

Report **T**  
Russia ready to resume talks as UN warns of food crisis

President Vladimir Putin has reaffirmed the Russian side's openness to the "resumption of dialogue" with Ukraine while warning against the delivery of weapons to the war zone.

According to the Kremlin, Putin made the remarks during a three-way telephone conversation with the President of France Emmanuel Macron, and the Chancellor of Germany Olaf Scholz.

The Kremlin says a lot of emphasis was placed on the progress of the peace negotiations, which have recently stalled.

According to the German chancellor's spokesperson, during the 80-minute call, Macron and Scholz called for an immediate cease-fire in Ukraine.

The leaders exchanged views on the most recent developments in Ukraine, where Russian forces are advancing in the Eastern Donbass region. The Kremlin says Putin informed the other leaders at length about the latest events of Russia's military operations, noting that the Russian Armed Forces "are strictly observing the norms of international humanitarian law, and spoke about the systematic work being carried out to establish peaceful life in Mariupol" as well as other cities in Donbass.

The Ukrainian government accuses Russian forces of violating international law, an allegation Moscow has rejected.

During the trilateral talks, the Russian President criticized the "continued dangerous practice" of pumping Ukraine with Western weapons, while cautioning "against the risks of the country's further destabilization and aggravation of the humanitarian crisis." ▶ Page 5

Report **T**  
Regional diplomacy to tackle SDSs

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – An Iranian delegation, headed by Department of Environment chief Ali Salajegheh, has embarked on a trip to Iraq, Syria, and Kuwait to resolve the problem of sand and dust storms (SDSs).

The whole country has recently been haunted by the phenomenon of severe SDSs.

The purpose of this trip is to exchange views and consensus with the Iraqi authorities in the direction of collective cooperation in the region to deal with the phenomenon, field visits to SDS centers, and review effective and immediate solutions to reduce the effects.

In order to negotiate with neighboring countries to reduce the intensity of dust from foreign origins, Salajegheh expressed hope that by creating a regional convergence and alignment, appropriate achievements in combating dust will be achieved for the people.

Studies and maps show that Saudi Arabia produces the highest level of particulate matter, followed by Iraq, Syria, Kuwait, and the UAE, respectively, Salajegheh stated.

According to studies, the main centers of dust that affect our country in Iraq and Syria have been fully identified and mapped, so on the first trip we will go to Iraq and hold a meeting with the Iraqi government, he noted.

In the first phase, we are consulting on a bilateral and multilateral memorandum of understanding so that the main secretariat for dust management in West Asia can be established in Iran. ▶ Page 7

Israeli Forces Beat Palestinians as Jewish Extremists Storm Holy Mosque

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TEHRAN – Hundreds of Jewish religious nationalists on Sunday stormed the second-holiest site in Islam under the protection of Israeli police, sparking outrage and anger among Muslims across the world.

The storming came ahead of what Israelis

call "Jerusalem Day", which marks the occupation of Jerusalem by Israel in the 1967 war. Every year, hundreds of Israel far-right groups stage provocative procession through the Old City to mark Israeli Flag March which falls on Jerusalem Day. The occasion almost

always comes with a warning about the possible flare-up of tensions between Israelis and Palestinians.

Just as many other Israeli occasions, notably Independence Day, Jerusalem Day represents a dark chapter in the ▶ Page 3

Annual investment in PSEEZ increases 46%

TEHRAN – Iran's biggest energy hub, Pars Special Economic Energy Zone (PSEEZ), has managed to attract 70 trillion rials (about \$270.1 million) as well as €500 million of investment in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) to register a 46 percent growth, year on year.

According to Khosro Afrouzeh, the director of economic development and investment attraction of Pars Special Economic Energy Zone Organization, the organization has been following new strategies to optimize investment processes with the aim of facilitating the investment environment and creating a

smooth path for small investors and focusing on key customers.

PSEEZ was established in 1998 for the utilization of South Pars oil and gas resources and to encourage commercial activities in the field of oil, gas, and petrochemical industries in southern Iran. ▶ Page 4

Report **T**  
Korosh Bagheri not happy with Ali Moradi's candidacy in IWF

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN – The revelation of the final list of nominees running for the presidency of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) and the inclusion of Ali Moradi in the list provoked different reactions among Iranian weightlifting experts.

Moradi, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran Weightlifting Federation (IRIWF), is among eleven candidates who stand for the Presidency of the IWF, which will be held next month.

Former Iranian weightlifter, Kouroush Bagheri, believes that Moradi has taken such an action for his personal benefit.

"Imagine him – Ali Moradi – becoming the president of the International Weightlifting Federation. ▶ Page 3



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Footshal competition held in Golestan province

TEHRAN – The fifth edition of Footshal competition was held in Golestan province, in the northeast of Iran, on Friday.

The people of north of Iran play a new type of football namely, footshal in their fields during paddy season. Footshal is a type of football played between two teams of nine players on a muddy field.

Excavations to shed new light on Sassanid maritime in ancient Siraf

TEHRAN – Archaeologists have commenced a field survey to shed new light on the maritime heritage of the Sassanids across the ancient Siraf located on the north shore of the Persian Gulf.

"These excavations will be carried out for 45 days to recognize the evidence of maritime trade and the state of the Sassanids in the historical port of Siraf," a local official said on Sunday.

The majority of excavations will be carried out in the historical core of the port city near its Jameh mosque and ruined fortresses, Seyyed Mehdi Azarian was quoted as saying by ILNA.

The official voiced hope that ongoing research will pave the way for making an international open-air museum in Siraf.

"I hope we can take steps to introduce and get to know this ancient port as much as possible and provide the infrastructure to turn it

into an international site museum."

"This goal will be achieved through continuous, and of course, annual research and field excavations," he said.

Siraf was Iran's most important port from the Sassanid period to the 4th century AH. It bears plentiful evidence of Persian mastery and genius in seafaring, international relations, and interaction with other near and far cultures and civilizations. ▶ Page 6

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Interview **T**

Uvalde massacre may spark changes: analyst

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – American political analyst Martin Love believes that the Texas shooting may spark meaningful changes in U.S. society.

"The Uvalde massacre, however, may well spark changes," Love tells the Tehran Times

Love is of the opinion that there is no constitutional aspect to general weapon ownership.

"The intent of the amendment that exists was over 200 years ago to provide for a militia, but not random gun ownership," he remarks.

Following is the text of the interview:

**What are the implications of the Uvalde school massacre for America and the world at large?**

It seems there are, in recent years; on average about two mass shootings a day in the US...if you define "mass" as four or more persons/victims. Obviously, some incidents are worse than others, especially if the victims happen to be children. The net results of the Uvalde shooting are further confirmation that something is wildly out of control in the U.S., in particular access to weapons.

It's almost become a cult owns firearms, and many who do no business owning any and the government has long refused to clamp down, especially with respect to military-style weapons. ▶ Page 5

Vocalists Shahram Nazeri, Maz'har Khaleqi receive Galaweji lifetime honors

TEHRAN – Iranian vocalists Shahram Nazeri and Maz'har Khaleqi received lifetime achievement awards on Saturday at the 25th edition of the Galaweji International Festival.

The festival, which is an annual literary and intellectual cultural event held in Kurdistan in Sulaimaniyah by the Galaweji Intellectual Center, took place from May 25 to 28.

Nazeri was honored after a performance along with tamboura virtuoso Farid Elhami and divan player Saber Nazargahi.

Playwright Ahmad Salar, poet Arghavan Rasul, musician Anvar Gharadaghi and several other artists were also honored at the festival.

Dildar Mohammed won the top prize in the poetry category, while the same prize in the song category went to Dastan Marif Karim.

First prize in the research section was given to Muhsin Abdulrahman, and Dilbrin Abdulfatah Ali won the top prize in the story category. . ▶ Page 8



## Amir Abdollahian: Iran to send team to S. Arabia to facilitate Hajj pilgrimage

TEHRAN— Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian announced on Sunday that a Foreign Ministry team has been tasked to facilitate Hajj pilgrimage by Iranian citizens.

“The Consular and Iranian Affairs Department at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has dedicated all its capacity to facilitate the Hajj pilgrimage for the pilgrims and the executive officials of the pilgrimage from the beginning to the end of their departure,” Amir Abdollahian said in a meeting with officials from the Hajj and Pilgrimage Organization and Foreign Ministry.

At the meeting issues related to sending pilgrims to Saudi Arabia to perform the 145th Hajj ritual were discussed.

Amir Abdollahian emphasized the efforts of the Foreign Ministry at various levels to facilitate the departure of Iranian pilgrims for



this year's Hajj and to participate in this great divine ritual.

Iran's top diplomat also stated that the ministry under his leadership will send a consular delegation to Saudi Arabia for this purpose.

Amir Abdollahian expressed the hope that this year's ritual would be glorious and peaceful with the help of Saudi officials.

## Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmon arrives in Tehran



TEHRAN— Tajikistan's President Emomali Rahmon arrived in Tehran on

Sunday afternoon for a two-day visit.

Rahmon has traveled to Tehran at the official invitation of Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi.

The two presidents are scheduled to sign various cooperation documents, according to reports.

President Raisi visited Tajikistan in September last year to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit.

## Certain countries transfer terrorists to Afghanistan: official

TEHRAN- Several countries in the region and beyond, according to the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), are transferring Takfiri terrorists to Afghanistan.

Speaking at the fourth meeting of the Regional Security Dialogue in Dushanbe, Tajikistan's capital, Ali Shamkhani said terrorism and extremism are among the primary reasons of instability in Afghanistan.

“Unfortunately, we have alarming evidence of the presence and involvement of some regional and extra-regional countries in the transfer of terrorists to Afghanistan,” he noted.

To avoid insecurity and instability, Shamkhani encouraged regional governments to concentrate their efforts on improving security and putting unified deterrent measures on the table.

All countries, including Afghanistan's acting Taliban government, must fulfill their obligations in this respect, according to Iran's senior security official.

Citing regional conditions, not least the United States' humiliating failure in Afghanistan, Shamkhani said Washington must not only free the Afghan people's frozen assets, but also recompense for the harm it has inflicted in the war-torn country.

He went on to say that the U.S. polices are to blame for the “two catastrophes of the 20-year war in Afghanistan and the war in Ukraine.”

“The Islamic Republic of Iran has always called for the establishment of security, peace,



and stability in Afghanistan and deems it necessary for the development and welfare of Afghans and other nations in the region,” the SNSC secretary said, referring to Iran's efforts to improve security in its neighboring country.

Shamkhani underlined that Iran has been hosting roughly five million Afghans in recent years, and this has caused a slew of problems for the country owing to a lack of effective foreign help and harsh sanctions.

Discrimination and loss of rights in numerous domains, according to the SNSC secretary, are among the key elements that allow terrorist groups to exploit the situation in Afghanistan.

Iran's top security official emphasized that establishing a broad-based administration in Afghanistan will foster stability.

“If we want to limit grounds for the U.S. interference in Afghanistan,” Shamkhani said, “we need to embrace correct measures to handle Afghanistan's issues, notably in the economic sector.”

## Iran's ambassador to Moscow holds talks with Amir Abdollahian

TEHRAN- The Iranian Ambassador to Moscow presented a report on Saturday to Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian about the holding of a joint economic cooperation commission meeting between Iran and Russia as well as efforts to strengthen relations between the two sides.

Ambassador Kazem Jalali, who was in Tehran at the time while Deputy Prime Minister and Chairman of the Russian side of the Joint Economic Cooperation Commission visited Iran, briefed Amir Abdollahian on the joint commission and the growing relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Russian Federation.

Amir Abdollahian stressed the significance of bilateral cooperation in many political, economic, and cultural spheres and offered the appropriate suggestions to follow through on the agreements signed within the framework of the two nations' Joint Commission for Economic Cooperation.

Referring to the positive outcomes of bilateral cooperation, Iran's ambassador stated that Tehran-Moscow cooperation in the region has resulted in regional security and stability, and the two countries closely cooperate in resolving regional crises, which has a positive impact on regional interactions.

## Army official: Missions assigned to secret bases of Army are “very special”

TEHRAN — Admiral Seyed Mahmoud Mousavi, Deputy Chief of Army Operations, says that the missions assigned to the secret bases of the Army are “very special.”

Speaking in a TV show on Saturday night, Mousavi talked about the secret UAV center of the Army named the 313 Strategic UAV Base, which was showed off on Saturday.

Armed Forces chief Major General Mohammad Bagheri and Army Commander-in-Chief Major General Seyed Abdolrahim Mousavi were present as the drone site was revealed. The secret drone facility is built 100 meters under the ground.

Mousavi said, “The missions that are assigned to the secret bases of the Army are very special and mainly operated abroad.”

He went on to say, “These bases and similar bases are located in different parts of the country and have been operational. They have been operating for a long time.”

The military official said General Bagheri's visit to the secret base was to evaluate the performance and capabilities of the Army in the area.

“The Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran uses this base in accordance with its missions, and during this visit, General Bagheri evaluated the capabilities of the Army in the field of drones in one of these secret bases. As it was clear in the pictures, all the drones that were in this base were all operational and ready to carry out their assigned missions, and they fly and perform their assigned operations whenever they are needed,” he noted.

The Army official added that the drones used in this secret base are capable of carrying out highly advanced missions to deal devastating blows to the enemy if needed.

Admiral Mousavi said, “Due to the very particular missions that have been assigned to these bases, the equipment that is kept



secret in these bases should be hidden from the enemy and will be used when necessary.”

He added that the capabilities of the Armed Forces today are not comparable to the era of Sacred Defense.

“We have a high capability in the field of forces, for example in the field of electronic warfare and the production of drones, all these achievements have been attained after the victory of the Islamic Revolution. We did not have equipment in the Sacred Defense, but today we have advanced equipment. In the field of drones, we also produced drones that can easily identify and target distant marks. Today we have the potential to produce highly advanced manned aircraft and fighter jets.”

The Army official considered the combat capability of the Armed Forces incomparable with the era of Sacred Defense and said that in all areas of land, sea, air and air defense, there have been significant progress,

but the special feature of drones is that it is proportional to all forces, and they could be used when necessary.

Mousavi also described soldiers as the most important determining factor in the battle and said, “During the Sacred Defense, we saw that the warriors of the Army, IRGC and Basij showed the highest competence with the least facilities and achieved victory with the least equipment. Even today, the young people who are trained in the training centers of the Army and the IRGC are the followers of their past generations and have the precious baggage of Sacred Defense and defend the values of the Islamic Revolution with all their might.”

He then noted that the enemies did their best to limit Iran's military and defense capabilities.

“But their efforts did not succeed, and today our defense and military capabilities are indigenous,” he concluded.

## Iran's top security official urges the world to stand up against U.S. unilateralism

TEHRAN- Iran's senior security official has condemned U.S. sanctions on Russia in the wake of the Ukraine crisis, urging the international community to band together and oppose Washington's unilateral policies.

On the heels of the fourth meeting of the Regional Security Dialogue in the Tajik capital Dushanbe on Friday, Ali Shamkhani, Secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), met with his Russian counterpart Nikolai Patrushev and called for resistance to U.S. unilateralism.

“The world must unite against the unilateral policies of the United States. The Islamic Republic of Iran has been subject to sanctions for the past 43 years, and has become an epitome of the ineffectiveness of sanctions imposed to dictate political will on independent countries,” he noted.

In the face of U.S. unilateral actions, he emphasized the need for strategic coordination between Tehran and Moscow, the two all-weather allies.

“It seems as if sanctions against Russia will not be lifted once the Ukraine war comes to an end. Therefore, it is necessary to devise a coherent system of cooperation between the sanctioned countries on a strategic and long-term perspective,” Shamkhani suggested.

In the context of rapidly changing global dynamics, the top security official expressed satisfaction with talks between Iran and Russia at various levels, asking for the rise of the bilateral collaboration.

The SNSC secretary cited the growth of collaboration, as well as shared financial, banking, and tariff procedures among Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) member states, as a vital step that can mitigate the impact of unlawful sanctions on the nations' economic and commercial connections.

Shamkhani also spoke about Western efforts to draw Russia into the Ukraine crisis, asserting that certain countries are using the conflict to carry out expansionist plans in the region and achieve their ambitious goals.

“Such attempts need to be confronted seriously,” he underscored.

Iran's top security official went on to express alarm about what is happening in neighboring Afghanistan, including the rise of numerous terrorist groups.

“The lack of a broad-based government in the country is among the main reasons for the continuing instability and insecurity as well as mounting economic and livelihood pressure on ordinary people there,” he pointed out.

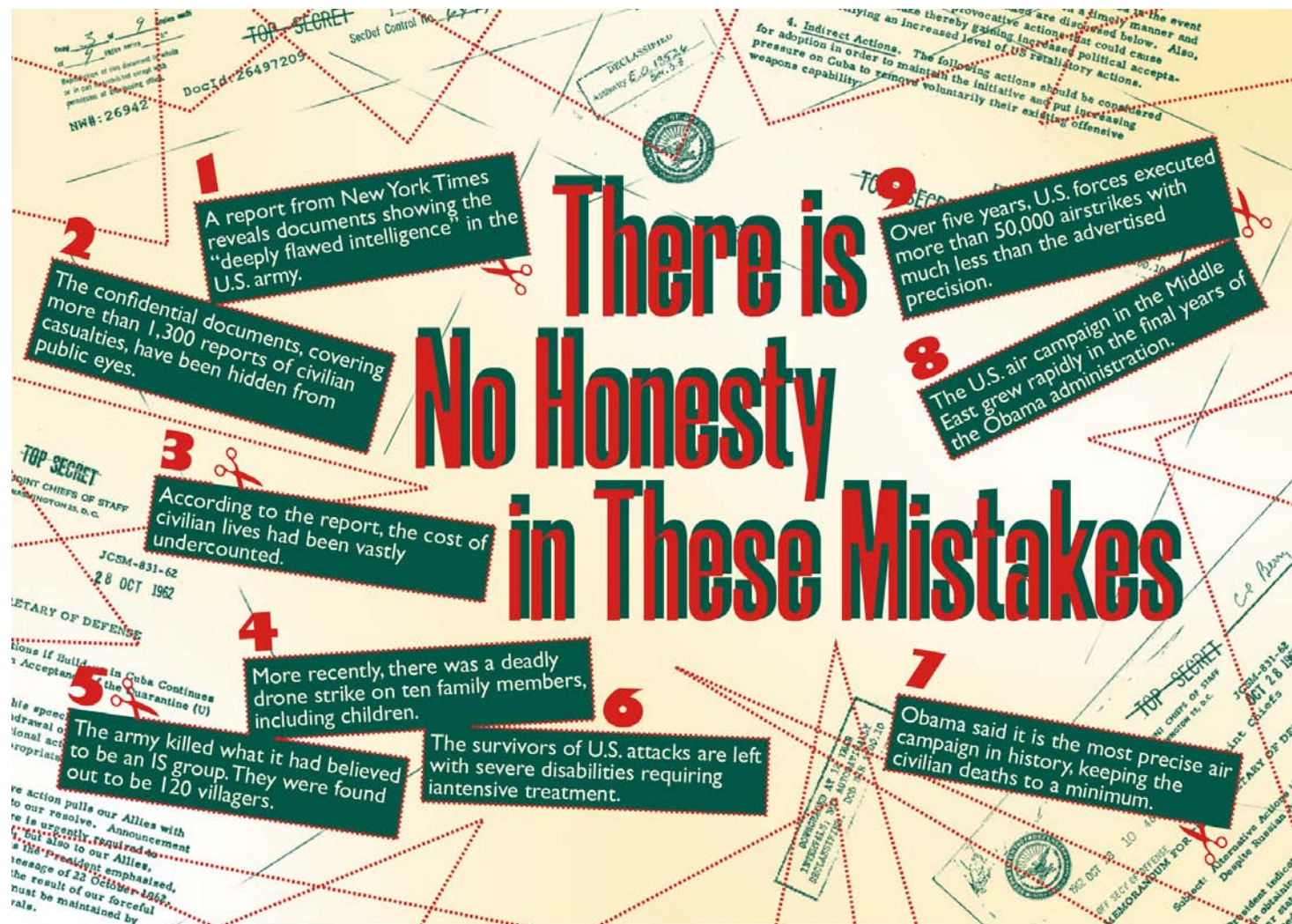
For his part, Patrushev said even if the Ukraine conflict had not erupted, the West would have imposed sanctions against Russia.

“The wide-ranging Western sanctions against Russia have created an opportunity for our people to come to terms with the futility of liberal political groups' calls for full engagement and cooperation with the West,” he said.

The senior security official underlined that “Russia's special operation in Ukraine is just an excuse to impose extensive sanctions on our country. The West is determined to double down on its anti-Russia measures. The sanctions would have been imposed even if the Ukraine crisis had not sparked off.”

He said that the Russian operation in Ukraine revealed the U.S.'s establishment of chemical and biological facilities in the country, and that Moscow intends to disclose important pertinent papers in the near future.

The Russian security official also said, “Transit cooperation and completion of the International North-South Transport Corridor are among the most important steps the two countries must take,” emphasizing the importance of activating enormous collaboration capacities between Russia and Iran.





# Israeli forces beat Palestinians as Jewish extremists storm holy mosque

From Page 1 ▶ history of Palestine. With their annual Flag March, Jewish extremists keep reminding the Palestinians of the day when their city was occupied by Israel, thereby rubbing salt into historical wounds that never healed.

This year's provocations began when Israeli extremists dangerously stormed a place in which Jewish worship is prohibited even under Israeli law, sparking concerns about an Israeli plot to change Jerusalem's delicate status quo.

On Sunday, groups of far-right Jewish nationalists broke into Jerusalem's Al-Aqsa Mosque compound ahead of the provocative flag march.

The groups were led by a ringleader of a small ultranationalist opposition party in the Knesset early on Sunday. Itamar Ben-Gvir led his supporters into the compounds of Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Simultaneously, Israeli forces occupied the rooftop of the al-Qibli prayer hall in the compound on Sunday morning and besieged the worshippers inside it to enable the passage of settlers to go unhindered, according to Al Jazeera.

The Israelis have prevented Palestinian journalists and photographers from entering Al-



Aqsa Mosque and threatened them with arrest.

Israeli forces have fired rubber bullets at Palestinian protesters in the compound, in an effort to disperse them.

At least 18 Palestinians have been arrested from within occupied East Jerusalem's Old City, Israeli police said.

The Sunday developments raised alarm bells about Israel planning to change the status of the Al Aqsa Mosque. The Chief Rabbinate of Israel and Israeli law do not permit Jewish worship at the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound. But this was violated on Sunday, which led officials in occupied Jerusalem to warn that the violations that took place in Al-Aqsa Mosque during the storming of settlers, who

numbered more than a thousand settlers in the morning tour, are a prelude to a new phase in the mosque.

In an interview with Al-Araby Al-Jadeed, Azzam Al-Khatib, Director General of the Islamic Endowments in Jerusalem, said that "the settlers have profaned everything that was previously prohibited during their storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque," and that they performed prayers, dances and religious "lying" on the ground.

Al-Khatib added, "What is said about the religious situation in Al-Aqsa, the settlers have changed it today, under the eyes of the police and the occupation government.... What happened today in Al-Aqsa Mosque is a dangerous thing that we did not witness before."

The director of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, Omar Al-Kiswani, told Al-Araby Al-Jadeed that he views with seriousness what the settlers did. Al-Kiswani indicated that the occupation authorities want to impose a new phase inside Al-Aqsa Mosque, holding the occupation government fully responsible for what is happening, and any reaction to it.

This may be the reason why Nasser Qaws, a leader of the Fatah Movement in Jerusalem, told Al-Araby Al-Jadeed, "What happened in Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque is a black day in the history of Jerusalem and Al-Aqsa Mosque."

The Palestinian presidency also had to react to Israeli provocations at Al-Aqsa Mosque, calling them "playing with fire."

Nabil Abu Rudeineh, spokesman for President Mahmoud Abbas, said today that Israel is irresponsibly and recklessly playing with fire by allowing settlers to desecrate the holy sites in occupied Jerusalem and by escalating the killing of Palestinians, according to state news agency WAFA.

Abu Rudeineh told Voice of Palestine radio that "Israel is disregarding the international community," and that it "does not respect the decisions of international legitimacy, and considers itself to be above the law."

## Iran says crew of seized Greek ships not under arrest

TEHRAN – Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) has said in a statement that the crew members of two Greek ships seized by the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) are not under arrest.

"All the crew members of the two Greek ships are safe and in good health. And while they are still aboard the ships, they will be protected and cared for and provided with any necessary services in accordance with international law," the PMO said in a statement on Sunday. "The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a signatory to the Maritime Labour Convention (MLC) of 2006, will abide by its commitments to all sailors including those considered guests."

Iran has seized two Greek-flagged oil tankers in the Persian Gulf in a tit-for-tat move after Greece detained an Iranian-flagged oil tanker and transferred its cargo to the United States.

Nearly a month ago, Greece seized an Iranian-flagged oil tanker off its coast and then transferred its cargo to the United States. Reuters reported Thursday that the United States has confiscated Iranian oil held on a Russian-operated ship near Greece and will send the cargo to the United States aboard another vessel.

The Iranian-flagged ship, the Pegas, was among five vessels designated by Washington on Feb. 22 – two days before the start of the war in Ukraine for sanctions against Promsvyazbank, a bank viewed as critical to Russia's defense sector, according to Reuters.

In response, the media office of the Islamic



Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) succinctly announced Friday that the IRGC navy forces had detained two Greek oil tankers for violation of law in the Persian Gulf.

Iranian media said the seizure took place in response to the Greek move in detaining the Iranian oil tanker. Tasnim said the IRGC also issued warnings to other Greek ships sailing in the Persian Gulf.

"There are still 17 Greek ships sailing in the Persian Gulf which will be possibly detained by the IRGC if Greece continues its mischief," Tasnim warned.

Even though it made the first move, Greece accused Iran of "piracy" following the seizure of its ships.

"These actions are tantamount to acts of piracy," the Greek Foreign Ministry said in a statement, warning Greek citizens to avoid traveling to Iran.

The PMO said the Greek ships were detained for "maritime infractions" and a legal action will follow after reviewing relevant evidence.

Earlier, the maritime authority said, "Two Greek

ships have been detained due to maritime violations, and the issue is being investigated based on evidence and documents. Upon thorough investigation, the necessary legal action will be taken."

It added, "The Ports and Maritime Organization denies the detention of the crew of these two Greek tankers. All the crews of both Greek ships are in perfect health onboard the ships. They are protected and treated in accordance with international law while all necessary services are provided to them. The Ports and Maritime Organization also emphasizes that The Islamic Republic of Iran, as a party to the 2006 Maritime Labor Convention, is fulfilling its obligations to all seafarers, including seafarers who are considered guests in Iranian waters."

The PMO also protested the seizure of the Iranian-flagged tanker MT Lana at the port of Karistos off the coast of Greece in a letter to the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). "On 21 May 2022, the tanker vessel MT Lana, IMO No. 9256860, operating under the Iranian flag, was being towed with no propulsion, off the coasts of Greece when they faced bad weather, and was forced to seek a place of safety at the Greek Port of Karystos, in order to ensure safety and resolve technical problems. The Port Authority, however, has proceeded to arrest the cargo of the tanker, owned by Iran, and plans to discharge the cargo by early 24 May 2022," it said in the letter.



views and reached an agreement on consular affairs, including facilitating the issuance of tourism visas, commerce and investment, resolution of issues facing students, expansion of consular-judicial cooperation, support for the rights of Iranian citizens and companies active in Tajikistan, cooperation over illegal migration and human trafficking, fight against terrorism, and the issue of nationality.

The Tajik side announced that it had started issuing electronic visas for Iranian citizens as the situation caused by the Covid-19 pandemic is returning to normal.

The Iranian team, in turn, called for facilitation of issuing visas by eliminating the intermediaries and easing the administrative procedure.

The two sides agreed to put forward and discuss a plan for eliminating tourism visas within the framework of their consular talks.

The two sides exchanged

Emomali Rahmon's visit to Tehran.

In the meeting, Saberi gave a report on the latest developments in ties between Iran and Tajikistan and the significant growth in bilateral economic and trade cooperation as well as finalized memoranda of understanding that were to be approved by the two presidents on Sunday.

Amir Abdollahian also stressed the significance of Iran's ties with Tajikistan, especially given their cultural affinities and common language.

He also underlined the necessity of expanding cooperation in various fields, particularly in trade and economic spheres.

In the meeting, the two sides reviewed the details and content of the Tajik president's visit to Tehran.

The Tajik president arrived in Tehran on Sunday.

Ezzatollah Zarghami, the Iranian Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism, announced that a memorandum of understanding previously concluded with Tajikistan will be activated soon.

In a statement on Sunday, Zarghami said that the executive program of the memorandum of tourism cooperation between the

TEHRAN – Mozaffar Hosseinzadeh, Tajikistan's Deputy Foreign Minister, on Saturday met with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian on the eve of the Tajik president's trip to Iran, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said.

In the meeting, Amir Abdollahian expressed pleasure at the Tajik president's visit to Tehran and described it as highly important for the expansion of bilateral ties. He reiterated that the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Tajikistan have many historical, civilizational, cultural and linguistic commonalities and this huge potential will pave the way for the expansion of ties between the two brotherly and friendly nations.

The Tajik deputy foreign minister also underlined the importance of bilateral ties in different areas and declared Tajikistan's readiness to develop ties with the Islamic Republic. The two officials also exchanged views over the latest issues in bilateral ties as well as the latest follow-ups and agreements during the Iranian president's visit to Tajikistan in 2021.

Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian also received Iranian Ambassador to Tajikistan Mohammad Taghi Saberi on the eve of Tajik President

## SPORTS

### Koroush Bagheri not happy with Ali Moradi's candidacy in IWF

From Page 1 ▶ What positive thing do you think will happen to Iran's weightlifting? He was secretary general of the Asian Weightlifting Federation for 12 years but did not take any steps to help and improve Iran's weightlifting," said Bagheri, who is one of the most prominent critics of the current president of the Iranian Weightlifting Federation, in his interview with Tehran Times.



"He is a powerful person in Iranian sports and in spite of the fact that he is retired and cannot legally be the president of the weightlifting federation, he continues to be president! However, his previous experience has shown and proved that he cannot succeed in international elections of weightlifting," added Bagheri, who won the gold medal in the Men's 94 kg weight class at the 2001 World Weightlifting Championships.

"There is a lot to be said about the current condition of IRIWF, but I prefer not to talk more about Mr. Moradi's candidacy in the International Weightlifting Federation's elections. I only wish success for Iranian weightlifting in all competitions and categories," he concluded.

Moradi has registered for the IWF elections for the positions of President, Vice President, Secretary-General, and Executive Board.

The International Olympic Committee (IOC) stressed the importance of the elections, scheduled for June 25-26 in Tirana, Albania, when it sent another warning letter to the IWF.

### Iran consider Uruguay as Canada's replacement: official

TEHRAN – Secretary general of Iran football federation Hassan Kamranifar says that they are arranging a friendly match with Uruguay.

Iran were scheduled to play Canada in Vancouver on June 5 but Canada Soccer canceled the match on Thursday.

"We start our training camp in Doha, Qatar on May 31. Given the fact that friendly between Uruguay and Mexico has been canceled, we are going to play Uruguay on June 11 or 12 in Doha," Kamranifar said.

Iran are pitted against England, the U.S. and one of Scotland, Ukraine or Wales in the 2022 FIFA World Cup while Uruguay are in Group H with Portugal, South Korea and Ghana.

### Iran's Sayari chosen 2022 IWB Asia Oceania Championships MVP

TEHRAN – Iran's Mohamad Hassan Sayari was chosen as the Most Valuable Player (MVP) of the 2022 IWB Asia Oceania Championships.

He played a key role in Team Melli, helping it to win the silver medal in the competition held in Phuket, Thailand.

Sayari and his compatriot Hakim Mansouri were also selected in the Men's All-Star.

On Friday, Roghayeh Amiri was chosen in Women's All-Star 5.

Iran's women's team also won a bronze medal in the competition.

### Iran's Banitaba takes gold at 2022 IBSA Judo Grand Prix

TEHRAN – Meysam Banitaba from Iran claimed a gold medal in the 2022 IBSA Judo Grand Prix Kazakhstan.

Banitaba defeated his Turkish opponent Abdurrahim Ozalp in the final bout of the Men's -60kg.

The bronze medal went to Brazilian judoka Elielton Oliveira.

Competition is being held at the Jekpe-Jek Hall in Nur-Sultan in eight weight categories (four in men and four in women).

The 2022 IBSA Judo Grand Prix has brought about 200 judokas from 25 countries together.

### Iran volleyball team arrive in Belgrade

TEHRAN – Iran national volleyball team arrived in Belgrade, Serbia Sunday morning.

Iran will play two friendly matches with Serbian team on Wednesday and Thursday.

They will fly to Brasilia, Brazil on June 3 to participate in 2022 FIVB Volleyball Men's Nations League.

Iran will play China, the Netherlands, Australia and Japan on Week 1, respectively.

The match against China is scheduled for June 7.

Led by the world's number one team of Brazil, who is also reigning VNL and South American champion, the list of participants in the upcoming men's VNL is no less impressive.

Tokyo 2020 Olympic champions France, two-time world champions Poland, European champions Italy, Asian champions Iran, Tokyo 2020 bronze medalists Argentina and traditional North American stronghold the U.S. will be challenged by the top-level selections of Australia, Bulgaria, Canada, China, Germany, Japan, the Netherlands, Serbia and Slovenia.

The 2022 FIVB Volleyball Women's Nations League will be the fourth edition of the FIVB Volleyball Women's Nations League, an annual women's international volleyball tournament. The tournament will be held from May 31 to July 3, 2022, and the finals on July 13 to 17

### Persepolis eye Payam Niazmand

TEHRAN – Persepolis football club has reportedly reached an agreement with Portimonense goalkeeper Payam Niazmand.

The 27-year-old goalie joined the Portuguese top-flight club in the summer from Sepahan but he is frustrated by limited playing time.

Persepolis is going to part ways with Hamed Lak at the end of the season.

The local media had reported that Persepolis has reached an agreement with Antwerp goalkeeper Alireza Beiranvand but the deal has not finalized yet.

Niazmand started his senior career in Iran at Paykan in 2015, where he made 24 appearances in three seasons.

In 2018, he joined Sepahan. On 13 July 2021, Niazmand joined Primeira Liga side Portimonense.



## Annual investment in PSEEZ increases 46%

From page 1 ► Afrouzeh noted that based on PSEEZ's grand scheme for the Iranian calendar year 1404 (starts in March 2025) the total petrochemical processing capacity of the zone is expected to reach 60 million tons, of which so far 32 million tons have been realized.

Located in the port city of Assaluyeh, PSEEZ is home to several petrochemical complexes that receive gas and gas condensate feedstock from the giant South Pars gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf.

The zone is the hub of Iran's exports of major non-oil commodities including gas condensate and petrochemicals.

Back in December 2021, PSEEZ Managing Director said that good measures were taken to strengthen and stabilize revenue sources for Pars Energy Special Economic Zone



Organization.

According to Asadi, the necessary licenses were obtained for the allocation of more investment for this zone in the near future.

Proper planning, resource management, and prioritization of development projects have led to the maximum production of the South Pars gas field as one of the PSEEZ's missions, the official said.

## Iran, Germany private sectors to expand cooperation



TEHRAN – A group of 20 Iranian businessmen and company representatives visited Germany from April 24 to May 14 as part of a joint project organized by Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) in collaboration with the International Trade Center (ITC).

As reported by the TPO portal, during their visit, the Iranian delegates attended a training course held by the German side, visited several international exhibitions, and met with the representatives of related German companies and production units to discuss future cooperation.

They held B2B meetings with the

representatives of 75 major German companies during which several agreements, memorandums of understanding (MOUs), and contracts were reached between the two sides for cooperation in a variety of areas.

According to Mir-Hadi Seyedi, TPO's advisor in international affairs, the aim of this project was to help facilitate the presence of Iranian companies and producers in global arena, especially the European markets and to use the existing capacities in the EU for export development.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has been taking serious measures to return to the global trade scene despite the limitations created by the U.S. sanctions and, as the body in charge of promoting international trade, the TPO has been a pioneer in this regard.

Iran and Germany signed an MOU for cooperation in the training and education of industry managers and entrepreneurs back in October 2018.

## TPO to hold Iran-Pakistan trade workshop in mid-June

TEHRAN – Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) of Iran is going to hold a training workshop for Iranian businessmen who are interested in trading with Pakistan, the TPO portal reported.

Marketing strategies and methods, cultural awareness, and the trade-related laws and regulations of Pakistan are among the subjects covered in this workshop which is due to be held on June 12.

The TPO has held several business training workshops with different countries, however, the training workshop with Pakistan is the first such event that



is attended by TPO Head Alireza Peyman-Pak, ambassadors of the two countries, economic and trade advisors of the two countries and officials of Pakistani and Iranian chambers of commerce.

# Monthly exports from mining sector rises 16% year on year

TEHRAN – The value of Iran's export of minerals and mining products rose 16 percent in the first month of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-April 20), as compared to the first month of the previous year, according to the data released by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization.

The IMIDRO's data put Iran's value of minerals and mining products export at \$866.2 million in the first month.

The country's export of minerals and mining products fell 14 percent in terms of weight in the first month of this year, from that of the same month in the previous year.

As previously announced by an official with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), Iran exported around \$10.532

billion of minerals and mining products in the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), registering an increase of 91 percent year on year.

According to Head of TPO's Minerals and Mining Industries Desk Elaheh Mokri, the exports amounted to 9.15 million tons in weight, showing a 12-percent rise compared to the year 1399.

Steel ingot with \$4.156 billion worth of exports was the top exported item in the previous year, followed by long steel products with \$1.621 billion, copper cathodes with \$1.357 billion, aluminum ingots with \$607 million, and flat-rolled steel products with \$494 million, zinc ingots with \$477 million, iron ore and concentrate with \$280 million and sponge iron with \$238 million worth of



exports, she said.

The above-mentioned products with a total value of \$9.230 billion accounted for approximately 87.6 percent of the total exports of metals and minerals in the year 1400, the official said.

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

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

The total proven reserves of Iran's mines are estimated at

about 60 billion tons, which is expected to reach more than 100 billion tons with the implementation of the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry's exploration programs over 500,000 square kilometers of new mineral zones.

Despite the country's huge potential in this area, due to some issues like the lack of necessary machinery and equipment and the lack of access to financial resources and foreign investment because of the U.S. sanctions, the Iranian mining sector has been struggling to operate at its maximum capacity over the past few years.

So, the government programs for promoting this industry are mainly focused on relying on domestic sources for helping the mining sector overcome its current problems and hit its ideal targets.

## ICCIMA to host Iran-Syria business forum today

TEHRAN- Iran-Syria Joint Chamber of Commerce will hold an Iran-Syria business forum today at the place of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) in Tehran.

The Syrian high-ranking delegation, comprising the representatives of the country's private sector, is scheduled to hold B-2-B meetings with the Iranian counterparts on the sidelines of the event.

As recently announced by the chairman of Iran-Syria Joint Chamber of Commerce, the value of trade between the two countries rose 60 percent in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) as compared to the preceding year.

In an interview with IRNA, Keyvan Kashefi said the prospects for expanding economic relations between the two countries are more positive in the current year, given the improving conditions for transit through the Iraqi border, the increase in flights to Syria, and the two governments' trade agreements.

Expressing dissatisfaction with the current level of trade exchanges between the two



countries, the official said: "Trade with Syria is not in proportion with political and social relations with the county. Due to the extensive political and social relations, there is also a demand for the development of trade exchanges and economic relations."

He stressed the need for improving the infrastructure as a prerequisite for the expansion of mutual trade, saying: "Every trader needs to get his goods to the destination as soon as possible, but due to the fact that Syria does not share a border with Iran, the shipping cost and delivery time increases."

## Export from Qom province increases 54% in a month yr/yr

TEHRAN- The value of export from Qom province rose 54 percent in the first month of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-April 20), as compared to the same month in the previous year, a provincial official announced.

Esfandiar Darikvandi, the director-general of Qom province's Customs Department, said that 27,219 tons of products worth \$19.15 million were exported from the province in the first month of this year, indicating 85 percent

growth in terms of weight as compared to the first month of the previous year.

As previously announced by Mojtaba Farhadi, the head of Foreign Trade Office of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, export from Qom province rose 92 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20).

The official said that commodities worth \$283 million were exported from the province in the past year.

He named metal products,

rubber and plastic items, and foodstuffs as the main items exported from the province in the past year.

The deputy head of Islamic Republic of Iran's Customs Administration (IRICA) has announced that the value of Iran's export of non-oil products has increased 25 percent in the first month of the current year, as compared to the same month of the past year.

Foroud Asgari also said that the country's non-oil trade

with other countries registered a \$875-million positive balance in the first month.

Iran exported 7.324 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$3.699 billion in the said month, with 10 percent drop in weight as compared to the first month of the previous year, the official stated.

The country's monthly non-oil import stood at 2.252 million tons worth \$2.824 billion, with one percent rise in value and 10 percent growth in weight year on year, he added.

## TEDPIX loses 19,000 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 19,110 points to 1.553 million on Sunday.

AS reported, over 9.034 billion securities worth 46.173 trillion rials (about \$177.58 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index dropped 19,360 points, and the second market's index lost 23,001 points.

A market analyst believes that the Iranian stock exchange market can grow by 30 percent by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2023).

In an interview with IRNA on May 8, Ahmad Eshtiaqi pointed to the growth of the stock market

index and the factors affecting it and said: "It seems that the shares of companies still have room for growth and according to the forecasts, the stock market can grow by about 30 percent by the end of the year, but this growth will be gradual and slow."

The analyst noted that the shareholders' interest in the capital market over the past few years has been due to the value of companies' stock, so when the shares still have room to grow, the market index will grow as well.

The capital market expert further mentioned another factor influencing the rise of the stock market index and continued: "World prices rose sharply after the Russia

and Ukraine war and oil prices reached more than \$100, and this has affected the performance of some companies to some extent."

He stated that in addition to the crude oil prices, the prices of petrochemical products and metals like copper, zinc, and other commodities have risen.

Given that the stock market is commodity-based, therefore, the shares of the companies and refineries also experience significant growth in value, he said.

In addition to the above-mentioned factors, the offering of the shares of major Iranian car companies namely Iran Khodro and Saipa also helped to stimulate the

growth in the capital market.

Asked about his view on the trend of the market in the current year, Eshtiaqi said: "According to the forecasts, it seems that the stock market index will reach the range of 1.8 million points by the end of 1401."

According to him, most of the market growth will occur by the end of the fourth Iranian calendar month of Tir (July 22) and will experience a growth of about 20 percent by that point.

"If the nuclear deal is revived, we will see good days in the capital market and other parallel markets will not have much luck in comparison to the stock market," he added.

## Annual manufacturing of refrigerators, freezers up 8.3%

TEHRAN- Manufacturing of refrigerators and freezers in Iran increased 8.3 percent during the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), from its previous year, according to the data released by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry.

The ministry's data show that 2,265,300 refrigerators and freezers were manufactured in 1400, while the figure was 2.091 million in 1399.

Manufacturing of home appliances in Iran rose 7.56 percent during the past year from its previous year.

According to the industry ministry's data, over 6,273,600 sets of large home appliances, including TV sets, refrigerators and freezers, washing

machines, and air coolers were manufactured in 1400, while the figure was 5,832,400 in 1399.

Among the mentioned products, just air cooler experienced a production drop, and production of the other items increased.

Over the past few years, the Iranian government has been following a new strategy for supporting domestic production to neutralize the impacts of the U.S. sanctions while reducing the reliance of the economy on oil revenues.

The home appliances sector has been one of the pioneers in this regard and like many other areas, the production of home appliances has witnessed a significant rise in the past four years.



# Russia ready to resume talks as UN warns of food crisis

From page 1 ▶ The U.S. Department of Defense has declined to confirm media reports that say the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden was preparing to deliver long-range missile systems to Kyiv.

Russia's ambassador to the U.S. has described such a development as "unacceptable" and called on the Biden White House to "abandon statements about the military victory of Ukraine".

A post on social media published by the Russian embassy in America cited ambassador Anatoliy Antonov as saying "the unprecedented pumping of weapons into Ukraine significantly increases the risks of an escalation of the conflict".

Washington has been supplying Kyiv with increasingly sophisticated weaponry, despite concerns and question marks on the conditions attached as to how Ukraine will repay the money for the weapons.

Nevertheless, Kyiv has urged Western countries to send more advanced weaponry. Ukraine's commander-in-chief, General Valeriy Zaluzhnyi, says "we are in great need of weapons that will make it possible to engage the enemy over a long distance."

The Kremlin added that the Russian, German and French leaders reviewed in detail global food security concerns. The Russian leader expressed Moscow's position on the unstable food supplies and disruption as a result of the war citing "western countries' erroneous economic and financial policies, as well as their anti-Russia sanctions."

Putin is said to have backed up his remarks during the conference call with evidence and specific data.

Russia says it is ready to help find options for unhindered grain exports, including the export of Ukrainian grain from the Black Sea ports. Increasing the supplies of Russian fertilizers and agricultural produce to help reduce tensions in the global food market.

However, Putin says that this



will definitely require the lifting of sanctions imposed on Russia.

Earlier, Putin held a telephone conversation with the Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi where the two leaders thoroughly discussed the status of global food security.

In a readout released by the Kremlin, Putin told Draghi that "these difficulties had been caused, in part, by failures in production and supply chains, as well as the financial policy of the Western countries during the coronavirus pandemic. The U.S.- and EU-imposed anti-Russia restrictions have made a bad situation worse."

The Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov has said the global food crisis happened long before the start of the crisis in Ukraine, due to factors such as the pandemic, and miscalculations of Western governments.

At the same time, Lavrov noted the war has exacerbated the problem and says Western sanctions have become one of the key reasons for the disruption of food supplies, which worsened the crisis.

The vice director of the UN Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) Maurizio Martina says the number of people around the world facing acute hunger is predicted to increase by 18 million because of the crisis in Ukraine.

Speaking to Italian media, he says the UN agency's estimates are that in 2021, famine-affected 53 countries, leaving almost 200 million people around the globe

suffering from hunger.

"This war will further aggravate the scenario. Our first estimates point to an increase of another 18 million people, but it is clear that much will also depend on the development of the conflict," Martina said.

The FAO senior official pointed out that the threat to global grain supplies in developing countries has triggered alarm since 36 of the countries with a food crisis had previously bought more than ten percent of their wheat from Russia and Ukraine.

There are difficulties in exporting grain due to shipping problems at the Black Sea ports, where, according to Martina, millions of tons of wheat and corn are stuck.

The UN official says the fighting in Ukraine and the resulting sanctions on Russia have also had a knock-on effect on the prices and availability of fertilizers.

All these issues combined have pushed up the cost of wheat, which could worsen the global food crisis.

"As the World Bank has estimated, a one percent increase in basic food prices can mean at least ten million people at risk of hunger... If prices [of fertilizers] remain so high, and access to agriculture in developing countries becomes more and more difficult, the consequences will be very problematic with a sharp decline in crops," Martina said.

He added that "no national policy can tackle global food insecurity

alone," calling on governments to form a multilateral strategy to deal with the situation."

Reopening the Black Sea ports can help alleviate the global food crisis as large quantities of goods can be exported through them. Rail shipments, he noted, cannot deliver in a timely fashion as is required at the moment.

The West has accused Russia of blocking these ports, but Moscow has strongly rejected the accusations.

Martina said at least six million tons of wheat and about fourteen million tons of corn are stuck in Ukrainian ports.

Asked about the percentage of wheat the European Union imports from Ukraine, he replied that "overall, grain exports from Ukraine to Europe in 2020 were around 5.4 billion euros. For developing countries, the situation is much more delicate and worrying: there are at least 36 of the 55 countries with food crises that depend on Ukraine and Russian exports for over 10% of their total wheat imports"

The UN official added that "if prices remain so high and access becomes increasingly difficult for agriculture in developing countries, the impacts will be very problematic with drastic decreases in crops."

Even before the conflict in Ukraine began, world hunger was already growing.

Martina warned that "nearly 200 million people in 53 countries in 2021 entered a daily situation of acute hunger with a jump of 40 million people in just twelve months. This war will further aggravate the scenario, our first estimates indicate an increase of another 18 million people but it is clear that much will also depend on the evolution of the conflict"

The warning has led advocates to renew calls for an end to the fighting and a global effort to bring both sides together on the negotiating table and find a peaceful solution.

## Uvalde massacre may spark changes: analyst

*"U.S. society looks very sick to foreigners"*



From page 1 ▶ There is in fact no Constitutional aspect to general weapon ownership. The intent of the amendment that exists was over 200 years ago to provide for a militia, but not random gun ownership. The Uvalde massacre, however, may well spark changes. Welcome changes to gun laws. In any event, U.S. society looks very sick to foreigners, and rightly so. Because it is. The U.S. government, for one thing, basing its power on military violence, sets a horrible example for the citizenry, too.

**Criticisms have grown over late response by police. What is your comment?**

There is no question the police acted improperly. They stood around outside the Uvalde School, apparently too cowardly to go inside for almost an hour and throttle the young gunman. One woman, it has been reported, drove 45 minutes to the school and apparently got inside and successfully extracted two of her children before the police moved inside.

**Republicans such as Ted Cruz (R-Texas) blame a lot of societal factors — but not guns — for the wave of mass shootings in the U.S. Are they on the right side?**

Republican lawmakers have probably been more vehement about gun ownership and many Democrats, but neither political party has enacted the changes necessary to try to curtail the violence. Sure, as Ted Cruz says, there are "societal factors" but he among others fails to see the linkage between access to weapons and horrific events like the massacre in Uvalde. Why? Because politicians like Cruz derive political support from people who for one reason or another equate "freedom" with gun ownership. Military-style weapons were banned for a few years in the US, but the ban was lifted a few years ago and that in itself was criminal on the part of lawmakers eager for added political support and votes. If many kinds of firearms were banned and ownership prosecuted, it stands to reason that mentally deranged individuals would be less likely to shoot others willy-nilly. In any event, the massacre in Uvalde may be the tipping point whereby politicians who don't support strict gun

laws may lose political support.

**Despite promises and mottos by Democrats, it seems that there is no real move to control gun bearing. What are the main causes of such a failure?**

A: There have been instances where a citizen in the U.S., taking advantage of lax gun laws, has used a weapon to preclude a potential massacre. When such a thing occurs, it often underscores the "validity" of allowing gun ownership by law-abiding citizens. However, this is a false argument overall. No one should be allowed to own a weapon that has no practical use but to murder. Draconian prohibitions ought to be enacted now, and should have been enacted decades ago.

**How do American people see the decisions and policies adopted by the authorities? Do they seem rational to the public?**

According to Professor Henry Giroux, probably the top U.S. expert on education in the U.S., "Mass shootings have become routine in the United States and speak to a society that relies on violence to feed the coffers of the merchants of death. Given the profits made by arms manufacturers, the defense industry, gun dealers and the lobbyists who represent them in Congress, it comes as no surprise that the culture of violence cannot be abstracted from either the culture of business or the corruption of politics."

But again, WHY do these things happen so often in the US?

When you begin to connect the dots, they lead right back to the American police state and the war-drenched, violence-imbued, profit-driven military-industrial complex, both of which continue to dominate, dictate and shape almost every aspect of American life as well as American foreign policy. The net result of current postures at home and abroad will eventually spell the END of the U.S., or at least revulsion towards America and its policies by most of the world's people.

There are of course rational people who do "connect the dots", but until the government is reformed and decent lawmakers elected, the problems will persist.

## Ukraine 'receives' anti-ship missiles, self-propelled howitzers from allies

Ukraine has started receiving Harpoon anti-ship missiles from Denmark and self-propelled howitzers from the United States, Ukrainian Defence Minister Oleksiy Reznikov has said, saying the arms will bolster forces fighting Russia's offensive.

"The coastal defence of our country will not only be strengthened by Harpoon missiles – they will be used by trained Ukrainian teams," Reznikov wrote on his Facebook page on Saturday.

He said Harpoon shore-to-ship missiles would be operated alongside Ukrainian Neptune missiles in the defence of the country's coast including the southern port of Odessa.

Reznikov said the supplies of Harpoon missiles were the result of cooperation between several countries, saying the deliveries from Denmark took place "with the participation of our British friends".

He said Ukraine had also received a range of heavy artillery pieces, including modified US-made M109 self-propelled howitzers that will



allow the Ukrainian military to strike targets from longer distances.

**Ukrainian teams trained outside of country**

After launching its offensive in Ukraine on February 24, Russia imposed a naval blockade of Ukrainian ports, hampering vital grain exports.

It has also used its Black Sea fleet to launch missile attacks against Ukraine, which has since started receiving Western military aid.

US Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin said on

Monday that Denmark would provide a harpoon launcher and missiles to Ukraine.

Last month, a senior US defence official said the US military had started training a small number of Ukrainian troops on using howitzer artillery, adding that the training was being conducted outside of Ukraine.

Ukraine has said it wants to secure deliveries of US-made long-range M270 multiple-rocket launchers (MLRS) and use them in repelling Russian troops in the east of the country.

The Harpoon is an all-weather, over-the-horizon, anti-ship missile that uses active radar homing and flies just above the water to evade defences. It can be launched from ships, submarines, aircraft or coastal batteries.

Russia says its forces are on a special operation to demilitarise Ukraine and rid it of radical anti-Russian nationalists. Ukraine and its allies call that a false pretext to attack Ukraine on February 24.

(Source: trtworld.com)

## Russian media report Putin's frustration with Chechen troops' conduct in Ukraine

Russian journalists report that, according to their sources, the Kremlin initially approved of the conduct of the Kadyrovites [units subordinate to Ramzan Kadyrov, Head of the Chechen Republic in the Russian Federation] in Ukraine. However, Russian President Vladimir Putin is now frustrated by their involvement in the setbacks on the battlefield.

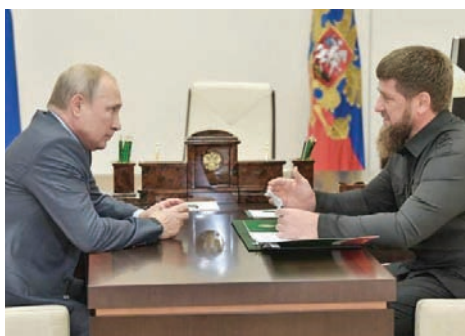
Putin initially approved of the actions of units under Chechen leader Ramzan Kadyrov; he publicly praised their courage. Around the same time, Putin presented the highest state award, the honorary title of Hero of Russia, to Adam Delimkhanov, Kadyrov's cousin and a deputy in the Russian State Duma.

However, the reporters' sources insist that lately Putin has begun expressing frustration over Kadyrov and his troops' social media

activity; this has happened against the informational backdrop of failures and defeats of the Russian occupation forces.

Putin's discontent is further fuelled by representatives of the Russian army and the leadership of the Russian secret services. The Russian military is frustrated by the fact that Kadyrov's troops, despite not having excelled in battle, are spreading a media image of themselves as more skillful and courageous than the rest of the Russian army. Meanwhile, the Russian secret services are intimidated by Kadyrov's arbitrary and aggressive behavior.

At the same time, Oleg Orlov, representative of the Memorial human rights centre, now banned in Russia, explained that Kadyrov has a special place in the Russian "power vertical". He is allowed to say and do more than other Russian officials and politicians



of his rank. In (unofficial) exchanges, he refrains from physically threatening Russian officials and avoids criticising politicians of the rank of Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin and Moscow Mayor Sergey Sobyanin.

This is why Kadyrov has allowed himself to openly criticise Vladimir Medinsky, Head of the Russian delegation in negotiations with

Ukraine, and his announcement that Russia was withdrawing its troops from the Kyiv and Chernihiv fronts. Moreover, the Chechen leader has had public disputes with Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov, whom Kadyrov accused of "lack of patriotism".

\* According to Ukrainian intelligence, about 2,500 militants from the Chechen Republic have taken part in the military invasion of Ukraine.

\* Investigative reporters from Mediazona, a Russian independent media outlet, said that, according to their sources, the Kadyrovites are suffering heavy losses in hostilities in Ukraine, but this is well hidden by the government and the "siloviki", who put pressure on the relatives of the deceased not to make public any information about the deaths.

\* Earlier, Ramzan Kadyrov, the Kremlin-

controlled leader of Chechnya, said during an "educational" talk to young Russians that Vladimir Putin did not need to announce mobilisation: Russian citizens "should mobilise around the president themselves."

\* Ukrainian reporters have pointed out more than once that the footage of "fighting" shared by the Kadyrovites often shows them in Russian-occupied cities and villages of Ukraine against the backdrop of empty buildings.

\* After Vladimir Medinsky, Assistant to the President of the Russian Federation and head of the Russian delegation in negotiations with Ukraine, announced the withdrawal of Russian troops from northern Ukraine, Kadyrov claimed that he was prepared to capture Kyiv, and that Medinsky was wrong.

(Source: news.yahoo.com)



## Tehran, Islamabad on track to expand religious tourism



TEHRAN – Iran and Pakistan have entered negotiations to enhance religious tourism.

On Sunday, Pakistan media reported that its Minister for Religious Affairs and Interfaith Harmony Mufti Abdul Shakoor urged the Iranian government to finalize a draft agreement named 'Ziarat Policy' to promote religious tourism.

"There were many people who pay homage to the mausoleums of sacred religious figures located in Iran every year. In this regard, the government of Pakistan had forwarded a draft named 'Ziarat Policy' in a bid to enhance religious tourism between the two brotherly countries but it was still pending," the Express Tribune reported on Saturday.

Talking to a delegation led by Iran's deputy director of Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) Hossein Rouzbeh, Abdul Shakoor said proposed establishing offices in Iran including Pakistan House and facilitating religious pilgrims during their stay in Quetta and Taftan under the policy.

Rouzbeh said the cornerstone of the Iranian foreign policy was to maintain cordial relations with neighboring countries.

He invited the minister to attend the forthcoming conference being held in Iran to discuss the promotion of religious harmony and other common issues prevailing between the two countries.

Moreover, Abdul Shakoor noted that the two nations' relations are based on common values and brotherhood. Both the countries have been desirous to resolve bilateral issues by devising a joint strategy, he said.

The dignitaries of both sides agreed on promoting bilateral relations, interfaith harmony, and cooperation in Hajj arrangements, the report said.

Based on available data, some 700,000 Pakistani pilgrims annually traveled to Mashhad to visit the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) before the coronavirus outbreak. Mashhad is the prime destination for Pakistani travelers who come to go on pilgrimage to the shrine of the eighth Shia Imam.

According to official data, the holy shrine of Imam Reza (AS) hosts an average number of 500,000 pilgrims each day.

Furthermore, the spiritual tradition of pilgrimage to the shrine along with sustained efforts to safeguard hospitality services for Razavi pilgrims may soon join UNESCO's listing of cultural treasures as Iran has asked the United Nations cultural agency UNESCO to recognize the concept of 'Good safeguarding practices to improve hospitality services for Razavi Pilgrims'.

## Relics from Iron Age onwards go on show in northern Iran

TEHRAN – Millennia-old objects recovered in Qala Koti Tepe, a historical site in Sorkhrud, northern Mazandaran province has been put on show at the history museum of Amol, IRNA reported on Sunday.

The relics have been recovered from the ancient hill during two seasons of archaeological excavations, the report added.

The relics that date back to different historical eras including Iron Age, Parthian, Sassanid, and Islamic eras, include glazed pottery, metal works, copper utensils, and coins.

Qala Koti Tepe is the first ancient site on the coast of Mazandaran to be subjected to scientific archaeological excavations.

The hill, which is located four kilometers from the Caspian Sea, was registered on the national heritage list in 2011 and archaeologists have been exploring it for more than a decade.

The first season of excavation took place in the eastern part of the hill, and excavation went down to a depth of about 10 meters from the hilltop, but was stopped by groundwater, said Meysam Fallah,



who presides over the project.

In this phase of the project, plain gray pottery and architectural remains, including a floor and accumulated debris, associated with the Iron Age have been identified, he added.

Several ceramic seals decorated with animal and geometric motifs and inscriptions in the Pahlavi script were also found. These seals rank among the most important finds of this area, he noted.

The second season of excavations was done in the eastern part of the hill, where a stone seal with the image of a rabbit was found, a symbol for

TEHRAN – A fresh archaeological evidence suggests that prehistorical residents of a northwestern Iranian village buried dead bodies beneath their houses.

A team of Iranian archaeologists has recently discovered four tomb chambers during excavations on Tepe Ahranjan in Salmas county, West Azarbaijan province, northwestern Iran.

The archaeological hill, according to previous excavations, is home to a 9,000-year-old human settlement.

The tomb chambers date from the Neolithic and Chalcolithic periods, IRNA quoted Iranian archaeologist Afrasyab Geravand as saying on Saturday.

"The corpses were buried both individually and in one case as a mass (three burials) in oval and rectangular tombs," he said.

In 2020, Geravand concluded that farming and animal breeding was practiced some 9,000 years ago around the historical Tepe Ahranjan. The discovery was made during a demarcation project aimed to protect the ruined archaeological site.

Evidence indicates Ahranjan hill and its surroundings were one of

## Village dwellers buried dead beneath houses, archaeological evidence suggests



the first and most important human settlements in the 7th millennium BC in northwestern Iran, Geravand said.

The region has long been a

suitable place for settlement since ancient times due to the presence of permanent rivers, springs, animal and plant resources, fertile land, and

pastures, he explained.

Experts say the presence of "mother rocks" and obsidian tools in seven different colors, sabers, mortars, and stone utensils are among objects found in the region.

Experts say that by 7000 BC, sowing and harvesting reached Mesopotamia, and there, in the super fertile soil just north of the Persian Gulf, Sumerian ingenuity systematized it and scaled it up. By 6000 BC farming was entrenched on the banks of the Nile River. About this time, agriculture was developed independently in the Far East, probably in China, with rice rather than wheat as the primary crop.

Because of agriculture, cities, as well as trade relations between different regions and groups of people, developed, further enabling the advancement of human societies and cultures. Agriculture has been an important aspect of economics throughout the centuries before and after the Industrial Revolution. Sustainable development of world food supplies impacts the long-term survival of the species, so care must be taken to ensure that agricultural methods remain in harmony with the environment.

## Madrid show brings Persian gardens together

TEHRAN – An online photo exhibit of the Persian gardens is underway in Madrid, Spain, an official with the tourism ministry has said.

The week-long exhibit, which was inaugurated on Saturday, is featuring some 30 photos of the unique Persian gardens across Iran, CHTN quoted Mohsen Tavasoli as saying on Sunday.

The exhibition has been organized by the Islamic Culture and Relations Organization (ICRO) in collaboration with Iran's Cultural Office in Madrid, the official added.

In 2011, a selection of nine Iranian gardens,

which bear important architectural, traditional, and cultural elements, were collectively inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list under the title of "The Persian Garden."

The genuine concept of the Persian Garden that is deeply rooted in time interweaves natural elements with manmade components to embody an idea of creating a paradise on Earth by the means of artistic, philosophical, figurative, and religious notions.

According to UNESCO, the flawless design of the Persian Garden, along with its ability to

respond to extreme climatic conditions, is the result of an inspired and intelligent application of different fields of knowledge, i.e. technology, water management and engineering, architecture, botany, and agriculture.

For millennia, Iranian gardens have combined the magic of nature with the aesthetic qualities of art and architecture to create a symbolic representation of paradise on Earth. UNESCO describes the Persian Garden as an idea that combines natural elements with manmade components to materialize the concept of Eden or Paradise on Earth.

## Excavations to shed new light on Sassanid maritime in ancient Siraf

From page 1 ► Between 1966 and 1973, the British Institute of Persian Studies conducted seven seasons of excavation and survey at Siraf, which was a major city on the Iranian shore of the Persian Gulf that played a leading role in the network of maritime trade that supplied Western Asia with the products of India, the Far East, and Eastern Africa between 800 CE and 1050.

The ancient port had a population of about 300,000 during the early Islamic era and this fact shows that it was a large city. However, today, just about 7,000 people live in Siraf in a small area.

In many ways, Iran under the Sassanian rule witnessed tremendous achievements of Persian civilization. Experts say that the art and architecture of the nation experienced a general renaissance during Sassanid rule.

In the Sassanid era, crafts such as metalwork and gem-engraving grew highly sophisticated, as scholarship was encouraged by the state; many works from both the East and West were



translated into Pahlavi, the official language of the Sassanians.

In fact, the legendary wealth of the Sassanian court is fully confirmed by the existence of more than one hundred examples of bowls or plates of precious metal known at present. One of the finest examples is the silver plate with partial gilding in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The dynasty was destroyed by Arab invaders during a span from 637 to 651.

## Four Persian carpets measuring 2,000 Sq meters exported to UAE



TEHRAN – Four giant Persian carpets measuring 2,000 Sq meters have recently been exported to the UAE, a customs spokesman said on Saturday.

The handwoven carpets took seven years to be completed, Seyyed Ruhollah Latifi said.

The carpets consist of two pieces each

covering 600 square meters (20 meters by 30 meters), and two carpets measuring 400 square meters (20 meters by 20 meters), the official explained.

Persian carpets are sought after internationally for their delicate designs and their good quality. Among Persian carpets, particularly those of the classic period, the medallion may represent an open lotus blossom with 16 petals as seen from above, a complex star form, or a quatrefoil with pointed lobes.

A medallion carpet is any floor covering on which the decoration is dominated by a single symmetrical centerpiece, such as a star-shaped, circular, quatrefoil, or octagonal figure. The name, however, is sometimes also given to a carpet on which the decoration consists of several forms of this kind or even of rows of medallion figures.

New technologies such as augmented reality (AR) and virtual reality (VR) were employed to launch the online visits, she noted.

Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex, covering an area of about eleven hectares, is composed of several landmark buildings, museums, and monuments constructed in the 19th and 20th centuries during the Pahlavi and late Qajar eras.



The history of the palace complex stretches back to about 280 years ago when Fath-Ali Shah of the Qajar Dynasty

ordered a summer residence to be built over the then countryside area of the capital. The two-story Ahmad Shahi Pavilion is one of the highlights of the complex.

The main palace of the complex was originally erected for royal ceremonies and gatherings. However, it later turned into the residence of the second king of Pahlavi king, Mohammad Reza Shah, and

his family.

With an area of 9,000 square meters, the palace is entirely adorned with magnificent plasterwork, mirrorwork, and tilework. Its architecture boasts a blend of pre-and post-Islamic arts.

Its beautifully decorated and fully furnished interior features loads of artworks such as precious paintings and sculptures by Iranian and foreign artists.

## Niavaran offers virtual reality tour of royal palaces

TEHRAN – Tehran's Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex has launched a series of virtual tours for its visitors, IRNA reported on Sunday.

As a way of making the royal palaces more accessible and giving tourists a chance to visit the historical structure, virtual tours have been created, the director of the historical site Maryam Jalali said.

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# Traditional medicine comes to solve population crisis

TEHRAN – The Ministry of Health plans to use traditional medicine to solve the population crisis, prevent infertility and have a healthy generation, Nafiseh Hosseini Yekta the director of the ministry's Persian medicine office, has announced.

The national development plans oblige the Ministry of Health to integrate traditional medical services into the health system, which requires the development of Iranian medicine in all areas of education, research, and treatment.

At present, in the field of education, 12 groups and 8 faculties are training specialists in the field of traditional medicine, pharmacy, and medical history, which needs serious expansion, she stated.

In the field of research, using the capacities of Persian traditional medicine, as a native knowledge in the direction of resistance economics, can help the country, she highlighted.

In addition, the Persian traditional medicine is planned to be used as a tool for population growth, as well as infertility treatment and healthy generation, she emphasized.

Iran is experiencing below-replacement fertility — lower than 2.1 children per woman — which indicates that a generation is not producing enough children to replace itself, eventually leading to an outright reduction in population.

According to the population



and housing census, the average population growth has decreased in recent years, and this declining trend is a serious warning.

The country's elderly population is predicted to nearly double over the next 20 years, while this trend will occur in other countries over the next 100 years.

## Iranian traditional medicine

Iranian traditional medicine is one of the most ancient forms of traditional medicine. It is ground-

ed in the concept of four senses of humor: phlegm (Balgham), blood (Dam), yellow bile (Safra), and black bile (Sauda'). The concept of four senses of humor is based on the teachings of Rhazes and Avicenna in an elaborate medical system.

Iranian traditional medicine strongly focuses on prioritizing health maintenance and disease prevention over treatment.

So far, about 30,000 plant species are identified in the world,

with Iran's share of about 8,000 species its plant diversity is more than the whole of Europe.

Currently, about 2,300 species of medicinal plants have been identified in the country; while medicinal plants account for one-third of the medicines used in human societies, the share of world trade in these products is about \$124 billion and Iran's share is \$570 million, which is only 0.5 percent of the total.

The per capita consumption of medicinal plants in Iran is about one kilogram of dried plants, in other words, 83,000 tons of medicinal plants worth 1.2 trillion rials (around \$4 million) are consumed in the country, while in Europe this amount is 900 grams and in the United States is 2.5 kilograms.

## The average population growth has decreased in recent years, and this declining trend is a serious warning.

## JICA provides Tehran Municipality with air quality control equipment



TEHRAN – The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has provided 6 air pollution analysis equipment to Iran within the framework of capacity development on air pollution control in the Tehran Municipality Project.

The Seventh Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) of the JICA project for Capacity Development on Air Pollution Control in Tehran Municipality Project was formed, ISNA reported on Sunday.

This project, which started in 2017, is one of the largest and most comprehensive projects in the field of air pollution by the Japanese in collaboration with Iranian experts covers various aspects of air pollution in Tehran, and finally by providing solutions to reduce air pollution for the metropolis of Tehran will end this year.

By the end of this year, air pollution equipment worth \$1.5 million will be provided to the Air Quality Control Company in the form of a technical co-operation project.

Cooperation between the two sides will continue in the coming years with the emphasis on finding

the most appropriate solutions to reduce air pollution in this metropolis.

The document was signed at a time when the recent air pollution crisis in Tehran due to dust storms doubled the need to develop air pollution monitoring stations in Tehran.

As per the agreement, JICA will provide air pollution analysis equipment needed to measure emission gases, carry out chemical analysis on particulate matter and implement other related activities in the capital, so that the sources of air pollution substances, emission volumes, and the generation mechanisms can be evaluated and analyzed with higher precision, contributing to a mitigation of the air pollution.

### Air pollution

Air pollution is one of the life-threatening environmental factors. The effects of air pollution on human health have long been considered, since the early 1990s, air pollution in cities, especially in the metropolises of developing countries, has been recognized as one of the most important environmental concerns in the world.

According to experts, airborne particles can cause short-term and long-term effects on the health of residents of polluted areas. Air pollution has diverse impacts on different people, which appears more on vulnerable groups such as children and the elderly.

Three million people die of air pollution each year, and in some countries, the number of people who die from the same factor is higher than the number of victims of traffic accidents. Air pollution is one of the most important

preconditions for sustainable development due to its implications for the living conditions of future generations, which may be affected by many potential factors.

Air pollution kills an estimated seven million people worldwide every year. WHO data shows that almost all of the global population (99%) breathe air that exceeds WHO guideline limits containing high levels of pollutants, with low- and middle-income countries suffering from the highest exposures.

Air pollution is responsible for around 40,000 premature deaths in Iran annually, Mohammad-Sadeq Hassanvand, head of the air pollution research center at Tehran University of Medical Sciences, said in July 2020.

From smog hanging over cities to smoke inside the home, air pollution poses a major threat to health and climate. The combined effects of ambient (outdoor) and household air pollution cause millions of premature deaths every year, largely as a result of increased mortality from stroke, heart disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, lung cancer, and acute respiratory infections.

## Air pollution equipment worth \$1.5 million will be provided to the Tehran Municipality's Air Quality Control Company.

## Iran working with Green Climate Fund

TEHRAN – The Department of Environment (DOE) is working with the United Nations Green Climate Fund (GCF), under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to reduce the effects of climate change.

FAO and the Department of Environment as the National Designated Authority (NDA) of Green Climate Fund (GCF), partnered to bring together local, national, and international stakeholders in a three-day workshop, the last one in a series of iterative events held under the project “Green Climate Fund Readiness and Preparatory Program of Iran.”

## همکاری ایران با صندوق اقلیم سبز سازمان ملل

سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست به عنوان مرجع رسمی ایران در زمینه حفظ محیط زیست با صندوق اقلیم سبز سازمان ملل با محوریت سازمان خواربار و کشاورزی ملل متحد (فائو) در راستای کاهش تاثیرات تغییر اقلیم همکاری می کند.

فائو و سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست کشور به عنوان مرجع صلاحیت دار ملی ایران و صندوق اقلیم سبز با همکاری یکدیگر، این پروژه را پیش بردند و در قالب چند برگزاری چند کارگاه اقدامات را بررسی کردند، بر این اساس در آخرین کارگاه، دینفعان محلی، ملی و بین المللی را به عنوان آخرین حلقه از زنجیره رویدادهای پروژه «برنامه آماده سازی جمهوری اسلامی ایران برای همکاری با صندوق اقلیم سبز» گرد هم آوردند.

## ENGLISH IN USE

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## Regional diplomacy to tackle SDSs

From page 1 ► The third trip will probably be to Kuwait because Kuwait has announced its readiness to hold a joint meeting in this regard, he stated.

“We seek to create regional convergence between these countries because all of them have been so affected that Iraq, Kuwait, and the UAE are in a more unfavorable situation than our country,” he lamented.

In June, we will host a meeting of ambassadors of neighboring countries, and in July, we will host a meeting of environment ministers of 15 neighboring countries to conclude a strategy, he added.

The issue of SDSs has not arisen all at once and is due to the fact that we have taken nature for granted in the last hundred years, and the factors of climate change are exacerbating this situation, he added.

### SDSs hotspots

The SDSs phenomenon has been plaguing the country for several years and has caused problems in many provinces. According to experts, natural and human factors are involved in the occurrence and severity of this phenomenon which is mainly caused by excessive consumption of water and drying up reservoirs.

Over the past two years, the precipitation rate has been on a downward trend, as a result, sources of sand and dust storms (SDSs) have increased compared to a year before, Ahad Vazifeh, head of the national center for drought and crisis management, has said.

Declining water levels in dams and lakes mean that water available to humans has been reduced and the dust-raising areas have been increased, he lamented, ISNA reported.

The internal dust sources are estimated at 34.6 million hectares, generating an average amount of 4.22 million tons of dust per year, about 1.460 million hectares are dried wetlands.

Some 4.23 million tons of dust are raised per year, which means the loss of soil fertility will hit the agricultural sector.

All the SDSs sources are not located in Iran, 300 million hectares in the neighboring countries are



giving rise to SDSs, which transport dust into Iran. The total dust density is estimated at about 150 million tons.

In fact, the dust is raised from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan in the northeast as well as Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan in the south, southwest, and west.

### Enhanced diplomacy

Controlling sand and dust storms (SDSs) requires strengthening diplomacy, and it will never be eradicated unless international institutions reach a consensus.

Dariush Gol Alizadeh, Head of Iran's National Climate Change Office (NCCO) of the Department of Environment, told IRNA on Tuesday that the hotspots of the dust haunting the country in the last few days in eastern Syria, western Iraq, as well as Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.

These dust sources have appeared many years ago, and due to the drought and water shortages that have occurred in recent years, they have both intensified and increased in number. In fact, abandoned agricultural lands in those countries are a source of SDSs, he explained.

If serious action is not taken in the form of diplomacy and international institutions do not comply with the requirements to eradicate SDSs, the countries will always be haunted by the phenomenon, he lamented.

SDS not only affects people's health but also has a psychological effect, it also has a great negative effect on agricultural products, and on the reproduction of plant species and activities such as beekeeping, he further noted.

At present, this phenomenon cannot be dealt with, but the damage can be minimized, he said, adding that programs to be carried out in this regard can be planting crops, shrubs, and finally soil stabilization by biological mulches.

## Tribes in Iran

### Part 15

In addition to the Turkmen, there are other Turkish tribal groups in Khorasan, but these are now too intermixed with the indigenous local people to be easily distinguished from them.

Moreover, some no longer speak Turkish and have adopted Persian. Among these groups which were originally Turkish tribes, the following deserve mention: The Timuri around Torbat-e Jam, the Barbari at Bala Jam and Fariman, the Ilsevan (Shahsevan) at Baghbaghu near Mozduran between Mashhad and Sarakhs, and the Qara'i around Roshtkhar southeast of Torbat-e Haydariyeh (Shah-alami, 1308/1929; Ivanov, 1926, pp. 143-58).

In the ostan of Kerman there is an offshoot of the Qara'i, known as the Qara'i of Kerman, with summer quarters around Tangu Pa'in and Khana Sorkh in the mountains northeast of Sirjan and winter quarters south of the town

along the Sirjan-Bandar-e Abbas road as far as Aliabad and Naziabad.

The most important Turcophone tribes of Kerman are the Buchaqchi and the Afshar; the former are still nomadic, spending the summer in the Chahar Gonbad district near Sirjan and the winter in Ayn-al-bayar and Chah Qal'a on the borders of Kerman and Fars.

The Afshar tribes-people of Kerman, who are known as the Afshar-e Tafreqa and perhaps came to the province after the collapse of the Afsar dynasty in Khorasan, spend the winter in the plain of Arzuya west and south of Esfandaqa in the shahrestan of Jiroft and the summer around the town of Baft and the villages of Fathabad, Gughar and Hoshun not far from the summer pastures of the Buchaqchi.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica  
To be continued

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON MAY 29

New cases	175
New deaths	2
Total cases	7,231,562
Total deaths	141,308
New hospitalized patients	32
Patients in critical condition	561
Total recovered patients	7,046,136
Diagnostic tests conducted	52,199,766
Doses of vaccine injected	149,854,993



