

# Tehran, Kabul Mull Cooperation Against ‘Common Enemy’

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Report **T**

## U.S. has launched ‘almost 400 military interventions’ since its founding

The United States has waged nearly 400 military interventions since its founding in 1776, according to new research published this week that studied available databases and other resources on the matter.

According to the study by the Military Intervention Project: A New Dataset on U.S. Military Interventions, 1776–2019, half of those conflicts and other uses of force occurred between 1950 and 2019.

More than a quarter of them have taken place since the end of the Cold War. Out of the nearly 400 military interventions, 34 percent have been in Latin America and the Caribbean; 23 percent in East Asia and the Pacific region; 14 percent in West Asia and North Africa; and 13 percent in Europe and Central Asia.

The authors find that U.S. interventions have “increased and intensified” in recent years. While the Cold War era (1946 – 1989) and the period between 1868 – 1917 were the most militaristically active for the United States, the post-9/11 era has already taken the third spot in all of U.S. history and most of that military adventurism has been in West Asia.

It says “these interventions have only increased and intensified in recent years, with the U.S. militarily intervening over 200 times after World War II and over 25 percent of all U.S. military interventions occurring during the post-Cold War era.”

Until the end of the Cold War, U.S. military hostility was generally proportional to that of its rivals. Since then, “the U.S. began to escalate its hostilities as its rivals deescalate it, marking the beginning of America’s more kinetic foreign policy.”

The study reads “that some scholars have explained such increasing interventionist trends as part of the new norm of ‘contingent sovereignty,’ which explicitly challenges the traditional principle of non-intervention in the internal affairs of other states. Particularly regarding the U.S., one perspective is that the country is evolving past its Cold War doctrine.” ► Page 5

## Weightlifter Javadi snatches gold at Solidarity Games

TEHRAN – Iranian weightlifter Mostafa Javadi claimed a gold medal in the 2021 Islamic Solidarity Games on Saturday.

Javadi lifted 163kg in the snatch and 201kg in the clean and jerk to win the gold in the Men’s 81kg for a total of 364kg.

The silver medal went to Indonesian Rahmat Erwin Abdullah (158–197–355).

Uzbekistan’s Mukhammadkodir Toshtemirov seized the bronze with 164kg in the snatch, 190kg in the clean and jerk and 354kg for total.

The 2021 Islamic Solidarity Games are being held in Konya, Turkey, from August 09 to 18, 2022. It is a multinational, multi-sport event that is played between the athletes from the nations of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

With an exception of the 2010 Games, it has taken place every four years since its debut in 2005 at Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

The Islamic Solidarity Games are organized and directed by the Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation and the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation, but for the first time in history, the event is organized by the Turkish Olympic Committee.



Opera puppet show puts Ashura tragedy on stage in Tehran

TEHRAN – Director Behruz Gharibpur is restaging the Ashura opera puppet show with his Aran Theater Troupe at Vahdat Hall in Tehran.

The group has performed the opera puppet show for three nights since August 10, but the performances will continue for six additional nights due to popular demand.

Gharibpur managed to obtain cultural officials’ approval to stage the Ashura opera puppet for the first time in 2007. He promised to design and perform the opera in such a way that it doesn’t conflict with religious beliefs or the point of view of the ulama.

Gharibpur has restaged the opera every year

during Muharram since 2007.

The opera puppet show depicts the uprising of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions against the Umayyad dynasty on Ashura, the tenth day of the month of Muharram on the lunar calendar, the day upon which the Imam and his followers were martyred in Karbala in 680 CE.

## Water-intensive industries should use wastewater to contain drought

By Farnak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – In order to prevent soil erosion and water stress, industries should give more attention to watershed management, dredging and runoff control, new irrigation methods, and wastewater treatment.

The average rainfall in the semi-arid country of Iran is 250 mm, which is one-third of the world average. Iran’s 53-year average rainfall was 250 mm, which has decreased to 232 mm in the last 13 years. Parallel to this decrease, the increasing trend of temperature caused the increase in evaporation and decrease of precipi-

tations and the sharp drop in the level of underground water resources and its limitation.

Due to the importance of underground water resources, this year the United Nations has chosen the theme of “Groundwater: Making the Invisible Visible” for World Water Day, celebrated on March 22. ► Page 7

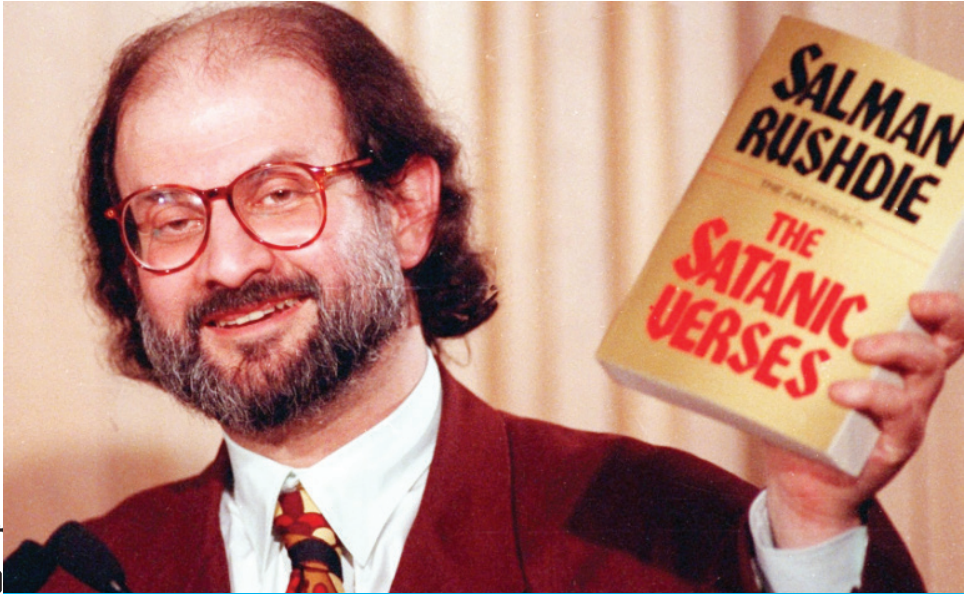
## Iran still reviewing EU proposal: official

TEHRAN – A senior official with the Iranian presidency has rejected media speculation about an Iranian decision on the proposals put forth by the European Union in the Vienna talks, saying that Tehran was still studying the proposals.

Mohammad Jamshidi, who is the director of the Iranian president’s office for political affairs, said that he was not authorized to speak about the text submitted by the EU.

“Of course, I cannot speak about the content or the authenticity of the recent text published by media about safeguards issues, but such coordinated leaks indicate which side is under pressure and need an urgent deal. The review is underway,” Jamshidi said on Twitter.

The latest round of talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), came to an end on Monday. ► Page 3



Salman Rushdie, writer of Satanic Verses, attacked in western New York

TEHRAN— Salman Rushdie, famous for his blasphemous views about Islam, was attacked on Friday before a scheduled lecture in western New York on Friday. Police said Rushdie, 75, was apparently stabbed in the neck after an ► Page 2

## Plans formulated to safeguard ancient Astarabad

TEHRAN – Golestan province has recently approved detailed plans aimed to help safeguard the historical core of Astarabad, which lies at the south-eastern corner of the Caspian Sea, northern Iran.

Based on this plan, the historical core of Astarabad (Gorgan) will be maintained as a lively, dynamic area, relying on its heritage values in connection with the surrounding environment, CHTN quoted Rahman Farmani, Golestan province’s tourism chief, as saying on Saturday.

The newly-approved plan replaces a previous

one which caused the chaos and disparity of the new constructions across Astarabad. It is necessary to speed up the process of preventing those harms, Golestan’s Governor-General Mohammad-Ali Zanganeh said.

Astarabad is situated along a small tributary of the Qareh River, 37 km from the Caspian Sea. The city, in existence since Achaemenian times, long suffered from inroads of the Turkmen tribes who occupied the plain north of the Qareh River, and it was subjected to incessant Qa-

jar-Turkmen tribal conflicts in the 19th century. It was renamed Gorgan in the 1930s after being devastated by an earthquake.

Golestan is reportedly embracing some 2,500 historical and natural sites, with UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus – a one-millennium-old brick tower – amongst its most famous. Narratives say the tower has influenced various subsequent designers of tomb towers and other cylindrical commemorative structures both in the region and beyond. ► Page 6

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Opinion **T**

## Using cryptocurrencies, Iran takes new step to nullify U.S. sanctions

By Ebrahim Fallahi

TEHRAN – last week, Iran announced placing its first official import order using cryptocurrencies, a move that would help the Islamic Republic get around U.S. sanctions easily.

According to Head of Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak, the order worth \$10 million, has been placed for the imports of automobiles.

This could be considered a first step towards allowing the country to trade through digital assets that bypass the dollar-dominated global financial system and to trade with other countries similarly limited by U.S. sanctions, such as Russia.

Since the original 2008 white paper introducing blockchain technology, cryptocurrency transactions have been used as a completely anonymous and private tool for trade exchanges. Many governments are currently using such assets for their foreign trade exchanges; however, it is not officially promoted.

Tehran is one of the largest economies that is leaning towards using cryptocurrency technology as a payments tool aimed at eroding governmental control over finance and economies.

Because cryptocurrency allows for direct peer-to-peer transactions made via the internet, only two parties are involved in the activity and no banks, governments or intermediaries are necessary. ► Page 4

## Khanian, Golduzian nominated for 2024 Hans Christian Andersen Award

TEHRAN – Children’s Book Council of Iran has announced author Jamshid Khanian and illustrator Alireza Golduzian as its nominees for the 2024 Hans Christian Andersen Award.

Golduzian received the nomination for his personal and diverse views in each of his works, and his skill for illustrating and designing a vast variety of forms, places and characters inspired by Iranian and the world’s illustration arts.

He is the winner of a silver prize at the 9th edition of the Flying Turtle Awards for his illustrations for a Persian translation of Palestinian poet Mahmoud Darwish’s “Think of Others” by Hossein Mottaqi.

Khanian is a researcher and a playwright. Among his credits are “A Half Day in the Interrogation Room” and “Compass”. He is also the author of several stories, including “Money” and “Where Is My Joseph”, which have been translated into English, Russian and Polish. ► Page 8





## Salman Rushdie, writer of Satanic Verses, attacked in western New York

From page 1 ► assailant attacked him and an interviewer. An Associated Press reporter witnessed a man storm the stage at the Chautauqua Institution and begin punching or stabbing Rushdie as he was being introduced. The author was taken or fell to the floor, and the man was restrained.

Rushdie was stabbed by a 24-year old New Jersey man. Police said the motive was unclear.

The assailant stabbed him in the abdomen and the neck, the police and witnesses said.

Rushdie's agent, Andrew Wylie, sent an update on his condition shortly before 7 p.m. on Friday, saying Rushdie was on a ventilator and could not speak. "The news is not good," he said. "Salman will likely lose one eye; the nerves in his arm were severed; and his liver was stabbed and damaged."

Rushdie's "The Satanic Verses," one of the most divisive works in recent literary history, instantly sparked violent and irate protests all around the world. The book was released in September 1988.

The book has been prohibited in Iran, India, Bangladesh, Sudan, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Kenya, Thailand, Tanzania, Indonesia, Singapore, Venezuela, and Pakistan.

Rushdie referred to Prophet Muhammad in his book as "Mahound," a disparaging epithet given to the Prophet by early crusaders that meant "devil" or "false

prophet."

In 1990, he issued a statement claiming he had renewed his Muslim faith, repudiated the attacks on Islam made by characters in his novel, and was committed to working for better understanding of the religion around the world in the "hope that it would reduce the threat of Muslims acting on the fatwa to kill him." Rushdie later admitted that he was "pretending."

The British-Indian author, who currently lives in the United States, had been previously put under police protection because of threats to his life. The UK knighted him in 2007, which sparked protests in several countries in the Muslim world.

Many countries with Muslim majorities denounced his knighthood. Several of these countries' parliaments criticized the action, and Iran and Pakistan summoned their British envoys to protest publicly.

Some non-Muslims were disappointed by Rushdie's knighthood, stating that the writer did not deserve the honor and that there were other writers who deserved it more than Rushdie.

Norman Tebbit, the former chairman of the Conservative Party from 1985 to 1987, described Rushdie as a "outstanding villain" whose "public life has been a record of terrible deeds of betrayal of his childhood, faith, adoptive home, and nationality."

## Iran never binds development to JCPOA or give up on negotiations: Raisi

TEHRAN- Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi reiterated on Friday that the Islamic Republic will not tie its advancement to the 2015 nuclear deal or abandon the negotiating table to resurrect the agreement.

The latest round of talks to revitalize the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), ended on Monday.

"We won't link the country's development and problem-solving to the JCPOA. Additionally, the Iranian negotiation delegation will not leave the table," Raisi said in Kerman, southeast Iran.

He asserted that the smiles and scowls of others will never impede Iran's development or prosperity.

Raisi stated that the negotiation team will carry on with its work based on extremely solid justifications.

The president went on to highlight that "we will seriously address Iran's economic and cultural circumstances regardless of the path the JCPOA revival negotiations take and what will happen in the future."

He said that Iran will implement its plans with the involvement people and elites, in spite of the adversaries' wishes, and the nation's future is promising. "We won't allow the adversaries to achieve their goal, which is to halt production and obliterate the Iranian economy and culture."

Since April of last year, talks have been underway in Vienna, Austria, to revive the JCPOA, which former U.S. President Donald Trump terminated in May 2018. The talks have been held between Iran, the European trio (Britain, France, Germany), Russia and

China. The U.S. was also involved in the talks indirectly as Iran has refused to talk directly with the United States. The talks were coordinated by European Union coordinator Enrique Mora.

By pulling out of the accord, Trump launched a campaign of "maximum pressure" to subdue Iran. Additionally, Washington reinstated the unilateral sanctions against Tehran that had been lifted as a result of the JCPOA. The U.S. itself and the European Union have acknowledged that the "maximum pressure" have failed.

Since several crucial issues, including the lifting of all post-JCPOA sanctions and the supply of guarantees that the American side would not withdraw from the agreement again, still remain unresolved, the talks have not yet borne the desired results. Iran has blamed Washington's political indecision for the prolongation of the negotiations.

Hossein Amir Abdollahian, the foreign minister of Iran, stated last month that negotiations on a prospective resurrection of the 2015 accord should include strong assurances since Iran needs to profit economically from the pact.

However, the last round of talks was promising as EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell presented a draft text for Iran and the U.S. to decide. Iran is already studying the text.

Iran has serious reservations about the text, mainly issues related to safeguards. Iran is insisting that the unsubstantiated allegations about its nuclear activities must come to an end.

TEHRAN – The Iranian special envoy for Afghanistan has hailed his recent constructive meetings with the Taliban officials, saying the two countries have stressed the need for close interaction in the fight against Daesh (ISIS/ISIL), Tasnim reported on Saturday.

In a post on his Twitter account, Hassan Kazemi Qomi said he has held constructive negotiations with acting Taliban First Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Ghani Baradar and Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in Kabul.

"In these meetings, the two sides stressed the need for promotion of positive interaction and expansion of relations in various fields, particularly the economic field, and called for enhancement of security cooperation in the fight against Daesh and outlaws on both sides of the common border," the Iranian envoy said.

Kazemi Qomi also noted that Iran and the Taliban emphasized the need for vigilance and caution in countering the common enemies, who seek to sow discord the Iranian and Afghan nations.

Afghanistan has been in turmoil since the Taliban, who had previously ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, regained power in August 2021 amid a chaotic U.S. troop withdrawal from the war-torn country.

Since then the country has been the scene of several terrorist attacks, most of them carried out by the Daesh terrorist group.

Just on August 6, at least eight people were killed and 18 others injured in Kabul during a Shia mourning gathering in the

# Amir Abdollahian briefs Turkish FM on the Vienna talks

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian on Wednesday briefed his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu on the Vienna talks intended to lift sanctions on Iran.

"We have sent our message to America through Europeans and we hope that the American side to create the situation for agreeing on the final text by adopting a realistic and pragmatic approach toward the rightful and legal demands of the Islamic Republic of Iran," Amir Abdollahian noted.

The talks to revitalize the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), started in April 2021.

The last round of talks was resumed after nearly a five-month hiatus in Vienna on August 4. The negotiating sides said relative progress was made to resuscitate the agreement. However, after four days, the negotiators from Iran and the U.S. returned to capitals for consultation with top officials.

The return to capitals followed after European Union chief for foreign affairs and security policy

Josep Borrell presented what he called a final text to revive the JCPOA.

Iran has been insisting that nothing is agreed until everything is resolved.

In a tweet on August 8, Borrell, who is the coordinator of the JCPOA talks, tweeted, "What can be negotiated has been negotiated, and it's now in a final text. However, behind every technical issue and every paragraph lies a political decision that needs to be taken in the capitals."

**Oman says success of nuclear talks will benefit all sides**

Iran's chief diplomat also held phone talks with Omani Foreign Minister Badr al-Busaidi about the Vienna negotiations.

Amir Abdollahian also praised Oman for its mediation efforts to put the nuclear deal on the right track and thereby lift the sanctions on Iran.

For his part, al-Busaidi said, "Oman believes that a success of negotiations will benefit all sides."

Oman and Qatar has been



mediating between Iran and the U.S. to restore the nuclear agreement.

Prior to the recent Vienna talks, Qatar hosted indirect talks between Iran and the U.S. in late June. As usual, the talks were coordinated by Borrell's deputy Enrique Mora.

**Iranian and Turkish foreign ministers condemn Israeli attacks on Gaza**

In his talks with Cavusoglu late on Wednesday, the Iranian foreign minister also censured the "barbaric attack of the Zionist regime" on Gaza in which a number of the Islamic Jihad resistance leaders and defenseless civilians, including children, were martyred.

The Turkish foreign minister also described "cruel killings" of civilian people, including children, as "unjustifiable".

The two chief diplomats also assessed the July 19 visit of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan and his top delegation team to Iran as positive and exchanged views on implementing the agreements made in the seventh Iran-Turkey high council meeting.

Amir Abdollahian said President

Ebrahim Raisi has ordered related bodies to seriously follow up on the agreements signed during Erdogan's visit to Tehran. The foreign minister went on to say that close interaction between the two countries' ministries and institutions to materialize what has been agreed are in line with the interests of the two neighbors.

**Oman will remain on the side of Palestinians**

Amir Abdollahian also held talks with Oman's foreign minister over the Israeli regime's attack on the coastal enclave of Gaza.

During the Israeli air strikes on Gaza, Iran's chief diplomat launched an intensive campaign against the attacks in his talks with regional and international figures.

Foreign Minister al-Busaidi also said, "Oman has always backed the rights and ideals of the Palestinian people and will stand on their side."

Amir Abdollahian and al-Busaidi also exchanged views on the latest regional and international developments.

They also reviewed certain issues of mutual interest.

## EU proposes lifting pressure on IRGC to revive nuclear deal: Politico

Europe's proposal to resuscitate Tehran's nuclear deal with world powers would blunt American sanctions against Iran's Revolutionary Guards and pave the way for Tehran to avoid further scrutiny of its atomic sites, according to excerpts of a draft of the text reviewed by Politico.

The details of the draft were finalized in Vienna on Monday after 16 months of talks. As the EU worked on it in close co-ordination with Washington, the terms suggest that the Biden administration is prepared to make greater concessions than expected to secure a deal — especially by reducing pressure on the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, a powerful military organization with near-ubiquitous political and economic influence.

Biden has made trying to revive the 2015 nuclear deal a foreign policy priority. Under the original accord, which President Donald Trump withdrew from in 2018, Iran faced relief from international sanctions in return for agreeing to strict limits on its nuclear activities. Since the U.S. withdrawal, Iran's nuclear activities have accelerated and a senior advisor to Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has boasted that the country now has the technical ability to build a bomb, even if that is not Tehran's strategic goal.

In April, Biden dismissed an Iranian demand that he reverse a 2019 decision by the Trump administration to place the IRGC on the U.S.' list of "Foreign Terrorist Organizations." A bipartisan group of U.S. senators followed in early May with a resolution declaring that the U.S. should not agree to any deal to lift sanctions.

While the European proposal, brokered by EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell in close coordination with U.S. officials, would not lift the IRGC sanctions per se, it would severely limit their effectiveness.

Under the proposed text, Europeans and other non-Americans could conduct business with Iranian entities engaged in "transactions" with the IRGC without fear of triggering U.S. sanctions, as is currently the case, provided their primary business partner was not on a U.S. sanctions registry.

"Non-U.S. persons doing business with Iranian

persons that are not on the [U.S. sanctions list] will not be exposed to sanctions merely as a result of those Iranian persons engaging in separate transactions involving Iranian persons on the [U.S. sanctions list] (including Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC), its officials, or its subsidiaries or affiliates)," the proposal reads.

This wording would allow the Europeans to do business very widely across Iran, where commercial interaction with the IRGC is almost inevitable, particularly in terms of trade. One diplomat following the dossier noted the wording also suggests that IRGC entities could seek to evade U.S. sanctions simply by conducting their business via surrogates and shell companies that create a degree of separation, rendering the U.S. restrictions toothless for non-American enterprises and individuals.

An EU spokesman declined to comment on the substance of the proposal.

"We are not negotiating in public and will not comment on purported leaks from the press," a U.S. senior administration official told Politico. "We are carefully studying the EU's proposed final text and will provide our answer to them as asked. You have seen how the EU has described this text as their final effort at a compromise — nobody should be surprised that it requires difficult decisions for all participants."

**Europe's lenient approach**

Europe, which regards Iran as an attractive market and source of energy, has been more malleable in its approach to Tehran. The EU and UK have steadfastly backed the nuclear deal. In July, for example, the Belgian parliament approved a prisoner swap treaty with Iran.

Europe's allegiance to the deal is both commercial and personal. Senior European diplomats spent years crafting the original Iran accord and officials across the Continent still regard it as the signature achievement of European diplomacy in recent decades.

**Uranium probe**

In addition to lifting the pressure on the IRGC, the European proposal would also open the door for Tehran to quickly resolve a separate standoff

with the UN's nuclear watchdog, which has monitored Iran's nuclear program, over claims of undisclosed atomic sites.

Tehran has demanded the International Atomic Energy Agency's probes be concluded as a condition to reactivating the nuclear deal. Both the U.S. and Europeans refused, however, insisting the UN probe was a separate matter outside the scope of the nuclear deal.

Yet now, the same European countries that censured Iran in June have proposed a further concession by linking the resolution of the IAEA probes to the resumption of the nuclear accord. The proposed text states that the U.S. and Europeans "take note of Iran's intent" to address the outstanding issues by "re-implementation day," that is the date when the accord would go back into effect, expected to be a few months after the formal signing.

The U.S. senior administration official pushed back on that narrative, noting that, "Safeguards on nuclear material go to the core of the IAEA's mandate. The safeguards investigations are not political — they are not leverage or bargaining chips. Once the IAEA director general reports to the Board of Governors that the outstanding issues have been clarified and resolved, we expect them to come off the Board's agenda. Not before."

Despite the concessions in the EU draft, Iran has yet to accept it, saying this week that it was still reviewing the proposal. The other parties to the original agreement, known as the "Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action," include the five permanent members of the United Nations Security Council as well as Germany and the EU. Yet the real negotiation has been between the U.S. and Iran, with the Europeans acting as a go-between after Tehran refused direct talks.

After months of what appeared to be largely fruitless negotiations, the EU's Borrell presented what he said was the "final text" on Monday.

"What can be negotiated has been negotiated," he tweeted. "However, behind every technical issue and every paragraph lies a political decision that needs to be taken in the capitals. If these answers are positive, then we can sign this deal."

## Iran, Taliban call for security cooperation to fight Daesh: special envoy

holy month of Muharram.

The explosion took place in the Sarkariz area of Kabul. The explosive devices were placed in a cart.

ISIS has claimed the responsibility for the bomb attack.

Also in April, at least six people were killed and 11 others wounded, including students, in a twin suicide bombing outside a boys' school in western Kabul.

Two improvised explosive devices (IEDs) were detonated outside Abdul Rahim Shahid high school, located in the

predominantly Hazara neighborhood of Dasht-e-Barchi, while students were leaving their morning classes.

In May 2021, before the U.S. left Afghanistan, three bombs went off outside a girls' school also in Dasht-e-Barchi, killing at least 95 people and wounding 240 more, many of whom were young students.

In October 2021, Daesh also conducted two separate suicide attacks at mosques, two of the highest civilian casualty incidents

of explosive violence recorded in the country, after the bombing of the girls' school in Dasht-e-Barchi and the explosions at Kabul's international airport during the August evacuations. The first incident in October targeted the Said Abad Shia mosque in Kunduz city that killed at least 50 and wounded 100 more. A week later, an ISKP (Islamic State – Khorasan Province) suicide attack on the Bibi Fatima mosque in Kandahar killed at least 63 people and wounded 93 others.



# Tehran, Kabul mull cooperation against ‘common enemy’

TEHRAN – Two civilians were killed Saturday in a blast that rocked the Dasht-e-Barchi neighborhood of Kabul a day after Daesh killed a prominent Afghan cleric in the Afghan capital.

The deadly attacks occurred a week after another deadly bomb blast targeted a busy shopping street in Afghanistan’s capital Kabul. Last week’s attack killed at least eight people and injured 22. The Daesh terrorist group, also known the ISIS, claimed responsibility for the deadly attack.

The escalating ISIS attacks in Afghanistan have raised alarm bells in Kabul and Tehran alike as they targeted Taliban and Shiite people. The August 6 attack took place in the western district of Kabul where members of the minority Shi’ite Muslim community regularly meet. It occurred on the eve of the Day of Ashura, a commemoration of the tragic martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS), a grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, which is marked mainly by Shi’ite Muslims.

And on Thursday, Daesh killed a senior Taliban cleric whose death was mourned as a “huge loss” by the



Taliban. Sheikh Rahimullah Haqqani, a prominent Afghan cleric who supported the Taliban and was in favor of female education, was targeted on Thursday by a man who detonated explosives hidden in an artificial plastic limb.

“It’s a very huge loss for the Islamic Emirate of Afghanistan,” a senior Taliban official told Reuters.

“Very sadly informed that respected cleric [Sheikh Rahimullah Haqqani] was martyred in a cowardly attack by enemies,” said Bilal Karimi, a spokesperson for the Taliban administration, on Thursday.

Daesh claimed responsibility for killing the cleric, further widening the wedge between itself and the Taliban.

The recent Daesh attacks against Shiites and the Taliban prompted Tehran and Kabul to discuss ways to counter the common enemy that is Daesh.

To this end, Hassan Kazemi Qomi, the Iranian special envoy for Afghanistan, held meetings with Taliban officials to discuss anti-Daesh measures, among other things.

“In these meetings, the two sides stressed the need for promotion of

positive interaction and expansion of relations in various fields, particularly the economic field, and called for enhancement of security cooperation in the fight against Daesh and outlaws on both sides of the common border,” Kazemi Qomi said on Twitter.

He made the remarks after a Friday meeting with acting Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi. Iranian Ambassador to Afghanistan Bahador Aminian and Deputy Iranian Ambassador to Afghanistan Seyed Hassan Mortazavi accompanied Kazemi Qomi in the meeting.

Kazemi Qomi also noted that Iran and the Taliban emphasized the need for vigilance and caution in countering the common enemies, who seek to sow discord between the Iranian and Afghan nations.

Hafiz Zia Ahmad, Deputy Spokesman and Assistant Director of Public Relations at the Afghan Foreign Ministry, said a variety of bilateral issues were discussed in the meeting and at the end of the meeting it was decided that an Afghan delegation will travel to Iran to discuss a number of issues.

## Iran still reviewing EU proposal: official

From Page 1 ► The EU coordinator for the talks, Josep Borrell, complicated the situation on the same day by saying that the negotiations have come to an end and that Iran should give a yes-or-no answer to the proposals he submitted. He called these proposals a “final text” in a move that raised eyebrows in Tehran and beyond.

“What can be negotiated has been negotiated, and it’s now in a final text. However, behind every technical issue and every paragraph lies a political decision that needs to be taken in the capitals,” Borrell said on Twitter on Monday.

He added, “If these answers are positive, then we can sign this deal.”

Iran has made it clear that the text presented by



Borrell was “proposals”, not a final text. However, Iran has started reviewing the EU proposals. Nour News, a website close to Iran’s Supreme National Security Council, says Iran has begun studying the EU text at the expert level.

While Iran was busy studying the text, Western media went so far as to set a deadline for Iran. The Wall Street Journal has said that the West expects Iran to give an answer by August 15, a move that could further complicate the situation.

On Friday, an Iranian diplomat told Iran’s state news agency IRNA that Iran is weighing the European Union’s proposals on the three thorny issues currently under discussion in Vienna: Safeguards, sanctions, and assurances.

The diplomat said Iran would accept the European proposals only if they provided assurances to Iran in the forgoing issues, including the political allegations linked to the safeguards, sanctions, and guarantees.

## Raisi wraps up visit to Kerman province

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi finished a two-day visit to the Iranian province of Kerman, where he held a press conference at the end of the visit.

Speaking at the presser, Ayatollah Raisi explained the results and achievements of the 31st provincial trip of the government and said, “This trip is a good end to the provincial trips in the first round, and trips will be different in the second round,” according to the official website of the Iranian presidency.

Stating that urgent issues were followed in the first round of provincial trips, the president added, “In the second round of trips, while following up on the resolutions of the first round of trips, we will take the best steps towards progress and justice.”

Referring to the delegation of special powers to governor-generals,

Ayatollah Raisi said, “It was emphasized to the ministers that the necessary powers should be delegated to the governor-generals, and specifically regarding Kerman, which is the mineral paradise of Iran, the necessary powers will definitely be delegated, especially regarding mines.”

President Raisi also explained about the water supply projects and provision of water resources in Kerman, saying, “The government is seriously following the water supply projects in Kerman province.”

He said, “Despite the lack of rainfall, with good water management, these problems can be reduced.”

Ayatollah Raisi also pointed out that water management, like electricity management, is a special agenda of the government, and stated, “In the government, we managed electricity through planning, and



the capacity to create power plants has also been created to build a high-megawatt power plant where industrial electricity is separated from household electricity.”

He clarified, “We divided the required 35,000 megawatts of electricity between industries and domestic consumption, and despite the problems and lack of electricity and

hot weather, we did not have a power outage, and unlike the previous year, we controlled it with the management and cooperation of the people.”

Ayatollah Raisi also announced the approval of 62 resolutions in the fields of water, soil and agriculture and added, “33 resolutions will be established in the infrastructure field, in the cultural and educational fields, and 350 educational centers will be established so that we do not have congested schools.”

In another part of his speech, President Raisi described employment in Kerman province as one of the central issues and stated, “It is unfortunate that there is unemployment in addition to the valuable reserves and mines of the province.”

## Venezuela protests seizure of plane in Argentina upon U.S. order

***Iran has maintained the presence of Iranian trainers on the plane was in line with international aviation regulations and there are no legal grounds for their detention***

TEHRAN – A Venezuelan government delegation held a protest on Thursday outside Argentina’s embassy in Caracas against the grounding of a cargo plane and its crew in Buenos Aires upon order by the U.S., Press TV reported

“Give back the plane and the crew,” the protesters, including Venezuelan Transport Minister Ramon Velasquez, shouted in front of the embassy, dressed in T-shirts and caps of the South American country’s public airline.

The Boeing 747 cargo plane, owned by Venezuelan cargo airline Emtrasur, a subsidiary of Consorcio Venezolano de Industrias Aeronauticas y Servicios Aereos (Conviasa), was held at Argentina’s Ezeiza airport on June 8 after Uruguay denied it authorization to enter its airspace.

Transport Minister Velasquez along with lawmakers visited the embassy to lodge their protest against the arbitrary move, as workers of Conviasa shouted slogans outside.

The delegation handed over a letter of protest to Ambassador Oscar Laborde, demanding the immediate release of the seized plane and its crew.

“We gave the ambassador some communications so that the authorities, the counterparts in Argentina, can sit down and talk about the situation, find the best alternative and the best solution to this problem,” Velasquez was quoted as saying.

“We hope that the truth prevails, that the Argentine justice system reacts, that it does not take this situation plagued by illegality to new levels.”

The seized plane first entered Argentina on June 6 carrying auto parts from Mexico. As it was unable to refuel in Buenos Aires due to U.S. sanctions, the plane left for Montevideo two days later.

But the Uruguayan authorities refused to give it access to its airspace, forcing it to fly back to Argentina.

An Argentinian judge Federico Villena passed a judgment to detain the aircraft to investigate the crew of 14 Venezuelans and five Iranians.

The judgment was passed on the instructions of the U.S., claiming that the laws were broken when the aircraft was sold by Iran’s Mahan airlines to Emtrasur, which is controlled by Conviasa.

Earlier this month, Argentina’s federal judge Federico Villenajudge, who is in charge of investigating the case, issued an order authorizing the departure of 12 of the 19 crew members.

However, four Iranians and three Venezuelans were asked to remain in Argentina until the probe ends.

The ruling came a week after Iran summoned the top representative of Argentina’s diplomatic mission in Tehran to complain about the detention of the Iranian crew on board the plane.

Iran’s Foreign Ministry has maintained that the presence of Iranian trainers on the plane was in line with international aviation regulations and there are no legal grounds for their detention.

In remarks on August 4, Venezuelan President



Nicolas Maduro slammed the U.S. diktat to have the cargo plane seized, saying Washington wants to “steal” the aircraft.

“They intend to steal from us a plane owned by Venezuela, legally owned by Venezuela... after kidnapping it for two months. Venezuela voices its protest and asks the Argentine people for all their support to recover that plane,” Maduro told state television.

Following the protest on Thursday, Velasquez said the detained crew members were being investigated for “espionage and terrorism” and their “right to defense” was being violated.

“They have not yet been called to testify, their right to a defense is being violated,” he asserted. “You can’t tell people they are terrorists, they are spies using intelligence reports that you know are biased” he asserted, referring to the intelligence agencies of Paraguay.

## IRAN IN FOCUS

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## SPORTS

### Moslem Oladghobad signs for AE Palma Futsal

TEHRAN – Iranian international futsal player Moslem Oladghoba joined Spanish outfit Associació Esportiva Palma de Mallorca Fútbol Sala.

He has penned a one-year deal with the Spanish team for an undisclosed fee.

Oladghobad joined his countryman Hossein Tayebi in AE Palma Futsal.

Associació Esportiva Palma de Mallorca Fútbol Sala, founded in 1998, are a futsal club based in Palma de Mallorca, city of the autonomous community of Balearic Islands.

AE Palma Futsal, who came second last season in Spanish Futsal League, will participate at the European competition in the coming season.

### Japan basketball defeat Iran in friendly

TEHRAN – Iran national basketball team lost to Japan 82-77 in a friendly match on Saturday.

Iran have traveled to Japan with a mixture of young and experienced players to hold a training camp.

Iran were knocked out of the 2022 FIBA Asia Cup after losing to Jordan 91-76 in July

The Iranian federation is going to field the young players with the aim of injecting fresh blood into the National Team.

### Iran’s women’s hockey beat Singapore at 2022 Indoor Asia Cup

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Singapore 5-1 on the 6th day of the 2022 Indoor Asia Cup in Bangkok on Saturday.

Nasim Mirzaei scored three goals and Zahra Residian and Zeynab Ahmadi found the goal each for Iran.

Iran had previously lost to Indonesia and Kazakhstan in Group B and defeated Pakistan and Chinese Taipei.

Team Melli Banovan will play Chinese Taipei on Sunday for the fifth place.

The 2022 Women’s Indoor Hockey Asia Cup is the eighth edition of the Women’s Indoor Hockey Asia Cup, the biennial international women’s indoor hockey championship of Asia organized by the Asian Hockey Federation.

### Iran U20 defeat Thailand in 2022 AVC Cup

TEHRAN – Iran U20 volleyball team faced a daunting task against Thailand to see off the hosts side in dramatic 3-1 (25-14, 25-23, 20-25, 25-22) win in their classification round for 5th-8th places in the 2022 AVC Cup for Men at the Nakhon Pathom Provincial Gymnasium on Saturday.

Porya Hooseinkhanzadeh scored a match-high 21 points including 18 attacks and 2 stuff blocks, while Amorntep Konhan and Kantapat Koonmee handed Thailand 18 points apiece.

Iran will play Pakistan on Sunday for the fifth place.

The competition is being held from Aug. 7 to 14 in Nakhon Pathom, Thailand.

The 2022 Asian Men’s Volleyball Cup, so-called 2022 AVC Cup for Men is the seventh edition of the Asian Cup, a biennial international volleyball tournament organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) with Thailand Volleyball Association (TVA).

### Iran to play S. Korea at 2022 AVC Cup for Women opener

TEHRAN – Iran will start the 2022 Asian Women’s Volleyball Cup, so-called 2022 AVC Cup for Women, with a match against South Korea on August 22.

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

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

The 2022 AVC Cup for Women will be the seventh edition of the Asian Cup, a biennial international volleyball tournament organized by the Asian Volleyball Confederation (AVC) with Philippine National Volleyball Federation (PNVF). The tournament will be held in Pasig, Philippines, from August 21 to 29.

As host, Philippines automatically qualified for the tournament, while the remaining nine teams, qualified from the 2019 Asian Women’s Volleyball Championship in Seoul, South Korea.

### Iran crowned champions of 2022 CAFA U19

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Tajikistan 4-0 to win 2022 CAFA U19 Championship Friday night.

Amin Hazbavi, Saeid Saharkhizan, Amirreza Es-lamtalab and Amir Shahim were on target for Iran against Tajikistan.

Samad Marfavi’s boys claimed the title with eight points, two points above Uzbekistan.

Hosts Tajikistan came third with six points, followed by Kyrgyzstan and Afghanistan.

Earlier on the day, defending champions Uzbekistan had been held to a 1-1 draw against rock bottom Afghanistan.

The CAFA Junior Championship is an international football competition in Central Asia for the member nations of the Central Asian Football Association (CAFA).

### Iran’s Ganjkhanelou wins gold in Men’s Road Cycling

TEHRAN – Iranian cyclist Mohammed Ganjkhanelou came first in the men’s 100 km road race at the 5th Islamic Solidarity Games in Konya, Turkey on Saturday.

In the competition held at the location Dut-luk7r in Meram, Algerian Youcef Reguigui won the silver and the bronze medal went to Yousif Mirza Al-Hammadi from the United Arab Emirates.

More than 4,000 athletes from 56 countries compete in the Games in Konya, Turkey.

There are 19 sports and four Para sports on the program.

### IPL: Sepahan defeat holders Esteghlal, Persepolis held

TEHRAN – Sepahan football team defeated titleholders Esteghlal 2-0 on Matchweek 1 of Iran Professional League (IPL) on Friday.

In the match held in Tehran’s Azadi Stadium, Yasin Salmani scored the first goal in the 52nd minute and Ramin Rezaeian made it 2-0 five minutes later.

Furthermore, Paykan edged past Malavan 1-0 in Tehran, Aluminum lost to Havadar 1-0 in Arak, Mes Kerman lost 3-2 against Naft Masjed Soleyman and Nassaji and Mes Rafsanjan shared the spoils in a 1-1 draw.

Persepolis also were held to a goalless draw against 10-man Zob Ahan in Isfahan’s Fooladshahr Stadium.

### Taekwondo practitioners claim four medals

TEHRAN – Iranian taekwondo practitioners won two gold and two silver medals in the 2021 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG) on Friday.

Amir Mohammad Bakhshi defeated Palestinian Ahmad Bahloul 2-0 in the final bout of Men’s 74 kg.

In the final match of the Men’s +87 kg, Alireza Nadalian defeated Moroccan Ayoub Bassel 2-0.

Narges Mirmourohlahi lost to Uzbekistan’s Feruza Sadikova 2-0 in the final of Women’s 62 kg.

Akram Khodabandeh also won a silver medal in the Women’s +73 kg, losing to Uzbekistan’s Svetlana Osipova.



## Using cryptocurrencies, Iran takes new step to nullify U.S. sanctions



From page 1 ► Although according to the Iranian law, trading cryptocurrencies as an asset is not legal in the country, the government allows some registered companies or legal persons to mine cryptocurrencies because the mining of cryptocurrency could help Iran earn hundreds of millions of dollars that can be used to import commodities and lessen the impact of sanctions.

Last year, a study found that 4.5 percent of all bitcoin mining was taking place in Iran, partly as a result of the country's cheap electricity.

Following the government's green light for using cryptocurrencies as a payment tool for imports, Central Bank of Iran (CBI) and the country's Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry have reached an agreement to coordinate the use of such assets for imports.

In this regard, as the Industry Ministry's body in charge of foreign trade development, TPO has announced that companies or persons that have mined cryptocurrencies legally, can used their assets for importing goods.

"Anyone who has officially mined cryptocurrencies can use them for imports as of the end of Shahrivar [sixth Iranian calendar month ending on September 22]. Imports are allowed for domestically mined cryptocurrencies," the TPO head said on Friday.

According to Peyman-Pak, the government is

now placing more importance upon the private sector for developing non-oil trade and CBI is now recognizing cryptocurrencies as a legal asset that can be used for imports.

Peyman-Pak noted that the government has made the necessary arrangements for the owners of cryptocurrencies to be able to transfer their assets safely using the blockchain technology.

"Based on blockchain, we have provided a platform outside the country where businessmen can get their cryptocurrency and import in exchange," he told on the national TV.

As the CBI representative for handling foreign currency exchange affairs, Iranian Exchangers Association (or Kanoon Sarafan Iran) has also recognized cryptocurrencies as a legal tool for trade exchanges and has expressed readiness to facilitate cryptocurrency transactions for imports.

"As the executive body of the CBI, the association of Iranian exchangers and the exchange network of the country are ready to use the mined cryptocurrencies to facilitate the country's imports," Kamran Soltanizadeh, the head of the mentioned association, said on Friday.

According to the arrangements made between the central bank and the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, cryptocurrencies can be used for imports and the regulations in this regard will be announced next week, Soltanizadeh added.

Considering the fact that the U.S. sanctions have made it somehow difficult for many Iranian companies and manufacturers to import their necessary equipment and raw materials, cryptocurrencies seem to be able to open new doors for such companies to circumvent the sanctions and access global markets.

Over the years, the Islamic Republic has shown that the country always finds new ways for neutralizing the impacts of the U.S. sanctions and using cryptocurrencies could be considered the most significant step in this regard.

## Supervising power consumption to be intensified in Tehran

TEHRAN- Power Distribution Company of Tehran announced that supervising the electricity consumption in the administrative buildings and bank branches of the city is intensified from Saturday.

According to the previous announcement and in order to control the expenses of the administrative subscribers, in accordance with the approval of the cabinet, from today, Saturday, the status of electricity consumption of the capital's administrative buildings and branches of banks will be monitored in a special way, the company said in a statement.

After the monitoring of the banks, the high-consuming banks that have not reduced their

consumption by at least 30 percent compared to the same period of the previous year, will be dealt with in accordance with the legal authority, the statement said.

Over the past decade, constant temperature rising and the significant decrease in rainfalls across Iran have put the country in a hard situation regarding electricity supply during peak consumption periods.

Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir) has previously announced that the company is implementing a variety of programs for managing the situation and preventing blackouts in the country.

## Export from Golestan province rises 47% in 4 months on year

TEHRAN- The value of export from Golestan province, in the northeast of Iran, rose 47 percent in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a provincial official announced.

Darvish-Ali Hassanzadeh, the head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, said that commodities worth \$67.8 million were exported from the province in the said four-month period.

He named Turkmenistan, Iraq, Romania and Bulgaria as the main export destinations of the products in the mentioned time span.

As previously announced by Ebrahim Hosseini, the director-general of the province's customs department, the value of export from Golestan rose



58 percent in the first quarter of the present year, as compared to the first quarter of the past year.

The official said that about 95,591 tons of commodities worth \$55.62 million were exported from the province in the first quarter of this year, indicating also 27 percent growth in terms of weight.

Polystyrene, cheese, various types of pipes, iodine, dates, compressed wood chipboard, copper wire, ceiling metal structure, aquatic feed and

tomato paste were the main exported commodities during the first three months of this year, the official said, and named Turkmenistan, Iraq, Romania, Bulgaria, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Poland, Armenia, UAE, Pakistan, Uzbekistan, Turkey and Kyrgyzstan as the major export destinations.

He further announced that 3,006 tons of products worth \$6.454 million were imported to the province in the first quarter of the present year, indicating 38 percent rise in worth and 10 percent growth in value year on year.

He named various types of cloth, and diesel generator as the main goods imported to Golestan during the first three months of this year and Turkmenistan, China, UAE, India,

traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 19,304 points and the second market's index gained 20,618 points.

Tehran Stock Exchange experienced a growth of 9.5 percent in the value of its trades in the

# Pipe laying operation of 1st SP phase 11 platform completed

TEHRAN - The subsea pipe laying operation of the gas transmission line from the first platform of South Pars phase 11 in the Persian Gulf to the onshore refinery has been completed, Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) which is in charge of developing the field announced.

As reported by the POGC portal, the pipe laying operation of the gas transmission line from Platform 11B which started on July 28 was completed on Friday, August 12.

This operation included installing a 32-inch subsea pipeline for transmitting sour gas and a 4.5-inch

mono-ethylene glycol injection pipeline both with an approximate length of 15 kilometers. The pipelines are connected to the offshore pipeline of platform 12C from South Pars phase 12 to transport sour gas from platform 11B to the mentioned phase's refinery on land.

The pipeline is constructed with the aim of transferring 28 million cubic meters of gas produced at South Pars platform 11B to the onshore phase 12 refinery in Pars 2 Kangan region.

When fully developed, the South Pars phase 11 project will have a production capacity of two billion cubic feet per day



or 370,000 barrels of oil equivalent per day. The produced gas will be fed into Iran's gas network.

Iran had previously awarded the development of the phase 11 project to a consortium comprised of France's Total, China National Petroleum Corporation (CNPC), and Petropars which is a subsidiary of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC), however Total and CNPC pulled out of the project in 2019 due to the U.S. sanctions.

Currently, Petropars is developing the phase 11 project after its partners left the contract.

The drilling operation for the first

well of mentioned phase was officially started in December 2020. In the early production stage, the output of this phase will reach 500 million cubic feet (equivalent to 14 million cubic meters) per day.

South Pars is the world's largest gas field, covering an area of 3,700 square kilometers of Iran's territorial waters.

The giant field is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate. The field is divided into 24 standard phases.

## Exclusive exhibit of Iranian products to be held in Russia next month

TEHRAN- An exclusive exhibition of Iranian products will be held in Russian capital Moscow during September 7-10, concurrent with inauguration of Iran's Trade Center in that country.

This exhibition will be held with the aim of boosting Iran's non-oil exports, with the presence of Iranian companies, as entrepreneurs and market experts from the member countries of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) are also invited.

Iran and Russia have been taking serious steps for boosting their mutual trade over the past few years.

In late January, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said that the Islamic Republic and Russia have reached an agreement to boost the trade between the two countries up to \$10 billion.

"We agreed to remove trade barriers and boost the economic exchanges between the two countries. Currently, the level of mutual trade is not acceptable, so the two countries agreed to increase trade to \$10 billion a year," Raisi said on January 21, upon arrival to Tehran after a two-day visit to Moscow.

As major players in the world and West Asia's political and economic scene, Iran and Russia have been expanding political and economic ties for many years, however, the relations between the two countries have entered a whole new level over the past few months.

The imposition of sanctions on both countries has been a major factor in bringing the two sides closer together, making them a strong alliance against U.S. pressures. Over the past few months, senior officials from the two sides have been meeting and visiting each other to consolidate bilateral cooperation in various fields, including energy, oil, gas, and transit, as well as diplomatic and political relations.

As the most significant event among the mentioned exchanges, Russia's President Vladimir Putin visited Tehran on July 19 to attend the 7th Summit of the Guarantor States of the Astana Process.

During his visit to Tehran Putin met with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei and President Raisi and exchanged views on the recent development in the world and in the relations



between the two countries.

In these meetings, the two sides reached new agreements and stressed the need for taking the necessary measures for broadening political and economic ties between the two countries in order to nullify the impacts of the U.S. sanctions.

Among other issues, Tehran and Moscow have been negotiating a free trade agreement to ensure acceleration in the economic relations between the two countries.

According to Kambiz Mir-Karimi, the deputy head of the Iran-Russia Joint Chamber of Commerce, the two sides have been implementing a preferential agreement that is applied to several commodity items since 2018, however, turning this preferential agreement into a free trade agreement would mean that 80 percent of the items exchanged between the two countries will be subject to free trade and will have zero tariffs.

"Negotiations on this issue are progressing rapidly, as Iran is also in talks with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) to reach a free trade agreement as well," he said.

Meanwhile, as the International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) has become a major focal point for Russia to achieve its trade goals, once again, this has brought Iran to the center of attention for the federation as a significant part of the mentioned corridor passes through Iran on the way to access South East Asia.

To this end, Russia has recently signed an agreement with Iran for the transit of up to \$10 million worth of goods through the Islamic

Republic. The country is also making new investments in Iran's transportation projects along the INSTC routes.

The new developments in the political relations between Iran and Russia depict a bright outlook for the two countries' economic relations as well.

The two countries have also taken significant steps for removing the U.S. dollar from their bilateral trade, launching a settlement system to use their national currencies in economic exchanges.

Iran's Integrated Forex Market launched the Ruble/Rial currency pair in early July, following a visit of Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Governor Ali Saleh-Abadi to Moscow.

The new arrangement means the two countries can now settle trading debts in each other's currencies. The first trade took place on July 19, the day that Russia's President Vladimir Putin arrived in Iran for talks with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Seyyed Ali Khamenei and President Ebrahim Raisi.

As reported, the new monetary system could significantly reduce the two sides' demand for dollars. Bilateral trade between Iran and Russia stood at four billion dollars in 2021 but the two countries say they are hoping to ramp up bilateral trade to eight billion dollars in the short term.

The new trading arrangement allows them to avoid the use of dollars and, by doing so, also sidestep the impact of the U.S. sanctions.

Iranian officials say they plan to expand the new bilateral settlement system to include the currencies of other key trading partners, including the Turkish lira, the Indian rupee, and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) dirham.

"We will offer other currencies in the future to have a diversified basket and to reduce the influence of currencies like the dollar," Saleh-Abadi said on July 21.

If that happens, the effect will be to create a network of agreements enabling Iran to carry out trade without having to resort to the dollar or the euro.

## Drilling of Changuleh oil field's 1st exploratory well to begin soon



TEHRAN - The drilling operation of the first exploratory well of Changuleh oil field in Iran's western Ilam Province is going to begin soon, a senior official with the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) said.

Mehdi Fakour, the Director of Exploration at NIOC, said the drilling project has currently reached 40 percent progress and is going ahead of schedule, Shana reported on Saturday.

"We are now 11 percent ahead of schedule in this project and this confirms that we can complete the well sooner than expected," Fakour said.

According to Fakour, the project valued at about 233 billion rials (over \$832,000) has been awarded to a local firm and it is expected to be completed by the eighth Iranian calendar month of Aban (starts on October 23).

He stated that since Changuleh field is located in

the border with Iraq and was a battle zone during the war with the country, it was necessary to first clean up the area from ammunitions left from that period.

After clean up, the project has been carried out in three stages; the first stage was the construction of an access road to the well, the second stage was the construction of the well area and its cellar, and the third stage was placing the drilling rig, Fakour noted.

"All the necessary preparations have been done and we are ready for drilling the well," he said.

Located near the Azar oil field in the Anaran block, Changuleh is shared with Iraq's Badra oil field. The field was primarily considered to be independent, but analysis of 3D seismic data proved its shared status.

Based on NIOC data, Changuleh is estimated to need \$2.2 billion in investment to be fully developed.

So far, 3D seismic test, determining the location of wells and infrastructure activities like cleanup and construction of access roads have been carried out in this field.

According to studies, 19 wells need to be drilled in this field. The field is to be developed in two phases. Phase 1, which involves early production, will lead to the output of 15,000 barrels per day (bpd), while Phase 2 will bring the output to 50,000 bpd.



According to a new survey from Der Spiegel, three quarters of all Germans want to continue the operations of Germany's remaining nuclear power plants, throwing into question the country's much-touted plan to phase out nuclear energy. Is the country about to make a U-turn on the issue?

Winter is coming and Klaus Zilian is worried. He lives with his wife and two children in Neustadt, in the northwestern German state of Schleswig-Holstein, in the single-family home the couple bought 14 years ago – 160 square meters (1,500 square feet), seven rooms and insulating plaster the color of champagne. The electricity comes from the municipal utility company, the house is heated with gas and the Baltic Sea is only a five-minute walk away. It's typical middle-class prosperity.

The family will be able to handle the fact that the energy prices are going up due to the Russian reduction of the flows of natural gas into Germany, Zilian says. But what if the house suddenly gets cold because there's just not enough gas? "I can already see us cuddling under blankets," says Zilian, who heads a financial consultancy.

He has backed away from a formerly held conviction. "I was always in favor of the plan to phase out nuclear power," the 54-year-old says of Germany's plan to take all of its atomic energy plants offline by the end of this year. He says the situation changed because of the crisis with Russia. He says he supports keeping nuclear power plants online to prevent having to use natural gas to generate electricity. "We should use the existing nuclear power plants for as long as the crisis lasts," he says.

It's a typical scene from a country that is afraid, even amid the summer heat, of the coming winter and the threat of gas shortages. It's a country eyeing its nuclear power plants, the few that are still operating and those that were just recently switched off, from a new perspective: Couldn't they help now, amid the potentially imminent emergency? In any case, many people no longer seem to see the cooling towers and their clouds of steam as a symbol of evil, but rather one of hope.

A poll commissioned by DER SPIEGEL has revealed some rather shocking numbers. According to the survey carried out by the online polling firm Civey, only 22 percent of those surveyed are in favor of shutting down the three nuclear plants that are still in operation in Germany as planned at the end of the year.

#### 41 percent want to build new plants

Seventy-eight percent of those surveyed are in favor of continuing to operate the plants until the summer of 2023, a variant that is being discussed in the political sphere as a "stretch operation" – in other words, continuing to keep them online for a few months, but without the acquisition of new fuel rods. Even among Green Party supporters, a narrow majority favors this approach.

Is this the crisis talking? The answers suggest that the attitude of Germans toward nuclear power has changed significantly. Sixty-seven percent are in favor of continuing to operate the nuclear plants for the next five years, with only 27 percent opposed to it. The only group without a clear majority in favor of running the plants for the next five years are the supporters of the Green Party. Backers of the center-right Christian Democrats (CDU) and their Bavarian sister party the Christian Social Union (CSU), as well as those supporting the pro-business Free Democrats (FDP) and the far-right Alternative for Germany (AfD) are over 80 percent in favor of having the nuclear plants running for that long.

On the question of whether Germany should build new

# Three quarters of Germans want to continue operations of remaining nuclear plants



The Isar 2 nuclear power plant (left) near Landshut, Bavaria

nuclear power plants because of the energy crisis, 41 percent of respondents answered "yes," meaning they favor an approach that isn't even up for debate in Germany.

The results are astounding all around, especially compared with past surveys. Thirty-three years ago, a polling institute asked a similar question on behalf of DER SPIEGEL. At the time, only a miniscule 3 percent of respondents thought Germany should build new plants.

#### Questioning old certainties

Officially, Germany is supposed to be transitioning to green energies, but these polling figures suggest that people may be interested in returning to the old energy status quo.

But how is that even possible? It had already become clear in recent years that support for the nuclear phaseout was already slowly crumbling. The Russian war against Ukraine has now accelerated this shift, calling into question many old certainties, or overturning them completely. Formerly staunch pacifists now support weapons deliveries. A Green Party economics minister is going on a gas-shopping spree to Qatar. The energy security that people took for granted for decades in Germany has been shaken ever since Russia cut gas deliveries and costs rose.

The result being that an old German dogma now seems to be crumbling: the rejection of nuclear energy. Concerns are either being put on the backburner or are evaporating. Radiation from nuclear waste? Safety risks? Danger of large-scale disasters? Who cares. Those are things you worry about when you have working heat. Electricity first, then ethics.

However, some people believe nuclear power is both ecologically and morally sound.

Von Waitz, a long-time member of the CSU, noticed the signs of climate change in her environment, she became a pro-nuclear activist. She had done a lot of reading and was convinced by the arguments of those who say that nuclear power can protect the climate.

#### Ideologically Flexible

How should politicians respond to the resurrection of an issue that had long been consigned to the dustbin of history?

They become ideologically flexible. Driven by the fear of angry voters unsure about their energy supply, more and more decision-makers are showing themselves to be willing to make concessions. Even Chancellor Olaf Scholz said a few days ago that an extension of the lifespan of nuclear plants could "make sense" when he visited a Gazprom turbine intended for the Nord Stream I gas

pipeline from Russia for a bizarre photo op and press event.

In political circles in Berlin, the nuclear debate is causing intrigue and increasing nervousness. Just a few weeks ago, Green Economics Minister Robert Habeck had a fairly relaxed approach to the nuclear question.

#### A movement has gone quiet

Since the Fukushima disaster in Japan and the 2011 decision to phase out nuclear power, the anti-nuclear movement, as much a part of German identity as Oktoberfest, has gone quiet.

The goal had been attained. Gone were the days when hundreds of police officers had to drag protesters from the train tracks so that the "Castor transports" of nuclear waste could pass. And few still take notice of the tractor protests in Gorleben, the site of a nuclear waste storage site, which actually do still take place.

How do the old enemies of nuclear power and the associated waste see their fellow Germans' new fondness for nuclear power?

#### Will Berlin change nuclear phase-out law?

But can it really go on forever? Are extended operating spans or the recommissioning of nuclear reactors and the other scenarios even technically feasible? Can the phaseout even still be stopped at this point?

For one, continued operations would be illegal. Anyone who operates a nuclear power plant after Jan. 1, 2023, will be open to prosecution, because that's when the "operational authorization" for the last three German nuclear power plants will expire. Neckarwestheim, Emsland and Isar 2 will have to be taken off the grid, regardless of the fact that each of them could produce up to 11 billion kilowatt hours of electricity per year in a pinch.

Uwe Stoll is the CEO of the German Corporation for Reactor Safety (GRS), a man with 35 years of experience in the nuclear sector. He doesn't believe that the end of nuclear power in Germany is upon us. He predicts that as of Jan. 1, the number of operating nuclear plants in the country will be "greater than zero."

Stoll believes that the German government will change the nuclear law to allow the continued availability of nuclear power. He says it would technically not be problematic to continue operating the three facilities over a long period. The best candidate for a comeback, he says, would be the Isar 2 plant near Landshut, in Bavaria, in part because of the state's precarious energy situation, as the state doesn't have any wind power or power lines from the north. Isar

2 is actually intended to be run at full power until the last day, after which the fuel rods will be exhausted, according to its operator, PreussenElektra.

But those fuel rods won't be gone – a nuclear plant can produce electricity even with old elements. Although the output then decreases by up to 0.5 percent a day, it can remain productive for "80, 90, maybe 100 days," according to Stoll.

If Berlin does decide to keep the nuclear power plants online, a second question will arise that is likely to hit the Greens especially hard: From the technical perspective, it would be hard to argue against putting the three power plants shut down in 2021 back online.

Although some power lines have been cut at Brokdorf, Grohnde and Gundremmingen C, the actual dismantling process hasn't properly begun. The spent fuel elements need to stay in the plants' decay pools for at least five years to lose enough radioactivity and heat radiation. Even a decommissioned power plant needs to remain largely intact during this period to ensure key functions, like cooling. Stoll believes that each of these old nuclear power plants could be refurbished within six months.

#### A symbol of solidarity

The pressure to keep or reopen German nuclear plants isn't just coming from within Germany, but also increasingly from Europe, the European Union partners with whom Germany will have to jointly overcome the energy and Ukraine crises.

Many EU member states have not forgotten that the German government pushed through the construction of the Nord Stream 2 gas pipeline from Russia to the northern German state of Mecklenburg-Western Pomerania in the face of fierce opposition. It's not only the Eastern Europeans who are irritated that Berlin is now calling for solidarity from all EU member states even as it refuses to compromise on nuclear energy.

Unlike in previous crises, Germany is now dependent on the support of its partners. Germany consumes more gas than any other EU country, and much of it comes from Russia. In Brussels last week, Slovakian Economics Minister Richard Sulik said that if Germany wants to save gas, it should "first keep three of its nuclear power plants running."

The extension of the operations is becoming a symbol of German solidarity. For this reason alone, the German government can ill afford to shut them all down at the end of the year.

In the small town of Ahaus in North Rhine-Westphalia, near the Dutch border, 71-year-old Felix Ruwe is sitting in his backyard. Ruwe is a pensioner and deputy chairman of the No Nuclear Waste in Ahaus citizens' initiative, which was founded 45 years ago and reached its heyday around 1998 and 2005, when the Castor transports with spent fuel rods arrived in Ahaus.

Ruwe has a degree in electrical engineering and talks like someone who does, with mention of ball fuel elements, moderator rods and the differences between MTR2 and MTR3 castors. He knows what is stored in Ahaus (enriched uranium), the number of castor containers there (329) and how long the interim storage facility's license will last (until 2036). Resistance against nuclear waste, which can pose a burden to future generations for thousands of years, is his life's work.

When asked who is still involved in the citizens' initiative these days, Ruwe says, "We have to admit that we're all old farts now." He says there's no young new blood coming to continue the fight. "The resistance," says his wife, Christel, "will die with us."

## U.S. has launched ‘almost 400 military interventions’ since its founding

From page 1 ► The study notes "U.S. military interventions to promote geopolitical interests cannot explain the dynamics of the post-Cold War era. If the U.S. primarily intervenes when its security interests are threatened, we expect the U.S. to intervene less in an era void of peer competitors where fewer vital interests are arguably at stake."

The authors point out that other researchers have asserted the U.S. uses force abroad "without a clear organizing principle and thus its military missions have had disastrous long-term and unintended consequences." In 2018, a co-author said "current patterns of U.S. military engagement as kinetic diplomacy, diplomacy solely through armed force," the research says, in the past years "while U.S. ambassadors are operating in one-third of the world's countries, U.S. special operators are active in three-fourths."

A challenging aspect of measuring military interventions is how to define an intervention, the research notes. The study highlights "that the definition of U.S. military intervention may fall under any of the following categories."

The movement of regular troops or



forces (airborne, seaborne, shelling, etc.) of one country inside another, in the context of some political issue or dispute. To separate higher intensity interventions from minor skirmishes, this definition excludes paramilitaries, government-backed militias, and other security forces that are not part of the regular uniformed military of a state.

Similarly, "events must be purposeful, not accidental." Inadvertent border crossings are not included in this definition and neither are unintentional confrontations between planes or naval ships. The definition excludes soldiers engaging in exercises in a foreign land, transporting forces across borders, or on foreign bases. Furthermore, the definition categorizes international military interventions by temporal guidelines so that interventions are continuous if repeated acts occur within 6 months of one another.

Instances in which the United States has used its Armed Forces abroad

in situations of military conflict or potential conflict or for other than normal peacetime purposes...Covert operations, disaster relief, and routine alliance stationing and training exercises are not included here, nor are the Civil and Revolutionary Wars and the continual use of U.S. military units in the exploration, settlement, and pacification of the western part of the United States"

The political use of military force involving ground troops of either the U.S. Army or Marine Corps in an active attempt to influence the behavior of other nations.

Any deployment of U.S. ground troops on the territory of another country that included at least 100 person-years.

Use of armed force that involves the official deployment of at least 500 regular military personnel (ground, air, or naval) to attain immediate term political objectives through action against a foreign adversary. Routine military movements and operations without a defined target like military training exercises, the routine forward deployment of military troops,

non-combatant evacuation operations, and disaster relief should be excluded.

Militarized interstate disputes are united historical cases of conflict in which the threat, display, or use of military force short of war by one member state is explicitly directed towards the government, official representatives, official forces, property, or territory of another state.

This recent pattern of international relations conducted largely through armed force, it noted, has increasingly targeted West Asia and Africa. These regions have seen both large-scale U.S. wars, as in Afghanistan and Iraq, and low-profile combat in nations such as Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, and Tunisia.

The authors say "the U.S. has increased its military usage of force abroad since the end of the Cold War. Over this period the U.S. has preferred the direct usage of force over threats or displays of force, increasing its hostility levels while its target states have decreased theirs. Along the way, the regions of interest have changed as well. Up until World War II, the U.S. frequently intervened in Latin America and Europe," but beginning in the 1950s, the U.S. shifted

its focus to West Asia and the North Africa region.

The data comprises confirmed covert operations and low-profile interventions by Special Operations forces, however, it points out that U.S. government secrecy and scrupulous sourcing standards of the public database it studied guarantees that the post-9/11 tally is an undercount.

Despite the post-9/11 era appearing to be the third most active for U.S. interventions of relatively higher hostility levels. In this era, threats of force are absent, while the use of force has been overwhelmingly commonplace. Since 2000 alone, the U.S. has engaged in at least 30 military interventions.

Experts say that the Pentagon has likely used secretive authority to carry out combat beyond the scope of any authorization for the use of military force or permissible self-defense.

They point out that while secretive "127e" programs in Somalia and Yemen for instance overlap with well-known U.S. military interventions, other uses of the authority, such as in Egypt and Lebanon, may not. The same goes for even lesser-known programs like "Section 1202."

U.S. military conflicts have provided American arms manufacturers with ample opportunity to make a profit and prolong the country's history of violence based on its founding.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Global military expenditure is estimated to have been \$1917 billion in 2019, the highest level since 1988.

With a military expenditure of \$732 billion, the U.S. remained by far the largest spender in the world in 2019, accounting for 38 percent of global military spending. The U.S. spent almost as much on its military in 2019 as the next 10 highest spenders combined.

Today, SIPRI puts the cost of the US military at more than \$800bn annually, accounting for almost 40 percent of global military spending.



## Plans formulated to safeguard ancient Astarabad



From page 1 ► The UNESCO comments that the tower bears testimony to the cultural exchange between Central Asian nomads and the ancient civilization of Iran.

Furthermore, Gorgan is famed for being

home to an ancient defensive wall of the same name (“The Great Wall of Gorgan”) which stretched some 200 km in length and was built to prevent the invasion of the northern tribes.

Also known as the Red Wall or the Red Snake, it is the longest ancient barrier between Central Europe and China, longer than Hadrian’s Wall and the Antonine Wall put together, and the third-largest wall in the world after the walls of China and Germany. However, most parts of the gigantic monument are still hidden underneath the surface through some segments that have so far been unearthed and even restored to former glory.

## Private sector should help promote Sistan-Baluchestan’s cultural heritage: official

TEHRAN –Introducing and promoting the rich cultural heritage of the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan needs the support of the private sector, the province’s governor-general has said.

It is essential to engage the private sector in promoting Sistan-Baluchestan’s ancient civilization and culture to the people across the province as well as the other parts of the country, CHTN quoted Hossein Modares Khiabani as saying on Friday.

Like Isfahan, Yazd, and Khuzestan, this province could become a tourist and travel destination with the help of knowledge-based companies, creative ideas, and the presence of the private sector, he added.

However, the province’s authorities must first eliminate indicators of deprivation and create job opportunities for its residents, he stated.

The collective province —Sistan in the north and Baluchestan in the south— accounts for one of the driest regions of Iran with a slight increase in rainfall from east to west and an obvious rise in humidity in the coastal regions.



In ancient times, the region was a crossword of the Indus Valley and the Babylonian civilizations.

The province possesses special significance because it is located in a strategic transit location, particularly Chabahar, which is the only ocean port in Iran and the best and easiest access route of the middle Asian countries to free waters.

The vast province is home to several distinctive archaeological sites and natural attractions, including two UNESCO World Heritage sites, namely, Shahr-e-Soukhteh (Burnt City) and Lut desert.

# Archaeologists finish survey on previous capital of Mannaeen kingdom

TEHRAN – Archaeologists have recently completed a month-long field survey on the ancient Qalaichi site, which was once the capital of the Mannaeen kingdom.

Archaeologists carried out projects to safeguard previously-found ruined structures on the one hand, and projects to unearth further architectural heritage, on the other hand, the tourism chief of West Azarbaijan has said.

The survey was conducted under the supervision of the cultural heritage and tourism directorate of the northwestern province, Jalil Jabari said.

Qalaichi is famed for its glazed bricks, some of which had been looted and smuggled out of Iran about four decades ago, and being returned home with the aid of Swiss officials in December 2020.

In the 1970s, a farmer plowing at Qalaichi came across a decorated brick, probably from the columned hall of a citadel. This discovery led to extremely damaging illegal excavations, partly using a bulldozer. Eventually, in 1985, there was an official rescue excavation,



but this was quickly abandoned because of an intensification of the Iran-Iraq War. There were then 14 more years of illegal digging until 1999 when there was another official excavation. But by this time only small fragments of broken bricks were found.

Situated about nine air km northwest of Bukan, Qalaichi (or Ghalay-chi) is an ancient settlement so far yielded a large number of glazed objects. Some of which are monochrome and the others show complex compositions. The glazed objects from the regular

excavations were curated in Urmia Museum and Tehran National Museum.

The artifacts are connected to the Mannai civilization, which once flourished in northwestern Iran in the 1st millennium BC. Mannai, also spelled Manna, was an ancient country surrounded by three major powers of the time namely Assyria, Urartu, and Media.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, the Mannaeans are first recorded in the annals of the Assyrian king Shalmaneser III (reigned 858–824 BC) and are

last mentioned in Urartu by Rusa II (reigned 685–645 BC) and in Assyria by Esarhaddon (reigned 680–669 BC). With the intrusion of the Scythians and the rise of the Medes in the 7th century, the Mannaeans lost their identity and were subsumed under the term Medes.

The first well-documented evidence of human habitation in the Iranian plateau was found from several excavated cave and rock-shelter sites, located mainly in the Zagros Mountains of western Iran and dated to Middle Paleolithic or Mousterian times (c. 100,000 BC).

From the Caspian in the northwest to Baluchistan in the southeast, the Iranian plateau extends for close to 2,000 km. The land encompasses the greater part of Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan west of the Indus River containing some 3,700,000 square kilometers. Despite being called a “plateau”, it is far from flat but contains several mountain ranges, the highest peak being Damavand in the Alborz mountain range at 5610 m, and the Dasht-e Loot east of Kerman in Central Iran falling below 300 m.

## Cultural heritage elements in northern Iran added to national list

TEHRAN – A total of 12 cultural elements, which are practiced in the northern province of Mazandaran, have recently been added to the National Intangible Cultural Heritage list.

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

The local game of Alakdolak, the skill of making the local dish of Lakso, and the talent of weaving Kelardasht carpet were among entrees to the prestigious list, the report added.

The skill of making Khamirtala sweets, Haqani and Katuli maqami music, and the talent of baking Kani bread were other elements being registered.

An early civilization flourished at the beginning of the first millennium BC in Mazandaran (Tabarestan).

Its insecure eastern and southeastern borders were crossed by Mongol invaders in the 13th and 14th centuries. Cossacks attacked the region in 1668 but were repulsed. It was ceded to



the Russian Empire by a treaty in 1723, but the Russians were never secure in their occupation. The area was restored to Iran under the Qajar dynasty.

The northern section of the region consists of lowland alongside the Caspian and upland along the northern slopes of the Alborz Mountains. Marshy backlands dominate the coastal plain, and extensive gravel fans fringe the mountains. The climate is permanently subtropical and humid, with very hot summers.

### 17 Iranian elements registered in the UNESCO list

A selection of 17 Iranian elements has been

registered in UNESCO’s list of the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity. Among Iran’s entries to the prestigious list are Radif of Iranian music; traditional skills of carpet weaving in Kashan; Music of the Bakhshis of Khorasan; Naqqali, Iranian dramatic story-telling; traditional skills of building and sailing Iranian Lenj boats in the Persian Gulf; and traditional skills of crafting and playing Dotar.

Furthermore, the ancient country seeks to register five intangible elements on UNESCO’s list of Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in near future. They are ancient festivities of Mehregan and Yalda, crafting and playing [the stringed instrument of] the Oud, traditional craft of silk spinning, and Turkmen Duzi (a kind of traditional textile being practiced by Iranian Turkman tribes).

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.

## Ancient arch bridges in Gilan undergo restoration

TEHRAN – Restoration work has commenced on five centuries-old arch bridges in Gilan province, northern Iran.

Various sections of the bridges including their decks, pillars, and foundations, will be restored and reinforced under the supervision of cultural heritage experts, the province’s tourism chief said on Saturday.

In addition, worn-out bricks or slabs will be replaced with the same original ones, the official noted.

An arch bridge carries loads primarily by compression, which exerts on the foundation both vertical and horizontal forces. Arch foundations must therefore prevent both vertical settling and horizontal sliding. Despite the more complicated foundation design, the structure itself normally requires less material than a beam bridge of the same span.

Arch bridges can be classified into deck arch bridges (featuring arches below the deck) and through arch bridges (those with arches above the deck, generally tied arches). In all arch bridges, the structural difficulty can be

found in the minimization of the misalignment of the arch axis and the line of thrust, as well as a sufficient bending and buckling resistance. General design recommendations focus principally on the arch-to-span ratio, the arch and deck slenderness, and the number of hangers or piers.

Recent innovative arch bridges include high-speed railway (HSR) bridges, concrete-filled steel tubular and precast concrete arches, high-performance concrete or ultra-high performance concrete arches, and steel-concrete composite arches, and feature innovative erection methods. Recent research has been dedicated to the shape and magnitude of equivalent geometric imperfections, fatigue detailing, erection methods, reduction of the arch’s self-weight, and new materials for arches, hangers, and ties.

Gilan is well-known for its rich Iron Age cemeteries such as Marlik that have been excavated over the past century. It was once within the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenian, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid



empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE. The subsequent Arab conquest of Iran led to the rise of many local dynasties, and Gilan acquired an independent status that continued until 1567. Sophisticated Rasht, the capital of Gilan province, has long been a weekend escape for residents of Tehran who are looking to sample the famous local cuisine and hoping for some pluvial action – it’s the largest and wettest town in the northern region. Gilan is divided into a coastal plain including the large delta of Sefid Rud and adjacent parts of the Alborz mountain range.

## Northern Iranian village to become destination for organic tourism

TEHRAN –Shanetarash village in Tonekabon county, the northern province of Mazandaran, is planned to become the country’s top organic tourism destination, the provincial tourism chief has said.

As part of the empowerment of rural communities, Shanetrash village will become a destination for organic tourism in Mazandaran, Mehdi Izadi explained on Saturday.

A plan is in place to solve the problems faced by this village,



intending to maximize the local potential for business development and tourism economy growth, and empowerment of the local population, the official added.

Experts believe sustainable development of a destination can be achieved through organic tourism in minor territories as well as the entire country. Organic tourism originated from ecotourism. The focus of ecotourism is exclusively on nature, culture, and farms that are part of this nature and culture. When ecotourism evolves around organic products, it is referred to as organic tourism.

Organic Tourism provides a safe space for individuals and

businesses from all levels of the tourism chain – from farmers to hotels and consumers – to work together and learn from each other to create a more sustainable food system where everyone benefits.

Organic Tourism promotes better health and well-being for individuals and the environment.

Organic tourism primarily targets tourists, tours organized for health, relaxation activities, agriculture education, culture, and gastronomy.



# Water-intensive industries should use wastewater to contain drought

From page 1 ► Studies show that the downward trend of aquifers has caused an annual deficit of 4.4 billion cubic meters of water reservoirs. Nevertheless, water consumption increased and reached an annual figure of 98 billion cubic meters, nearly 90 percent of which is consumed by the agricultural sector.

According to the index standard of the United Nations Sustainable Development Commission, Iran is in a severe crisis in terms of water resources.

Long-term climate forecasts also show that Iran is on the path of long-term water tensions and its water resources are rapidly decreasing.

Experts consider the imbalance of underground water resources to be the cause of land subsidence, increase in sand and dust storms, drying up of wetlands, swamps, etc., which can lead to water wars.

The limitation of freshwater resources and their strategic importance has now become a powerful tool for the countries that have the most water resources. Only 3 percent of the world's water resources are fresh.

In Iran, a large amount of underground water has been harvested more than 136 billion cubic meters. Some 65 percent of drinking water in the country is supplied from underground water sources.

The climate and environmental change summit held by the United Nations (COP 26) in Glasgow, Scotland, is a sign of the super-challenge that has caused climate change.

The warning of floods as the second major global challenge after the population crisis was raised decades ago by experts, universities, and international institutions, especially the United Nations.

Last year, Iran passed the driest water year in the past 52 years. According to the country's Drought Monitoring Center, during this period, all provinces had less than normal rainfall and severe to very severe drought prevailed in the country. According to the prediction of the water stress map index in 2040, Iran is the 13th country that faces water stress.

In Iran, 90 percent of water is used by the agricultural sector, 8 percent by households, and 2 percent by industries. In developed countries, this figure is 30 percent for the agricultural sector, 11 percent for households, and 59 percent for industries.



## Ways to curb water stress

Management of resources and water consumption in the country is among the strategic and priority programs, especially in the documents. In order to realize these plans, curb the drought, and protect the country's water resources, the Ministry of Energy cannot overcome the water crisis alone. The rescue and protection of water resources depend on the efforts and cooperation of all relevant ministries, organizations, and institutions in the water and sewage industry.

For example, the expansion of water-intensive industries such as steel, mineral water production factories, and gardens, especially in areas with low water and low rainfall, should be prevented in any way possible.

Mines and mineral industries are other similar sectors that require policy-making and regulatory, executive, and legislative measures to revise inappropriate patterns of water consumption and wastewater management.

The water demand management strategy in the water industry should replace the water supply management strategy. Demand management includes plans and decisions that delay investment in the construction of new water resources.

Due to the lack of programs for the sustainable supply of water in the southern coastal provinces, the development and establishment of the water desalination industry should be included in the priority programs of the government.

Compared to Arab countries, Iran's contribution to the implementation of freshwater supply projects from the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman is very small. The UAE with a daily capacity of about 10 million cubic meters and Saudi Arabia with a daily capacity of about 8 million cubic meters are in first and second places, while Iran has a daily capaci-

ty of just 1.2 million cubic meters.

Moreover, 90 percent of water consumption in the agricultural sector should be reduced quickly by promoting pressurized irrigation and expanding the greenhouse cultivation model.

Today, in many countries, wastewater is treated and recycled. By conducting numerous types of research, the difference in the economic value and use of wastewater in various industries should be determined to use wastewater in some sectors in order to ease water stress.

In order to prevent soil erosion, reduce wastage and optimal management of water and increase water reserves, those involved in water and agricultural industries and machinery should pay more attention to watershed management, continuous dredging, and control of runoff water, expansion of new irrigation methods and dryland farming.

## One step to water crisis

Since ancient times, Iran has been constantly struggling with water shortage, which caused the creation of qanats, so that people actually accepted that water is scarce in the country.

But for several years, along with the industrial and agricultural development, it seems that the available water resources have been used unbridled, and the result is being on the verge of a water crisis.

In fact, entering a water crisis is an index that is measured based on the amount of water available per cubic meter per person per year, according to this index, if a country has more than 1,700 cubic meters of water per person per year, there is no problem with water resources.

However, if this amount goes below 1,000 cubic meters per person per year, we will enter a water crisis from water stress.

The predictions of some international forums show that Iran will reach 500 cubic meters of water per capita in 2050, which will be disastrous.

## 4.8m people at medium to high risk

The Iranian Red Crescent Society estimates that 4.8 million people are at medium to high risk of drought-related impacts, mostly in remote and rural areas of the provinces.

It reports that 29 of 31 provinces, and especially seven – South Khorasan, Kerman, Sistan-Baluchestan, Hormozgan, Khuzestan, Isfahan, and Khorasan Razavi – have been severely affected by the drought. The lack of safe and sufficient water supply for drinking, hygiene, agriculture, animal husbandry, and electrical power is having a devastating and increasingly unsustainable strain on households' health, and income in addition to encouraging negative social trends and coping mechanisms.

Drought has so far incurred a loss of 28 trillion rials (about \$107 million) to the environment, Hassan Akbari, deputy head of natural environment and biodiversity of the Department of Environment, said in May.

Unfortunately, over 70 percent of the country is suffering from severe drought. The severity of the drought is devastating in areas such as the Zagros, which is both a source of water and natural habitats, he lamented.

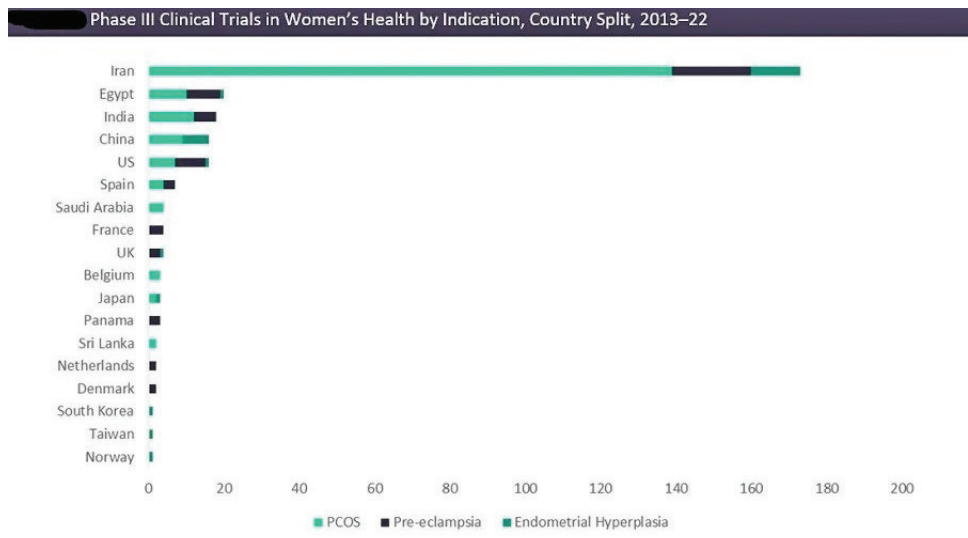
## Droughts may affect three-quarters of the world by 2050

The United Nations has warned that droughts may affect over three-quarters of the world's population by 2050.

Droughts are among the greatest threats to sustainable development, especially in developing countries, but increasingly so in developed nations too.

The number and duration of droughts have increased by 29 percent since 2000, as compared to the two previous decades (WMO 2021). When more than 2.3 billion people already face water stress, this is a huge problem. More and more of us will be living in areas with extreme water shortages, including an estimated one in four children by 2040 (UNICEF). No country is immune to drought (UN-Water 2021).

## Iran is a leader in Phase III clinical trials in women's health: analysis



TEHRAN – An analysis of GlobalData's Clinical Trials Database shows that over the course of the last ten years or so, Iran has consistently been a leader in terms of the number of Phase III clinical trials carried out in women's health.

According to the analysis which was published on Friday, Iran's dominance in women's health is spread comprehensively across indications, with more clinical trials than any other country.

The analysis only included planned, active, or completed trials, excluding those that had been withdrawn, terminated, or suspended. Active trials per year for Iran ranged from 58 in 2015 to 115 in 2019, with the next highest trials per year for a country being the U.S. in 2016 at 22 trials.

Iran's dominance in this therapy area is spread fairly comprehensively across many indications, with more trials than any other country in most indications.

However, the overall data is possibly skewed by an overwhelming lead in Phase III trials for the polycystic ovarian syndrome (PCOS), with Iran carrying out more than double the number of trials as all other countries combined.

PCOS is difficult to diagnose, generally under-researched, and can lead to infertility or other serious health con-

ditions such as coronary heart disease.

Many Iranian trial sites have focused on the effect of various supplements on those with PCOS. In other indications such as pre-eclampsia and endometriosis, while not as large a majority, it is still undoubtedly Iran that leads the area of research.

At present, the lack of female doctors has caused issues with the development of the program, but nevertheless, there are several female-only hospitals operational in Iran, mostly attached to universities and medical schools.

One of these hospitals, the Arash Women's Hospital in Tehran, has been the site for 38 Phase III trials in women's health over the past ten years, more than any other trial site in the world.

**Life expectancy**  
Women's life expectancy has increased from 51 years in 1978 (before the 1979 Islamic Revolution) to 75 years, Ensieh Khazali, Vice President for Women's and Family Affairs, has announced.

Investing in women's health will improve the country in all areas, for example, rural women's health can prevent rural to urban migration, she added.

The national women's health week is usually held in the last week of the Iranian calendar month of Mehr (ending October 22).

The law formerly authorized adoption only for orphans while the new law permit adoption for children with dysfunctional families as well in case the judge concludes that the new family is suitable for adoption.

Previously, the adoptive families were required to sign over one-third of their property to their child-to-be but some could not afford to do so and now the judge gets to decide how a family, depending on their financial status, should be treated.

## Over 400,000 orphans, needy children under patronage

TEHRAN – Some 1.19 million philanthropists patronize 409,000 orphans and needy children in the country, the deputy director of Imam Khomeini Relief Foundation, has

said.

More than 6,000 of these children are talented persons at different levels of cultural, scientific, and sports fields, IRIB quoted Habibollah Asoudeh as saying on Saturday.

Also, 3,000 philanthropists living abroad are cooperating with the Relief Foundation and providing financial assistance to needy families and orphans inside the country.

Iranian charities abroad supported 13,000 needy orphans in various provinces during the first six months of the past [Iranian cal-

endar] year (March 21-September 22, 2021).

## Adoption of orphans

There is a basic slogan in the country that children must grow in the family so that the priority is to foster the orphans.

Since [the Iranian calendar year] 1392, the number of adoption cases has increased and 2,000 children are placed for adoption annually, some of whom are placed under temporary custody because a temporary trustee is better than care centers.

The Welfare Organization in July 2019 an-

## ENGLISH IN USE

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## Bikes to hold 3.5% share in Tehran transportation

Bikes will carry out 3.5 percent of the capital's total transportation, as the national document on bike transport development has proposed, deputy mayor for traffic and transport affairs at Tehran Municipality has stated.

A five-year plan to develop biking in the capital has been proposed aiming to promote biking, develop bike lanes and curb air pollution.

Currently, the document is under review by the traffic council to be approved, ISNA quoted Mohsen Pourseyeed Aqaei as saying on Saturday.

As per the document, some 120 kilometers of the roads will be accessible for the bicycle riders each year, he added.

The reason behind the failure of bicycle schemes in past recent years was that the technology was overlooked in the schemes so that the cyclists had to return to the bike renting stations and give back the bikes, while today, using the new technologies, bicycle use has been facilitated for the citizen, he explained.

## انجام ۳.۵ درصد از سفرهای تهران با دوچرخه

معاون حمل و نقل ترافیک شهرداری تهران از تدوین سند دوچرخه پایتخت خبر داد، براساس این سند، می بایست ۳.۵ درصد از سفرهای تهران با دوچرخه انجام شود. محسن پورسیدآقایی در گفت و گو با ایسنا، با بیان اینکه سند توسعه دوچرخه در دستور کار قرار دارد گفت: در حال حاضر این سند سند ۵ساله در شورای ترافیک پایتخت در حال بررسی است که در صورت تصویب دوچرخه سواری ترویج و توسعه می یابد.

وی با بیان اینکه سالانه ۱۲۰کیلومتر به مسیر دوچرخه اضافه می شود، در پاسخ به سوالی در مورد سرنوشت دوچرخه های قبلی شهرداری گفت:دلیل شکست طرح های دوچرخه در گذشته این بود که به تکنولوژی های روز دنیا توجه نشده بود بگونهای که راکبان باید به مبدا سفر برگشته و دوچرخه را تحویل می دادند اما امروز با اتکا به تکنولوژیهای جدید، استفاده از دوچرخه برای شهروندان تسهیل شده است.



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Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



Tehrantimes79

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

AUGUST 14, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Value of a man depends upon his courage; his veracity depends upon his self-respect and his chastity depends upon his sense of honor.  
**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times » Noon:13:09    Evening: 20:14    Dawn: 4:51 (tomorrow)    Sunrise: 6:23 (tomorrow)

## Persian influences on Indian painting

Portrait of Abd al-Momen Khan Uzbek, attributed to Aqa Mohammad-Reza, ca. 1588. Courtesy of the Golestan Museum, Tehran.

Part 8

It has not been noticed that the miniatures were drawn at least ten years after the dates in the colophons: most of the youths wear a type of bulbous, flat turban with contrasting cloth tie encircling the girth introduced during the years of disturbances in Herat in the early 1580s; and in one of the unpublished miniatures, a tall stalk of flowers extends above a youth's turban, a motif introduced in the work of the painter Mahdi, a student of Mohammadi of Herat, who was active in the 1580s.

A second, unpublished manuscript, a copy of Helali Joghatai's Sefat al-asheqin of 1578 said to have miniatures in Khorasani style, was sold by a Mirza Farrokh Beg Qaqshal in 1581.

Important evidence of Farrokh Beg's style before his years in the subcontinent is offered by a recently published colored drawing from the Golshan Album, Golestan Palace Library, Tehran, showing Mohammad Hakim Mirza, the brother of Akbar and ruler of Kabul, with his vizier Haji Yaqut, drawn in the Shahrara Garden of Kabul in 1584.

The work is signed Farrokh Hosayn, confirming that the artist must have used both signatures throughout his life. The inscriptions are written in fine nastaliq script and, as Soudavar has noted, show that the "signatures" on other Persian and Indian works, written in an unpointed and awkward handwriting, are probably attributions, some possibly made by Emperor Jahangir.

The drawing is highly influence by the Khorasani style of 1570-85, as are the early works by Aqa Reza at the Mughal court. How, or if, this accords with the usual assumption of a Mashhad influence on the works of Farrokh Beg is not at present clear.

According to the Tozuk-e jahangiri, Aqa Reza of Herat joined Jahangir's service while he was a prince, before the birth of his son Abu'l-Hasan in about 1588-89.

Although his sons used the nesba Mashhadi, the early work of the father clearly reflect training in the artistic style of Herat in the 1580s.

A painting of a bearded man seated on a low throne holding a lute beneath a willow tree in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, a composition notably similar to the work of 1584 by Farrokh

Beg in the Golshan Album mentioned above, is inscribed with the artist's name and that of his patron Sultan Salim.

This is Aqa Reza's earliest dateable work, executed before 1599-1600, when Salim assumed the name Shah Salim.

An inscription on a picture of a stocky, middle-aged man holding a spade, formerly in the Edwin Binney 3rd collection, mentions Aqa Reza as the true servant of Shah Salim; it was executed presumably between 1599 and 1604, when Salim succeeded Akbar, taking the name Jahangir.

Its linear style and portrait-like face are particularly close to a picture of Mohammadi by Mahdi in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

An unsigned drawing, identified as "a portrait of Abd al-Momen Khan Uzbek" in the moraqa compiled for Nasser ad-Din Shah in the Golestan Palace Library, may be attributed to Aqa Reza by comparison with these two paintings.

The contours of the Khan's robe with its attenuated curves, the treatment of the stand-away neckline of the robe revealing the inside collar, and the cone-like form of the man's forearm have close parallels in the signed picture of the seated man with a lute in the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.

The depiction of the boots in the Golestan and Binney pictures is almost identical. All three small figure studies attempt to give a likeness of the person's visage, but the bodies are abstracted into pleasing, curved lines.

Abd al-Momen Khan, the ruler of Balkh, was the son and successor, briefly, of Abdollah Khan, the Shaybanid ruler of the Uzbeks (d. 1598).

He participated in the conquest of Herat in Rabi II February-March 1588, and the likeness might have been made at that time, or perhaps Aqa Reza worked for him in Balkh before arriving at the Mughal court.

Aqa Reza Heravi's "portrait style" did not long find favor with his Mughal patron, for there are paintings and drawings in several disparate pens (qalam) reliably ascribed to him.

These include a Persianate miniature style as seen in six paintings in a manuscript of Waez Kashefi's Anwar-e sohayli in the British Library; a series of single figures on borders of the Golshan Album leaves copying European and Mughal works; large drawings with color in the Mughal style of the Akbar-nama; copies of European subjects as interpreted by Bukharan artists; and archaicistic copies of Mashhad compositions of the 1580s with some portrait faces.

Aqa Reza's eclectic paintings and drawings, whether their diversity was imposed by fiat of Shah Salim or, less likely, was a self-conscious exploration of artistic canons imposed by the artist on himself, needs to be studied by those who wish to know the origin of the consolidated Jahangir style.

Only in the works of his two sons does one see the chemical change that formed a united style from these disparate elements.

The well-known works of Abul-Hasan and the lesser output of his brother [Mohammad] Abid continue to reflect aspects of their Persian heritage: the bright colors of pure pigment, and a resultant hard-edge definition of figures, descend from Persian miniature paintings; and, to a certain extent, their quest for portrait likeness of the sovereign and his courtiers was rooted in Persian experiments of the second half of the 16th century.

(Source: Encyclopedia Iranica)  
(Concluded.)

# Artist Ali-Akbar Sadeqi hangs results of his madness at Tehran gallery

TEHRAN – A Tehran gallery is organizing an exhibition of veteran artist Ali-Akbar Sadeqi's artworks, which the artist believes are representative of his mania for art.

The ideas for the colorful artworks on view in the exhibit named "Mad" at the Parallel Circuit Gallery seem to come from the happiness of his childish imaginations or the dreams people have dreamt whether in childhood or adult life.

"Everyone always asks me how is it that I do these paintings or how do I think; I always tell them it's because I'm crazy," 85-year-old Sadeqi said.

"I never draw the beautiful flowers anymore," he said with a sigh. "I never draw beautiful landscapes anymore; I draw the dreams of those children whose fathers have been martyred to achieve freedom for Iran."

Those artworks that show the nature of children's dreams may even be frightening to them, but the bright colors he uses to create his works bring tremendous excitement to visitors as well, the Persian service of ISNA said in a report on Saturday.

Part of the exhibition, which will be running through September 2, is dedicated to showcasing Sadeqi's mask-like sculptures that he has produced based on his childlike dreamy ideas.

The exhibition also has hung a series of the artist's portraits mugging for the visitors.

The Iranian Artists Forum celebrated Sadeqi's 84th birthday in November 2021.

Art lovers visit Ali-Akbar Sadeqi's exhibition "Mad" at the Parallel Circuit Gallery in Tehran on June 28, 2022. (Honaronline/Gata Ziatabari)

Speaking to the audience, he said, "I really love you, my motherland and its people."

"I always swear on the Persian Gulf; my friends exaggerate about me; I'm nothing but a man, a painter; I like all people from every religion and faith," he added.

A retrospective of Sadeqi was organized by the Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art (TMCA) in January and February 2018.

A collection composed of his 200 paintings,

sculptures, drawings, illustrations and a lineup of his rarely-seen short animated movies were showcased at the exhibit.

The Los Angeles County Museum of Art (LACMA) in collaboration with Shirin Gallery in Tehran organized an exhibition of artworks by Sadeqi in October 2016.

Earlier in March 2016, Art Dubai Modern, a major international art fair in the Middle East, Africa and South Asia, showcased works by the artist.

## Khanian, Golduzian nominated for 2024 Hans Christian Andersen Award

Khanian was a nominee for the 2022 Hans Christian Andersen Award. He was also nominated for IBBY's long list by the Children's Book Council of Iran, and then shortlisted for the honor along with 60 other candidates from 32 countries, according to a press release published by the IBBY last Wednesday.

Both Rahimizadeh and Khanian have previously been nominated for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award, a prestigious Swedish honor to promote children's and youths' literature in the world.

The Hans Christian Andersen Award, nicknamed the Nobel Prize for children's literature,

An illustration by Alireza Golduzian.

is the highest international distinction given biennially to the creators of books for young people by the International

Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) in Basel, Switzerland.

The awards recognize lifelong achievement and are given to an author and an illustrator whose complete works have made a significant and lasting contribution to literature for young people.

Each winner receives the Hans Christian Andersen Medaille, a gold medal with the bust of Andersen. Medals are presented at the biennial IBBY congress.

French author Marie-Aude Murail and South Korean illustrator Suzy Lee were the winners of the 2022 Hans Christian Andersen Award.

## "Austria, Prussia and the Making of Modern Germany" published in Persian

TEHRAN – "Austria, Prussia and the Making of Modern Germany, 1806-1871" by John Breuilly, a professor of nationalism and ethnicity at the London School of Economics, has been published in Persian.

Translated by Babak Mohaqeq, the book was published by Ney in Tehran.

In this important new survey of the Austro-Prussian relationship and its impact on Germany, John Breuilly considers Germany's relations with interior and exterior states during the first half of the nineteenth century.

Focusing on the rise of nationalism and the causes of political ascendancy, Breuilly follows the struggle over German lands, between France on the one hand and Austria and Prussia on the other.

Once Austria and Prussia had managed to wrest supremacy in Germany away from France and reorganized the German lands in 1814-15, the two cooperated for more than

three decades in joint control of Germany under Austrian leadership.

The second half of the book traces the collapse of this cooperative relationship and its dramatic conclusion in the 1866 war of supremacy, when Prussia decisively defeated Austria.

Was Prussia's victory inevitable, or was it an accident? Breuilly weighs up the evidence in a masterly fashion and shows how the different approaches reflect above all shifts of interest within historical study.

Breuilly is also the author of the pioneering study "Nationalism and the State".

He also taught at the universities of Manchester and Birmingham. He has been a visiting professor at the universities of Hamburg and Bielefeld.

Breuilly was also the editor of the Oxford handbook of the history of nationalism.

## A review of three new books published by Soore Mehr

**The months of Muharram and Safar within the context of interesting stories**

This time, words and stories have turned into a reason for discussing a tragic and powerful historical event about which there is still much to be said.

**Istanbulchi**

Masoumeh Safaei Rad's travelogue, "Istanbulchi," describes her and her husband's adventures in Istanbul during the first ten days of Muharram. In these ten days, she and her husband—a photographer, by the way, whose photographs are featured in the book—visited several locations in Istanbul and took part in the city's variously

performed mourning ceremonies.

The book's straightforward language, the visits to Istanbul's historical and religious sites by these two travelers, the recounting of the details, and the Persian translation of the Turkish poems written on the city's walls are some of its outstanding features. These features serve to answer the questions of the book's enquiring Iranian readers.

**The Loneliest Oppressed**

Nasrullah Qadri wrote the play "The Loneliest Oppressed." This play features a large cast of characters and depicts the martyr Beheshti in seven acts, from his

birth until his death.

In addition to Beheshti, other notable historical and political figures discussed in this work include Dr. Mohammad Javad Bahonar, Dr. Muffateh, and Morteza Motahari. Characters from Mujahedin Khalq and the Marxist

organization also play a role.

**The Raised Flag**

The Muharram 2020 nights, which fell during the dark days of the Coronavirus, are described in Somaye Jamali's book "The Raised Flag." The story of the people who, in spite of all the limitations, kept Imam Hussain's flag flying high. The author claims that in 2020, some parts of this collection were released online and by a few news agencies. Two years later, the entire collection's contents were compiled into a book.

Except for the first chapter, this book has 11 chapters, each of which is devoted to one of the first ten nights of Muharram 2020.