



Islamic Republic of Iran  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs

# MFA DIGEST

CENTRE FOR PUBLIC AND MEDIA DIPLOMACY



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## Political-Diplomatic

### Zarif's Visit to Iraq (Baghdad, Erbil)

Heading a high-ranking delegation, FM Zarif visited Iraq to hold separate talks with senior Iraqi officials to discuss the bilateral relations as well as the latest regional and international developments.



During his visit to Baghdad, Zarif met and held talks with his Iraq counterpart Fuad Hussein, Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi, Head of Fatah Allianceon Hadi Al-Amiri, President Barham Salih, Leader of the National Wisdom Movement of Iraq Seyyed Ammar al-Hakim, and Head of the Iraqi Judiciary Fayek Zidane.

Afterwards, he visited Erbil in northern Iraq on meeting with Head of Iraqi Kurdistan Region Nechirvan Barzani and other Kurd officials.

During his talks with Iraqi counterpart Fuad Hussein, Zarif stressed the necessity for a stable Iraq for the "good of the region".

In a joint press conference with his Iraq counterpart Fuad Hussein in Baghdad, Iranian FM Mohammad Javad Zarif underlined the vitality of holding regional and international talks adding that the region needs peace.

"We are really happy standing beside each other while we have defeated the joint enemy i.e.

the terrorism," Zarif said. He named the assassination of Lt. Gen Soleimani and his comrade Abu-Muhandis a big loss in the fight against terrorism.

The Iranian FM added that Iran and Iraq will follow up the case of the assassination of the two commanders together. "It is important for us to protect the national sovereignty of our neighbor," Zarif said.

Referring to the mutual warm trade and energy relations, Zarif noted that Iran and Iraq will continue their mutual economic ties despite the outbreak of the coronavirus and as expected, the mutual annual trade will hit \$20 billion.



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also met and held talks with Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi in Baghdad.

During the meeting, the two sides discussed the development of bilateral relations and ways to develop them. Zarif discussed the latest regional and international developments, as well as the situation in Iraq with the Iraqi Prime Minister.

During his visit, Mohammad Javad Zarif met and held talks with Head of the Iraqi Judiciary Fayek Zidane.





The two sides conferred on a host of issues, including the need to follow up on the assassination of top Iranian commander Major General Qassem Soleimani and deputy head of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units forces Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis through legal channels.

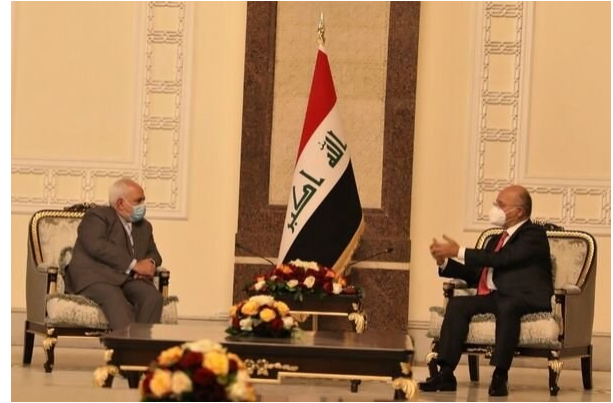
Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also held a meeting with Speaker of the Council of Representatives of Iraq Mohamed al-Halbousi.



The two sides conferred on the latest developments in bilateral relations, parliamentary cooperation, the fight against terrorism, and current developments in Iraq and the region.

Subsequently, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Iraqi President Barham Salih held a meeting in Iraq's capital.

Referring to the long-standing and historical relations between Iran and Iraq, the two sides described the development and deepening of the relation in favor of the two nations and regional countries.



Iranian FM Zarif met and held talks with Falih Fayyadh, the chairman of Hashd al-Shaabi, in Baghdad as well.

The two sides discussed the latest developments in bilateral relations, the pursuit of the assassination of the resistance leaders Lt. Gen. Qasem Soleimani and his the Iraqi commander Abu Mahdi al-Mohandes, the legal decision of the Iraqi government, people and parliament about ousting the US troops from the country, and other issues of mutual interest.



Afterwards, the Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran met with the President of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, Nechirvan Barzani, in Erbil.

"The Iraqi people will never forget the Islamic Republic's assistance to Iraq and the Kurdistan Region," Barzani said in a joint press conference with Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif in Erbil.



He also expressed gratitude to Iran for its efforts in maintaining stability in the region. "Iran is an important neighbor of Iraq, the Kurdistan Region, and regional power," Barzani said.

Referring to his meeting with Zarif earlier in the day, Barzani said, "We discussed the political situation in the region and also the impact of the coronavirus on the activities of both sides."



Zarif, for his part, stressed that the Iraqi Kurdistan Region and Iraq are important for Iran, adding that Iran has always wanted to develop relations and cooperation with Iraq.

During his visit to Erbil, Zarif also met with the Prime Minister of the Iraqi Kurdistan Region, in Erbil at the end of his one-day visit to Iraq.



Mohammad Javad Zarif and Masrour Barzani examined the ways of expanding relations and developing Tehran-Erbil relations in different sectors.

The two sides also stressed the need to strengthen economic and trade relations between Iran and the Iraqi Kurdistan region.

Consultation on issues related to the coronavirus pandemic and offering Iran's experiences and assistance in dealing with the disease and domestic and regional issues were other important topics of Barzani and Zarif talks during this meeting.

Zarif met and held talks with head of the Iraqi Kurdistan Democratic Party Massoud Barzani.

During the meeting, Massoud Barzani highlighted that the Iraqi Kurdistan region will never become a place to threaten the interests and security of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Barzani also called for boosting trade ties between the two sides.



Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif also met and held talks with Leader of the National Wisdom Movement of Iraq Seyyed Ammar al-Hakim.

The two sides conferred on regional developments as well as the current situation in Iraq and the country's problems in various sectors, including the economic crisis, the decline in oil revenues, and the spread of COVID-19.



## Iraqi Prime Minister Visits Iran

Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi visited Iran at the head of a high-ranking delegation including Iraq's ministers of foreign affairs, finance, health and planning, as well as his national security adviser, to meet and discuss matters with Iranian officials.

President Hassan Rouhani officially welcomed the Prime Minister at the Summit Hall in Tehran to negotiate on further deepening of bilateral relations in different political, economic and cultural fields, and the most important regional and international issues.



During the meeting, the two sides stated that the relations between Iran and Iraq go beyond the two neighbouring countries, stressing that the sovereignty and national security of the two countries are intertwined.

The Iraqi Prime Minister also met with the Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. Speaking in this meeting, Ayatollah Khamenei described Iran-Iraq relations as being truly brotherly due to the existence of many similarities in history, religion, culture and traditions between the two countries.

The Supreme Leader of the Islamic Revolution stressed that Iran has never wanted and never will want to interfere in the internal affairs of Iraq, saying, "Iran wishes to see an Iraq which is dignified and independent with its territorial integrity and

internal unity and cohesion protected."



Later on, in a meeting with Iranian Parliament Speaker Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, the two sides discussed the enhancement of cooperation between the two countries in various fields. They also discussed the overall bilateral and regional developments and their effects on Iraq and Iran.



## Zarif's Visit to Russia

Foreign minister of Iran Mohammad Javad Zarif discussed issues of mutual interests, especially Iran's 2015 nuclear deal, in a meeting on July 21 with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov in Moscow.

Zarif arrived in Moscow on a one-day visit to discuss bilateral cooperation as well as major regional and international developments with senior Russian officials.



While in Moscow, the Iranian foreign minister met with Russian President Vladimir Putin to hand over a message from President Hassan Rouhani to his Russian counterpart.

### **Zarif Video Talks with Counterparts**

FM Zarif held video negotiations with counterparts from Kuwait, Malaysia, and Yemen as part of his routine consultations on regional and international issues. During his video conference with Kuwaiti foreign minister Ahmad Nasser Al Mohammad Al Sabah, the two top diplomats discussed issues of mutual interests, the mutual cooperation between Iran and Kuwait, and the latest regional and international developments. They also called for the continuation of consultations between the two countries.

Describing bilateral and multilateral cooperation among the regional countries as a basic and perpetual necessity, Zarif said the interaction between Tehran and Kuwait City could grow in various fields.



Also in a meeting held via videoconference, Zarif and Malaysian foreign minister Hishammuddin Hussein, highlighted the need to utilize the barter trade mechanism to advance the interests of both nations.

They stressed on finalizing a preferential trade agreement and holding a joint Iran-Malaysia economic commission will help further enhance mutual trade. The two top diplomats agreed to hold a meeting of the joint commission as well.



Given the status of Malaysia as an active member of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Zarif urged his counterpart to play a role in settling the Yemen crisis through political means.

Zarif also expressed Tehran's support for any initiative by Kuala Lumpur to establish peace and put an end to the Yemen crisis.

He said Iran will actively contribute to efforts aimed at helping peace take hold in the Arab country.

The Malaysian foreign minister, in turn, highlighted his country's unchangeable stance on the issue of Palestine and pinpointed the status of Palestine in Malaysian people's hearts.

Speaking in a video call with his Yemeni counterpart Hisham Sharaf, Zarif said Iran has always considered the political solution as key to solving the crisis in Yemen and has established constructive cooperation with the related Yemeni and international parties for maintaining peace in the country.

He also stated that the continuation of blockade on Yemen and seizure of the ships carrying food and fuel to Yemen while the country is being hit with the coronavirus pandemic is “unacceptable”.

“Iran believes that the only way for establishing stability in Yemen is to preserve territorial integrity and unity among all Yemeni groups and to hold intensive political talks among different parties for establishing the united government,” he added.

Yemen belongs to all Yemenis, Zarif reiterated.



He also said, “despite limitations and sabotage, Iran will continue sending humanitarian aid to fight coronavirus and as always will spare no efforts for maintaining Yemeni peace talks aiming to remove siege, to establish a truce, and to resume political talks.

Meanwhile, Sharaf appreciated Iran’s support and humanitarian aid for the Yemeni people. He presented a report on the latest political and battlefield situation. He stressed efforts for maintaining peace and overcoming humanitarian problems.

### **Zarif Phone Talks with Azeri and Armenian Counterparts**

In separate talks with Mohammad Javad Zarif, Azeri Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov and Armenian Foreign Minister Zohrab

Mnatsakanyan expressed solidarity with the Islamic Republic in the fight against the coronavirus pandemic. Iran's Foreign Minister also announced Tehran's readiness to share experiences in the fight against the coronavirus.

He exchanged views in separate telephone conversations with his Azeri and Armenian counterparts, urging the two parties to start negotiations to peacefully settle their border conflict.

Also, upon the recent appointment of the Azeri new foreign minister, Zarif called his newly-appointed Azeri counterpart Jeyhun Bayramov to congratulate him and voice the country’s readiness to help Azerbaijan and Armenia settle their border dispute.



Referring to the recent escalation of conflicts between the Azerbaijan and Armenia over the territory of Karabakh, which lead to the death of a number of their troops, he reiterated Iran’s readiness to mediate between the two neighbors for resolving the conflict. He also expressed Tehran’s willingness to promote bilateral ties with Baku.



## Spokesman Mousavi Confers with Turkish Counterpart

In a virtual conversation with his Turkish counterpart, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesman Abbas Mousavi discussed the cultural and media cooperation between the two countries.



Later, he made the announcement in his Twitter account. "Just had extensive, fruitful & cordial video call today w/my Turkish counterpart @HamiAksoy2," Mousavi wrote.

"We exchanged viewpoints on cultural, media collaboration btw both friendly nations," he added.

"We highlighted increasing media interactions plus MoUs implementation on public, media diplomacy," Iranian diplomat said.

## Diplomatic Events

At the end of his mission in the Islamic Republic of Iran, Spanish Ambassador to Iran, H.E. Eduardo López Busquets, met with Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to bid farewell.

During the meeting, Eduardo López Busquets said that the key achievement of the Iranian foreign policy over the past 4 years has been the negotiation and signature of the nuclear deal, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).



Later on, Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif received the credential letters of the newly appointed Spanish Ambassador H.E. Luis Felipe Fernández de la Peña and Portuguese Ambassador H.E. Carlos Rico Antonio da Costa Neves to the Islamic Republic of Iran, and explored avenues for broadening of mutual cooperation with them.



In the meantime, outgoing ambassadors of Ecuador H.E. German Alejandro Ortega Almeida, Slovak Ambassador H.E. Lubomir Golian, and Norwegian Ambassador to Iran H.E. Lars Nordrum met with the Iranian foreign minister to bid farewell at the end of their diplomatic missions in Iran.







## Twiplomacy

### *The Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Khamenei Affirms Iran's Position on Iraq's Independence & Integrity*



Khamenei.ir  
@khamenei\_ir

#Iran has never had and never will have any intention to meddle in #Iraq's affairs. Iran seeks a dignified, independent Iraq with its territorial integrity and internal unity and cohesion protected.

### *FM Zarif Reflects on Meetings with Iraqi Officials*



Javad Zarif  
@JZarif

Productive talks in Baghdad with PM @MAKadhimi, Pres. @BarhamSalih, Speaker Halbousi, FM @Fuad\_Hussein1 and judicial, political and military leaders.

Agenda: Expanding cooperation to benefit our peoples—and the region.

Next stop: Erbil for meetings with Kurdish leadership.



### *FM Zarif on his Visit to Moscow*



Javad Zarif  
@JZarif

In Moscow,

- Delivered important msg to President Putin.
- Extensive talks with FM Lavrov on bilat coop + regional/global coordination.
- Identical views on #JCPOA and need to uphold int'l law.
- Agreed to conclude long-term comprehensive strategic cooperation agreement.



### *Spokesman Mousavi on Iran's Friendly Relations with China, Russia and India*



S.A MOUSAVI  
@SAMOUSAVI9

#Iran has a longstanding policy of maintaining balanced, friendly relations w/ all Eurasian & E/S Asian powers. Our potential longterm cooperation agreements w/ #China & #Russia, & our continued joint work w/ #India in Chabahar prove this. We are determined to uphold this policy.



## Public Diplomacy

### ARTS & CULTURE

#### Iranian Short Film Wins at Japan Media Arts Festival

Solmaz Etemad was one of the four winners of the Best Short Film Award at the Japan Media Arts Festival for her short film named "Cellmate" directed by Behzad Khodaveisi.

The Japan Media Arts Festival is an annual event organized by the Japanese Agency for Cultural Affairs since 1997.

The festival will announce its winners prior to its opening which will be on September 18. Solmaz Etemad will travel to Japan to receive her award if the event is held according to the schedule.

Screenplay category.

The Golden Nib Award in this section was given to "What Can It Be?" written by Casey Hagaman.



856 screenplays were submitted to the secretariat of the 4th edition of the festival.

"Adam & Eve" written by Alexis Williams won the Grand Prize this year. Based on the festival rules, the organizers usually support the grand winner for production. However, Williams refused to accept their support.

As a consequence, the support was instead allocated to "What Can It Be?" written by Hagaman and it will be produced before the end of 2021.



#### "Cycle" Wins Silver Nib at Romanian Screenwriting Contest

"Cycle" written by Iman Davari from Iran won the Silver Nib at the Let's Make It! Screenwriting Contest in Romania on Friday, the organizers announced.

The script was competing in the Short-Short Film

#### Iranian Photographer Grabs Bronze Medal in Polish Festival

Iranian photographer Hootan Babapour received a national bronze medal from the Wojnicz festival in Poland.

The event was held in three categories and those artists whose works were sent to the festival through focus club will receive a permit from





### Fédération Internationale de l'Art Photographique (FIAP)

Babapour had earlier ranked first in Roshd festival, stood on the second position in screenwriting in Gilan, received an award from Macedonia, Poland, and Turkey.



FIAP is an international organization of national associations of photography. More than 85 national associations are members, comprising nearly one million individual photographers. FIAP was founded by M. Van de Wijer of Belgium in 1946.

### 'Better than Neil Armstrong' Wins at Southport Film Festival

Written and directed by Alireza Ghasemi, 'Better than Neil Armstrong' is the story of four kids who start their journey to the moon with the mission of finding a mysterious place called 'The Redland', but the gates of The Redland are being guarded by a mischievous snake.



Run by film-makers for film-makers, this festival is destined to become a significant annual event on the cultural calendar in the Northwest of England, reads the event's website, adding their simple aim is to showcase the very best short films from around the world.

The event was held online from June 26 to 28.

The Iranian short film has competed in more than 40 international festivals across the world so far, obtaining numerous awards.

### Sofia Hosts Iranian Film Week

According to the Iranian Cultural Center in Sofia, the Embassy of Iran is organizing the weeklong festival in collaboration with the Sofia Middle East & North African Region (MENAR) Film Festival.

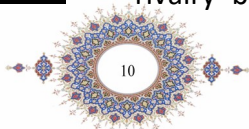
Seven acclaimed movies by Iranian filmmakers have been selected to be screened at Dom na Kinoto Cinema House during the week.



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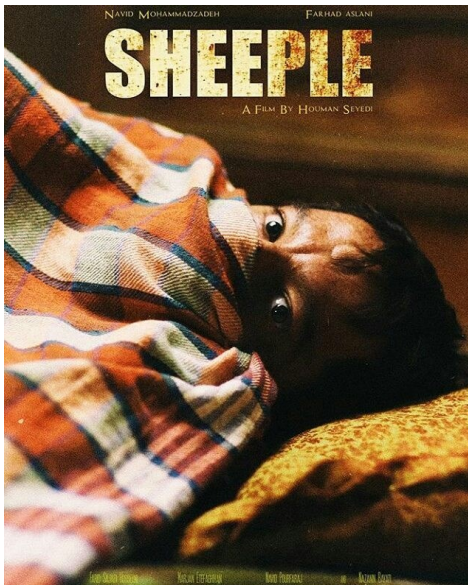
highlight of the lineup is the drama "The Castle of Dreams" by Reza Mirkarimi. It is about two young children whose mother has just died, and their father, Jalal, after long years of absence, returns to sort things out, but he does not want to take the children with him.

Director Soheil Movaffaq's comedy "Pastarioni" will also be screened. It tells the story of an intense rivalry between a luxury Italian restaurant and a



small family restaurant in Tehran, which leads them to unite.

Also among the selected films is Hooman Seyyedi's drama "Sheeple" about brothers Shakur and Shahin, two lowlifes who run a crystal meth laboratory hidden in Tehran. They do care about the honor of their family, however. When a video of their sister revealing her hair ends up on the internet, the brothers become the protagonists of some strange incidents.



Roqayeh Tavakkoli's "Motherhood", which is about Nava who tries to convince her sister to get back with her husband, while her own fiancé is cheating on her, will also be screened.

The lineup also includes "Season of Narges" by Negar Azarbayjani, "316" Peyman Haqqani and "The Five-Star" by Mahshid Afsharzadeh.

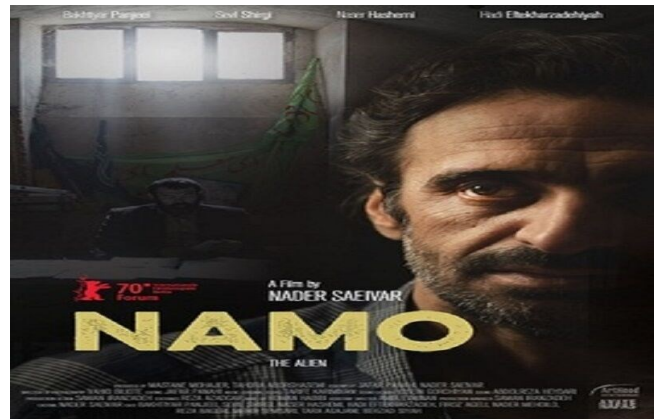
Five films from Iran were screened in various sections of the Sofia MENAR Film Festival, which was held from January 14 to 30.

"The Castle of Dreams" and "Pastarioni" were among the films. "Weightlessness" by Mehdi Fardqaderi, "Domino" by Laleh Barzegar and "The Underwater Cypress" by Mohammad-Ali Bashe-Ahangar were also competing in the event.

## Iranian Artist Bags Best Actor Award from Taormina Film Festival

Iranian artist Bakhtiar Panjeie received the best actor award from Taormina Film Festival, Italy for his role in 'Namo'.

Taormina Film Fest (TFF), a historic film festival that began in 1955 under the name Rassegna Cinematografica Internazionale di Messina e Taormina. The exhibition, which moved permanently to Taormina in 1971, has hosted over the years many stars of international cinema: Elizabeth Taylor, Marlene Dietrich, Sophia Loren, Cary Grant, Robert De Niro, Colin Firth, Marlon Brando, Charlton Heston, Audrey Hepburn, Gregory Peck, Tom Cruise, Melanie Griffith, and Antonio Banderas, among others.



He added that Namo had earlier been nominated to attend 22 other international festivals.

## What's in Tehran Art Galleries

An exhibition of artworks in various media by Zeinab Zafari, Sepideh Khalafi, Melika Qorbani, Shadi Torkian, Fruzeh Abdollahi, Alireza Nikukar and several other artists is currently underway at Ayrik Gallery.

## Multimedia

Entezami Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of artworks in various media by Nasrin Rostami, Mina

Effati, Reza Dehaqin, Marzieh Beiglari, Raha Judi, Afshari, Raheleh Kheiri and several other artists.

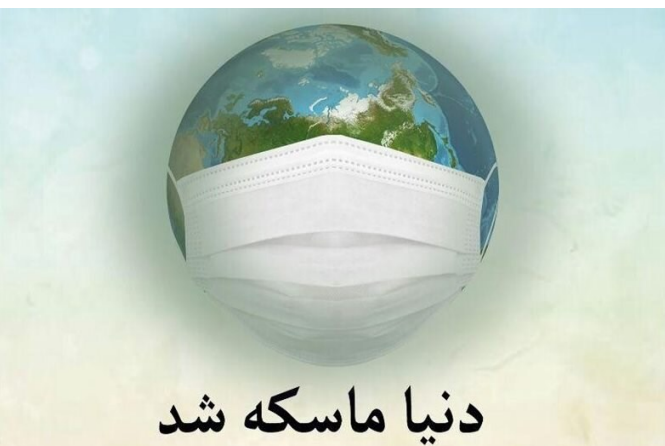
Artworks by Niku Veslari, Iman Safai, Hossein Valamanesh, Amir-Hossein Shahnazi, Mahur Tusi, Mahdiah Pazuki and several other artists are currently on view in an exhibition at Aran Gallery.

### Painting

Mehran Yusefzadeh is showcasing his latest paintings in an exhibition named "Frames, Observer, Fantasy, Dance" at Shalman Gallery.

An exhibition of paintings Marzieh Azizi titled "Under the Shadow of Poetry" is currently underway at Golhaye Davudi Gallery.

Farahnaz Davari is hanging her latest paintings in an exhibition at Atashzad Gallery.



### Calligraphic Painting

Negar Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of calligraphic paintings by Nasrollah Afjei, Bahman Panahi, Saeid Naqqashian, Maryam Qnabarian, Babak Rashvand, Ahmad Ariamanesh and several other artists.

### Drawing

Vaali Gallery is currently showcasing an exhibition of drawings titled "Inanimate" by Mahdiah Sohrabi, Marzieh Khoshtarkib, Mina Bahreini and Fatemeh

Mojtaba Amini is displaying his latest drawings in an exhibition entitled "I Will Return" at Mohsen Gallery.

### Photo

A collection of photos by Setareh Heidari Nuri is currently on display in an exhibition named "My Beloved" at Sayeh Gallery.

### Iranian, American Musicians Compose Joint Work Amid Coronavirus

Founder and managing director of North American Iranian Friendship Association announced that the joint music by the Iranian and American artists will be released with the message of hope and popular solidarity.

The objective behind preparing and publishing this joint work of art is to show solidarity between the Iranian and American peoples under this difficult historical period caused by the coronavirus.

Describing cultural cooperation between the Iranian and US artists as significant, Abideh said that his association invited talented Iranian and American artists to work together on a classic work based on the final two parts of an opera by the 17th century legendary artist George Frederick Handel.



Abideh further noted that composition of the joint work expresses the interest of the people of the two countries to cooperate with each other and also to pay attention to maintaining solidarity between the nations in global crises.

North American Iranian Friendship Association was established to get the Iranian, US and Canadian peoples more acquainted with each other, and mainly focuses on cultural, artistic and sports exchanges to deepen friendship among the nations.

### **In Focus: Grand Bazaar of Kerman**

As one of the oldest trading centers in Iran, the grand Bazaar of Kerman embraces a variety of mazes, intersections, entrances, and passageways.

The main thoroughfare of the bazaar is made up of some smaller marketplaces. Most of its covered structures are associated with the Safavid era (1501–1736), though the history of trade in there is rooted much deeper in time.



The Kerman Bazaar with its beautiful manifestation has left as a memorial from the ancient periods and its architecture characteristics astonish the eyes of every visitor. Stretching for 1200m from Tohid Sq(Arg Sq) northeast to Shohada Sq (Moshtag Sq), Kerman's Grand Bazaar is one of the oldest trading centers in Iran.

The architecture of the bazaar reflects the geographical conditions and climatic circumstances

of Iran in the past. Such architecture works indicate the style of architecture in the Sassanid era. The bazaar comprises of various rows or alleys such as Arg, Ganj Ali Khan, Ekhtiyari, Sardari, Vakil, Attari, Qadam Gah and Mozaffari rows.



In the Iranian culture, bazaars have been traditional public spaces in the Iranian cities with great contributions to commercial activities in the urban life meanwhile their extended activities can be traced to social, cultural, political, and religious roles.

Kerman has long been a melting pot for people passing between Persia and the Indian subcontinent. UNESCO describes Kerman as “one of the important locations that connect West to East, and North to South.”

### **Colourful Windows; An Inseparable Part of Persian Architecture**

Colourful windows have always been a prominent and integrable part of Persian architecture since ancient times.

Persian architecture attaches great importance to the light, which is a sacred element in the nation's culture.

Combined with the glass art, the light leaves unique impacts on Iranian buildings.



### Handicrafts Flourishing in Northwestern Iran; Ardebil

Iran's Government supports handicrafts leading to a boost in revival of a number of forgotten handicrafts in Ardebil Province - Northwestern Iran -, including Khalkhal City. Ardebil Province.



### TRADE & ECONOMY

#### Exports to UAE Grows 39% in Terms of Weight in 3 Months

According to the Director-General of the Arab-African States Department at TPO Farzad Piltan, the UAE market has had a 15.2-percent share in Iran's exports in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year, reaching \$967 million from March 21 to June 22, 2020.

"This figure in the same period in 1398 stood at \$895 million dollars, which shows a growth of 8 percent," he said noting that the announced figures are registered under the coronavirus pandemic.

"However, in terms of weight, Iran's exports to the UAE in the first quarter of the current fiscal has increased by 39 percent to 3,377,000 tons," he added.



Iran-UAE trade hovers around \$12 billion annually, 40 percent of which belongs to Iran's exports to the country.

Iranian Parliament Research Center (IPRC) has announced that the United Arab Emirates (UAE), China, and Iraq accounted for about 54 percent share of Iran's total value of non-oil goods in 2018.

There is a relatively strong focus on Iran's export target markets in such a way that the aforementioned three countries accounted for about 54 percent of the country's total exports share value of non-oil goods, the Head of Iranian Parliament Research Center Mohammad Ghasemi added.

#### Iran's Tea Exports Near \$500,000 in Three Months

According to Spokesman for the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration Seyyed Rouhollah Latifi, Iran exported more than 575 tons of tea



worth \$493,785 during the three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20), current fiscal year that started on March 20, and added that the Iranian tea was offered in 12 international markets during the three-month period.

Iraq with 183 tons worth \$237,500 and Kazakhstan with 112 tons worth \$126,009 were the two top destinations of Iran's tea exports during the March 20-June 20 period, he said, adding that Afghanistan (69 tons), Germany (37 tons), India (35 tons), Tajikistan (29 tons), Russia (12 tons), Uzbekistan (10 tons) and Turkey (6 tons) were the other buyers of Iranian tea.



Latifi added that Iran also imported about 14,354 tons of tea worth \$68.89 million during the three months under review.

India with over 8,000 tons of tea worth \$36 million, Sri Lanka with more than 13 million tons and the UAE with over 11 million tons were the top three exporters of tea to Iran, he noted.

The official noted that based on the reports, Iran's annual imports of tea hovers around 70,000 tons.

### **Pistachio Exports Bring Iran Over \$154m in a Quarter**

Iran exported 21,720 tons of pistachio worth more than \$154 million during the first quarter of the

current Iranian calendar year (March 20-June 20), the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.



Importing 5,547 tons of pistachio valued at \$35.4 million, China was the first export destination of the Iranian product, while Germany, Iraq, Russia, and Kazakhstan came next through importing 2,982 tons, 1,866 tons, 1,455 tons, and 1,129 tons of pistachio, respectively, from Iran in the three-month period.

### **Iran, Uzbekistan Stress Expansion of Transport Ties**

During a meeting of Iran-Uzbekistan Joint Road Transportation Committee held via video conference, the Iranian and Uzbek officials emphasized the significance of boosting bilateral ties in transportation sector.

The meeting was attended by Iran's Deputy Transport Minister Abdolhashem Hassan-Nia and Uzbekistan's Deputy Minister of Transport Davron Dekhkanov, as well as Uzbekistan's ambassador to Iran, and the representative of Iran's Embassy in Uzbekistan.

Addressing the virtual meeting, the Iranian deputy transport minister said, the expansion of economic relations between Iran and Uzbekistan has always



been emphasized by the two sides' senior officials, and meanwhile, boosting transport ties between the two countries is seriously pursued by the Iranian Transport Ministry.



Hassan-Nia further announced his country's readiness to transfer knowledge and experience in the field of transportation to Uzbekistan.

The Uzbek official for his part emphasized the significance of holding such meetings in removing the problems in terms of transport cooperation between the two countries and expressed hope that such meetings will lead to laying a better ground for the expansion of bilateral ties.

### **Iran, Azerbaijan Emphasize Developing Transit Cooperation**

In a meeting held through video conference, President of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi said that the two countries of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan have a long history in the field of customs and trade cooperation.

Turning to the request of Azerbaijan for transiting live animal to Nakhichevan from Iranian land and territory, Mir-Ashrafi added, "with the cooperation made between customs officials and Ministry of Agriculture, it is scheduled to hold talk with customs officials of Republic of Azerbaijan with regards to the

provision of health protocols within the next two weeks."

Elsewhere in his remarks, IRICA president pointed to holding a joint border meeting between customs officials of the two countries in Bileh Savar and Yardimli border and added, "following the necessary visits made, the demarcation of new border in this region, that could help increase trade between the two countries, will be taken into consideration."

While announcing readiness for the development of transit cooperation between Iran and Azerbaijan, he added, "we will make our utmost cooperation in this field and we are confident that, given the existence of actual and potential capacities in this field including North-South Corridor, this issue will benefit both countries."



Safar Mehdiyev Chairman of State Customs Committee of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for his part, expressed his satisfaction with the development of customs cooperation with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

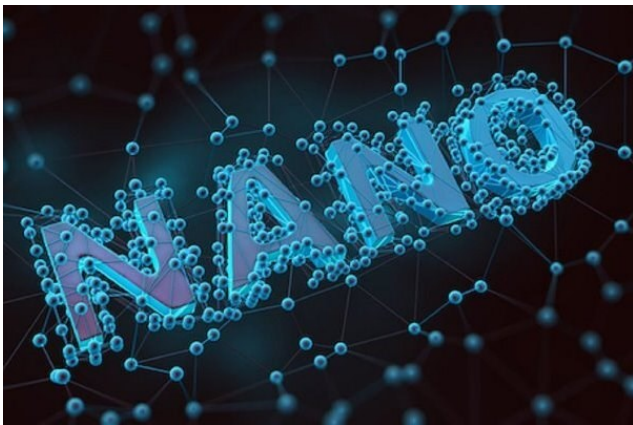
In this meeting, senior customs officials of the two countries also discussed signing and sealing a trilateral transit Memorandum of Understanding between Iran, Russia, and Republic of Azerbaijan and expressed their readiness to increase customs and transit cooperation.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### Iranian Scientists Obtain Know-how to Produce CQDs

An Iranian knowledge-based company managed to locally produce "carbon-based quantum dot", at a price 80% percent cheaper than imported materials.

According to a report by Iranian vice Presidency for Science and Technology on Tuesday, Ashkan Shamali, CEO of a knowledge-based firm in the field of chemistry, announced that "Carbon-based quantum dots are one of the materials used in various products which are currently offered by the company to some domestic consumers such as universities, research centers, and scientific institutions at a price of about 4 million Rials (nearly \$20 USD) per gram.



"This material was imported from countries such as Germany and France at a price of 20 million Rials (nearly \$100 USD) per gram, but the localization of this product reduced its price by about 80%", he said adding that "a quantum-based disinfectant which is produced by nanomaterials at a quarter of the price of alcohol is another product of this knowledge-based firm."

According to this official, the disinfectant has more durability on surfaces and it has been approved by the Iranian Food and Drug Administration.

Elsewhere in his remarks, he emphasized that scientific and academic institutions should have more relations with industrial centers and noted that this knowledge-based firm, by producing various products such as quantum-based lubricants, is trying to cut the country's dependency to import such materials.

### 1st Geothermal Power Plant to go on Stream in NW Iran

According to Managing Director of Iran's Thermal Power Plants Holding Company (TPPH), the ground will be broken for the construction operation of the First Geothermal Power Plant in northwest of the country in Ardabil province.

Mohsen Tarzatab added, "the construction operation of the First National Power Plant with an efficiency of 60 percent as well as construction of First Geothermal Power Plant is one of the main programs of Iran's Thermal Power Plants Holding Company in the year named after 'surge in production'."



The feasibility studies of the National Power Plant Project with advanced units were provided last year (ended March 20, 2020) in accordance with the climatic conditions of different parts of the country with the aim of increasing capacity and efficiency, reducing water consumption, controlling pollutants, reducing construction costs and improving repair

intervals and the first sample of which will be put into operation in the country using advanced domestically-manufactured unit (MGT75 gas turbine) with 60% efficiency, he added.

MGT75 gas turbine, as the first national gas turbine with 60% efficiency, has been designed and manufactured with the joint cooperation of Iran's Thermal Power Plants Holding Company, MAPNA (Turbine Engineering and Manufacturing Company) Group and Niroo Research Institute.

### **Iranian Universities Advance in Leiden Ranking**

The Center for Science and Technology Studies Leiden Ranking has placed 36 Iranian universities in the list of over 1,000 major universities worldwide in 2020 compared with 26 universities in 2019.

The ranking is prepared based on the indicators of scientific impact and collaboration and compiled by the CWTS (Dutch: Centrum voor Wetenschap en Technologische Studies, CWTS) at Leiden University in the Netherlands.

The CWTS Leiden Ranking 2020 offers a sophisticated set of bibliometric indicators that provide statistics at the level of universities on scientific impact, collaboration, open access publishing, and gender diversity.

With the presence of 36 universities in this ranking system, Iran, as in previous years, ranks first among Islamic countries in terms of the number of top universities. Turkey and Egypt are ranked second and third with 30 and 7 universities, respectively, he explained.

In 2020, Tehran University, Amirkabir University of Technology, Tehran University of Medical Sciences, Tarbiat Modares, Sharif University of Technology, Iran Science and Technology, Isfahan University of

Technology, Ferdowsi University of Mashhad, Shiraz, Tabriz, Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Shahid Beheshti, Islamic Azad University, Tehran Science and Research Branch, Tabriz Medical Sciences, Khajeh Nasir Toosi University of Technology, Mashhad Medical Sciences, Shiraz Medical Sciences, Iran Medical Sciences, Shahid Bahonar, Babol Noshirvani University of Technology, Malek Ashtar University of Technology, Sahand University of Technology, are among Leiden rankings.



In terms of scientific impact, almost all universities in the country (except 5) have performed better in terms of rankings compared to last year, and the University of Tehran, which is the first university in the country, has risen from 156 in 2019 to 140 in 2020.

In terms of collaboration, in general, there is no significant improvement in the ranking of the country's universities. However, the best ranking of the country has increased from 212 to 201 by the University of Tehran.

In terms of open access publishing, the ranking of the country's universities has not changed much, the best ranking in the country has been obtained by the University of Tehran, which has been upgraded from 212 in 2019 to 201 in 2020.

## In Memory of Maryam Mirzakhani

July 14 marks the third anniversary of the death of prominent Iranian mathematician Maryam Mirzakhani. In 2014, she became the first female winner of the Fields Medal, the most prestigious award in mathematics. Although Mirzakhani passed away in 2017, her invaluable contributions to the field of mathematics endure, and her trailblazing career has paved the way forward for many women mathematicians.



## Iran Successfully Tests 5G Mobile

Deputy Minister of Communications and Information Technology (ICT) announced, the first trial of high-speed 5G mobile internet technology has been successfully tested in Iran with a speed of 1.5 gigabits per second (Gb/s).

Sattar Hashemi expounded on the reasons behind Iran's entry into 5G technology and added, "ICT's Research Center is the location of the first 5th generation communications site and all stakeholders in this field can participate in the research and development (R&D) of this project."

In the pilot test of this project, a speed of 1.5 gigabits per second was successfully tested, he said, adding, "5G also has a significant improvement over 4G in terms of data transmission delay, so that we

could reduce the delay by 5 to 6 milliseconds in this test."



## SPORTS

### Taremi Named Rio Ave's Player of the Month

Mehdi Taremi was named the Rio Ave's Player of the Month for July. The Iranian forward scored twice in the Primeira Liga's last match against Boavista. He had also netted a brace against Santa Clara last week.

Taremi was chosen among the Primeira Liga's top three goalscorers along with Benfica players Carlos Vinicius and Pizzi, netting 18 goals.



Rio Ave completed the Primeira Liga's top five in the ever-evolving tussle for the final qualifying spot for

Europa League football, taking advantage of FC Famalicão's 3-3 draw to Marítimo to leapfrog the former with a 2-0 win against Boavista.

The Iran star has been linked with Portuguese giants Porto and Benfica.

### **Sardar Azmoun Wins Russian Premier League Golden Boot Award**

Iranian international striker Sardar Azmoun has won the 2019-20 Russian Premier League Golden Boot Award. Azmoun and his Zenit St Petersburg teammate Artem Dzyuba both played 28 games and scored 17 goals, but the Iranian was ranked ahead of the Russian by virtue of having scored fewer goals from the penalty spot. Azmoun scored just one penalty, whereas Dzyuba scored seven.



I want to say thank you to everyone who has supported me in the current season. I worked very hard to win the award," Azmoun posted on his Instagram account. Azmoun is the first Iranian to play in the Russian Premier League, as well as being the only Iranian to win the league title and the youngest player from his country to score in the UEFA Champions League.

### **AFC President Congratulates Persepolis on Winning IPL Title**

The President of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Sheikh Salman Bin Ibrahim Al Khalifah has extended his felicitations to Persepolis football club over winning Iran Professional League (IPL).

In a letter sent to Iran Football Federation, the AFC president congratulated the Iranian team for claiming the IPL title for the fourth time in a row. Persepolis defeated Naft Masjed Soleyman 2-1 and lifted the trophy with four matches to spare.

"On behalf of the Asian football family, I would like to congratulate Persepolis and Iran Football Federation for winning the title for fourth successive time," Sheikh Salman wrote in a congratulatory message.

"It's a great pleasure and I would like to thank Persepolis FC and your association for helping to spread the positive message of football."

"My congratulations go to the players, the coach, the administration, the entire technical team and medical staff as well as the fans for this great achievement," he added.

It was quickest title wins in the history of IPL.





## Foreign Missions in Iran

### Indian Embassy on Trade in Chabahar Port

 **India in Iran** @India\_in\_Iran  
 A Gol  consignment of 20,000 litres of pesticide "Malathion 96% ULV" which had arrived in Chabahar port in June was formally handed over to the Plant Protection Organization (PPO) of  Iran's Ministry of Agriculture on 14 July, 2020.  
[@MEAIndia](#) [@dhamugaddam](#)  
[@harshvshringla](#)




### Australian Embassy on the Iranian Support of the Red Crescent Society



Australia and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies are close international partners 🤝. In Iran, Australia has strongly supported the Iranian Red Crescent Society in response to the COVID-19 pandemic and devastating 2019 floods. Ambassador Sachs met recently with Dr Karim Hemmati in Tehran to discuss cooperation between Australia and the Iranian Red Crescent Society. #AustraliainIran


### Chinese Ambassador Points Out China - Iran Civilizational Similarities

 **Chang Hua** @AmbChangHua  
 Similarities between the ancient civilizations of **#China** and **#Iran**

 **Allen** @SLM\_0301 · 12h  
 هفته پل پکن که در سال ۱۷۹۵ ساخت شد و سه و سه پل اصفهان که در سال ۱۶۰۲ ساخت شد از بهترین نمونه‌های معماری چین باستان و ایران باستان هستند.



### Swiss Embassy Praises Iranian Chess Playing

 **Swiss Embassy Iran** @SwissEmbassyIr  
 Why are Iranians such excellent chess players? How is it to play for a Swiss chess club? What is a grandmaster's next challenge? Fascinating conversation + a (short) friendly match on **#WorldChessDay** with Iranian chess grandmaster Ehsan Ghaem-Maghami [@ChessIran](#)



**Italian Embassy on Iran - Italy Economic Meeting to Boost Ties Between Private Sectors**



Italy in Iran  
@ItalyinIran

The current economic situation and joint initiatives to boost the ties between #Italy's and #Iran's private sectors filled the agenda of today's productive and operational meeting with Chairman of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Masoud Khansari.



**Austrian Ambassador Praises Red Cross and IRCS Cooperation in Iran**



Stefan Scholz  
@stefanfjscholz

courtesy call on head of Red Crescent to pay tribute to volunteers in support of Iran's COVID-19 response. We appraised cooperation b/w Red Cross and IRCS, our Urban Search & Rescue external classification partnership and C-19 services to our communities



**Swedish Embassy on Ambassador's Visit to Iranian Company Manufacturing Ventilators**



swedeniniran • Follow  
Tehran, Iran







131 likes

swedeniniran Ambassador Lentz recently visited Pooyandegan Rah Sadat Company, an Iranian manufacturer and exporter of patient monitors and ventilators, that also has an assembly plant in Sweden. International cooperation is crucial in the fight against the #Covid-19 #pandemic.

**FAO in Iran Compliments the Iranian Tea Culture**



FAO Iran  
@FAOIran

-  Art
-  Culture
-  Heritage
-  And also a source of livelihood for millions

 Tea isn't just a drink, it's so much more.





## Discover Iran; The Tourist Experience

planetmaja Dear Iran - you are always in my ❤️.

\*

I loved your hospitality, your art, your people 🙏❤️.

\*

Please take me back to your incredible landscapes, your warm smiles, your mountains, your architecture, your food incl. best saffron icecream in Esfahan. Take me back to singing Castle On The Hill above 3000m thanks to my wonderful guide (thank you M & @heritage.hostel ❤️❤️🏔️.

\*



Sadly Iran is on the news again, and suffering again - second wave of coronavirus in a country that has already suffered a lot this year.

\*

Iran - one of the most beautiful and SAFEST places I have ever gone to. YES - SAFEST, you read it correctly.

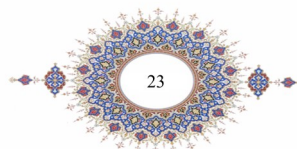
\*

And yet so so so underappreciated, misunderstood, misrepresented...

\*

Yes one of the most BEAUTIFUL & safest places I have ever been to ❤️🙏.

\*







planetmaja Persian culture of Iran is famous for beautiful poetry, luxurious intricate carpets, and lush elaborate gardens. Did you know that the word "paradise" comes from a Persian word meaning "enclosed garden."? 🌸🌸🌸

\*  
\*

Mollabashi (Motamedi) House in Esfahan also has a small garden with these beautiful paintings all around. How relaxing it must be to sit there meditating Hafez' lines in the sun? 😊  
😊 Or in the corridor of colourful lights I posted from two days ago (video). \*

\*



### Touristic Visit of Italian Journalist Alessandro Di Battista to Iran



*Tabriz*

*Isfahan*



*Mashhad*

