

# Grossi Is Actively Campaigning Against Iran

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Report

## Russia must not be “humiliated”, says France

French President Emmanuel Macron says it is vital that Russia is not humiliated so that a diplomatic solution can be found when the fighting in Ukraine comes to an end.

Speaking in an interview with regional newspapers, Macron stressed that he is “convinced that it is France’s role to be a mediating power.”

He reiterated that “we must not humiliate Russia so that the day the fighting stops, we can build a way out through diplomatic channels.”

Paris has sought to maintain talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin since Moscow’s military operation began in February.

Asked if he is planning to travel to the conflict zone soon he said “I went there in February to try to avoid war. Today, I’m not ruling anything out.”

On the subject of neighboring countries in the region joining NATO at the risk of escalating the conflict, the French president warned that a wider escalation in hostilities had to be avoided.

Macron noted “the situation is worrying, it is true. That’s why I put so much time and energy into it.”

He also recounted the number of times he has held dialogue with his Russian counterpart, adding they were “at the request of” Ukraine’s president, Volodymyr Zelensky.

Macron has been regularly calling for a ceasefire to the conflict, especially at the end of last month during an 80-minute trilateral phone call with the Russian leader and the German chancellor, Olaf Scholz. ▶Page 5

Op-ed

## The balanced foreign policy of Imam Khomeini

By Dr. Dina Yulianti

The desire to live as an independent nation is a fundamental aspect owned by many countries on earth. The foreign policies of Indonesia and Iran have a similar doctrine, namely the rejection of domination from any outsiders. One of the main concepts of Iran’s foreign policy formulated by Imam Khomeini is the “neither East, nor West” policy. Meanwhile, in 1961, President Soekarno of Indonesia, together with Gamal Abdul Nasser (Egypt), Jawaharlal Nehru (India), Kwame Nkrumah (Ghana), and Joseph Broz Tito (Yugoslavia) established the “Non-Block Movement.” This movement responded to the Cold War situation at that time, where two superpowers dominated the world, namely the United States and the Soviet Union.

Indonesia’s foreign policy doctrine, which Indonesia’s founding fathers put forward since Indonesia’s independence from colonial rule in 1945, is “free and active.” ‘Free’ implies that Indonesia does not take sides with any superpowers, which is not following the personality of the Indonesian nation. At the same time, ‘active’ means that Indonesia is active in establishing international relations.

A foreign policy that rejects the domination of outsiders is often identified with a ‘neutral’ or ‘balanced’ policy. The question is, what is a balanced foreign policy like? Does this mean always staying neutral no matter what? When Iran (and Indonesia) openly condemns the Israeli occupation of Palestine, is it an “unbalanced” foreign policy?

While reading Imam Khomeini’s foreign policy thinking, I found a new perspective on “balance.” In a speech, Imam Khomeini said that the arrogant powers are the antithesis of the Islamic system. ▶Page 5

## Ayatollah Khamenei underlines need to counter enemy propaganda machine



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TEHRAN – In his Saturday speech, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei drew the nation’s attention to a relatively new phenomenon that is affecting the “soul and heart” of large swaths of Iran’s population: Media warfare.

After two years of corona-related restrictions on his public appearances, the Leader headed Saturday to the Imam Khomeini Mausoleum to address the people on the occasion of the 33rd anniversary of the demise of Imam Khomeini.

In his televised speech, Ayatollah Khamenei addressed a variety of issues of paramount importance internally. He spoke about Imam Khomeini’s steely personality, the uniqueness of the 1979 Islamic Revolution in history, the bonds between the state and society, ▶Page 3

## Tehran, Baku ink MOU to double Turkmenistan gas swap with Azerbaijan

TEHRAN – Iran has inked a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Azerbaijan to double the amount of natural gas the country is going to swap with Turkmenistan, Shana reported.

for up to two billion cubic meters of Turkmen gas took effect as of January 1, 2022, and now Iran and Azerbaijan have agreed on doubling this volume.

The MOU was signed by Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji and Azerbaijan’s Economy Minister Mikayil Chingiz Oghlu Jabbarov on Friday.



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## Hassan Yazdani wins gold at Ranking Series event

TEHRAN - Hassan Yazdani claimed a gold medal at the Bolat Turlykhanov Cup Ranking Series event on Sunday.

The Greatest defeated Slovakian wrestler Boris Makoev 11-0 in the final bout of 86kg.

The Ranking Series event was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan from June 2 to 5.

## Minister cuts ribbon on new miniature museum

TEHRAN – Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami on Thursday inaugurated a new miniature museum in Tabriz, northwest Iran.

The museum has put on show 111 rare artworks belonging to the Tabriz school of art, CHTN reported on Sunday.

Illuminated folios from manuscripts of the Shahnameh, the epic masterpiece of Ferdowsi, and some calligraphy, mostly dating from the

Safavid era (1501-1736) constitute the highlights of the museum, the report said.

The museum, located in the historical Hariri mansion, also displays artworks of prominent Safavid-era miniaturists such as Sultan Mohammad and Kamaledin Behzad.

Furthermore, a temporary exhibition has been set up in the Museum to introduce the Hariri mansion, which has been inscribed on the national heritage list, its architectural fea-

tures, the restoration process, and the Hariri family.

Tabriz school in miniature painting was founded by the Ilkhanian-Mongols early in the 14th century and active through the first half of the 16th century. According to Britannica, the style represented the first full penetration of East Asian traditions into Islamic painting, an influence that was extreme at first but then blended with the native idiom. ▶Page 6

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Interview



## Ex-diplomat blames lack of understanding for solving Iran-U.S. disputes

By M.A. Saki

TEHRAN – Koroush Ahmadi, a former Iranian diplomat, blames “lack of understanding” and “lack of deep engagement” as main hurdles preventing Iran and the United States to resolve lingering disputes, not just the nuclear issue, between themselves.

In an exclusive interview with the Tehran Times, Ahmadi suggests that “the U.S. and Iran should be able to reach a middle ground” on reviving the nuclear deal with help of participants to the nuclear deal talks, particularly the European Union.

Following is the text of the interview:

**The prospects to revive the 2015 nuclear deal – JCPOA- is now looking grimmer than ever before. In your view, what steps are needed to be taken to create hope for a restoration of the agreement?**

On the surface, there are specific unresolved issues such as the removal of the IRGC from the FTO list that are apparently creating the current impasse. But, in my view, the lack of any understanding between Iran and the U.S. and any effort to that end is much more important than specific issues. I believe the lack of deep engagement between these two main parties is one of the major impediments in the way to reach the understanding necessary to clear the way. ▶Page 5

Report



## Iran football suffer lack of World Cup prep

By Masoud Hossein

TEHRAN – Kicking off less than six months out from the start of 2022 FIFA World Cup, Iran football federation has failed to arrange a friendly match yet.

The ‘Persian Leopards’ were scheduled to play Canada on June 5 but the match was canceled. The football federation announced that it would arrange a match against Uruguay but the match has yet to be confirmed so far due to the long distance.

South Africa, then, announced their readiness to play Iran in Doha but the match was cancelled. Algeria were the other candidate but it has not been clear until now whether the match will be held or not.

The football federation said the National Team would meet Oman in Doha, BUT, the warm-up match was also called off.

Iran have been drawn in a tough group along with England, the U.S. and one of Ukraine or Wales. While the national teams around the world have started their preparation, Dragan Skocic’s team waste time and it could be irreversible damage to the team.



## Anti-Iran sanctions new method of war against civilians: Envoy

TEHRAN- The Iranian ambassador to the United Nations, Majid Takht Ravanchi, on Thursday urged the UN Security Council to hold some states accountable for employing economic sanctions against civilian populations in other countries.

Iran has been the target of U.S. economic and financial sanctions for decades, according to Takht Ravanchi.

"Iran, for decades, has been the target of economic and financial sanctions by the U.S.," the envoy underlined.

He made the statements during an open debate at the UN Security Council about improving accountability and justice for egregious violations of international law.

Takht Ravanchi stated that the United States' economic and financial sanctions against Iran jeopardize the lives of Iran's most vulnerable citizens.

In 2018, the United States pulled out of a historic nuclear deal with Iran and other international powers, resuming the unlawful and unilateral sanctions that the agreement had suspended.

In the same year, Iran took the case to the International Court of Justice, which unanimously granted a preliminary judgment forcing Washington to eliminate any prohibitions on humanitarian commodities imports into the Islamic Republic.

During the debate, Takht Ravanchi said, "Unfortunately, the United States has not only failed to comply with the Court's order but also defied it by imposing additional sanctions, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic."

He went on to say that the Security Council's silence on the "Zionist regime against the Palestinian people is a clear example of the council's irresponsibility and inaction," defining such crimes as war crimes and crimes against humanity.

According to the Iranian ambassador, constraints on medicine and medical supplies have resulted in the deaths of certain Iranian patients, including children, as a result of the sanctions.

The envoy added that the UNSC has failed to appropriately address several severe violations of international law, including the illegitimate sanctions imposed on the Islamic Republic.

## FM warns EU's Borrell against US, E3 destructive moves

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell exchanged views over the latest state of sanctions removal talks and other issues relating to ties between Tehran and the bloc during a phone conversation on Friday.

In the conversation, Amir Abdollahian reiterated Tehran's determination to reach a good, strong and lasting nuclear deal.

He then underscored that a recent move by the U.S. and the European troika (France, UK, and Germany) to prepare a draft resolution at the UN atomic watchdog against Iran is an "undiplomatic, hasty and unconstructive behavior that will only make the process of talks more difficult and more complicated."

Amir Abdollahian pointed to a law approved by the Iranian parliament warning any move by the United States and the European troika at the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will definitely be met with an appropriate, effective and immediate response from Iran.

However, Iran's top diplomat thanked Borrell for his efforts and reiterated Iran's readiness and strong determination to continue the talks until it results in a realistic way that would be agreed upon by all sides.

Amir Abdollahian further spoke about the destructive moves by the Israeli regime, which itself is the main culprit in the world when it comes to illegal nuclear activities.

The top Iranian diplomat added that the trip of IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi to Tel Aviv ahead of the upcoming meeting of the UN nuclear watchdog's Board of Governors is at odds with the principle of neutrality and the body's technical and professional capacity.

For his part, Borrell criticized efforts by

## Lavrov: Moscow is strongly against IAEA draft resolution against Iran

TEHRAN - Russian Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov said on Friday that Moscow is seriously against a draft resolution by the IAEA board governors against Iran that has been written by the U.S. and the European trio of Britain, France and Germany, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a press report.

"This draft resolution lacks any positive effect and that the issues between Iran and the Agency must be resolved technically," Lavrov said in a phone conversation with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

Amir Abdollahian also chastised the U.S. for its unconstructive approach to the Vienna talks.

"The unconstructive move by the U.S. and the European troika to draft a resolution for the upcoming meeting of the IAEA's board of governors and the creation of media

hype against Iran will disrupt the process of negotiations," Amir Abdollahian warned.

Amir Abdollahian said Iran and the IAEA have formulated a roadmap for cooperation and warned that repercussions of any anti-Iran resolution will fall on those parties that are undermining the path to democracy.

Amir Abdollahian and Lavrov also discussed the most significant bilateral, regional, and international topics.

Lavrov also pointed to his coming official visit to Iran, predicting that Tehran-Moscow relations are on the rise in all areas.

During the phone talks, Iran's foreign minister also reiterated the need for a political solution to the Ukraine crisis, which was confirmed by the chief Russian diplomat.

# Iran hails Yemen truce extension, insists on political solution

TEHRAN – The Iranian Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Saturday welcoming the extension of a UN-brokered truce between warring sides in Yemen for another two months, reaffirming Tehran's support for a political settlement of the eight-year crisis.

Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh expressed hope that the truce would lay the ground for a full lifting of the blockade on Yemen, establishment of a lasting ceasefire and a political solution to the country's crisis.

"Based on its strategic approach and principled policies, the Islamic Republic of Iran has always considered the solution to the Yemeni crisis to be a political one and has used all its capacity

to promote fair peace based on the realities [on the ground] in Yemen," Khatibzadeh insisted, according to Press TV.

In a statement on Thursday, UN special envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg announced that the parties to the Yemen conflict have agreed to the United Nations' proposal to renew the current truce for two additional months.

The initial two-month truce began on April 2 and was set to expire on June 2.

"I would like to announce that the parties to the conflict have agreed to the United Nations' proposal to renew the current truce in Yemen for two additional months," Grundberg said, Al Jazeera reported.



The war on Yemen, which started in March 2015 under the leadership of Saudi Arabia, has caused indescribable grief and suffering for the poor Yemeni people.

"The announcement of the truce extension today (Thursday) shows a serious commitment from all parties to end the senseless suffering of millions of Yemenis," the Norwegian Refugee Council's (NRC) Yemen Country Director, Erin Hutchinson, said in a statement after Grundberg's announcement. "The last two months have shown that peaceful solutions to the conflict are a real option."

As part of the truce deal that went into effect on April 2, the warring sides had agreed to stop

all military operations inside Yemen and across its borders, operate two commercial flights a week from Houthi-controlled Sanaa to Jordan and Egypt, allow 18 fuel vessels into the port of Houthi-controlled Hodeidah, and open the roads in Taiz and other governorates.

According to the NRC, the number of civilians killed and injured in Yemen dropped by more than 50 percent in the first month of the truce.

Another major success of the truce was the resumption of commercial flights from Sanaa Airport on April 16, the first in six years. The Saudi-led war had banned commercial flights from using the airport.

## Intelligence Minister: Enemies focused on popular protests, terrorist acts

TEHRAN — Iran's Intelligence Minister Seyed Esmail Khatib, along with a group of ministry officials, met on Sunday with IRGC Ground Force Commander Brigadier General Mohammad Pakpour, the Quds Camp commander, and a group of other IRGC officers at the Quds base in southeast Iran.

Emphasizing the interactive cooperation and helping to develop sustainable security in the region, the two sides raised and discussed issues related to the plans to create suitable conditions for sustainable and popular security in the region.

In conclusion, the minister and his top team, as well as the IRGC commanders visited the eastern borders and appreciated the efforts of the border guards.

Later, Khatib spoke to the Young Journalists Club news agency, saying, "Today, if the enemy is mobilized against us with all its resources, it will realize that it is afraid of the internal power of the Islamic system of Iran and knows that it is ready to



face any threat despite the existence of all these foreign intelligence services' agents," the minister noted.

He then went on to say that currently, the enemy is focused on three issues:

First, it counts on the people's protests and social conditions, and tries to broaden them by misleading the true demands of the people and organizing protests, gatherings, and so on by creating networks and organizing illegal gatherings. Second, it is capitalizing on terrorist actions, which are committed by the Israeli

## Grossi is actively campaigning against Iran

TEHRAN — As the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Board of Governors were supposed to hold a meeting to review the case of Iran's peaceful nuclear activities on Monday, news broke out that the meeting is most likely to be convened on Wednesday.

Russian ambassador to international organizations in Vienna Mikhail Ulyanov wrote in a tweet on Saturday, "As a matter of fact the Iranian issue will be discussed by the IAEA Board of Governors most likely on Wednesday."

Meanwhile, IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi paid a visit to Tel Aviv on Friday. The visit, at this delicate time when all parties – or most parties, better said – are actively trying to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, commonly known as the nuclear deal, has created critical responses among many political experts.

Reza Nasri, a legal expert, asked two questions from Grossi on his Twitter account.

"1) Mr. @rafaelmgrossi, while you're in #Israel, can you publicly

clarify your position on the notion of "strategic ambiguity"? Is this a "doctrine" other countries can use to evade IAEA probes?

2) Do you think it's fair - and indicative of IAEA impartiality - that #Iran gets censored because it has not allegedly offered "technically credible" explanations on its civilian program while Israel seems entitled to hide its nuclear WMDs by officially evoking this doctrine?" Nasri asked on Friday.

The response, as predicted, was blocking him on Twitter.

"I raised 2 questions about #Israel's doctrine of "strategic ambiguity" and the #IAEA's impartiality during DG Rafael Grossi's trip to Israel. And he saw fit to block me in response! This shows those are embarrassingly important questions, and need to be raised time and again!" he wrote on Saturday after being blocked by Grossi.

A foreign policy expert has also warned that the current chain of events will put the Vienna talks in a catastrophic situation.

"Netanyahu, Pompeo, Bolton, etc

wanted to kill the JCPOA & start a war. And now we seem to be getting back on the path they created to a catastrophic conflict," Sina Toosi wrote on Twitter.

After meeting the Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, Grossi tweeted, "At #Israel's invitation, I met Prime Minister @naftalibennett in Tel Aviv this morning. Important exchanges on topical issues. I stressed the importance of @IAEAorg safeguards and the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) for global peace and security."

A statement from Bennett's office said he had cautioned Grossi that Iran was pushing ahead on developing a nuclear weapon while misleading the world with "false information and lies" to conceal its work, a ridiculous claim from a regime who is not even a signatory of the NPT and does not allow inspection of its nuclear sites.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Israel has about 90 nuclear weapons.

There has never been an inspection

of the Israeli nuclear facilities by the IAEA. There has never been one single, clear, and transparent statistics of the Israeli nuclear arsenal. Yet, they shamelessly accuse Iran of misleading the world with lies and false information. In 2020 alone, the IAEA conducted 426 inspections in Iran, according to Kelsey Davenport, Director for Nonproliferation Policy at the Arms Control Association (ACA).

Though American officials themselves are responsible for the never-ending pause in the Vienna negotiations because of their indecision, they have resorted to completely destroying the negotiations. However, they won't be doing that themselves, as their obedient helpers drafted a resolution to be passed in the IAEA board meeting. The window of opportunity seems to be closing. The disruptive move by the E3 (France, UK, and Germany) will bring about an appropriate, effective and immediate response from Iran. This response could vary, but closing the Vienna talks could very well be one of them.

## Iran and Norway continue political consultations



TEHRAN — The 10th round of political consultations was held between Iran and Norway during a trip to Oslo by Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs, Ali Bagheri Kani.

The event on Friday was jointly chaired by Bagheri Kani and Norwegian Deputy Foreign Minister Henrik Thune.

Following the talks, the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding on political consultations between the two countries.

During the meeting, the Iranian and Norwegian officials exchanged views on a variety of bilateral, regional and international issues.

Bagheri Kani, who also acts as Iran's top negotiator at the Vienna talks, visited Norway on Tuesday.

"Today, I departed for Oslo in continuation of recent regional and international consultations.

Serious talks over bilateral, regional and international issues are on the agenda of this trip. We stress development of relations between Iran and Norway along with our efforts to secure [our] national interests including the removal of illegal sanctions," he said on Twitter.

In this regard, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said the trip is significant as the ongoing negotiations in Vienna to remove the U.S. sanctions on Iran is also on the agenda.

"It is a bilateral trip to Norway, with regional and international issues, as well as bilateral issues and issues related to the Vienna talks (are on the agenda)," the spokesman said on Tuesday during his weekly briefing.



# Ayatollah Khamenei underlines need to counter enemy propaganda machine

Frome Page 1 ► and the extensive propaganda machine of the enemy, among other issues.

The Leader highlighted the need to refrain from ignoring the role of the enemies against Iran. He spoke about this role within the context of addressing the achievements and failures of Iran. Ayatollah Khamenei said Iran made great breakthroughs in all areas such as democracy, scientific achievements, diplomatic and economic affairs, and public services. “Denying these achievements is an injustice. Of course, we have had our share of failures too. In other words, we have had both achievements and weaknesses and failures,” he said, according to a readout published by the khamenei.ir.

He said, “Of course, the role of the far-reaching camp of the enemies from the time of the victory of the Revolution and up until today should not be ignored. It was not the Islamic Republic that gave birth to this enmity. Rather, because the Islamic Republic is opposed to oppression, arrogance, decadence and in favor of spirituality by nature, oppressors, the arrogant powers, the evildoers and those opposed to spirituality naturally show hostility toward it.”

The main reason for this enmity, Ayatollah Khamenei said, was Imam Khomeini’s determined separation from the West.



The Leader then touched on the enemies’ plots against the Islamic Republic, pointing out two of the enemies’ plots in that regard.

“In the first plot, the enemies have pinned their hopes on popular protests to damage the country. They are trying all kinds of tricks to turn the people against the Islamic Republic, including: psychological work on the people, activities in the internet, spending money and employing mercenaries,” he said, adding that the second plot involves promoting a wrong notion about the imminent decline of the Islamic Republic.

He noted, “Ill-intentioned people used to say in the beginning of the Revolution that the Revolution would fall in the space of six months. Later, when their calculation proved to be wrong, they promised that it would fall in the next six months. But today

more than eighty of these six-month periods have passed in the life of the Revolution, and that thin sapling has turned into a sturdy, strong tree. Their current calculations are wrong just like they were in the past.”

To counter the enemies’ propaganda against Iran, the Leader gave some pieces of advice revolving around the enemies’ psychological warfare. One such piece of advice was to reveal the enemies’ lies and their psychological warfare.

Ayatollah Khamenei said the enemies constantly twist the truth about Iran. He alluded to Iran’s recent seizure of two Greek oil tankers in the Persian Gulf as a case in point.

“Some time ago, the Greek government stole some of our country’s oil due to an order from the Americans. But when the self-

sacrificing, valiant soldiers of the Islamic Republic confiscated the enemy’s ship carrying oil, they accused Iran of theft through their extensive propaganda machines. But it was them who had stolen our oil. Taking back something that had been stolen is not an act of theft,” he asserted.

Iranian officials constantly warn about the enemies’ propaganda against Iran. Esmail Khatib, Iran’s intelligence minister, said on Sunday that the enemies have mobilized all their facilities to wreak havoc on Iran.

In a speech delivered at a meeting with senior intelligence and military officials in Zahedan, Khatib offered a similar assessment of the enemies’ efforts against Iran. He said the enemies are currently focused on three things: First, they are betting on protests and gatherings. Second, “terrorist moves” undertaken by Israel. Third, the enemies are seeking to smear Islamic Iran in the eyes of the people through social media platforms.

“Unfortunately, the enemy media have a drum whose beat is not only strident and grating but also leaves a lasting [impact] on the soul and heart of our youth. The front of Islam and Revolution will, with God’s help, clinch victory despite all the efforts of the enemies,” Khatib said, according to state news agency IRNA.

## Amir Abdollahian due in Turkey

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian will visit Turkey on Monday for the first time in his capacity as top diplomat, Turkish media reported.

Anadolu Agency said Turkey is preparing to host the foreign ministers of nine countries during the next two weeks, in light of a possible global food crisis due to the Russian-Ukrainian war. Amir Abdollahian is among the foreign ministers who will visit Turkey.

The visit comes amid continued contacts between Iranian and Turkish officials at various levels. The Iranian Foreign Ministry said Friday that Ali Asghar Khaji, a senior advisor to the Iranian foreign minister, has attended a multilateral meeting with officials from Russia, Turkey, and the United Nations to discuss issues related to Syria.

In late May, Turkish Deputy Foreign Minister Faruk Kaymakci met with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari on the sidelines of the conference of the deputy foreign ministers of the ECO members.

The two officials held talks over expansion of bilateral ties and multilateral cooperation, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

In the meeting, the Iranian deputy foreign minister for economic diplomacy referred to the significant growth of trade and economic ties between Iran and Turkey in the Persian year of 1400 and underlined the importance of strengthening bilateral relations and regional cooperation more than ever before. Safari also announced the

Islamic Republic of Iran’s readiness to increase cooperation with Turkey in the fields of banking, trade, transportation, transit, energy, health and new technologies as well as knowledge-based companies.

The Turkish deputy foreign minister, for his part, underlined the significance of relations between Tehran and Ankara in different spheres. Kaymakci declared Turkey’s readiness to expand ties with Iran and boost cooperation within the framework of regional and multilateral organizations such as ECO.

In the meeting, the two sides pointed to the climate change and drought, underlining the necessity of cooperation among regional countries to protect the environment and to manage common water resources.

In Early May, Amir Abdollahian and his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu discussed the latest developments in bilateral ties and some regional as well as international issues on the phone.

In the conversation, Cavusoglu underlined the need to take effective and tangible steps to boost good and friendly ties between the two countries, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

The Turkish foreign minister also underscored Ankara’s readiness to hold the 7th Supreme Council of Strategic Bilateral Cooperation and to making planning for the Turkish president’s visit to Tehran.

Cavusoglu referred to the good relations between the two neighboring and brotherly countries, saying that pursuant to an agreement

between Iran and Turkey, he will pursue the environmental issues and the management of common water resources through relevant institutions in Turkey and continuation of the joint water committee’s sessions.

During the telephone conversation, the Iranian foreign minister also congratulated Cavusoglu on Eid al-Fitr and noted that the continuation of visits by high-ranking officials of the two countries are in line with expansion and development of the Tehran-Ankara ties more than ever before. Amir Abdollahian then referred to plans for holding the 7th Supreme Council of Strategic Bilateral Cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Turkey.

The top Iranian diplomat said holding the meeting is a key step toward promoting relations, realizing the interests of both nations and also expanding bilateral ties. Amir Abdollahian firmly emphasized cooperation between Iran and Turkey in the protection of the environment and the management of border water resources. He then stressed the importance of resolving remaining issues in this regard and also underscored the necessity of speeding up cooperation between Tehran and Ankara within the framework of the joint water committee given the importance of the issue of climate change. The foreign ministers of Iran and Turkey further stressed the need for continued consultations to pursue issues on the agenda of expanding bilateral relations as well as regional and international issues of mutual concern.

## Iran deputy FM visits Iraq’s Basra province

TEHRAN – Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari has travelled to the southern Iraqi province of Basra to hold talks with local officials.

Safari held talks with the governor of Basra on how to increase trade exchanges with Iraq through the border crossing of Shalamchah, connecting the Khorramshahr railway to Basra and granting technical and engineering projects to Iranian companies as contractors, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Safari pointed to Iran’s capabilities and huge potential in production of

medicines, using new technologies. He underlined that small pharmaceutical companies of Iran are ready to enter into good cooperation deals with Iraq’s Basra province, especially in fighting cancer.

“We propose that this cooperation to take place in free zones so that facilities existing in these zones and medicine exports to other countries are used,” Safari said.

During his trip to Basra, Safari also took part in a symposium along with businesspeople and trade organizations in the three southern provinces of Basra, Maysan and

Dhiqar. In the event, he referred to the strategic relations between Iran and Iraq, which he called two brotherly countries. The deputy foreign minister said it’s the administration of President Ebrahim Raisi’s policy to give priority to establishing economic and trade relations with neighbors. And among Iran’s neighbors, he remarked, the friendly and brotherly country of Iraq is the top priority.

He noted that Iran plans to look into issues and problems hampering trade and export due to constant changes in laws and regulations of the two countries and that Tehran

seeks to consult with Baghdad to find appropriate and lasting solutions to resolve those problems.

The Iranian deputy foreign minister added that in trade and exports, the issue of road, air, railway and sea transportation is of high importance.

It should be noted that in this meeting, the two sides decided that investors who want to build manufacturing and industrial units in Iraq’s industrial zones should be invited to visit Iran’s infrastructure and its capabilities to build industrial zones with the aim of entering into joint ventures.

## Senior advisor attends multilateral meetings on Syria

TEHRAN – Ali Asghar Khaji, a senior advisor to the Iranian foreign minister, has attended a multilateral meeting with officials from Russia, Turkey, and the United Nations to discuss issues related to Syria.

The envoys of Iran, Russia, Turkey and the United Nations at the end of the 8th round of talks over the Syrian constitution exchanged views over the results of the negotiations, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said on Saturday.

UN Special Envoy for Syria at the meeting Geir Pedersen thanked the three guarantors of the Astana peace process for their cooperation and support and the continuation of the Syrian constitutional committee represented by the senior representatives

of Iran, Russia and Turkey. Pedersen also gave a report about this round of talks between Syrian sides within the framework of the constitutional committee.

He described the atmosphere of this round of negotiations as positive, saying this is very encouraging and will pave the way for achieving better results in the future.

The senior diplomats of the three guarantors outlined their views regarding the developments in Syria and expressed concern over the surge in the problems of the Syrian people.

Iranian diplomat Khaji criticized the West for imposing unilateral and illegal sanctions on the Syrian people and conditioning Syria’s reconstruction on a

political settlement. Khaji also condemned a surge in the Zionist regime’s aggression and its attacks on Syria’s infrastructure and civilian places. He described the silence of the international community toward the Israeli aggression as unfortunate.

It must be noted that the Syrian constitutional committee consists of 150 members from the government, the opposition and civil society. Each session convenes after being made up of a smaller committee with 15 members from each side. All parties agreed to hold the next session in late July (in less than two months) in Geneva. Prior to the four-way meeting, the envoys of the three guarantors of the Astana process held talks with each other.

## Turkmenistan stun Iran at 2022 AFC U23 Asian Cup

TEHRAN – Turkmenistan came back from a goal down to register a historic 2-1 win over 10-man Iran in Group A of the AFC U23 Asian Cup Uzbekistan 2022 on Saturday.

Turkmenistan’s Arzuvguly Sapargulyyev cancelled out Alireza Bavieh’s opener before Ahmet Teymur Charyyev scored the winner as the debutants bounced back from their opening day defeat against Uzbekistan to record their first ever victory in the tournament.

“We only have ourselves to blame for this defeat. I think we lost ourselves in the game, especially in the second half,” said Mahdavia. “Initially we had a good start in the first 30 minutes which led to the opening goal.

“But a lack of concentration allowed our opponents to level the score. We tried our best to score in the second period but with a man down, that made it difficult for us.

“Coming into the tie, we knew how Turkmenistan would play having lost their opening game. Our analysis was spot on as they matched our game to score the equalizer. We were punished for our mistake in the second half,” he added.

Iran, who opened their campaign with a 1-1 draw with Qatar, will have to defeat Uzbekistan on Tuesday to stay in the competition while Turkmenistan will qualify for the quarter-finals with a win over Qatar.

## Andrea Stramaccioni shortlisted to take charge of Esteghlal: report

TEHRAN – Italian coach Andrea Stramaccioni has been reportedly shortlisted to take charge of Esteghlal football team.

Farhad Majidi reached an agreement with Emirati football club Ittihad Kalba.

Majidi helped Esteghlal to end nine-year title drought in Iran Professional League (IPL).

Stramaccioni, who currently coaches Qatari club Al Gharafa, was head coach of Esteghlal in 2019 but left the team after Blues failed to meet their financial commitment.

## Farhad Majidi named Ittihad Kalba coach

TEHRAN – Ittihad Kalba Football Club announced the signing of Iranian coach Farhad Majidi to lead the first team next season in the UAE Professional League.

The media spokesman for the football company, Issa Musa bin Howaiden, said that Majidi has a distinguished record, in addition to prior knowledge of Emirates football, noting that the coming days will witness the announcement of the names of some foreign players, who are at the table of the Technical Committee.

Majidi parted company with Esteghlal after helping the Blues win Iran Professional League after nine years.

## Barkhah sacked as Iran weightlifting coach

TEHRAN – Mohammad Hossein Barkhah was sacked as head coach of the Iran weightlifting team on Friday.

He was appointed as Iran coach in 2018 and had a successful stint with Team Melli.

Saeid Alihosseini, head coach of Iran junior team, is a candidate to replace Barkhah in the Iranian senior team.

The Iran weightlifting team is preparing for the Islamic Solidarity Games in Turkey.

## Esteghlal parts ways with Rudy Gestede

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football club parted ways with their forward Rudy Gestede.

Former Aston Villa forward penned a two-year contract with Esteghlal in October 2021 from Panetolikos.

He scored a vital goal against Esteghlal’s archrival Persepolis in the Tehran derby, where the match finished in a 1-1 draw.

He helped Esteghlal win the Iran league after nine years.

## Persepolis become IPL runners-up

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team edged past Fajr Sepasi 1-0 to finish runners-up in the 2021/22 Iran Professional League (IPL).

Omid Alishah scored the only goal of the match in the first half.

Esteghlal finished the first the IPL with 68 points and Persepolis came second with 60 points.

The Reds will most likely be handed a 3-0 win over Tractor by the federation’s Disciplinary Committee after the hosts’ fans threw objects at Persepolis players in Tabriz’s Yadegar-e Stadium.

## Amir Abedzadeh linked with RCD Mallorca: report

TEHRAN – Iran international goalkeeper Amir Abedzadeh has been reportedly linked with a move to La Liga side RCD Mallorca.

The 29-year-old custodian joined Spanish football team SD Ponferradina in July 2021 and stole the show in the club.

Now, the media reports suggest that Mallorca has shown interest in signing the player.

Mallorca, founded in 1916, had their peak in the late 1990s and early 2000s, reaching a best-ever 3rd place in La Liga in 1999 and 2001 and winning the Copa del Rey in 2003 following final defeats in 1991 and 1998.

Mallorca also won the 1998 Supercopa de España and reached the 1999 UEFA Cup Winners’ Cup Final.

## Iranian athletes win two bronzes at Asian Sambo Championships

TEHRAN – Saeid Madani and Milad Shiri from Iran won two bronze medals at the 2022 Asian Sambo Championships.

Madani claimed a bronze in the 88kg and Shiri also seized a bronze in the +98kg.

The 2022 Asian Sambo Championships 2022 were held in Beirut, Lebanon, for the first time with the participation of more than 500 players from 21 countries.

## Iranian Greco-Roman wrestling team win title at Bolat Turlykhanov Cup

TEHRAN – Iranian Greco-Roman wrestling team claimed the title of the Ranking Series event the Bolat Turlykhanov Cup.

Mohammad Reza Geraii won a gold medal in the 72kg after Meirizhan Shermakhanbet from Kazakhstan pulled out of the final due to shoulder injury.

Pejman Poshtam lost to Akzhol Makhmudov 9-0 in the final bout of 82g, winning a silver.

Mohammad Mokhtari also won a bronze medal in the 77kg after beating Yunus Emre Basar 3-1.

On Day One, Iranian wrestlers had won three gold medals, three silvers and one bronze.

Iran Greco-Roman wrestling team claimed the title with 185 points, followed by Kazakhstan (165 points) and Uzbekistan (108 points).



## Economy minister attends IsDB Group annual meeting



TEHRAN – Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi attended the 2022 Islamic Development Bank (IsDB) Group Annual Meetings which were held during June 1-4 in Egypt.

Khandouzi met with his counterparts from several countries including Indonesia and Qatar as well as IsDB Chairman Muhammad Sulaiman Al Jasser on the sidelines of the event, IRIB reported.

As reported, during the meeting of the economy minister with his Indonesian counterpart, the officials discussed the ways for cooperation in the field of basic goods supply.

## Over 2.4m tons of basic goods transported from Imam Khomeini port in 2 months

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, over 2.4 million tons of basic commodities were transported from Imam Khomeini port, in the southwestern Khuzestan province, during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21).

Mohammad Joulanejad, the director-general of the province's Road Transportation and Maintenance Department, also said that there is 2.1 million tons of basic commodities in Imam Khomeini port, of which 700,00 tons can be moved.

As previously announced by Adel Deris, the director-general of Khuzestan's Ports and Maritime Department, loading and

unloading of goods in Imam Khomeini port rose 17 percent during the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), as compared to the preceding year.

The official said that 45,976 tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded in this port during the past year.

He also stated that the annual loading and unloading of non-oil goods in Imam Khomeini port increased 11 percent to stand at 29 million tons.

He further announced that 16.665 million tons of oil products were loaded and unloaded in the port during the previous year, with four million tons growth from its preceding year.

## 64 idle industrial units to be revived in Qom province by Mar. 2023

TEHRAN – As announced by the managing director of Industrial Parks Company of Qom province, 64 idle industrial units are planned to be revived in this province by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2023).

Ruhollah Ebrahimi said that Qom province accounts for 1.8 percent of investment-making and three percent of employment in the industry sector of the country.

He said that most of the industrial units of the province are active in the fields of chemical, food and pharmaceutical industries, cellulose industries, non-metallic minerals and textile industry.

As previously announced by Abdolreza Shamli, the deputy head of Industries, Mines, and Trade Department of the province, 143 idle units returned to the production cycle



in Qom province during the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20).

The official said that 13.7 trillion rials (about \$52.6 million) was invested to revived these units.

He also announced that the mentioned units returning to the production cycle created direct jobs for 4,162 persons.

# Tehran, Baku ink MOU to double Turkmenistan gas swap with Azerbaijan

From page 1 ► the export of technical and engineering services to the mentioned countries, and areas for future cooperation.

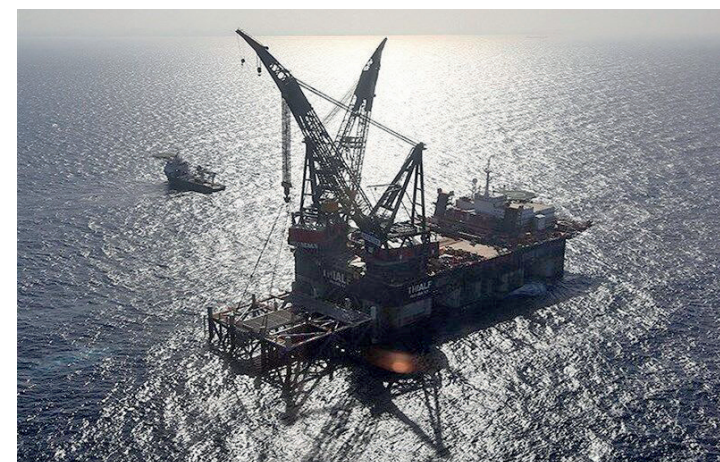
The official held talks with Romanian Energy Minister Virgil-Daniel Popescu, and Bulgarian Energy Minister Alexander Nikolov on Friday on the sidelines of an energy forum.

During the meeting with the Romanian minister, Popescu talked about the energy crisis in Europe as well as carbon transitions.

Baku Energy Week 2022 was

held during June 1-3 by Azerbaijan's Energy Ministry in collaboration with the State Oil Company of the Republic of Azerbaijan (SOCAR).

Speaking to the press on the sidelines of the visit to Azerbaijan, Oji underlined the expansion of relations with Azerbaijan, saying: "The gas swap contract [that the two countries have signed recently] has provided the ground for cooperation in other sectors including transportation, power, trade and such areas."



Iran and Azerbaijan have reached agreements to develop joint fields in the form of a joint working group, he said, adding:

Azerbaijan has announced its readiness to participate in some Iranian projects including the Rasht-Astara railway, he noted, adding that the Islamic Revolution's Leader Seyyed Ali Khamenei and President Raisi have both emphasized further development of relations with Azerbaijan.

We are developing the oil

industry without getting any help from foreign professionals, he stressed, stating: "Iran is the world's largest holder of oil and gas reserves in total, and the industry has been developed by local experts."

Referring to his recent trip to Latin America, Oji said: "Since 2017 when the United States imposed sanctions on Latin American countries, particularly Venezuela, their whole oil industry has been halted as foreign experts generally developed it."

## Stock market will grow despite lack of trust: expert

TEHRAN – A market analyst believes that the Iranian stock market has the potential to grow despite the distrust created in the market as a result of some bad decisions, ISNA reported.

Emphasizing that there is potential for growth in the market, Hassan Kazemzadeh said: "Given this potential, the market will grow. Of course, there are ups and downs, but no matter how much distrust there is, the changes of major economic factors will affect the market, but this effect takes place gradually and over time."

According to the analyst, uncertainty about monitoring policies, especially interference in valuing the shares of companies, imposition of various duties, imposing corporate expenses such as taxes and export duties, etc., has caused shareholders to be pessimistic about the market.

"Although there is a 30 to 40 percent growth potential in the market, even professionals are disappointed," he regretted.

Regarding the situation of the capital market in the second half of the year,



Kazemzadeh said: "According to the fundamental analysis, many stocks that are profitable, regardless of whether their profit margins or profitability are high or low, have the potential to reach their price ceiling of the Iranian calendar year 1399 (ended on March 20, 2021). If this happens, the market index will also pass the ceiling of that year."

According to market analysts and experts, TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), is expected to follow a mild upward trend in the current Iranian calendar year 1401 (started on March 21).

## Monthly export from North Khorasan increases 84% yr/yr

TEHRAN- The value of export from North Khorasan province, in the northeast of Iran, rose 84 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, the head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department announced.

Hossein Haji-Beglou said that 15,300 tons of products worth \$10.3 million were exported from the province in the first month, indicating 46.5 percent fall in terms of weight year on year.

He named petrochemical products such as urea, melamine and ammonia, also steel products, polystyrene tools, tomato paste, empty cans, citric acid and floor rubber granules as the major products exported from the province and Afghanistan, Iraq, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Germany, Pakistan, Georgia, Austria, Turkey and Romania as the major export destinations.

He also said that 27 tons of

agricultural products valued at \$16,000 were exported from North Khorasan in the first month of the present year, accounting for three percent of export from the province in the mentioned month.

The head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department further announced that 3,000 tons of commodities worth about \$2 million were imported to the province in the first month of this year, showing 92 percent rise in weight, while no change in value as compared to the first month of the past year.

As previously announced by Mehrdad Davoudzadeh, the deputy head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department for commercial affairs and trade promotion, commodities valued at over \$173 million were exported from North Khorasan during the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20).



Davoudzadeh named Afghanistan, Iraq, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Germany, India, Turkey, Ukraine, Pakistan, Poland, Syria, Russia, Kuwait, Austria, Oman, Indonesia, United Arab Emirates, and Canada as the main destinations to them the products were exported from North Khorasan in the previous year.

Putting the province's worth of imports at \$42 million in the past year, the official further named China, Russia, Sudan, Pakistan, the United Arab Emirates, Germany, South Korea, Turkey, India, Netherlands, Ethiopia, Denmark, Austria, Oman, United Kingdom, Taiwan, Italy, Turkmenistan, Sweden,

Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Brazil, Azerbaijan and France as the major sources of imports.

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 moth 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.

## Modern irrigation systems set up in 12,000 ha of Golestan farmlands

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, 12,000 hectares of farmlands in Golestan province, in the northeast of Iran, is equipped with modern irrigation systems.

Mohammad Barzali, the head of the province's Agriculture Department, said that the process of equipping the farmlands with these systems in the province is being conducted slowly, and expressed hope that the farmers welcome this type of irrigation more.

As announced by Mohsen Kia Al-Hosseini, the director of water and soil office of the province's Agriculture Department, equipping the farmlands of Golestan with modern irrigation systems

require four trillion rials (about \$15.38 million).

As stated by the project manager of the Agriculture Ministry's smart irrigation systems development program, so far 2.6 million hectares of the country's farmlands have been equipped with modern irrigation systems.

Fariborz Abbasi has said that completing semi-finished agriculture projects is the priority of his ministry in the current Iranian calendar year, and expanding the modern irrigation network across the country is of significant importance in this regard.

The deputy agriculture minister noted that the project for implementing

irrigation networks in the west and northwest of the country is about 70 percent completed and the ministry is pursuing to get the necessary funding for the remaining 30 percent.

The official expressed hope that considering the budget allocation for the provinces at the beginning of the current Iranian year, the ministry would be able to develop the project in terms of both quantity and quality.

The purpose of implementing the plan of modern irrigation systems is to increase the productivity and sustainability of water and soil resources in the country to ensure the sustainable production of agricultural products.

"Over the past three years, each year, an average of 150,000 hectares of farmlands have been equipped with modern irrigation systems, and we have witnessed a 300 percent jump", the official said.

Agriculture Ministry is also taking the necessary measures for supporting the domestic manufacturing of equipment used in these systems, he added.

Back in September 2021, Abbasi had said that 95 percent of the equipment used in such systems is manufactured inside the country.

The official said the ministry has comprehensive plans for indigenizing the knowledge for the production of the other five percent as well.

He pointed to the filters and drippers in modern irrigation systems as the equipment whose domestic production is on the agenda and predicted: "In a two- or three-year plan, part of the imported equipment and supplies will be produced by domestic manufacturers."

Abbasi mentioned the quality improvement of modern irrigation systems as one of the main strategies of Agriculture Ministry and said: "We believe that along with the quantitative development of new irrigation systems, quality improvement should also take place to improve productivity and ensure food security by increasing water efficiency in the best possible way."

He further underlined educating farmers, officials, and managers of companies active in the field of production and implementation of new irrigation systems as one of the programs that his ministry is pursuing in order to improve the quality and optimal use of these systems.

Referring to the activity of 2,400 private companies in the development of new irrigation systems in the agricultural sector, Abbasi said: "The private sector in this field includes 350 consulting companies, 1,600 contractors, 400 manufacturers and suppliers of equipment, and a number of monitoring firms."



# Ex-diplomat blames lack of understanding for solving Iran-U.S. disputes

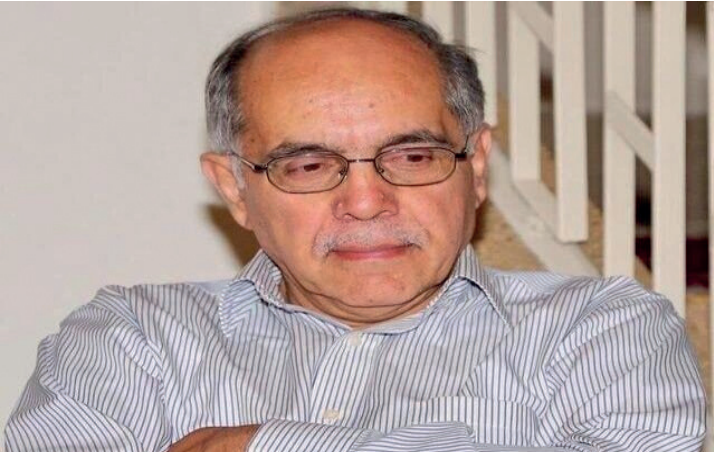
*"Iran, US should find a 'middle ground' to fix nuclear deal"*

From page 1 ▶ A dozen issues are marring and straining Iran-U.S. relations. The nuclear deal is just one of them. Dialogue between them may not necessarily aim to resolve those dozen issues, but may help the parties to understand each other better. And that would help address the specific issues that are blocking progress in the Vienna negotiations. Speaking specifically on the issues at hand in the negotiations, I believe that the US officials should answer the proposals Iran conveyed to them through Enrique Mora. Iran, in turn, should formulate specific proposals on, for example, the "economic guarantees" that Iran's Foreign Minister referred to as more important issue, as well as proposals in case the FTO designation proves difficult to address.

**Don't you think a failure to fix the JCPOA would be a great gift to Trump and other Iran hawks?**

Of course it is. They are loudly enjoying the current stalemate and publicly calling for the announcement by the Biden administration of the negotiation's failure and leave the table. At the same time, they have been threatening that a would-be Republican president in January 2025 would withdraw again from the JCPOA if the current administration succeeded to revive it.

The American hawkish conservatives, including Trump and almost all other Republicans, were adamant as from the beginning to destroy the JCPOA. A letter of 2015, orchestrated by Senator Tom Cotton and signed by 47 Republican senators, vowed to have the deal nullified by the next president. Trump senselessly took the U.S. out of the deal against the advice of his close colleagues such as the then secretaries of State and Defense and his National Security Adviser and his European allies. What he did was based on an ideological illusion and not on the concrete U.S. national interest. The fact that nothing stemmed from the so-called maximum pressure is indicative of the foolishness of that policy.



**Trump put the IRGC, a branch of the Iranian military, on the FTO list to make a JCPOA revival difficult. However, experts and certain current and former officials, including Javier Solana and Carl Bildt, or Republican Senator Rand Paul, believe such a designation is largely symbolic. Now, is it advisable for Biden to let the JCPOA elude because of such a thing, which has nothing to do with the nuclear agreement?**

There is no doubt that the inclusion of the IRGC on the FTO list was a machination aimed at making difficult the return to the JCPOA for the incoming Democrat president. And unfortunately that machination is apparently successful. In the meantime, it is quite right that in the case of the IRGC, the designation is largely symbolic. Because the IRGC and all entities and persons connected to it are already subject to extraterritorial sanctions by the laws, such as CISADA, and executive orders and remained so despite the 2015 JCPOA, because those sanctions on the IRGC were related to non-nuclear issues, such as human rights, terrorism, regional issues and missile program. However, the Biden administration should understand that the designation came following the withdrawal of Trump from the deal. Thus, Iran reasonably seeks to have that designation lifted, as

it is one of the actions made by the Trump administration that aimed to destroyed the deal.

**In a recent interview with CNN's Fareed Zakaria in Davos, Iran's FM said the designation against the IRGC is a minor issue and that the most important hurdle is that the U.S. is not ready to guarantee that Iran can freely enter business deals with the outside world. If so, why does the U.S. is trying to constrain Iran economically?**

If it is the case and the FTO designation is not the main issue, then going back to the negotiating table is much more important and necessary. Through negotiations with the help of the other JCPOA participants, especially the EU, the U.S. and Iran should be able to reach a middle ground.

**Despite attempts by EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell and his deputy Mora to reenergize the Vienna talks, Israel's Naftali Bennett is resorting to assassinations and other vicious acts to kill the slightest hope to revive the JCPOA. What should be the West's response to such malicious moves?**

Israel's attempts and schemes to prevent the nuclear deal to be concluded are well-known to all. They did whatever in their power to prevent the Obama administration to reach agreement with Iran and they failed miserably. In parallel,

at least since 2009 they resorted to all sorts of sabotage and terrorist acts to create tension in the relations between Iran and the West and at the same time subvert and disrupt the Iran nuclear program. However, the Iran-U.S. negotiations went on successfully and the deal was reached in 2015. Thus, I'm saying that even though the acts carried out by the Israelis have some impact, but they are not of the nature to change the policies of Iran and the U.S.

**Why do the Iran hawks in Israel and the U.S. think that their interests lie in fully destroying the agreement?**

Ideology, to some extent, is partly to blame. Those hawkish elements are ideologues at the same time seeking to advance their interests inside their countries against the liberal rivals and in the region against Iran's influence. Geopolitics is another factor that comes in. They believe that the U.S. and Iran are at odds in the region and Iran seeks to oust the U.S. from the region.

**Suppose the JCPOA is revived, how can Iran and the U.S. bury the hatchet and cooperate on certain areas in which the two sides share common interests, such as a stable Middle East or campaign against terrorism?**

As I said I believe that the two countries that are the most important powers in the region need to engage with a view to understanding each other. A dialogue that is necessary may or may not be fruitful. In either case, they stand not to lose anything. In the past they proved to have common interest in the cases of Ba'athist Iraq and the Taliban Afghanistan, and to some extent, they cooperated at least in the case of Afghanistan in the early stage of ousting the Taliban. It is important to note that the JCPOA is a single-issue deal. And this is one of its major points of weakness. In the sense that tensions arising from other issues affect the JCPOA's standing. Even if they can reach a deal to revive the agreement, it will remain shaky and precarious if other issues are not addressed.

## Russia must not be “humiliated”, says France



From page 1 ▶ Some reports have emerged suggesting that France wants Ukraine to make concessions to secure a peace agreement, but the Elysee Palace says any peace deal must be negotiated between Moscow and Kyiv, showing “due respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine.”

The conflict has now passed it's 100th day with no major signs of an end to the fighting amid heavy battles in the eastern city of Sievierodonetsk.

France's position is in stark contrast to the United States which hasn't called or taken any action to end the fighting despite the vast losses of Ukrainian soldiers over the past week.

Washington is spearheading the arms supplies to a war zone without urging dialogue between Ukraine and Russia.

European countries including France have also sent weapons to Ukraine albeit not at the same military budget of Washington.

Germany which previously refused to send any weapons has changed its position after coming under pressure. Reports have cited the Ukrainian parliament's chairman, Ruslan Stefanchuk, as saying Berlin may provide Kyiv with submarines.

The Ukrainian official made the remarks during a visit to Germany.

Ukraine has at times expressed frustration for not receiving more advanced and sophisticated weapons. Until recently, the west has declined Ukraine's calls and refrained from sending long-range missile systems.

That changed on Tuesday when the Biden administration announced it would send advanced longer-range rocket systems to Ukraine for the first time.

White House officials are worried that any Ukrainian strikes into Russian territory with American-made missiles could expand the conflict and draw the U.S. into it.

However, according to the secretary of state Antony Blinken, Washington has received assurances that Ukraine will not use the missile systems to attack targets inside Russia.

The Kremlin has warned that any delivery of missiles that can target Russian territory will result in a conflict involving a third party.

The pouring of arms comes despite President Zelensky revealing that his country is losing as many as 100 soldiers a day as the Russian military advances in the eastern Donbas region, where street-by-street fighting is being reported in some areas.

“The most difficult situation is in the east of Ukraine and southern Donetsk and Luhansk,” Zelensky said.

“The situation is very difficult; we're losing 60 to 100 soldiers per day as killed in action and something around 500 people as wounded in action. So we are holding our defensive perimeters,” he added

In addition to the soldiers deaths, Ukrainians have suffered immensely with millions fleeing the country and finding refuge in neighboring countries.

Meanwhile, the administration of U.S. President Joe Biden has once again blamed Russia for the rise in food and petrol prices as well as inflation in the Western countries.

On Friday Biden said, “this is a Putin price hike.” It's not the first time the U.S. President has made that statement.

Observers have said the White House is trying to deflect blame for the economic crisis in America and Biden's plummeting popularity ratings with the mid-term elections on the horizon.

Experts have noted that inflation was already skyrocketing before the military operation in Ukraine started.

The conflict between the two countries both of

whom are big exporters of agricultural products has added to the global markets' disruption of grain and vegetable oil.

That has pushed up prices and food shortages. Ukraine accounts for about ten percent of the international wheat trade.

The Kremlin has blamed the food supply crisis on western sanctions.

Meanwhile, the African Union Chief and Senegalese President, Macky Sall, says he has been “reassured” after holding a meeting on Friday with Putin at his Black Sea residence in Sochi over the global food shortages.

In addition to global food shortages, other topics were also discussed between the two leaders including grain supplies that are stuck in Ukrainian ports.

Speaking to reporters after meeting the Russian leader Sall said “I found Vladimir Putin committed and aware that the crisis and sanctions create serious problems for weak economies, such as African economies,” adding that he was “very reassured and very happy with our exchanges”.

In a televised interview, Putin accused the west of “bluster” by claiming Moscow was preventing grain exports from Ukraine.

“There is no problem to export grain from Ukraine,” he said, proposing several possible routes.

Putin said Russia would guarantee the safe passage of cargo ships that came to transport grain from Ukrainian ports “without conditions”, but denied Moscow was responsible for the blockade.

“The problem of exporting grain from Ukraine does not exist” he said.

Putin said that exports could transit through the Russian-controlled ports of Mariupol and Berdyansk, or the Ukrainian-held port of Odesa as long as Ukraine “cleared” the waters around it of mines.

The global prices for grain have fallen to April levels following Putin's pledge to ensure the safe export of Ukrainian grain through Black Sea ports.

The Russian leader added that other options include the Danube River via Romania, Hungary, or Poland.

“But the simplest, the easiest, the cheapest would be exported via Belarus, from there one can go to Baltic ports, then to the Baltic Sea, and then anywhere in the world.”

But Putin said any export via Belarus would be conditional on the “lifting of sanctions” by the west against Minsk.

Last week, the EU imposed its sixth round of sanctions on Moscow targeting Russian oil.

The European Commissioner for Economy Paolo Gentiloni has acknowledged any further sanctions on Russia will not include a ban on Moscow's gas exports.

Elsewhere, the Nato Secretary-General, Jens Stoltenberg, said he had spoken to Turkey's president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, and Finland's prime minister, Sanna Marin, in his efforts to deal with Ankara's objection to Finland and Sweden joining the military alliance.

Turkey accuses the two Nordic countries of supporting groups Ankara views as terrorists.

Erdogan's office said the president had emphasized that Sweden and Finland should “make it clear that they have stopped supporting terrorism”, lift defense export restrictions placed on Turkey, and be “ready to show alliance solidarity.”

All NATO members must vote unanimously for a new member to join the U.S.-led military alliance and so far Turkey has refused to do so much to the frustration of Helsinki and Stockholm.

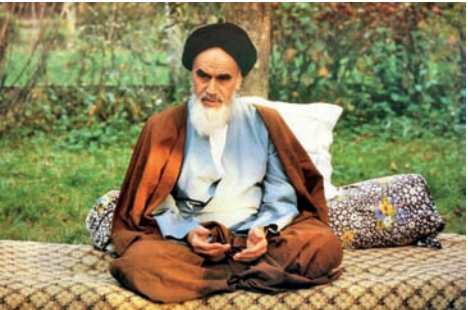
## The balanced foreign policy of Imam Khomeini

From page 1 ▶ This statement is based on Islamic values ??, which strongly condemns arrogance and opposes arrogant leaders. This view is also stated in Chapter 10 of the Islamic Republic of Iran Constitution, which displays the principles of Iranian foreign policy and emphasizes the rejection of all forms of hegemonic relations.

According to Imam Khomeini (RA), the tangible manifestation of the global arrogance of the contemporary era is the American government, which is why he referred to the United States of America as the “Great Satan.” In Imam Khomeini's view, the policy of anti-arrogance is a strategy to break and prevent the domination of the arrogant over the oppressed people.

The fight against global arrogance is a fight that saves humanity in general, not just Iran's national interest. As written by Naderi & Piraniye (2021), Imam Khomeini saw that the rule and domination of the arrogant get three horrible consequences for humankind. The first consequence is the oppression of the economic system. Global arrogance's dominance of the economy leaves hundreds of millions of people starving while a few live with almost unlimited wealth. People in the West have realized that they are shackled by economic domination by a handful of elites. They carry out protests and call themselves the 99% against the 1% that controls the world economy.

The second consequence, according to Imam Khomeini, is cultural oppression. Economic control by global arrogance is carried out in line with changing mindsets and lifestyles—the lifestyle of liberalism, promiscuity, and consumerism. Many nations have left their original culture and given rise to moral decadence. Society becomes



intellectually, culturally, and politically weak, so the global domination of arrogance is even more gripping.

The third consequence is the disunity between the Muslim nations. According to the Imam, the global arrogance seeks to “separate and divide nations and nations in all places where they are oppressed, both Muslim and non-Islamic with their various activities.” The global arrogance knows that division and separation among the oppressed nations are necessary for its domination.

Resistance towards global arrogance seems to be extreme and not neutral. But in fact, this kind of attitude can be called a “balanced foreign policy.” This balance needs to be seen from the perspective of international relations (IR). In the study of IR, we recognize that there are two main perspectives in viewing the behavior of a country. The first perspective, namely realism, is based on state security, and a realist foreign policy will place the state's interests above all else.

The problem is, what values ??and norms are the parameters of national interest? Is it justified if the national interest is achieved at the expense of another country or nation?

The second perspective is idealism, where the state is considered to make its decisions based on noble ideological values. The question is, can a country entirely rely on other countries' “goodwill”? Facts show the existence of global arrogance, so a government must strengthen its power to protect its security.

Imam Khomeini took a middle ground from these two perspectives. Marzband (2017) wrote, “...the strategy of Imam Khomeini in the international arena is realistic-idealism. While emphasizing peacemaking, this model stresses the use of power in the interests of humanity.”

In other words, Imam Khomeini has given a third way or a middle way. Imam Khomeini introduced a new model of Islamic-based political system to change the basis of the international structure that exists today, which revolves around manipulative modernity and modern liberal democracy as the highest form of life. Imam Khomeini stressed that countries should live side by side in peace. However, when necessary, when dealing with colonialism and oppression, the use of power is indispensable. This path provides opportunities for the oppressed nations to reach their freedom.

I think a balanced foreign policy like this needs to be taken into consideration by all peace-loving countries considering that the world is very tired of wars and oppressions. There needs to be a concrete joint effort to create world peace, and Imam Khomeini has offered a solution for us to think about together.

*Dr. Dina Yulianti is assistant professor of International Relations Dept at Universitas Padjadjaran, Indonesia*



## Minister cuts ribbon on new miniature museum



From page 1► The early works of the Tabriz school were characterized by light, feathery brushstrokes, gentle rather than bright Persian coloring, and an attempt to create the illusion of spatiality.

The Tabriz school reached its apogee just as the Ilkhans were being vanquished by the Timurids (1370–1506), the dynasty of the Turkic conqueror Timur. The school continued to be active in this period, though it was overshadowed by the workshops in Shiraz and Heart. When the Safavids came to power at the beginning of the 16th century, however, the ruler Shah Esmail brought the master of the Heart school, Behzad, to Tabriz, and the school was revived with a

radical change in style.

The figures were individuals rather than types, and the colors were graded in marvelously subtle shades. Following the removal of the Safavid court from Tabriz, the school began to decline, and the Qazvin and Isfahan schools then became the centers of painting in Iran.

Soaked in history and culture for millennia, Tabriz embraces several historical and religious sites, including the Jameh Mosque of Tabriz and Arg of Tabriz, and UNESCO-registered Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex to name a few. The city became the capital of the Mongol Il-Khan Mahmud Gazan (1295–1304) and his successor. Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, took it in 1392. Some decades later the Kara Koyunlu Turkmen made it their capital, it was when the famous Blue Mosque was built in Tabriz.

The city retained its administrative status under the Safavid dynasty until 1548 when Shah Tahmasp I relocated his capital westward to Qazvin. During the next two centuries, Tabriz changed hands several times between Persia and Ottoman Empire. During World War I, the city was temporarily occupied by Turkish and then Soviet troops.

## Gilan to host lilium festival

TEHRAN – A flower festival dedicated to the lilium ledebourii is scheduled to be held in Damash village, Gilan province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The festival, which takes place on Thursday, aims to familiarize tourists with different subcultures of ethnic groups in the northern province, Vali Jahani explained on Sunday.

Such cultural festivals will also help attract and

distribute tourists in the various areas of the province, the official added.

Natural heritage of Gilan province, the lilium ledebourii is one of the rarest plant species in the world because it can grow in very limited regions and is of high significance to the locals, he mentioned.

Lilium ledebourii (known as Sousan-e Chehel Cheragh in Iran) is one of the rarest species of the lilium genus worldwide, which grows in Damash and some villages of Ardabil province.

Lilium ledebourii is a rare Asian species of plant in the Lily family. It was named for German-Estonian botanist Carl Friedrich von Ledebour (1786–1851).

TEHRAN – Visits to Ali Sadr reached a record high on June 3 when 9,000 sightseers toured the gigantic water-filled cavern widely believed to date from the Jurassic era.

“Some 9,000 tourists visited Ali Sadr Cave yesterday, which is an unprecedented number of the daily visits since the beginning of this [Iranian calendar] year (started on March 21),” the director of the cave site said on Saturday.

The entrance to the lengthy cave is situated some 70km north of Hamadan in west-central Iran, itself a hotspot for avid history buffs, day-trippers, and holidaymakers.

The gigantic cave embraces a huge matrix of sunless channels, ponds, grottoes, and water passages which are stretched along with imposing rock formations and stalactite-covered tops in a span of several

## Visits to Ali Sadr cave reach record high



kilometers.

Sightseeing there is connected with traversing well-lit labyrinths of waterways via paddle boats,

walking on subterranean islets, as well as observing rock carvings of hunting scenes, artifacts, paintings, and vessels that are associated with

prehistorical troglodytes.

Some tour operators and tourism marketers say that a standard tour proceeds visitors some 2,000 meters inside the cave, over 1,400 of which are covered by boats that making it one of the longest underground boat trips in the world.

Ali Sadr can be reached after some one hour of riding from Hamadan through the countryside. There are usually shuttles and taxis as well. The most recommended time to pay a visit is early in the morning, particularly on Fridays or holidays when it's likely to be more crowded.

Iran is geologically a part of the Alpine-Himalayan organic belt. The country features a variety of mountain ranges and hundreds of caves with Ali Sadr, Karaftu, Katalah Khor, and Quri Qaleh amongst the most notables.

## Photo exhibit to take a fresh look at Turkish tourism

TEHRAN – A collection of photographs featuring cultural and natural attractions in Turkey will go on show at a major museum in Mashhad, northeast Iran.

A photo exhibition on Turkish tourism is scheduled to open at Khorasan Great Museum on June 11, the director of the museum Ali Safamejad said on Thursday.

“Iran and Turkey have a lot in common culturally that can be introduced to the world through such events,” Safamejad said.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Fatih Topcu, the Turkish Consulate General in Mashhad, CHTN reported.

Moreover, Khorasan Great Museum is set to ink

agreements with a number of major Turkish museums such as Topkapi Palace Museum, and Istanbul Archaeological Museum to extend cooperation, the official added.

Earlier in May, the Iranian tourism minister Ezzatollah Zarghami called for further efforts to deepen cooperation with Turkey.

Identifying common grounds and investing in tourism facilities to expand relations are on the agenda, Zarghami in a meeting with Ali Yildirim, the president of Turkey's Alevi community.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas,



mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.



Lilium ledebourii mostly flowers from early May until the middle of May. The flower is a persistent herbaceous plant that grows 50–150 centimeters tall. The yellow bulbs are oval and reach a diameter of 5–7 centimeters. They are highly segmented, and the

scales are lance-shaped.

The stem is strong and straight. The leaves stand upright and have fine hairs on the edge. Their shape is linear to lance-shaped. They are 10–14 centimeters long, and 1–2 centimeters wide.

The basic color of the flower is white, turning green towards the base and purple towards the tepal tips. The filaments are green, and the pollen bright red.

Lilium ledebourii occurs at altitudes around 2,100 meters. It needs a dry, sunny position in well-drained soil, it is very susceptible to moisture.

Gilan is well-known for its rich Iron Age cemeteries such as Marlik that have been excavated over the past

century. It was once within the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenian, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE. The subsequent Arab conquest of Iran led to the rise of many local dynasties, and Gilan acquired an independent status that continued until 1567.

Sophisticated Rasht, the capital of Gilan province, has long been a weekend escape for residents of Tehran who are looking to sample the famous local cuisine and hoping for some pluvial action – it's the largest, and wettest town in the northern region. Gilan is divided into a coastal plain including the large delta of Sefid Rud and adjacent parts of the Alborz mountain range.

## Tourism minister appoints new deputy for handicrafts

TEHRAN – Iranian Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Ezzatollah Zarghami appointed a new deputy for handicrafts on June 1.

Maryam Jalali Dehkordi, who is expected to oversee the handicraft sector of the ancient country, previously served as the director of Tehran's Niavaran Cultural-Historical Complex, which comprises several landmark buildings, museums, and monuments constructed in the 19th and 20th centuries during the Pahlavi and late Qajar eras.

Jalali Dehkordi replaced Pouya Mahmoudian who took the helm in April 2018. In addition, Zarghami selected Mahmoudian as his senior advisor on crafts-related issues.

With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next. For instance, Shiraz is named a “world city of [diverse] handicrafts”, Malayer is a global hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture, while Zanjan has gained the title of a “world city of filigree”.

Available data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts suggests the value of Iran's handicrafts exports stood at \$120 million during the first eleven months of the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (March 20, 2020 – February 18, 2021), Mehr reported. The country's handicrafts exports slumped during the

mentioned months in comparison to the same period last a year earlier due to the damage the coronavirus pandemic has inflicted on global trade.

The Islamic Republic exported \$427 million worth of handicrafts during the first eleven months of the calendar year 1398. Of the figure, some \$190 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer) through 20 provinces, according to data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts. Ceramics, pottery vessels, handwoven cloths as well as personal ornamentations with precious and semi-precious gemstones are traditionally exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, and other countries.

## Little-known province to come under spotlight at Iranology event

TEHRAN – A national conference on Iranian studies and Iranology is scheduled to be held in the southwestern Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province on August 28, the province's deputy governor has said.

The conference will focus on introducing the historical, cultural, and artistic capacities of the host province, Seyyed Javad Hashemi said, CHTN reported on Sunday.

Researchers, academics, and interested people may present their papers and research on the historical province, the official explained.

Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad has a lot to offer in the field of history, archeology, geography, literature, and tourism, all of which deserve attention, he added.

The lesser-known province is home to

various nomads and is a top destination for those interested in visiting in person the nomadic life. Sightseers may live with a nomadic or rural family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, their agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.

Ancient Iran, also known as Persia, historic region of southwestern Asia that is only roughly coterminous with modern Iran. The term Persia was used for centuries, chiefly in the West, to designate those regions where the Persian language and culture predominated, but it more correctly refers to a region of southern Iran formerly known as Persis, alternatively as Pars or Parsa, modern Fars.

Parsa was the name of an Indo-European nomadic people who migrated into the region about 1000 BC. The first mention of Parsa occurs in the annals of Shalmanesar II, an Assyrian king, in 844 BC.

During the rule of the Persian Achaemenian dynasty (559–330 BC), the ancient Greeks first encountered the inhabitants of Persis on the Iranian plateau, when the Achaemenids—natives of Persis—were expanding their political sphere. The Achaemenids were the dominant dynasty during Greek history until the time of Alexander the Great, and the use of the name Persia was gradually extended by the Greeks and other peoples to apply to the whole Iranian plateau.

## Bushehr tourism department gets set to restore mansion

TEHRAN – Golshan mansion in the historical texture of southwestern Bushehr province is scheduled to undergo some rehabilitation work in the near future, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

A budget of 20 billion rials (\$67,000) has been allocated to the project, Nasrollah Ebrahimi explained on Wednesday.

The project involves strengthening the structure as well as repairing the damaged parts, he noted.

The historical structure, which is ceded to the private sector, is planned to turn into an accommodation center after being fully restored, the official added.

Back in January, a province's

tourism official said that the historical texture of Bushehr holds the potential to be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

However, before developing a dossier, the historical texture needs to be revived and restored properly, the official added.

Such places, which are usually significant tourist attractions as well, are meant to keep culture

and customs alive around the world, he noted.

The historical texture of Bushehr is one of these unique areas and with the full cooperation of its residents and related organizations and departments, it would be qualified to be registered on the UNESCO World Heritage list in the future, he explained.



# Iran ranks 133 among 180 countries in EPI

TEHRAN – The 2022 Environmental Performance Index (EPI) ranked Iran 133 among 180 countries on climate change performance, environmental health, and ecosystem vitality.

The EPI provides a data-driven summary of the state of sustainability around the world. Using 40 performance indicators across 11 issue categories, the EPI ranks 180 countries on a national scale of how close countries are to established environmental policy targets.

The EPI offers a scorecard that highlights leaders and laggards in environmental performance and provides practical guidance for countries that aspire to move toward a sustainable future. Overall EPI rankings indicate which countries are best addressing the environmental challenges that every nation faces.

In the 2020 EPI, Iran's rank was in a better position, but due to changes in indicators and calculation methods, these two versions are not comparable.

Indicators that have had a significant negative trend over 10 years include rangeland loss index (-39.60), CO<sub>2</sub> emission index (-20.80) and



greenhouse gas intensity (-24.40), and indicators with the best performance trend related to black carbon growth rate (63), nitrogen dioxide growth rate (87.30) in climate policy category, NO<sub>x</sub> growth rate (55), sulfur dioxide growth rate (40.70), sea acidification (47.90) and fish stock status (20.60) in the ecosystem vitality class.

## Iran's environmental approach

Iran has a high diversity of species due to geographical conditions, climatic diversity, huge water resources of the Caspian Sea in the north and the Persian Gulf, and the

Sea of Oman in the south.

Inger Andersen, Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP), has praised Iran's approach toward environmental protection.

Environmental measures and protection of natural resources, waste management, and other measures show Iran's environmental approach, she further noted.

According to the latest studies, about 1,300 species of vertebrates, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic fish, about

30,000 species of invertebrates, and 8,000 species of plants have been identified in the country.

Unfortunately, over the past two decades, human activities have led to alarming degradation of ecosystems, deletion of genes, species, and biological capabilities; Human threats to biodiversity have accelerated the most over the past 50 years over the entire history of human life.

Out of 1,300 species of animals in the country, 130 of which are endangered and threatened, Hassan Akbari, deputy head of natural environment and biodiversity of the Department of Environment, said in December 2021.

Overall EPI rankings indicate which countries are best addressing the environmental challenges that every nation faces.

## UN ambassador calls for lifting sanctions to protect Persian leopards



TEHRAN – Jane Goodall, the United Nations Messenger of Peace has urged lifting sanctions on protection for the big cats, including the Persian leopard.

In an open letter on the occasion of World Environment Day 2022, he highlighted the impact of current conflicts, sanctions, and political tensions on the conservation of the Persian leopards, and on the very people dedicated to protecting them.

Goodall has called for actions to facilitate international cooperation beyond recent political circumstances, like the lifting of economic sanctions, plus the development of clear criteria regarding funding and technical cooperation.

The letter reads as follows:

At times of anguish and confusion, we turn to nature to quiet the mind and find healing. We hold on to the miraculous survival of wildlife and ecosystems, to persist in the face of struggles we have no control over, leaving us often drained and hopeless.

For us, one of those miracles is a beautiful feline, the Persian leopard (*Panthera pardus tulliana*), roaming the mountains, and cold winter deserts of Central Asia and the Middle East.

Persian leopard range spans 11 countries of Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Georgia, Russia, Turkmenistan, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan. Tajikistan and Uzbekistan were

part of the range but they are now considered extinct there.

Almost 80 percent of these leopards are found in Iran, followed by Turkmenistan. In the Caucasus, long-term conservation efforts have led to the unique recovery of a small population in the Zangezur region, including the south of Armenia and southeast of Azerbaijan's Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic (Persian Leopard Working Group (2022) Range-Wide Strategy for the Conservation of the Persian Leopard *Panthera pardus tulliana*, draft).

During the summer of 2021, a Persian leopard was camera trapped in Tusheti Protected Areas in Georgia after a 12-year-long absence. Shortly after, Persian leopards (not related to the reintroduction program in the Russian Caucasus) were spotted in Russian Kabardino-Balkaria, Chechnya, and Dagestan.

In Kazakhstan, Persian leopards were re-discovered in 2018, though unfortunately, the only animal known there died in 2021.

Recently in Turkey, leopards were recorded at four different locations, some of which are dispersing male individuals from the source populations in the Lesser Caucasus. In Iraq, since its recovery in 2011, around nine dispersing males and a female have been identified in the Kurdistan region, at eight different locations. At least three leopards have been killed in the region in the last five years.

Persian leopard research and activities have ignited awareness and advocacy for these cats and the classic threats they face (poaching, loss of habitat and prey, human-wildlife conflict) but also raised awareness in the countries they inhabit and the importance of maintaining connectivity among them, and not just in the ecological sense. Some of the Persian leopard range countries face different political challenges.

In the Caucasus, between Azerbaijan and Armenia, leopards navigate a landscape of mines and tensions brought by the still ongoing Na-

gorno-Karabakh conflict. Military operations along the Iraq-Iran and Iraq-Turkey borders continue to displace people and burn Iraq's few surviving natural forests.

Since the advent of ISIS in 2014, political tensions and economic recession have pushed biodiversity and species conservation to the bottom of the priority list in the country, with no local funding available to support local conservation projects.

Changes in U.S. leadership in 2016 resulted in the U.S. exit from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action ("the Iran nuclear deal") and "maximum" pressure sanctions, not only hurting the people of Iran, but also indirectly hurting conservation initiatives, and some of the very people leading them.

The Convention on Migratory Species (CMS) and the German Federal Agency for Nature Conservation (BfN) plan to organize a Range States Meeting to adopt a Regional Strategy for the Conservation of the Persian Leopard, in the framework of the Central Asian Mammals Initiative Program of Work.

Over the past year, a group of experts from across the leopard's range led by the IUCN Special Survival Commission Cat Specialist Group co-chairs worked to develop the foundations for it. The meeting is scheduled to take place in September 2022 in Tbilisi, Georgia.

The draft strategy is very ambitious, and the success of its implementation rests very much on the recognition that nature and conservation require international cooperation and funding, as well as keeping our community of conservationists safe to do the work it takes to protect the Persian leopard.

Camera traps are also essential for monitoring wildlife: they may not have been well understood five years ago, but they have since been demonstrated to be a fantastic way of learning about elusive animals, and much research could not be possible without them.

## SOCIETY

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Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

7

## Iran, Iraq to develop market for health products

From page 1 ► and the pressure increased during the coronavirus pandemic, he added.

The purchase of each other's products creates employment as well as production and business prosperity and activates the common market between the two countries, he said.

Iraq is a priority for economic cooperation, he further stated.

Aziz also expressed willingness to enhance cooperation in this field, noting that his country welcomes industrial cooperation with Iran.

Iraqi companies produce 10 percent of the country's medicine and the rest of the medicine is imported, but the quality and price of the medicine are important factors, he said.

Joint cooperation between the two countries in the production of medicine and medical equipment can meet the needs of the region, he further added.

### Rise in pharmaceuticals, medical production

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

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



industry's capability.

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

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

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

In January 2021, the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam unveiled three raw pharmaceuticals and a new anti-coronavirus drug called Ivermectin, which had been previously imported.

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

Cooperation between the two countries in the production of medicine and medical equipment can meet the needs of regional markets.

## Tribes in Iran

Part 19

Despite the frequency of kinship between families within a tireh (due mainly to preference for endogamy), a tireh is not necessarily a kin-based unit.

Together with ethnic and genealogical considerations, historical and political reasons for cohesion have been essential factors in the genesis of tirehs.

That is why many tirehs took the name of the founder, e.g., the Hasan Aqa'i tireh of the Kashkuli-e Bozorg. This practice is by no means general, however, because in addition to ancestry, names of tirehs refer to geographical provenance (e.g., the Musulu or Mawsel-lu of the Amala and Farsimadan), to land owned by the tireh (e.g., the Kezenlu of the Darra-Shuri tayefeh from their property at Kezen), to ethnic origin (e.g., the Lak and Qara Qovanlu or Qara Qoyunlu of the Darra-Shuri), to occupation (e.g., the Ahangar, i.e., smith, tireh of the Shesh-Boluki, and the Salmani, i.e., barber, Darzi, i.e., tailor, and Asheq, i.e., minstrel, tirehs of the Darra-Shuri), and the like (Peyman, 1342/1963, p. 203).

In the Qashqa'i confederacy, the tirehs are divided into smaller units called bonku. A bonku is a

group of families who make the seasonal migrations together and jointly use particular grazing grounds; in fact, it is a sort of cooperative society analogous to the bona in a village community.

Other names for this type of group are uba, buluk, and ehsham (Peyman, 1342/1963, p. 151). The families within the bonku are usually related, but non-kinsmen may also join.

One example of this is the admission of chupankaras (guards for sheep and goats) and darugas (guards for camels), who either alone or accompanied by their families camp together with the members of the bonku.

Sometimes, but not always, the bonku is divided into pastoral and agricultural cooperative units named bila or bilak. The number and size of the bilas undergo constant change depending on the number of animals to be tended and the amount of agricultural and manual work to be done.

The daily routines of the Qashqa'i confederacy's people are actually arranged in bilas and bonkus. Consequently, the tirehs and tayefehs are somewhat abstract entities.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON JUNE 5

New cases	53
New deaths	3
Total cases	7,232,731
Total deaths	141,331
New hospitalized patients	20
Patients in critical condition	458
Total recovered patients	7,055,493
Diagnostic tests conducted	52,350,938
Doses of vaccine injected	149,990,311

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### 20% of areas in Iran at high risk of flood

Twenty percent of areas across Iran are highly prone to flooding, Khosro Shahbazi, head of the Forests, Range, and Watershed Management Organization (FRWMO), has said.

"Precipitation in Iran is one-third of the world's average, as the country is located in a dry and fragile region where we experience 11 millimeters decrease in precipitation each 10 years and an increase in evaporation of more than 50 millimeters every year," he explained, ISNA reported.

Rainfall fluctuations usually lead to flood and devastation, so a comprehensive planning for watershed management and flood control is required, he noted.

Since most of the water supply is extracted from groundwater resources, the country is in a critical condition in terms of groundwater resources, he stated, highlighting, because perception is less than water withdrawal from the aquifers, so the best way to store rainwater is watershed and aquifer projects.

### بیست درصد ایران جزو مناطق با خطر سیل خیزی بالا است

سرپرست سازمان جنگلها، مراتع و آبخیزداری می گوید ۲۰ درصد ایران جزو مناطق با خطر سیل خیزی بالا است.

به گزارش روز جمعه ایسنا، خسرو شهبازی افزود: میزان بارش در کشور ما یک سوم متوسط آن در دنیا است و از نظر جغرافیایی در منطقه ای خشک و شکننده واقع شده‌ایم که هر ۱۰ سال با ۱۱ میلیمتر کاهش بارش و بیش از ۵۰ میلیمتر افزایش تبخیر و تعرق مواجه هستیم که همه منجر به این شده که بارش‌ها در منطقه ما سیلابی و ویرانگر باشد، به همین خاطر نیازمند برنامه ریزی جامع برای مدیریت حوضه‌های آبخیز و کنترل سیلاب‌ها هستیم.

به گفته شهبازی از آنجایی که بیشتر آب مورد استفاده در کشور از آبهای زیرزمینی تامین می‌شود جزو کشورهای بحرانی و فوق بحرانی از نظر منابع آب زیرزمینی بوده و چون برداشت ما از سفره‌ها بیش از ورودی آب به آنهاست و بهترین راهکار برای ذخیره این آب‌ها انجام پروژه‌های آبخیزداری و آبخوانداری است.



