp. 691-92).

Each century ends with an eclipse (ibid., bk. 7.8.51-54). The year, month, and day will become one-third shorter, the night brighter. The sun will show a mist, the moon will change color; earthquakes and violent winds will occur.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON JULY 16

New cases	4,772
New deaths	13
Total cases	7,270,023
Total deaths	141,477
New hospitalized patients	565
Patients in critical condition	432
Total recovered patients	7,067,168
Diagnostic tests conducted	52,822,509
Doses of vaccine injected	150,951,872



JULY 17, 2022

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Success is the result of foresight and resolution, foresight depends upon deep thinking and planning and the most important factor of planning is to keep your secrets to yourself.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon: 13:11 Evening: 20:40 Dawn: 4:20 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:02 (tomorrow)

## Middle Persian literature

Part 3

The Bundahishn is a cosmological work, written directly in Middle Persian, but based on a detailed knowledge of the Avestan corpus. Main sources of the Bundahishn are the Damdad and Chihrdad nasks of the Sassanid Avesta.

Two versions of this work have come down to us: the Iranian or Greater Bundahishn and the Indian Bundahishn. The first to be known to Western Iranists was the Indian Bundahishn, transmitted mainly through codices K20 of Copenhagen and M51 of München.

An approximate calculation of the original length of the text, as contained in K20, gives a result of about 13,000 words. The Iranian Bundahishn, contained in mss. TD1 and DH, counts, according to West, 30,000 words.

It became known to the Western public at the end of the 19th century, once T. D. Anklesaria had obtained the codex TD1 from Yazd; it was followed, about ten years later, by TD2. Ms. DH was discovered in the private library of Dastur H. Jamasp.

Both the name Bundahishn and the name Zand-agahih are conventional, deriving from the first paragraph of the text, following the doxology, which also describes the subject matter of the Bundahishn, which can be shortly summarized as follows: (1) the primordial creation; (2) the nature of the world and its creatures, from the beginning to the end of time; (3) the mythical history of the world.

Though we know little about the history of the Bundahishn itself, most scholars agree on considering the first thirty chapters of the Iranian version as a product of the culture of late Sassanid times, and the final six as a later addition.

The final compilation of the Bundahishn is probably due to Farrbay, son of Ashawahisht, surnamed Jadagih, who in chapter 35a.8 speaks of himself in the first person. He was a contemporary, perhaps slightly younger, of Zadspram, son of Juwanjam, author of the Wizidagiha i Zadspram, who was active towards the end of the 9th century.

The text has been handed down to us in six independent manuscripts: the three manuscripts containing the text of the Iranian Bundahishn all date to the 16th century.

More specifically, TD1 was dated by West to about 900 Y./1531 while DH is slightly more recent (1597), but written by a more accurate copyist, though it presents two large lacunas.

The very last part of the Iranian Bundahishn is also preserved in Codex K43, where it is followed by a colophon dated 1587. Finally, the Iranian version is also preserved in codex TD2, often cited, but secondary.

The three codices which transmit the Indian version are much more ancient. K20 contains three different colophons dated 690 Y./1321, 720 Y./1351, and 700 Y./1331. K20b contains 19 folios, of which one, clearly more ancient, was assigned by West to the pen of Mihraban, son of Kayhusraw, who wrote K2 and K5 in 1323-24.

The remaining ones are relatively more recent, probably copied from the manuscript to which the older folio belongs. Though largely incomplete, this codex is very important, being independent from both K20 and M51. M51 was written in 766 Y./1397, by

Pishotan Ram, and derives ultimately from a copy written by Mihrpanag Srushayar, Herbad of Neshapur.

The order of chapters found in M51 differs radically from that of K20. Codices K43, K20, and K20b were all published in the Copenhagen series; TD and DH were published in facsimile by the Iranian Culture Foundation, while M51 remains unpublished. TD2 was published in 1908 in facsimile by B. T. Anklesaria from the Nachlass of his father, T. D. Anklesaria.

The earliest translation of the Indian Bundahishn was made by A. H. Anquetil Duperron and published in 1771. Fifty years later Rasmus Rask (1787-1832) acquired the mss. K20 and K20b for the Royal Library of Copenhagen, and N. L. Westergaard published them in facsimile in 1851.

The partial translations by M. Haug (1854) and F. Spiegel (1860), as well as the complete translation by Windischmann (1863), are all based on this text. F. Justi (1868) prepared a critical edition, though his work is devalued by the fact that he was never able to see M51.

In his 1880 translation, West chose to mainly follow the Indian version, limiting the use of TD1 to chapters XXVIII, XXIX, XXXI, XXXII and XXXIII in his numbering, though openly recognizing its value, which he had earlier guessed from Andreas's publication (1882) of a fragment taken from K43a.

In 1933 H. W. Bailey obtained his Ph.D. with a thesis on the Bundahishn, which was unfortunately never published. In 1956 B. T. Anklesaria's edition and translation of the Iranian Bundahishn, already completed by 1935 and based on TD2, was finally printed.

R. Behzadi (1989) published an edition of the Indian Bundahishn compared with mss. TD1, TD2, and DH; and M. Bahar (1990) printed his Persian translation of the Bundahishn. In 2005 F. Pakzad published a critical edition of the Iranian Bundahishn, taking into account mss. TD1, TD2, DH, and K43, as well as the Indian Bundahishn mss. K20, K20b, and M51.

The Selections of Zadspram (Wizidagiha i Zadspram) are a cosmological work written by Zadspram, son of Juwanjam and brother of Manushchihir, the head of the Zoroastrian community of Fars and Kerman in the second half of the 9th century.

The Epistles of Manushchihir show us that Zadspram was a reform-minded priest, head of the community of Sirjan. Though similar in many aspects to the Bundahishn, the Selections are more unitary and coherent than that text.

The structure of this work, as well described by Tavadia, can be ranged under three subjects: (1) the past is narrated in chapters I-III, which describe the creation of the world, the assault by Ahriman, and the consequent corruption; (2) the present is represented by the life a Zoroaster; (3) the future is described in the two important final chapters, dedicated to eschatology. Four chapters cannot be assigned to any of these groups: XXVII on the characteristics of the clergy, XXVIII on the structure of the Avesta, and XXIX and XXX on Zoroastrian medical science, which, in the same way as parallel paragraphs in the Bundahishn, show the influence of Greek knowledge.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica  
To be continued

# Niavaran art exhibition celebrating Eid al-Ghadir

TEHRAN – An art exhibition opened on Friday at Tehran's Niavaran Culture Center to celebrate Eid al-Ghadir, the day on which Imam Ali (AS) was appointed as successor to the Prophet Muhammad (S).

The exhibition is being organized with contributions from the Visual Arts Office of the Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance and several others organizations.

58 works in the form of painters, cartoonists, photographers, graphic designers, sculptors, illustrators and pottery makers, including Masud Nejabati, Mohammad Khazai, Masud Zenderuh, Majid Nagahi, Kurosh Parsanejad, Mohammadreza Miri, Parviz Hazseli, Mina Sadr, Morteza Asadi, Saber Sheikhrezaei and Ali Hayati, are on display at the exhibition, which will be running until July 21.

"In the great religion of Islam, Ghadir is God's greatest feast," Visual Arts Office director Abdorreza Sohrabi said during the opening ceremony of the exhibition.

"It is our religious duty to exploit



Visual Arts Office director Abdorreza Sohrabi (4th L) and his colleagues watch an artist creating a painting during an exhibition at Tehran's Niavaran Cultural Center on July 15, 2022. (Honaronline)

all our capability to introduce and clarify the great feast," he added.

"Art is the most powerful means for introducing and clarifying the story of Ghadir, which has been represented in the best artistic way in the artworks on view at the

exhibition," he stated.

The artworks have been selected from the treasure trove of Iran's Institute for Development of Contemporary Visual Arts.

Dozens of artists are also holding workshops during the exhibition.

Eid al-Ghadir will also be observed in an art project initiated by Tehran Municipality's Beautification Organization.

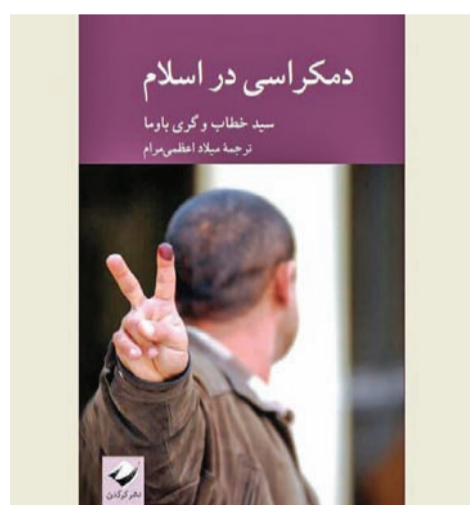
Artists such as Hassan Ruholamin, Ali Bahreini, Mostafa Gudarzi and Hassan Jafarinia have been hired to produce murals on Imam Ali (AS) along the Imam Ali (AS) Highway.

The murals will be unveiled on Eid al-Ghadir, which will fall this year on July 18.

Ruholamin, who is best known for his works illustrating stories from the history of Islam, is participating in this project with two works, one of which is "The Conqueror of Khaybar" originally produced in 2018.

This painting depicts Imam Ali (AS) removing the door of the enemy's fort in the Battle of Khaybar, which was fought in the year 629 between Muslims and the Jews living in the oasis of Khaybar, located 150 kilometers from Medina in the northwestern part of the Arabian Peninsula in modern-day Saudi Arabia.

## Book on Islam's compatibility with democracy published in Persian



Front cover of the Persian edition of "Democracy in Islam" co-written by Sayed Khatab and Gary D. Bouma.

TEHRAN – "Democracy in Islam", co-written by Sayed Khatab and Gary D. Bouma on Islam's compatibility with democracy, has been

published in Persian by Kargadan.

Milad Azamimaram is the translator of the book originally published in 2011.

Challenging the view of Islamic extremists and critics of Islam, this book explores the very topical issue of Islam's compatibility with democracy.

It examines the principles of Islam's political theory and the notion of democracy therein and the notion of democracy in medieval and modern Muslim thought.

The book also delves into Islam's view about human rights and the contribution of Islamic legal ideas to European legal philosophy and law.

"Democracy in Islam" addresses the pressing need for a systematic show of Islamic politics of human rights and democracy grounded in the Quran. The West wonders about Islam and human rights, and its own ability to incorporate Muslim minority communities.

Many Muslims also seek to find within Islam a source of support for democratic governance

and human rights.

The book contains seven chapters featuring the notion of democratic participation and democratic values in some basic Islamic legal ideas.

The connection between religion and the origins of violence and terrorism in modern society is also discussed in the book.

Khatab is a research fellow in the School of Political and Social Inquiry at Monash University, Australia.

His recent publications include "The Political Thought of Sayyid Qutb: The Theory of Jahiliyyah" and "The Power of Sovereignty: The Political and Ideological Philosophy of Sayyid Qutb".

Bouma is UNESCO Chair in Interreligious and Intercultural Relations - Asia Pacific at Monash University, Australia.

His research examines the management of religious diversity in plural multiculturalist societies, postmodernity as a context for doing theology, and religion and public policy.

## "A Separation" star Leila Hatami picked for Venice Film Festival jury

TEHRAN – Iranian actress Leila Hatami, best known for her role in the Oscar-winning drama "A Separation", has been selected for the jury of the 79th Venice International Film Festival.

The Oscar-winning actress Julianne Moore is set to preside over the jury, which also consists of Argentinian director and screenwriter Mariano Cohn, Italian director and screenwriter Leonardo Di Costanzo, French director Audrey Diwan, Japanese-English screenwriter Kazuo Ishiguro and Spanish director and screenwriter Rodrigo Sorogoyen, the organizers announced on Friday.

The jury will award the following official prizes to the feature films in competition: Golden Lion for Best



Actress Leila Hatami attends a press conference for her film "Pig" during the 68th Berlin International Film Festival at Grand Hyatt Hotel on February 21, 2018 in Berlin, Germany. (Getty Images Europe/Pascal Le Segretain)

Film, Silver Lion - Grand Jury Prize, Silver Lion for Best Director, Coppa Volpi for Best Actress, Coppa Volpi for Best Actor, Special Jury Prize, Award for Best Screenplay, and "Marcello Mastroianni" Award for Best New Young Actor or Actress.

Hatami gained world recognition in Asghar Farhadi's "A Separation" which won her the

Silver Bear at Berlinale 65.

Since then, she has had a noted performance in "The Last Step" for which she won the best actress award at the Karlovy Vary Festival in 2012. In 2014, she was a member of the jury at Cannes.

She headed up the international jury of the 2022 Vesoul International Film Festival

of Asian Cinemas.

The 79th Venice International Film Festival is organized by La Biennale di Venezia and directed by Alberto Barbera.

Officially recognized by the FIAPF - International Federation of Film Producers Association, the festival will take place at Venice Lido from August 31 to September 10.

The aim of the festival is to raise awareness and promote international cinema in all its forms as art, entertainment and as an industry, in a spirit of freedom and dialogue.

The festival also organizes retrospectives and tributes to major figures as a contribution towards a better understanding of the history of cinema.

## The book "Dew and the Sea" and some mystical stories

In addition to consolidating and verifying the concept and meaning of the verses, "Dew and the Sea" is a mystical interpretation of the Holy Qur'an that offers a unique outlook on its verses. It also awakens the audience's passion.

This book was written and researched by Farida Davoudi Moghadam, and it was released by Soore Mehr.

This book explores the question of how and to what extent Abulfazl Rashid al-Din Meibdi benefited from the stories he shared in his book, Kashf al-Asrar.

The key plot points of this book are introduced in the opening chapter by Farideh Davoudi Moghadam, who also explains some of them, including the axis of love and analysis of Meibudi's literary elements in the Quran

translation.

The second chapter of "Dew and the Sea" discusses how Kashf al-Asrar's scattered anecdotes failed to leave a lasting impact and distracted the reader.

Davoudi Moghadam categorises Maibdi's stories in the book Kashf al-Asrar into distinct sorts based on the subject, characters, theme, historical course, and so on. Some of the stories, according to the characters, are about prophets such as Abraham, Yusuf, and Job, as well as Prophet Muhammad.

The relationship between man and God, fear, affection, and love are also among the other topics that Davoudi Moghadam discusses.

This book examines the book Kashf al-Asrar,



the uncovering of secrets and their sources, and it can demonstrate the value of storytelling and the function it serves in preserving mystical and moral lessons.