

# Iran Holds Firm as Pressures Expected to Rise

► Page 3

Report

## Biden didn't ban "offensive operations" in war on Yemen

U.S. President Joe Biden's announcement at the State Department two weeks after winning the Presidency that he would end all U.S. support for "offensive operations" in the war on Yemen, "including relevant arms sales" to the Saudi-led coalition was ambiguous.

The Biden administration has failed to explain in public what that entails.

All that was revealed by the White House was new sales of air-to-ground missiles have been suspended.

When asked about the scale of the policy that will be changed from the previous administration, the White House in most cases refused to give an answer.

What we have learnt from Biden's announcement was that the end of "offensive operations" included the "suspension of two previously notified air-to-ground munitions sales and an ongoing review of other systems."

A recent investigation by the Washington Post reveals how a vast number of air raids were consequently conducted in Yemen by warplanes developed, maintained, and sold by U.S. companies and by pilots trained by the U.S. military. ► Page 5

## Raisi: Iran's ability to build vessel for Venezuela proves efficiency of resistance economy

TEHRAN — The fact that Iran has succeeded to build oil tankers for Venezuela shows that the resistance economy adopted by Iran has proven effective, President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi says.

Raisi made the remarks as Iran delivered Aframax II tanker to Venezuela in a ceremony on Saturday as the country's president Nicolas Maduro was visiting Iran.

The tanker, the second of its kind, is being built by Iran's Marine Industrial Company (Sadra).

Speaking at the delivery ceremony, Raisi said, "We sincerely thank the Sadra Company and all those involved in the making of the oil tanker."

The delivery of the 113,000-ton tanker built by Iranian engineers and shipbuilding industry to Venezuela is an example of Iran's high capacity and ability to export as the enemies of Iran and Venezuela try to hamper the progress of the two free nations by imposing harsh restrictions and severe sanctions, Raisi stated.

He then reiterated that the delivery of the tanker to Venezuela portrays the capability of Iran's technical and engineering services to the world, as well as proving the efficiency of the model of resistance economy.

"The construction and delivery of this tanker, which has also been approved by the Venezuelan technical and engineering group, will not only help the Venezuelan government achieve its goal of independence in maritime transport, but also it will prove that the will and unity of the combatant and revolutionary nations and governments is far stronger and more effective than American sanctions," Raisi noted. ► Page 2



TEHRAN- More than two hundreds Iranian lawmakers issued a joint statement on Sunday in reaction to the censure resolution on Iran adopted by the UN nuclear watchdog's Board of Governors and denounced it.

"Unfortunately, the IAEA director-general person-

ally and the secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency have openly lost their credibility," the statement, signed by 260 lawmakers, said.

The statement added, "Mr. Grossi's visit to the Occupied Palestinian Territories and his meeting with the leaders of a regime that refuses to accept the

Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and does not deny various reports on the illegal acquisition of nuclear weapons are the most obvious signs of Grossi's biased behavior and call into question his commitment to fulfilling his organization's missions on the path to nuclear disarmament." ► Page 3

## Iran's cereal production to rise 34% in 2022: FAO

TEHRAN – Cereal production in Iran is expected to grow 34.2 percent in 2022, while the imports of such products are seen to drop 25 percent, according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)'s latest Food Outlook report released last week.

Based on the said report, the Islamic Re-

public is expected to produce 19.2 million tons of cereals in 2022, 4.9 million tons more than the figure for the previous year in which the total production stood at 14.3 million tons.

With the increase in Iran's cereal production, the import of such products will decrease by 25 percent, the report said noting

that the country's cereal imports will drop to 16.2 million tons from the previous year's 21.6 million tons.

Iran's cereal exports are projected at 100,000 tons this year, which is not significant and will not change compared to 2021. ► Page 4

## Bandar Khamir, Varzaneh awarded Wetland City Accreditation

TEHRAN – The cities of "Bandar Khamir" near the Khorkhoran International Wetland in Hormozgan province and the city of "Varzaneh" near the Gavkhuni International Wetland in Isfahan province were awarded Wetland City Accreditation.

During the 59th meeting of the Convention's Standing Committee on 26 May 2022, the Co-Chairs of the Independent Advisory Committee on Wetland City Accreditation announced that 25 applicant cities had been accepted in recognition of their exceptional efforts to safeguard urban wetlands for people and nature.

The Wetland City Accreditation scheme is an important opportunity for cities and local governments to integrate wetland conservation and sustainable management with sustainable development and ► Page 7



**First group of Hajj pilgrims leave for Saudi Arabia**  
The first batch of Hajj pilgrims from Iran left the country on Sunday through Tehran's Imam Khomeini International Airport.  
This year's Hajj comes after a two-year interruption brought on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some 40,000 Iranians will attend the Hajj pilgrimage.

## Archaeologists in eastern Iran excavate relics from 4th millennium BC

TEHRAN – Archaeologists have recently a wide range of relics and ruined structures that date from the 4th millennium BC onwards.

"We have discovered evidence of early urbanization which coincides with the Uruk period (ca. 4000 to 3100 BC)," ILNA quoted archaeologist Mohammad-Hossein Azizi Kharanaghi as saying on Sunday.

The findings were made during the third archaeological excavation season which, has just come to an

end in the Kale-Kub archaeological site, situated in Sarayan county of South Khorasan province.

"Kale-Kub is one of the few pre-historical sites in eastern Iran that contains archaeological evidence and sequences of different cultures from the fifth to the second millennium BC," Azizi Kharanaghi said.

The development of urbanism in the Near East during the 4th millennium BC has been an important debate for decades and with recent scientific

findings, a revival of this intellectual discussion has come about. Many archaeologists suggest that urban societies first emerged in southern Mesopotamia, and then expanded to the north and northwest.

Furthermore, evidence of early [cuneiform] script came to light during the survey, which also yielded pottery pieces such as the beveled rim bowls, Banesh tray, nose handle, and spouted wares that were common at the time. ► Page 6

From Inside

- Experts urge Biden to intensify diplomacy to revive Iran nuclear deal **P2**
- Amir Abdollahian says groundwork is set for close co-op with Venezuela **P2**
- IAEA resolution won't benefit Vienna talks: speaker **P3**
- Exports to Oman up 126% in 2 months yr/yr **P4**
- Nominal electricity generation capacity up 162MW **P4**
- Commodities worth \$589m traded at IME in a week **P4**
- Iraqi minister visits National Museum of Iran **P6**
- Italian motorcyclists share Iran experience **P6**
- Iranian knowledge-based products target Pakistan, Afghanistan **P7**
- Human factors hold 69% share in drying of Lake Urmia **P7**
- Georgian Iranologist Lili Zorzoliani wins Shahriar Medal **P8**
- "Tesla: Man Out of Time" appears in Persian bookstores **P8**

## Iran FM talks to UN chief, calls IAEA resolution hasty, politically-motivated

TEHRAN- Iran's Foreign Minister has chastised the United States and its three European allies, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, for filing an anti-Iranian resolution to the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors, calling the move "hasty and politically motivated".

Hossein Amir Abdollahian made the remarks during a Saturday night phone conversation with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres.

The IAEA resolution was passed with 30 votes in favor, two against, and three abstentions on Wednesday. China and Russia voted against the resolution and India, Libya and Pakistan abstained.

During the phone call, the two sides also discussed efforts to resurrect the 2015 Iran nuclear agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Guterres said resolution by the IAEA board was only a "proposal" and emphasized the significance of continuing dialogue to revive the JCPOA.

The UN secretary general said dialogue is the best way to settle the problems between Iran and other JCPOA parties.

In response to the resolution the Atomic Energy organization of Iran (AEOI) has started injecting uranium gas into advanced centrifuges and deactivated certain UN nuclear agency cameras outside the Safeguards Agreement.

"We have terminated the operations of a number of the Agency's cameras" ► Page 2

## Actress Merila Zarei finds film "Henas" on assassinated nuclear scientist unbiased

TEHRAN – Actress Merila Zarei, who portrays the wife of the assassinated Iranian nuclear scientist Dariush Rezaeinejad in "Henas", finds the movie unbiased.

35-year-old Rezaeinejad was shot dead by Mossad gunmen before the eyes of his wife and little girl in front of his house in Tehran in July 2011.

Directed by Hossein Darabi, "Henas" opened in select movie theaters on Friday.

Zarei, Darabi, producer Mohammadreza Shafah, Rezaeinejad's widow Shohreh Pirani and their daughter Armita attended a special screening of the movie at Tehran's Azadi Cineplex.

The drama shows how the small heaven, in which Pirani was living with her spouse and their little daughter, collapsed due to the assassination. ► Page 8



## Iran FM talks to UN chief, calls IAEA resolution hasty, politically-motivated

From page 1 ► functioning outside the Safeguards Agreement, and tomorrow we will terminate the operations of the rest, which are 17 to 18 in total," Mohammad Eslami, Iran's nuclear chief, told a special TV program on Thursday night.

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi also reacted to the resolution, stressing that his country will not budge from its stance.

"How many times do you want to test the Iranian nation and not listen to the words of the country's officials? Do you think that we will retreat as a result of issuing of resolutions?" Raisi remarked.

"Iran will not take a step back from its positions," Raisi noted, adding, "We will not stop and we will not tie the development of the country's industry, agriculture and tourism to the frown and smile of the enemy."

260 Iranian lawmakers also issued a statement on Sunday in reaction to the IAEA board resolution, saying

the move has undermined the IAEA "credibility".

"Unfortunately, the IAEA director-general personally and the secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency have openly lost their credibility," the statement, signed by 260 lawmakers, said.

### Iran expresses support for the Yemen truce

In the phone conversation with Guterres, the Iranian foreign minister also expressed Tehran's support for the Yemen truce, emphasizing the need for a complete lifting of the blockade and considering it a viable venue for future negotiations between Yemeni parties.

The world's top diplomat also complimented the Islamic Republic of Iran's efforts and positive views in supporting the continuance of the truce in Yemen.

The Astana meeting on Syria, according to Guterres, is an appropriate venue for addressing the situation and resolving any problems between Syria and Turkey.

## Amir Abdollahian says groundwork is set for close co-op with Venezuela

TEHRAN- With the signing of a comprehensive plan for cooperation the path to strengthening cooperation between Iran and Venezuela will be widened even more than ever before, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said in a meeting on Saturday with his Venezuelan counterpart Carlos Faria, who had visited Tehran along with his country's president.

Amir Abdollahian and Faria also discussed a variety of bilateral and international issues.

The Iranian top diplomat congratulated Faria on his appointment as Venezuelan foreign minister, noting that the ties between Iran and Venezuela are now in the best possible shape.

Iran and Venezuela signed a 20-year strategic partnership at the Saadabad Palace in Tehran on Saturday morning. It includes cooperation in the fields of politics, culture, economy, oil and petrochemicals,

and tourism. The document was signed at the presence of President Ebrahim Raisi of Iran and his Venezuelan counterpart Nicolas Maduro.

Amir Abdollahian expressed optimism that, in the future, the groundwork for executing the 20-year document will be laid with an increase in contacts and exchanges of visits.

Faria, for his part, underlined that, despite the U.S. unilateral sanctions, Venezuela admires Iran's success in the domains of knowledge-based economy, industry, and other disciplines.

Faria also pointed to his prior close cooperation with Iranian parties in previous posts, emphasizing that the fresh wave of cooperation is a good opportunity.

He emphasized that Venezuela completely supports the Iranian government's stance that the sanctions might be a positive chance.

# Raisi: Iran's ability to build vessel for Venezuela proves efficiency of resistance economy

From page 1 ► The president continued by saying that on the other hand, Tehran and Caracas, as two complementary and supporting economies, will be able to move towards the welfare and development of their nations by completing and linking supply chains in both countries.

"This kind of joint cooperation is a good model for all developing and independent countries to see that great things can be done through cooperation and interaction," he noted.

Raisi then stressed that two more oil tankers are under construction, expressing hope that they will be

ready for delivery to Venezuela soon.

### Maduro: Iran is one of the emerging powers of the 21st century

For his part, the Venezuelan president praised the construction of the tanker and said, "Seeing this ship with a capacity of 800,000 barrels, the first thing that came to my mind was the face of our beloved leader, Commander Chavez, who I am sure his soul is smiling, wherever it is."

He then noted that the construction of the tanker for the Venezuelan state-owned oil company was the late leader of Venezuela, Hugo Chavez's plan to strengthen Caracas' oil industry and to make it self-sufficient



in the face of all foreign aggressions.

Maduro emphasized, "The construction of this modern and strong ship shows the high capability, extraordinary and admirable industry of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iran is one of the emerging powers of the 21st century and the construction of this ship is one of the practical and clear signs of this emerging power."

Addressing his Iranian counterpart, the Venezuelan president said on behalf of the Venezuelan people and all the men, women, employees and workers of the National Oil Company of Venezuela, he would like

to thank the Iranian engineers for delivering this ship, calling it "a great achievement."

Aframax II oil tanker is the second ship ordered by Venezuela to Iran in recent years. According to the contract, two more tankers will be delivered to Iran after construction.

Venezuela had previously secured a \$240 million deal with Iran to buy four vessels each, and now it has been delivered a second vessel.

The Aframax II vessel is 250 meters long, 44 meters wide, 21 meters high, with a speed of 15 knots. It is capable of carrying 800,000 barrels of oil.

## Iran FM denounces Israeli air strike on Damascus airport

TEHRAN- After Friday's attack on the Damascus International Airport, Iran's foreign minister sharply denounced Israel's repeated aggression against Syria, reiterating its unwavering support for the Arab country.

Hossein Amir Abdollahian made the statement during a phone call with his Syrian counterpart Faisal al-Mekdad on Friday, hours after the Israeli airstrike.

The Islamic Republic has always supported the Syrian government and people, and would do so in the future, Iran's top diplomat pointed out.

He said that Israel's constant strikes on Syria's infrastructure were not only a violation of the country's sovereignty and territorial integrity, but also against international law, humanitarian conventions, and

principles.

Amir Abdollahian went on to say that the silence by the international community and regional organizations in the face of Israeli aggressions is "pathetic and reprehensible".

The Syrian official, for his part, conveyed his country's appreciation to the Islamic Republic and stated that the Syrian people will continue to oppose the occupation and aggression of the Tel Aviv regime.

Syria and the Zionist regime are implicitly at war because of Israeli occupation of Syria's Golan Heights, which began in 1967 and continues to this day.

The regime has a large military presence in the occupied region, which it utilizes as a launchpad for strikes on Syrian land.

After 2011, when Syria was

engulfed by foreign-backed terrorism, the regime's strikes on Syria grew considerably in magnitude and regularity.

In response to Friday's airstrike, Mekdad said the Israeli regime officials resort to such desperate measures to disrupt regional peace and security in order to divert attention away from its internal crises.

He went on to say that the strikes were aimed to bolster the remains of Takfiri terrorist groups like Daesh and al-Nusra Front, but the aggression would be in vain.

The Syrian official added that such invasions would only enhance the Syrian government's and people's will to fight occupation and terrorism.

Following the Israeli airstrike, Syria's Al-Watan daily reported that all flights at the airport had been halted.

According to the newspaper, the attack caused some damage to the airport's runway.

The official Syrian Arab News Agency (SANA) also reported the airport's closure, but said it was due to a technical problem.

Also, for the second time this week, Syrian air defenses intercepted Israeli military missiles fired at locations south of the capital Damascus, bringing down the majority of them.

Last month, Syria requested the UN to clearly condemn the Israeli regime's repeated bombardments on the Arab country.

Syria's Foreign Ministry wrote to the UN secretary-general and the president of the UN Security Council expressing hope that they would "adopt a clear position on the Israeli attacks on Syrian sovereignty."

## Experts urge Biden to intensify diplomacy to revive Iran nuclear deal

TEHRAN - Experts from the Arms Control Association have strongly urged President Joe Biden to immediately intensify diplomatic efforts to break the stalemate on talks to restore compliance with the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director-General Rafael Mariano Grossi warned that efforts to restore the JCPOA will face a "fatal blow" within three to four weeks, after Iran announced on June 9 that it was disconnecting certain cameras monitoring key nuclear facilities.

This week, Iran disconnected 27 cameras monitoring key nuclear facilities in retaliation for an IAEA Board of Governors resolution urging Iran to cooperate with the agency on its investigation of alleged undeclared nuclear materials from the pre-2003 nuclear program.

The IAEA risks losing its continuity of knowledge about Iran's nuclear activities—which is necessary for restoring the JCPOA—if the cameras remain disconnected for more than 3-4 weeks, Grossi said on June 9.

The cameras that Iran has turned off were beyond the Safeguards agreement and were just a voluntary decision by Tehran.

"President Biden clearly supports a restoration of mutual compliance with the JCPOA as the best way to roll back Iran's potential to produce bomb-grade nuclear material and maintain more stringent International Atomic Energy Agency oversight of Iran's sensitive nuclear activities," noted Daryl G. Kimball, executive director of the Arms Control Association. "And it is."

"Unfortunately, the Biden



administration has not treated the growing crisis, which was triggered by former President Trump's irresponsible withdrawal from the agreement in 2018, with the necessary degree of urgency it deserves," he charged. "In the wake of new disturbing developments, however, the White House must take immediate action."

Iran has been insisting that its nuclear program is purely peaceful and it has no intention to build nuclear arms with or without the revival of the JCPOA.

It started to remove limits on its nuclear activities in May 2019 in response to the U.S. pullout from the nuclear deal. Even one year after the U.S. exit from the nuclear deal, Iran remained fully loyal to the agreement. The European parties to the nuclear deal also bowed to U.S. pressure and stopped financial and business trade with Iran.

"A deal to achieve a mutual return to compliance with the JCPOA is on the table and could be quickly implemented—if the United States and Iran move away from hardline positions on the non-nuclear issue blocking agreement: whether and under what conditions to lift a U.S. foreign terrorist organization (FTO) designation on the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC)," said Kelsey Davenport, director for nonproliferation policy.

"It is past time for both sides to resolve that impasse and finally deliver on what is in the interest of all sides: an agreement to restore compliance with the 2015 nuclear deal," she said.

"The Biden Administration continues to argue that it is up to Iran to accept the deal or negotiate over the IRGC designation. But it is a failure of leadership on the part of the White House not to announce it will immediately intensify diplomatic efforts to break the impasse on the issue. And blaming Iran, however emotionally or politically satisfying that may seem to be, doesn't avert the imminent nuclear crisis and it doesn't advance U.S. national security interests" Kimball said.

Davenport said "Biden will pay a small political cost for lifting sanctions on the IRGC, but it pales in comparison to the enormous national and international security threat of" what she called "a nuclear-armed Iran".

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei issued a fatwa (religious decree) on April 17, 2010, declaring production, stockpiling and use of weapons of mass destruction, including nuclear weapons, as haram (religiously banned).

"If President Biden fails to promptly conclude negotiations with Iran to restore the JCPOA, it would perpetuate the failed strategy pursued by the Trump administration," Davenport said, adding, "Biden risks going down in history as the president that allowed Iran to reach the brink of a nuclear bomb. It is past time the United States doubled down on creative proposals to break the impasse."





# Iran holds firm as pressures expected to rise

TEHRAN – With the pause in the Vienna talks entering the fourth month, the West seems more defiant in its quest to ramp up diplomatic pressure on Iran, something that is now expected to spur more resistance from Iran.

Ever since last March, tensions between Iran and the West have been on the rise amid a protracted standstill in the talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Last week, the tense relations between Iran and the West took a new turn after the main interlocutors of Iran in the Vienna talks pushed jointly for a censure resolution at the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors, the first move of its kind in two years.

The resolution, though mild in language and unbinding in nature, elicited harsh criticism from Iranian officials at various levels. The government responded by turning off IAEA surveillance cameras and spinning a new set of advanced centrifuges. President Ebrahim Raisi, speaking in the name of God and the people, vowed defiance and resistance. And in Parliament, there was an uproar on Sunday.



A group of 260 lawmakers issued a joint statement denouncing the resolution as a political move influenced by Israeli peddling. They said the IAEA and its director-general personally fell under Israel's sway. They referred to Rafael Grossi's recent visit to Israel as indicative of his slanted reporting.

The Iranian criticism of the West, in general, laid bare Tehran's strategy for coping with the possible rise in tensions in the coming weeks and months. A strategy of resistance and defiance can be extrapolated from Iranian statements.

The strategy in question perfectly fits into the broad contours of what the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, has stressed in his public meetings including the Saturday one with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro.

During the meeting with President Maduro and his entourage, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution referred to the successful experiences of Iran and Venezuela in standing up to U.S.'s intense pressures and hybrid warfare.

“The only way to confront the

U.S. is through resistance and persistence,” he said, according to a readout published by khamenei.ir. “The resistance of the Iranian nation brought about the failure of their maximum pressure policy to such an extent that one of the prominent political officials of the United States recently used the term ‘abject failure’ in referring to this policy.”

Ayatollah Khamenei further said, “The conclusion that can be drawn from the resistance and success of the two nations of Iran and Venezuela is that the only solution when facing [political and economic] pressures is resistance and persistence. At the same time, the cooperation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela should become stronger and relations should become closer than before.”

Meanwhile, many Iranian analysts have pointed out that Iran should resist the new wave of pressure from the West because the main purpose of this pressure is to get more concessions from Iran. Of note, the Vienna talks have come to a standstill since March over U.S. indecision about a number of issues that are crucial to concluding the draft agreement reached over the course of eight rounds of talks.

## IRAN IN FOCUS

JUNE 13, 2022

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

3

## SPORTS

### Iran's women's football team coach Irandoost quits

TEHRAN – Iran's women's football team coach Maryam Irandoost stepped down from her role on Sunday.

She led the Iranian team in the 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup in India in January.

Irandoost wished the Iran's women's team the best and said she will talk about her decision in the future.

“I am so grateful for all those who helped me in the team. I'm forced to bid farewell and remain silent for our girls but I will talk about my decision's reasons in the future,” she posted on her Instagram.

### Persepolis complete signing of Ahmadi

TEHRAN – Persepolis football club completed the signing of Mohammadmehdi Ahmadi on Sunday.

The 21-year-old left winger has joined Persepolis from Naft Masjed Soleyman.

Ahmadi has penned a three-year contract with Persepolis.

Persepolis have previously completed the signing of Alireza Beiranvand (goalkeeper), Morteza Pouraliganji (defender) and Danial Esmailifar (right winger).

### Jose Morais shortlisted to lead Esteghlal: report

TEHRAN – Media reports suggest that Jose Manuel Ferreira de Morais has been shortlisted to lead Iranian football club Esteghlal.

ABola reported that the 57-year-old Portuguese coach is close to take charge of Iran's champion.

Jose Morais has most recently worked as head coach of Saudi Arabian giant Al-Hilal.

Morais has also worked in Inter Milan, Chelsea and Real Madrid as assistant coach.

Esteghlal is without coach since parting company with Farhad Majidi last week.

### Saeid Alihosseini named Iran weightlifting coach

TEHRAN – Saeid Alihosseini was named as new head coach of Iran weightlifting team on Sunday.

The 2017 World Championships silver medalist has replaced Mohammadhossein Barkhah in the Iranian team.

Barkhah was sacked last week following a dispute with Iran weightlifting federation president Ali Moradi.

Alihosseini has most recently worked as head coach of Iran junior team.

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

### Krunoslav Rendulic added to Iran football coaching staff

TEHRAN – Croatian coach Krunoslav Rendulic has been added to Iran football team coaching staff.

The 49-year-old coach, who has most recently worked as head coach of Croatian club Gorica, has joined Iran's training camp in Doha, Qatar.

He has previously worked as assistant coach of his countryman Luka Bonacic in Iran's Foolad in 2014.

Iran prepare for the 2022 FIFA World Cup, where the Persians are drawn with England, the U.S., and Wales in Group B.

### Kazakhstan beat Iran at Asian Women's U18 Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN – Kazakhstan, which finished sixth place at the previous edition at the same competition site here, struggled to beat Iran in thrilling straight sets 25-23, 25-18, 25-21 in the 5th-8th playoffs match in the 14th Asian Women's U18 Volleyball Championship at Nakhon Pathom Sports Center Gymnasium on Sunday.

The convincing win allowed Kazakhstan a chance to contest the 5th-6th playoff match they had already fought in at the previous edition. This time, they will fight it out with the winners in the match between Uzbekistan and Chinese Taipei.

Against Iran on Sunday, Kazakhstan mixed the excellent offensive combination of Aruzhan Berkimbay's spectacular spikes and Anastasiya Kartashova's good blocks to take the first two sets 25-23 and 25-18.

Holding a 2-0 advantage, Kazakhstan marched on their good show in the third set, while the Iranians looked to make a comeback. Still, Kazakhstan turned things around to come up with quick attacks and solid defence, allowing the Iranians tough times to score. Kazakhstan went on their combination attacks and good teamwork to clinch the set 25-21 and match.

Aruzhan Berkimbay chipped in with 13 points for Kazakhstan, while Shaghayegh Hassan Khani and Setayesh Hosseini scored respective 14 and 10 points for Iran.

“Iran pressured us with their good serves at the beginning of the match. My players were very nervous but they started to reunite in the middle of the match and we made use of the mistakes of the Iranian team to beat them today,” said Kazakhstan's head coach Adlet Takenov.

Commenting on their next 5th-6th playoff match against either Chinese Taipei or Uzbekistan, he said, “It's likely to be the Taiwanese girls who will be advancing. We lost to them in the pool plays but this time we will manage to avenge them.”

### Sepahan in talks with Magath: report

TEHRAN – Sepahan are reportedly in talks with German manager Felix Magath for their hot seat.

According to some Iranian news outlets, the sides have already started negotiations.

Rumors are also circulating that Ali Karimi may act as Magath's assistant. The German coach knows Karimi well as he helped the player shine in Bundesliga back in 2005.

Meanwhile, Karimi has earlier ruled out the possibility of engaging in a coaching career in Iran.

The recent report comes as Moharram Navidkia resigned as Sepahan's head coach.

A host of Iranian coaches have also been shortlisted for Sepahan but the club seems to prefer a foreign manager.

Sepahan finished the Iranian Pro League in 3rd place with 56 points behind Esteghlal (68) and Persepolis (63).

### Iran female players to compete at World University 3x3 Basketball

TEHRAN – The Asian University Sports Federation (AUSF) has announced that the Islamic Azad University's female 3x3 basketball team will take part in the World University 3x3 Basketball Championship.

Recently, Iranian basketball players have been defeated by Taipei in the final match of the Asian competitions and have received a permit to partake in the World University 3x3 Basketball Championship.

The World University 3x3 Basketball Championship is scheduled to be held in Turkey in November 2022, MNA reported.

## IAEA lost credibility: Iranian parliament

From Page 1 ► The Iranian lawmakers noted, “In this context, contrary to the rules and procedures of the IAEA, the allegation by the Zionist intelligence service is the basis of the secretariat's requests for access in Iran, which is a clear indication of the political and non-technical nature of the IAEA request on the remaining issues and the three alleged sites.”

“Given the continuation of the political process in the International Atomic Energy Agency, the Islamic Consultative Assembly (Parliament) supports the actions of the esteemed government and the Atomic Energy Organization of our country to reduce cooperation with the IAEA, including the cessation of non-safeguards

surveillance cameras,” they said, according to the state news agency IRNA.

The statement comes amid heightened tensions between Iran and the IAEA in the wake the resolution of the Board of Governors. On Wednesday, the board adopted a resolution on what it called Iran's insufficient cooperation with the international organization, claiming that Tehran had not provided sufficient explanations regarding the finding of traces of nuclear materials at three undeclared sites. Iran strongly rejected it.

In response, Iran announced the disconnection of the IAEA's surveillance cameras installed at Iran's nuclear facilities, stressing that these

cameras are not part of Tehran's commitment to the Safeguards agreement recently signed with the Agency.

Iran said the shutdown of IAEA cameras is the first step and if the West continues its nonconstructive measures, it will take other retaliatory measures.

Iran first turned off nearly 20% of IAEA surveillance cameras that operated beyond the Safeguards agreement between Tehran and the UN nuclear watchdog. Then it announced the start of installing more advanced centrifuges.

Iranian officials also said that Tehran could take further measures in response to the resolution.

## IAEA resolution won't benefit Vienna talks: speaker

TEHRAN – Speaker of the Iranian Parliament has accused the UN nuclear watchdog of falling under the influence of Israel, saying that exerting influence over the International Atomic Energy Agency will not help talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

Speaking at an open session of Parliament on Sunday, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf described the recent censure resolution adopted by the IAEA's Board of Governors on Iran as a “hostile and nonconstructive move.”

“The adoption of this resolution means that the Agency has fallen under the direct influence of Zionist circles. This move ignores Iran's very constructive volunteer and generous cooperation with the Agency and is a path that the continuation of which will certainly not benefit the ongoing diplomatic

negotiations,” he said, according to state news agency IRNA.

He added, “These actions show that the other side is not serious about reaching a good agreement to lift sanctions against the Iranian people.”

Qalibaf also hailed Iran's retaliatory measures undertaken by the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), and hailed the Russian and Chinese decision to vote against the resolution.

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Iran first turned off nearly 20% of IAEA surveillance cameras that operated beyond the Safeguards agreement. Then it announced the start of installing more advanced centrifuges.

President Ebrahim Raisi underscored on Thursday that Iran would not budge from its stance in the wake of the adoption of the

resolution against Tehran's nuclear program.

Raisi made the statements during a visit to Shahr-e Kord, the capital of Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari Province, a day after the IAEA's 35-nation board passed the anti-Iran resolution submitted by the U.S., Germany, France, and the United Kingdom.

“How many times do you want to test the Iranian nation and not listen to the words of the country's officials? Do you think that we will retreat as a result of issuing of resolutions?” Raisi asked, referring to the drafters of the non-binding resolution.

“Iran will not take a step back from its positions,” he emphasized.

The president went on to say, “We will not stop and we will not tie the development of the country's industry, agriculture and tourism to the frown and smile of the enemy.”

## Iranian and Nigerian ministers hold political consultations

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has held political consultations with Zubairu Dada, Nigerian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, who is visiting Tehran for a joint economic commission meeting.

During the meeting on Saturday, Amir Abdollahian expressed pleasure that bilateral ties, especially economic and trade ties, have grown in the past two years, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said.

He said the current size of interactions between the two countries does not correspond to the existing capabilities of the two countries and is far from the desired level.

The Iranian foreign minister referred to the determination of the Islamic Republic's government to interact and cooperate with African countries, especially Nigeria as per the foreign policy of the sitting Iranian administration.

Amir Abdollahian stressed that Iran believes

there are no limits for the expansion of ties with Nigeria and that holding the meeting is considered as a key step toward expansion of bilateral relations.

The foreign minister extended the Iranian president's warm greetings to his Nigerian counterpart Muhammadu Buhari and officially invited him to visit Tehran.

For his part, the Nigerian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs expressed pleasure at his trip to Tehran and over successful convening the joint economic commission of the two countries.

Dada further thanked the Iranian side for having done coordination for the purpose of successfully holding the commission session.

He said Iran and Nigeria can create many mutual opportunities through good planning. Dada expressed hope that the implementation of the deals reached during the commission's meeting will greatly help raise the level of



bilateral trade ties.

He also declared the Nigerian side's readiness to boost cooperation and interaction with the government of Iran, saying, “We expect to see expansion of cooperation in various spheres between the two sides in the future.”

demands” by arrogant countries.

The Expediency Council's website did not go into the details of the briefing regarding the Vienna talks.

## Iran's top security official briefs Expediency Council on Vienna talks

TEHRAN — In an extraordinary meeting on Saturday night, the secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council briefed the Expediency Council on a number

of important issues, including the Vienna talks intended to lift sanctions on Iran.

At the beginning of the meeting, Ali Shamkhani informed the Council

members on the latest situation, including efforts by Armed Forces and various bodies in maintaining security in and around the Persian Gulf in the face of “excessive



## Iran's cereal production to rise 34% in 2022: FAO



From page 1 ► FAO sees Iran's wheat production to increase by four million tons (over 44 percent) this year to 13 million tons. Last year, Iran produced only nine million tons of wheat due to drought.

Accordingly, Iran's wheat imports will be less than half this year, and while Iran imported 7.9 million tons of wheat last year, this figure will be reduced to 3.4 million tons this year.

The country's maize production is expected to stay stable this year and will remain at 1.3 million tons. Iran's corn imports are seen at nine million

tons unchanged from the previous year.

FAO has further predicted that Iran's meat production will reach 3.556 million tons in 2022, which will be slightly lower than the last year's production which was 3.086 million tons.

Iran is expected to import 121,000 tons of meat this year and export 30,000 tons of the product.

Back in May, FAO had released a report in which Iran was ranked 43rd in the world in terms of food imports despite being the 17th most populous country in the world.

Based on the FAO data, the Islamic Republic of Iran imported only \$8.3 billion worth of food products in 2020, indicating that Iran is self-reliant in terms of agricultural and food products.

FAO statistics show that industrialized countries were the largest importers of food products in the world.

According to FAO, Iran currently stands among the world's top producers of agricultural products.

## Venezuela, a great market for Iranian traders: envoy

TEHRAN – Iranian Ambassador to Venezuela Hojatollah Soltani has said the south American country is a great market for Iranian businessmen, IRIB reported.

Stating that the political relations between Iran and Venezuela are at the best level, Soltani said: "In the trade sector, there are suitable bases in different sectors for the development of trade between the two countries."

According to the official, Latin American countries, and especially Venezuela, have economies that are complementary to the Iranian economy, which means that the two sides are not rivals in many areas but complement each other.

"These countries, including Venezuela, require intermediate goods such as electronics, home appliances, petrochemicals, raw materials, agriculture, fertilizers, medicines, and medical equipment, of which we are exporters," the ambassador said.

Also, South American countries have a very high potential in the production of basic goods like agricultural products. Venezuela has about



30 million hectares of unused agricultural land that has not been cultivated. To use this resource, seeds and agricultural machinery are needed, and this equipment is also available in Iran, he added.

The official further pointed out that in order to enter foreign markets, it is necessary to conclude memorandums of understanding and sign basic agreements.

"In this regard, we have signed a maritime cooperation agreement and an aviation agreement while traders' visas for travel to Venezuela have also been revoked," Soltani said.

## TEDPIX gains 14,000 points on Sunday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) gained 14,091 points to 1.532 million on Sunday.

Over 6.724 billion securities worth 46.296 trillion rials (bout \$171.46 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 11,217 points and the second market's index gained 25,601 points.

TEDPIX is expected to follow a mild upward trend in the current Iranian calendar year 1401 (started on March 21), a market analyst told IRNA on April 3.

"The capital market index experienced a significant decline in [the Iranian calendar year] 1399 (ended on March 20, 2021) and the transactions at this market also undergone some correction in the previous year. Therefore, it seems that given the relative stability of

macroeconomic variables, we will see a slight growth in the market index during the current year," Ali Teymouri said.

According to Teymouri, the main risks threatening the capital market in the current year are budget-related issues, as well as government and central bank exchange rate policies following a possible nuclear agreement.

Transparency in the economic policies of the new government, as well as the resolution of issues related to the nuclear deal, can create stable conditions for the country's economy, which can in return ensure a good outlook for the capital market, the analyst added.

In the last few months of last year, the capital market experienced some turbulence due to the ambiguities about the outcomes of the Vienna talks.

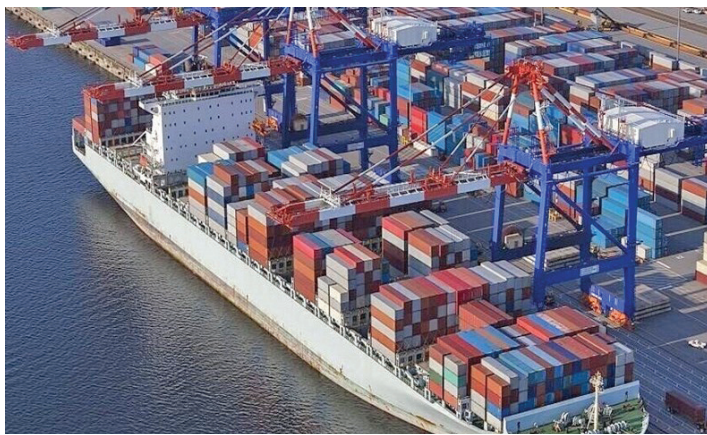
# Exports to Oman up 126% in 2 months yr/yr

TEHRAN – The value of Iranian exports to Oman increased by 126 percent in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21) as compared to the same two months last year, IRIB reported.

According to Iran's Commercial Attaché in Muscat Mehrdad Fallah, the Islamic Republic exported \$203 million worth of non-oil commodities to Oman in the mentioned two months.

The total trade exchanges between the two countries in the first two months of this year also grew by 143 percent compared to the same period last year, Fallah said.

During the mentioned period, Oman was ranked seventh among Iran's top export destinations after China, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey, India, and Afghanistan. The country was also the fifth among Iran's neighboring trade partners



and the second top destination market among the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council nations.

The top commodity items exported to Oman in the said two months include oil, bitumen, iron and steel ingots, urea, iron or steel rods, semi-finished iron or steel products, clinker, fish products, canned food, and white cement.

The share of Oman's market from

Iran's total exports is 2.4 percent, according to the official.

Referring to the characteristics of the Oman market and the friendly and strategic relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Oman and the great export opportunities to this country, Fallah stressed the need to use these opportunities to increase exports to Oman and also access third markets through this

country.

Iran and Oman signed seven memorandums of understanding (MOUs) to expand cooperation in various areas, including commerce, plant quarantine, agriculture, sports, environment, labor, and standards in Late May.

The MOUs were signed by Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin and Head of Iran Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak on the sidelines of President Ebrahim Raisi's visit to Muscat.

Heading a high-ranking delegation, including senior officials from various ministries and the representatives of 30 major companies, Raisi visited Muscat on May 23.

During his stay in Oman, the Iranian president met with senior Omani officials including Oman's Sultan, Haitham bin Tariq.

## Nominal electricity generation capacity up 162MW

TEHRAN – The first gas unit of Mahtab Kavir Power Plant in southeastern Kerman Province has been connected to the national grid with a capacity of 162 megawatts (MW), as the country approaches the peak summer period, IRNA reported.

According to Mahmoud Sadeqi, the Thermal Power Plants Holding Company (TPPHC)'s executive director for private power plant projects, the mentioned power plant has two gas units and a steam unit and will have a total capacity of 484 MW when completed.

He pointed out that the second gas unit of the power plant will also go operational in the near future, adding: "The commissioning of this power plant is very important for supplying electricity to the southeastern and southern provinces of Kerman, Hormozgan and Sistan-Baluchestan and it will play an important role in compensating the electricity shortage in these areas."

Over the past decade, constant temperature



rising and the significant decrease in rainfalls across Iran have put the country in a hard situation regarding electricity supply during peak consumption periods.

In this regard, the Energy Ministry has been following new programs to meet the country's power demand during peak periods and to prevent outages.

Constructing new units in the country's power plants and also building new power

plants for major industries are among the mentioned programs that are being pursued seriously by the ministry in collaboration with other related government entities.

Back in March, Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian said that 1,130 MW will be added to the country's power generation capacity in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21).

"Increasing the electricity generation capacity, we hope that we will pass the summer with the least difficulty", the minister added.

The Islamic Republic's total power generation capacity currently stands at about 85,500 gigawatts most of which is supplied by thermal power plants.

Currently, combined cycle power plants account for the biggest share in the country's total power generation capacity followed by gas power plants.

## Commodities worth \$589m traded at IME in a week

TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), 2,234,448 tons of commodities worth \$589 million were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME).

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange traded on its metals and minerals trading floor 1.972 million tons of commodities valued at nearly \$380 million.

On this floor, the IME's customers purchased 1,201,963 tons of cement, 391,000 tons of iron ore, 300,451 tons of steel, 60,000 tons of sponge iron, 13,475 tons of aluminum, 8,441 tons of copper, 1,185 tons of zinc, 140 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 30 tons of precious metals concentrate and 3 kg of gold bars.

Furthermore, the IME witnessed on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 252,044 tons of commodities worth more than

\$201 million.

The exchange's customers purchased on this floor 88,445 tons of polymeric products, 44,861 tons of bitumen, 12,000 tons of lube cut, 63,300 tons of vacuum bottom, 30,850 tons of chemicals, 6,885 tons of sulfur, 6,200 tons of base oil and 50 tons of argon.

Last but not least was the IME's side market with 9,719 tons of commodities traded on it.

As previously reported, 7.939 million tons of commodities worth more than 665 trillion rials (about \$2.519 billion) were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange in the past Iranian calendar month Ordibehesht (ended on May 21), the second month of Iranian calendar year.

The trades show 11 percent and nine percent growth in value and weight, respectively, as compared to the first month.

Some 6.68 million tons of commodities valued at over 403



trillion rials (about \$1.55 billion) were traded on the metals and minerals trading floor.

Furthermore, the IME saw the trade of 1.215 million tons of commodities on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor valued at 249 trillion rials (about \$956 million).

IME's agriculture products trading floor hosted trades of five tons of saffron in the second month.

Last but not least was the IME's side market with 43,644 tons of commodities traded on it.

The value of trades at the Iran Mercantile Exchange rose 102 percent, and the volume of

trades at the exchange increased 128 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), which was the highest level of growth in the history of the exchange since its establishment.

Statistical data show that in the past year, in addition to new records in the volume and value of trades of different products, 10 major records in total value and physical market trades were registered. In a way that besides the total value of trades, the volume and value of physical market trades, the volume, and value of industrial products and petrochemicals trades, the value of oil products trades and the volume and value of side market trades all hit records.

IME is one of the four major stock markets of Iran, the other three markets are Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

## 1.35m National Housing Movement units under construction in country

TEHRAN- Transport and urban development minister said that 1.35 million units of National Housing Movement are currently under construction throughout the country and the number is increasing every day.

Making the remarks in a ceremony to break the ground for starting the construction operation of 15,000 units of National Housing Movement in Chitgar region, northwest of Tehran city, Rostam Qasemi referring to the registration of 5.2 million people in National Housing Movement, said: "By the end of [Iranian current month] Khordad (June 21), the filing of all registrants will be completed and it is predicted that four million people will be selected."

"With the support of the parliament and the credit provided for the facilities of National Housing Movement, we will proceed according to the schedule", the minister further underlined.

After National Housing Action Plan (started in 2018), National Housing Movement is the government's second major program to provide affordable housing units for the low-income classes.

The operation for the construction of 209,212 residential units of National Housing Movement began in early February.

The ceremony to begin the mentioned operation and also to launch some development projects in the housing sector



was attended by the transport and urban development minister.

National Housing Movement to construct four million housing units in four years is one of the major plans of the current government

in the housing sector.

According to the plan, out of these four million residential units, 3.2 million units will be constructed in cities and 800,000 units in villages, some of these units are currently being constructed after providing lands and preparing the necessary conditions.

Land supply was the first condition for the realization of the national movement plan and housing construction, in this regard, a series of measures were taken by the government and Ministry of Transport and Urban Development. According to the latest statistics, the lands of 2.8 million housing units of National Housing Movement have been provided by the ministry.

Although, studies show that the provision of

land and financial resources are two serious obstacles to the construction of this number of residential units.

Three weeks ago, Mohammad-Saleh Jokar, a member of the parliament, said that the young people are having trouble paying the National Housing Movement installments.

Referring to the difference between the implementation of Mehr Housing Plan (initiated in the previous government) and National Housing Movement, he said: "Today, a young man with a monthly salary of between 50 million-60 million rials (about \$190-\$230) has very difficult conditions for the installments of this plan, which should be considered to solve this problem", the MP criticized.



# Biden didn’t ban “offensive operations” in war on Yemen

From page 1 ▶ Despite the extension of a two-month truce, Yemeni officials have been complaining about the number of times the “Saudi-American aggression” has been violating the truce.

Dalia Dassa Kaye, a Middle East expert at the Burkle Center for International Relations at the University of California at Los Angeles says “it’s hard to say definitively that the U.S. is not supporting the offensive campaign there, that remains a concern.”

“A lot of ammunition, supplies, things in the pipeline are still continuing,” she added.

Since March 2015, the Saudi-led coalition has been bombing its southern neighbor with American weapons, logistical support as well as intelligence assistance.

The new analysis reveals that Biden continued to support “offensive operations”, despite pledging the opposite. It shows maintenance contracts operated by the U.S. military and corporations, in addition to squadrons, remained to carry out offensive operations.

Washington’s support for the war on Yemen began during the Obama administration and continued into Trump’s and Biden’s.

The investigation reviewed 3,000 publicly available images, media reports, videos, and news releases that identified 19 fighter jet squadrons; half of which were Saudi and Emirati, that have been supported by the U.S.

According to the research, the U.S. “provided arms, training or maintenance support to the majority of the fighter jet squadrons in the campaign.”

The financial and military support for squadrons, according to the study entails support for offensive aircraft.

Tony Wilson, the director of Security Force Monitor says those conducting airstrikes on Yemen “there is no way for [America] to support their planes without supporting squadrons that may be linked to airstrikes that human rights groups say are apparent war crimes,”

Sales announcements never revealed which specific squadrons



were benefitting, but only types of planes or the equipment that were being sold.

Evidence provided in the report suggests the U.S. military conducted joint exercises with almost every squadron from Saudi Arabia.

An analysis of news, videos, and photos shows Saudi squadrons not only received American equipment but also participated in joint exercises and training with the U.S.

Despite Biden claiming to have banned “offensive” support for the Saudi-led coalition, the White House has approved the sales of what it describes as “defensive weapons.”

One of these sales was a \$650 million package deal which included surface-to-air missiles sold to Riyadh and a boost to the Emirati missile defense system, worth \$65 million.

The investigation included rich infographics depicting a level of hypocrisy at the White House.

“To have the U.S., over successive administrations, sell billions of dollars worth of weapons to governments that have carried out, over years, airstrikes on hospitals, markets, food production facilities, and prisons: [those] attacks have killed thousands of civilians,” said Priyanka Motaparthi, director of the Counterterrorism, Armed Conflict and Human Rights Project at Columbia University, “It does not serve them well in the court of public opinion, or in the annals of history.”

Meanwhile, according to an internal government report, the State Department and the Defense Department have failed to assess civilian casualties caused by the war on Yemen and the use of American-

made weapons in the killings.

The report from the Government Accountability Office focuses on attacks in recent years by the Saudi-led coalition’s offensives in Yemen.

The Saudis, along with the United Arab Emirates have carried out deadly airstrikes using warplanes and missiles that have been sent and maintained largely by American companies with the approval of the State Department and the Pentagon.

It is the second major report by a U.S. agency that lays out government shortcomings in preventing civilian casualties in Yemen. In August 2020, the State Department inspector general also issued a report that revealed the department had failed to undertake proper measures to reduce civilian deaths.

The new report comes as President Biden is arranging to travel to Saudi Arabia in July.

U.S. officials spoke to American media about the report on the condition of anonymity because the Government Accountability Office has not released it publicly yet.

On the accountability office website, there is a document on the “restricted reports” page that is titled “Yemen: State and D.O.D. Need Better Information on Civilian Impacts of U.S. Military Support to Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.”

The publication date is April 2022, but the page says the report cannot be released to the public because the executive branch has determined they contain classified information or “controlled unclassified information.”

Officials have been reported as saying that the State Department

has been in discussions with the accountability office to get parts of the report put into a classified section, The agency also reportedly wants some lines made private.

A spokesperson for the office says the Government Accountability Office expects to get the okay from the State Department and the Pentagon to release a public version this month.

Several officials are reported to have said they are concerned the State Department will hide important findings from the public through that process.

In the 2020 report that addressed civilian casualties in Yemen, then-Secretary of State Mike Pompeo pressured the State Department’s legal office to make any major findings secret.

Part of the reports were so heavily censored that even members of Congress could not read them.

U.S. officials claim they have taken measures to lower civilian casualties in Yemen, but the civilian death toll from airstrikes surged at the end of last year.

The officials who spoke on condition of anonymity say the main finding in the new report is that the State Department and the Pentagon have failed to collect sufficient data and evidence on civilian casualties or monitor the use of American-made weapons.

A Pentagon official acknowledged that U.S. agencies are relying on intelligence from open sources to allegedly assess the death toll in Yemen and don’t have military personnel in the country who go to the bombed sites.

The failure to investigate the civilian death toll from U.S. airstrikes has not been limited to Yemen but across West Asia, including Iraq, Syria, and Afghanistan where Washington has come under heavy scrutiny from rights organizations for its lack of care.

The latest investigation confirms that the statement on “offensive operations” was deceptive.

While denouncing alleged Russian attacks against civilian targets in Ukraine, the United States continues to be implicated in killing civilians and turning a blind eye to the casualties.

## France holds parliamentary polls in vital test for Macron

French voters are choosing lawmakers in a parliamentary election Sunday as President Emmanuel Macron seeks to secure his majority while under growing threat from a leftist coalition, according to npr.org.

More than 6,000 candidates, ranging in age from 18 to 92, are running for 577 seats in the National Assembly in the first round of the election. Those who receive the most votes will advance to the decisive second round on June 19.

Following Macron’s reelection in May, his centrist coalition is seeking an absolute majority that would enable it to implement his campaign promises, which include tax cuts and raising the retirement age from 62 to 65.

But the latest opinion polls suggest Macron and his allies may have trouble winning over half of the parliamentary seats. A government with a large, but not absolute majority would still be able to rule, but only by bargaining with legislators.

The main opposition force appears to be a newly-created coalition made up of leftists, greens and communists led by hard-left figure Jean-Luc Mélenchon.

Mélenchon urged voters to give his coalition a majority and thereby force Macron to name him as prime minister, which would prompt a situation called “cohabitation.”

The leftists’ platform includes a significant minimum wage increase, lowering the retirement age to 60 and locking in energy prices.

Though Mélenchon’s coalition could win more than 200 seats, current projections give the left little chance of winning a majority. Macron and his allies are expected



to win between 260 and 320 seats, according to the latest polls.

The two-round voting system is complex and not proportionate to the nationwide support for a party. Lawmakers are elected by district.

The parliamentary election is traditionally a difficult race for the French far-right’s candidates, as rivals tend to step aside in the second round to improve the chances of another contender.

Led by Marine Le Pen, who lost to Macron in the presidential election, the National Rally hopes to do better than five years ago, when it won eight seats. With at least 15 seats, the far-right would be allowed to form a parliamentary group and gain greater powers at the assembly.

Le Pen herself is candidate for reelection in her stronghold of Henin-Beaumont, in northern France.

Results may also be impacted by an expected record-low voter turnout. Pollsters say less than half of France’s 48.7 million electorate is expected to cast ballots.

The National Assembly has final say over the Senate when it comes to voting in laws.

## Scholz set for Kyiv trip alongside Macron, Draghi: report

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz will travel to Kyiv this month alongside French President Emmanuel Macron and Italian Prime Minister Mario Draghi, according to tabloid Bild am Sonntag.

The trip to the Ukrainian capital is likely to take place before a summit of G7 leaders at Schloss Elmau in the Bavarian Alps scheduled to start on June 26, according to the report.

While many world leaders have already made the trip to Kyiv, including British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, Scholz has so far not travelled there. He had previously said the Ukrainian government’s decision not to welcome German President Frank-Walter

Steinmeier meant he wouldn’t go himself.

“That the president of the Federal Republic of Germany ... has been disinclined, stands in the way of the matter,” Scholz said in May of his own plans to make a visit. A trip to the Ukrainian capital “must be about making concrete progress, and not just a photo opportunity,” Scholz said at another point last month, Politico reported.

On Saturday, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen made her second visit to Kyiv for talks with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. She said the Commission will make clear its early assessment on Ukraine’s application to join the EU by the end of the week.

## Abdullah Abdullah returns to Afghanistan

After 43 days, Abdullah Abdullah, the former chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation, returned to Afghanistan on Saturday, June 11.

On May 4, for the first time after the Taliban assumed control in Afghanistan, he left the country for India.

“As I leave the country for a few days to be with family during Eid-ul Fitr,” Abdullah Abdullah tweeted, “I want to offer prayers for the souls of all martyrs who fell victim to terror, while I wish my compatriots Eid mubarak as we end this Holy season. Our country, men & women, need to come together.”

He also advocated for the resolution of political, security, and economic challenges so that national institutions, political participation, and a peaceful living under the rule of law can be established.

During his visit, the former chairman of the High Council for National Reconciliation met with officials from the U.S. and France.

Thomas West, the U.S. special representative for Afghanistan, tweeted on May 26 that he had met Abdullah



“after many months”.

Thomas West had already expressed his appreciation to the Taliban for allowing Abdullah to visit his family and return to Afghanistan.

Also, on 1st June, David Martinon, France’s ambassador to Afghanistan, wrote on his Twitter account that he had discussed with Abdullah the situation in Afghanistan under the Taliban control and the issues that the Afghan people face.

Ambassador Martinon described the meeting with Abdullah as “very substantial and useful”.

(Source: The Khaama Press)

## 450 rallies in U.S. against gun violence

Thousands of demonstrators took to the streets in hundreds of protests across the country on Saturday to push lawmakers to take action on gun violence in the wake of recent mass shootings in Uvalde, Texas, and Buffalo, New York, NBC News reported.

Protesters have turned out to more than 450 rallies nationwide, with the largest gathering taking place in Washington, D.C., which started at noon and ended at 2 p.m.

D.C. Mayor Muriel Bowser drew loud cheers from the crowd there as she called for common sense gun laws, including mandatory background checks and a ban on assault rifles.

“We don’t have to live like this,” she said, adding that people in other countries “don’t live like this.”

Rep. Cori Bush, D-Mo., shared a story of having been in an abusive relationship when she was younger in which her partner shot at her multiple times. “That moment when gun violence strikes is so dramatic and so preventable,” she said. “I didn’t know when he would stop.”

The rallies were organized by March for Our Lives, a youth-driven organization first created by students who survived the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman High School in Parkland, Florida, in 2018.

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In Parkland, where the movement began, hundreds of demonstrators gathered outside the Pine Trails Park

Amphitheater Saturday morning to demand background checks for all gun sales, the implementation of “red-flag” laws and an increase in the minimum age to buy semi-automatic rifles from 18 to 21.

Manuel Oliver, whose son, Joaquin, was among those killed in Parkland, also addressed the crowd in Washington. “Our elected officials betrayed us and have avoided the responsibility to end gun violence,” he said, calling for students not to attend school until elected officials “stop avoiding the crisis of gun violence in America.”

At around 1:30 p.m., a person standing near a group of counter-protesters began to yell during a moment of silence for victims of gun violence, prompting some in the crowd to run away. Several attendees were seen crying after the incident.

Katie Hathaway, an attendee who traveled from Florida for the march, said the incident was “traumatizing.” She heard a shout and everyone started running.

Shortly after, a man took to the stage to reassure the crowd, saying, “There is no threat.”

According to U.S. park police, the individual who interfered with the event “was detained by officers.” No weapons were involved, police said.

As talks on gun restrictions continue on Capitol Hill, the House passed a “red-flag” bill Thursday that would allow a judge to take firearms away from individuals who pose an imminent danger to themselves or others. The legislation, which



drew five Republican votes, is viewed as having a greater chance of advancing than some of the other bills in the evenly split Senate.

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On Wednesday, the House also passed a series of new gun measures, which include raising the minimum age to buy semi-automatic rifles from 18 to 21. That legislative package is all but guaranteed to fail in the upper chamber because of Republican opposition.

“We need to put aside our politics and save our kids and loved ones from this senseless and horrific violence before it impacts them,” David Hogg, a 2018 graduate of Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School and the co-founder of March for Our Lives, said in a statement ahead of the rallies.

According to Serena Rodrigues, a national coordinator for March for Our Lives, the organization participated in 71 meetings with elected officials on Capitol Hill this past week.

“I feel confident that we’ll get something probably like universal background checks,” she told NBC News. “But we’ll keep pushing for more.”



## Local dolls effective means for cultural exchange, expert says



TEHRAN – A cultural heritage expert believes local handmade dolls are an effective means for promoting and transferring culture between nations, a cultural heritage expert has said.

“The local doll has been hailed as a very effective tool when it comes to cultural exchange, promotion and development,” Vida Maleki said, IRNA reported on Sunday.

However, this tool does not appear in a macro-cultural policy of the country and its void is evident in the market for cultural products, she noted.

Cultures of different lands have signs that give insight into the way people live there, she explained.

Handmade dolls, among other things, are influenced by colors, tastes, celebrations, instruments, and music of the various tribes and ethnicities, she added.

The story of doll making in different tribes and ethnic groups is amazing and meaningful, she said and added, “Despite the wide variety of dolls in the world according to the diversity of cultures, all of them share an invitation to peace, awareness, thinking, and tranquility.”

Handmade dolls have long been famed as souvenirs of different regions of Iran.

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”.

In addition, the ancient city of Shiraz has been chosen to host the 39th General Assembly of the World Crafts Council-Asia Pacific Region (WCC-APR) in May 2023. Shiraz has a remarkable amount of handicraft pioneers. With an average age of 70, some of these pioneers are still active at their workshops. The occupational records of about 100 pioneers are collected and are annually praised by the custodians of the WCC General Office.

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 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.

## Italian motorcyclists share Iran experience

TEHRAN – A group of motorcyclists from Italy met with Mohammad Hossein Soufi, the director of the Touring and Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran, on Saturday to share their travel experiences to Iran.

So far, the cyclists have visited many cultural and natural sights during their itinerary that passes through tens of cities and villages, the report added.

The hospitality of the locals, the familiarity of young people with foreign languages, the high level of security, advanced facilities, and the diverse climate were among elements the group has found interesting to date.

They also considered themselves cultural ambassadors, who will introduce Iran and its countless attractions to their friends and family

members, and emphasized that after returning to their home country, they hope to inspire many tourists to visit Iran.

Some experts believe Iran is still somehow “unknown” to many potential travelers due to the Western “media war”. Several estimates have been released so far on the extent of the tourism-related losses incurred by the pandemic.

According to the data compiled by the tourism ministry, the tourism of the country was growing before the corona outbreak, its revenues reached \$11.7 billion in 2019, which accounted for 2.8% of GDP, nearing the average share of tourism in the world GDP, which was 3.2 percent. Some 8.7 million foreign nationals visited Iran during the Iranian year (1398) and Iran

was ranked as the second fastest-growing country in tourism based on data compiled by the World Tourism Organization.

Experts expect Iran to achieve a tourism boom after the coronavirus is contained, believing its impact would be temporary and short-lived for a country that ranked the third fastest-growing tourism destination in 2019.

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.

petals are put into massive copper pots and boiled, and then the extracted water is kept in special bottles. The longest the distillation is, the better will be the quality of the rosewater.

Golab is used nationwide in diverse traditional dishes to flavor them or consumed as a religious perfume as well. The holy month of Ramadan, which started yesterday, is one of the bestselling months for the product.

The distillation of flowers and herbs has a deep history in Iran. Many believe traditionally distilled rosewater is of higher quality than that produced in factories probably due to shorter time intervals between the harvest and distillation practices.

Zanjan is one of the cities founded by Sassanid King Ardashir I (180-242 CE). The province makes a base for wider explorations with the architectural wonder of Soltaniyeh, the subterranean delights of the Katala-Khor caves, colorful mountains, and the UNESCO-registered Takht-e Soleiman ruins are nearby.

local police commander said on Sunday.

The police arrested an individual who illegally kept the object, the commander said.

The suspect has been surrendered to the judicial system for further investigation and trial, he added.

Kordestan is named after its principal inhabitants. After the Turkish

invasion of Iran in the 11th century CE (Seljuk period), the name Kurdistan was applied to the region comprising the northwestern Zagros Mountains. It was during the reign of Abbas I the Great of Iran's Safavid dynasty (1501-1736) that the Kurds rose to prominence, having been enlisted by Abbas I to help stem the attacks of the marauding Uzbeks from the east in the early 17th century.

# Archaeologists in eastern Iran excavate relics from 4th millennium BC onwards

From page 1 ► “In the end, we found clues about melting copper ore as well as significant evidence of an early example of administrative management,” the archaeologist added.

The team hopes its findings shed new light on people who lived there some 6,000 years ago. In addition, the archaeologists found remnants of industrial architecture, adobe brick walls, and potteries, which offer evidence of “social complexity and an administrative management system”.

Azizi Kharanaghi is optimistic that their studies would clarify the importance of the Kale-Kub site for identifying the dispersal zone of “Beveled rim bowl pottery style” through the classification and typology of the discovered potteries and then a comparison between the pottery style in this site with other sites related to this period.

“Also, we attempt to trace the



possible routes for this pottery style to the East and the interaction between the east and west of Iran.

In modern Iran, these pottery styles are reported from the southwest, central Zagros, central plateau, and southeast. Experts believe findings in Kale-Kub show the extension of this culture to the east part of Iran.

Inter-regional interactions had a significant effect on the movement of raw material and production in

the extended area. Because of the geographical situation of Kale-Kub in the east of Iran and the existence of metal mines in the region, this site possibly appeared as a supplier place in the interaction networks for the southwest of Iran during the fourth millennium BC.

Referring to previous excavations of the site, Azizi Kharanaghi has said: “In 2018, two trenches were opened to identify the stratigraphy of the high amount of beveled rim bowls in

addition to other pottery styles belongs to fourth millennium BC which are already known in southwestern Iran.”

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

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

## Iraqi minister visits National Museum of Iran



TEHRAN - On Sunday, Iraqi Minister of Culture, Tourism, and Antiquities Hassan Nazim paid a visit to the National Museum of Iran, which is chock-full of priceless objects showcasing the juicy history of the nation.

Headed by a cultural delegation, Nazim was accompanied by the museum director Jebrael Nokandeh, and Mohammad-Ali Kiani, who presides over the Iranian-Foreign Affairs Cooperation of the Organization of Islamic Culture and Communication.

“Their visits began with the historic galleries of the Ancient Iran Museum and many details were presented to the guests by Firoozeh Sepidnameh, director of the museum,” a museum official told the Tehran Times on Sunday.

At the end of the tour, the Iraqi minister visited the exhibition “Touch of History” for blind visitors and read about the exhibition of models of historical and cultural artifacts.

The Museum of Archeology and Art of the Islamic Period of Iran was the second museum that was visited by the Iraqi delegation.

At the end of the visit, Nokandeh presented a series of museum publications to the Iraqi minister.

The National Museum showcases ceramics, pottery, stone figures, and carvings, mostly taken from excavations at Persepolis, Ismail Abad (near Qazvin), Shush, Rey, and Turang Tappeh to name a few.

The main structure of the museum, designed by French architect André Godard and completed in 1928, is one of the more attractive modern buildings

in Tehran, blending Sassanian principles such as the grand iwan-style entrance with art deco-style brickwork.

Various relics from Susa and Persepolis, such as a stone capital of a winged lion, delightful pitchers, and vessels in animal shapes, colorful glazed bricks decorated with double-winged mythical creatures constitute highlights of the museum.

Exhibits from Persepolis include a magnificent human-headed capital, a cuneiform inscription proclaiming the might and godly affinity of Xerxes, and a striking frieze of glazed tiles from the central hall of the Apadana Palace. Also on display are a famous trilingual inscription from the time of Darius I, a bull-headed capital and carved staircase, a statue of a sitting dog that looks like it was carved just weeks ago, and four foundation tablets inscribed in cuneiform.

Another startling exhibit may be the natural mummy of a Salt Man who was entrapped in a salt mine in the 3rd or 4th century CE.

## Public Call to Identify and Evaluate Investors' Competency (First published)

This is hereby to announce that Dabola-Tougue Bauxite Company (SBDT) intends to elect the qualified investors to co-invest in its bauxite mines in Guinea through a public call and in the form of “Management, Operation and Sales Model” to participate in an international investor call with the following conditions:

**A. Explanation of services:** Mobilization, operating and sales of the bauxite mines from SBDT’s mining concession in Guinea along with providing the necessary infrastructure, construction of rail transport infrastructure for approximately 400 km to the port of Conakry, Guinea, port loading facilities, operations and sales of bauxite with a capacity of 8-10 million tonnes per year.

**B. Project location:**

Dabola-Tougue mines, Republic of Guinea (Geographical location maps in public call document)

**C. Investment incentives**

- Possibility to participate in the ownership of an alumina refinery with the necessary legal permits.
- Providing part of the investment for the required infrastructure by SBDT.

**D. Terms of participating in the call:**

Described in the call documents attachments.

**E. Receipt of call documents:**

All investors including companies, legal and civil partnerships and the private sector can submit their written and official requests to both electronic addresses of [Kan\\_azin@kanazin.com](mailto:Kan_azin@kanazin.com) and [info@sbdtko.com](mailto:info@sbdtko.com) to receive the call documents no later than 18 June 2022.

**F. Documents delivery:**

Applicants must submit their completed documents and supporting documentations to the above e-mail addresses no later than July 12, 2022

**Note:** It is mentioned that this announcement is to identify and evaluate the qualified investors and provide documents that will not create any rights whatsoever for the participants.

## Iranian village hosts rosewater festival

TEHRAN – A rosewater distillation festival, commonly known as “Golab-giri”, was held in Nalbandan village, west-central Zanjan province on Friday, a local tourism chief has said.

Performing local games, displaying handicrafts, and selling herbal beverages were parts of the festival, CHTN quoted Masoumeh Shiri as saying on Saturday.

To introduce the capacity of rural tourism and especially in lesser-known areas, the festival served to familiarize people and tourists with the harvesting and cultivating of rose flowers, she noted.

The festival also aimed at introducing and promoting the tourism potential of the region, the official added.

Golab or rosewater is obtained from a particular kind of rose, known as Mohammadi roses in Iran. Harvesting flowers seems to be the most important part of the process. They should be picked from dawn through morning very carefully. The

## Islamic coins recovered from smuggler in western Iran

TEHRAN – Iranian authorities have recovered tens of ancient brass coins from a smuggler in Sanandaj, the capital of Kordestan province, western Iran.

The confiscated relics include 63 brass coins dating from the early Islamic era as well as replicas of the 1st millennium BC objects including an engraved rhyton and a carved vase, a



# Human factors hold 69% share in drying of Lake Urmia

TEHRAN – Researchers realized that the situation of Lake Urmia in the last 20 years is not fully related to lack of rainfall, which shows that the share of human factors has been higher.

Paleontological studies conducted by two Iranian researchers at the University of Miami on Lake Urmia show that even when the rainfall was 180 mm, the lake did not dry up, and this shows that the lake's condition in recent years has been affected by human factors.

The level of Lake Urmia reached 1278 meters in 1995 and 1274 meters in 2005 and this amount reached 1270 meters in 2015.

The share of natural factors in the drying of Lake Urmia is 31 percent, which includes an 18 percent decrease in rainfall and a 1.5-degree increase in temperature in the last two decades compared to the long term, and the share of human factors is 69 percent, which includes agricultural development and construction of dams and extraction from ground-water sources.

The amount of water consumption in the Urmia catchment area for the agricultural sector is 4699 million



lion cubic meters and the consumption for drinking, health, and industry is 588 million cubic meters.

The water level drop of Lake Urmia was reduced by the efforts of the Lake Urmia Restoration Program; Unfortunately, for various reasons, the declining trend of water level follows the patterns of 2004, and we are witnessing a decline in the level of water.

Shared between West Azarbaijan and East Azarbaijan provinces in northwestern Iran, Lake Urmia, was once the largest salt-water lake in West Asia. It was home to many migratory and indigenous animals including flamingos, pel-

icans, egrets, and ducks, and attracted hundreds of tourists every year who had bathed in the water to take advantage of the therapeutic properties of the lake.

However, decades of long-standing drought spells and elevated hot summer temperatures that speed up evaporation as well as increased water demands in the agriculture sector shrank the lake drastically. In 1999 the volume of water which was at 30 billion cubic meters drastically decreased to half a billion cubic meters in 2013. Moreover, the lake's surface area of 5,000 square kilometers in 1997 shrunk to one-tenth of that of 500 square kilometers in 2013.

Lake's surface area has reached up to 2,917 square kilometers, indicating 1,582 square kilometers increase in comparison to 2013 when the Lake Urmia Restoration Program began.

The level of Lake Urmia has reached 1,271 meters, which indicates an increase of over 1.39 meters compared to the lowest volume recorded. However, it still needs 9.5 billion cubic meters of water to reach its ecological level.

The above-normal levels of rain came to help conservation measures to preserve Lake Urmia, but, this year, the drought and low rainfall are threatening the lake again.

The share of natural factors includes an 18 percent decrease in rainfall and a 1.5-degree increase in temperature over the past two decades.

## Iranian knowledge-based products target Pakistan, Afghanistan

TEHRAN – An exhibition will be held in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan to showcase Iranian knowledge-based products to develop the market in neighboring countries of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

The exhibition will kick off on June 18 and go on till 22.

The event seeks to realize market development and export of Iranian knowledge-based products in Afghanistan and Pakistan, in order to increase the share of Iranian knowledge-based and creative companies in the potential market of these two countries.

Pakistan is Iran's southeastern neighbor and shares a 600-kilometer land border with Sistan-Baluchestan. So, it can be a good and pristine market for knowledge-based and creative Iranian products.

Exporting technological products of Iranian knowledge-based companies is one of the important and key programs of the vice presidency for science and technology, and in this regard, the Iranian houses of innovation has been set up in several countries to develop the global market for knowledge-based products.

These centers have already been set up in countries such as Russia, Turkey, China, Syria, and Kenya, Armenia and Iraq will soon join them.

Mehdi Ghalehnoei, an official with the vice presidency for science and technology, said in February that last year, knowledge-based companies gained about \$800 million in revenue from export, and next year (March 21), it seems to reach up to \$2 billion.

Africa, neighboring countries, Southeast Asia and Eurasia are our export target priorities, and we hope to create Iranian innovation and technology in all these areas, he added.

### Knowledge-based companies

Today, the country's knowledge-based ecosystem accounts for more than 3 percent of GDP. And the figure is projected to reach 5 percent, however, the main goal is to step toward a 10 percent share in GDP, Sattari told Fars on February 13.

Iran has set up houses of innovation in several countries to develop the global market for its knowledge-based products.



The share of knowledge-based companies in the country's economy has exceeded 9 quadrillion rials (about \$34 billion), and since 2019, it has experienced a growth of more than 450 percent, he stated.

There are currently 6,263 knowledge-based companies operating in the country, offering advanced products and services in various fields of technology to domestic and foreign markets, and some of them have entered international markets, Siavash Maleki, deputy head of the Fund, stated.

The fields of aircraft maintenance, steel, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, oil, and gas are among the sectors that researchers in technology companies have engaged in, leading to import reduction.

## Bandar Khamir, Varzaneh awarded Wetland City Accreditation

From page 1 ► delivery of vital services. Amid rising pressure to tackle the climate, pollution, and biodiversity crises together, urban wetlands offer valuable nature-based solutions for healthier, prosperous, and sustainable societies.

It is worth mentioning that the prize and certificate of Wetland City will be awarded to the cities' mayors at the three-year world ceremony of the Ramsar Convention in Wuhan, China in early December.

However, Bandar Khamir has already been at the center of national and international attention due to its widespread participation in social activities, especially the protection of wetlands, and was able to be registered as the first national wetland city and also joined the UNESCO Network of Learning Cities.

### Wetland Cities

Bounded by the Persian Gulf, Bandar Khamir is the only city located on the coast of the Khorkhoran Wetland,

one of the largest and most important marine environments in the country, which was designated a Ramsar site in 1975.

In 2018, Bandar Khamir got the international accreditation to be a Ramsar wetland city.

Stretching 47,000 hectares, Gavkhuni is a salt marsh with an average depth of about 1 m. which is located in the terminal basin of the Zayandeh-rud river.

It is the 19th wetland in Iran designated as a Wetland of International Importance on the Ramsar list, which as defined by the Ramsar Convention for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, recognizes the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value.

The Convention was adopted in the Iranian northern city of Ramsar in 1971 and came into force in 1975.

### Wetlands importance

Wetlands are ecosystems saturated with water, either seasonally or permanently. They store water and ensure its quality, providing resilience against drought. They play a central role in sustainable development by supplying all our freshwater.

Wetlands play a major role in protecting the land against floods and the impacts of storms. They provide food and diverse habitats which support genetic, species, and ecosystem bio-

diversity. Wetlands play a key role in the life cycles of many species and in annual migration patterns.

Unfortunately, wetlands are being degraded and lost due to pollution, over-exploitation, climate change, and human population growth. In recognition of these challenges, the Ramsar Convention, an international treaty, was adopted in 1971.

Ramsar Wetlands are sites inscribed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") under the Convention on Wetlands.

## Tribes in Iran

### Part 23

Employment of tribesmen as laborers on farms and as shepherds within the tribe has long been widespread, but work opportunities for them on development projects and highways and in cities are a recent phenomenon.

Canvas weaving, felt making, and construction of canvas or felt tents and brushwood or palm frond huts for use as family homes are important functions performed within the tribe. In a full economic analysis, all the above-mentioned activities should be taken into account.

It must be added that in past times raiding was an important source of income and wealth for tribes. They consequently did not see robbery as dishonorable. Names still borne by certain tirehs and tayefehs, such as sareq or doz (thief), galazan (rustler), ughori (marauder), are reminders of those times.

Nevertheless, the principal occupation of the nomadic tribes is sheep and goat breeding. Their income, wealth, and power all depend on its vicissitudes. Great variations in the number of animals per tribe and per family are found in the different tribal communities. It will be seen that the average number of sheep and goats per family varies between 6 and 120 from one tribal unit to another, while the actual numbers range between 0 and 350 from one family to another.

The flock compositions are equally varied; for example, the Azim hasham of the Zayn-al-dinis had a flock consisting solely of goats and no large animals except camels, whereas the Base-riordu had a flock of which 64 percent were ewes together with an assortment of large animals.

As noted above, the definition of the tribes in this census was so narrow that its figures unfortunately cannot be taken as generally valid for the whole tribal population. Not surprisingly, on this restricted definition, the average area under cultivation by nomadic tribes as calculated from the census return is less than one hectare per family, whereas in other computations it is between 3 and 8 hectares per family.

The animal products supplied by the tribes of Iran are normally lambs and kids for meat, wool, goat hair, ghee, dried whey (kashk), and in some cases sheep cheese. The sheep sold for meat are yearling or immature lambs (shishak) and, to a less extent, ewes which have become sterile after seven or eight lambings.

The estimates of tribal output of animal products given in different publications are not fully consistent. In some statements the figures are theoretical, being based on the assumption that the animals are adequately nourished. In that



case the birth rate of ewes and she-goats, after allowance for infant mortality, could of course be 90 percent or, given the possibility of two lambings in a year, even higher.

Often in calculations of pastoral income, a suckling lamb or kid has been taken as equivalent to an ewe or she-goat. The same assumption is made with regard to lactation periods and milk yields and in the inferred estimates of ghee and whey output.

Yet even in normal conditions, the lactation period of ewes and she-goats varies between 100 and 120 days and the daily milk yield between 200 and 600 grams. Moreover, about 25 percent of the ewes and she-goats for one reason or another do not yield milk at all.

Wool output is likewise far from uniform, varying between 800 and 2500 grams per sheep according to the breed (Forugh, 1355 Sh./1976, pp. 10-11). If the Statistics Center's figures can be taken as representative, roughly 40 percent of the sheep and goats do not yield wool and hair (Markaz-e Amar-e Iran, 1355 Sh./1976, alef, p. 19).

Such being the case, the discrepancies in the figures given in different reports is not surprising. Comparison of the two sets of estimates will sufficiently illustrate the problem.

The income obtainable from animal products is of course dependent on the prices of the various items. The price of a lamb, for example, was 500 rials in 1341 Sh./1962 and 5,500 rials in 1359 Sh./1980.

It has been calculated that the weighted average of prices of animal products rose in the 18-year period 1341 Sh./1962-1359 Sh./1980 approximately 8.6 folds, i.e., at an average annual rate of 12.7 percent (Amanollahi, 1360 Sh./1981, p. 69).

Since the average annual rise of the (urban) cost of living index in the same period was 7 percent, the terms of trade appear to have moved in favor of animal breeders at an average annual rate of 5.7 percent. The greater part of this growth in their income arose after 1357 Sh./1978.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### ‘Water transfer from Sea of Oman entails no considerable environmental risk’

Transferring water from Sea of Oman to central drought-ridden provinces of the country, provided that the environmental requirements are met, will not poses threats to the environment, Issa Kalantari, the Department of Environment (DOE) chief has announced.

To provide the amount of water needed for the country, agriculture and industries, there is no choice but to use seawater, the incredible and abundant resources, now and in the future, Kalantari stated, IRNA reported on Monday.

He went on to say that Iran located in an arid and semi-arid area, is facing environmental problems including water shortage, sand and dust storms due to low precipitation amounts coupled with climate change.

“Renewable water resources have drastically decreased to less than 80 billion cubic meters from 132 billion cubic meters over the past 50 years, and 50 billion cubic meters water consumption rate have increased to 95 billion cubic meters,” he lamented.

### شیرین سازی و انتقال آب دریای عمان مشکل زیست محیطی ندارد

رئیس سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست کشور گفت: شیرین سازی و انتقال آب دریای عمان به استان های مختلف به شرط رعایت الزامات محیط زیستی، چالشی مناسب در ساخت آب شیرین کن و راهسازی پساب آن مشکل و مانع زیست محیطی ندارد و از نظر این سازمان بلامانع است. عیسی کلانتری دوشنبه شب در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا اظهار داشت: برای تامین آب کشاورزی، آشامیدنی و صنایع کشور چاره ای جز استفاده از آب دریا نداریم و باید چه اکنون و چه آینده به این منابع بیکران و بسیار فراوان رجوع کنیم.

وی افزود: ایران کشور پر آبی نیست و سالهای سال با بحران بی آبی، خشکسالی و مسائل زیست محیطی، گرد و غبار و ریزگردها مواجه است. معاون رئیس جمهوری تصریح کرد: ۱۳۰ میلیارد مترمکعب آب تجدید پذیر ایران در ۴۰ تا ۵۰ سال گذشته به کمتر از ۸۰ میلیارد و مصرف آب از ۵۰ میلیارد مترمکعب به بالای ۹۵ میلیارد مترمکعب رسیده است.

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON JUNE 12

New cases	160
New deaths	1
Total cases	7,233,688
Total deaths	141,350
New hospitalized patients	23
Patients in critical condition	372
Total recovered patients	7,058,972
Diagnostic tests conducted	52,442,991
Doses of vaccine injected	150,112,289



TEHRAN TIMES



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Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807  
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



Tehrantimes79

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JUNE 13, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Time wears out bodies, renews hopes, brings death nearer and takes away aspirations. Whoever gets anything from the world lives in anxiety for holding it and whoever loses anything passes his days grieving over the loss.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:13:04    Evening: 20:42    Dawn: 4:02 (tomorrow)    Sunrise: 5:48 (tomorrow)

## Non-Iranian languages of Iran

Part 5

Their genetic alignments are summarized in a chart where the horizontal scale indicates the genetic distance, while vertically the populations are listed in the general order of their relationship, forming close pairings, and successively higher groupings.

The alignments are discussed in considerable detail, in particular the recognition, probably as could be expected, that there appeared a striking discrepancy between (a) ethnic groups as defined by shared language and country/region/religion, and (b) their respective genetic definition.

More recently, this chart was discussed in detail by J. J. Elias, with particular focus on the Assyrians (Nestorian Christians), but also on the Jewish population groups (the latter not included in Cavalli-Sforza), in the overall Iranian-speaking context.

Regarding Iran and adjacent regions, there have been a good number of similar genetic-comparative studies which are regionally more restricted (South Caspian and language replacement).

It must be emphasized at the outset of the following discussion that tabulations like the one reproduced here are genetic tables, not linguistic ones.

The mixed ethnic/linguistic terms used are shorthand for regions and social groups which happen to share selected subsets of genetic markers.

Given the requirement of minimal residence of at least 500 years, they simply indicate the latest linguistic/ethnic overlay, which may have been preceded by various others.

All historical-linguistic inferences can therefore only be speculative (cf. the comprehensive critique and discussion of the fallacies in correlating genetics with linguistics by P. Sims-Williams).

In spite of these limitations, as well as the problems of available data and data selection, genetic studies may serve to strengthen assumptions of archaic patterns of relationships and of migrations when based on independent, comparative-historical linguistic argument.

Regarding the Iranian-speaking groups, the most striking result is the separation of Iranian-speakers into three genetically distinct clusters: (1) Kurdish and Caspian in the west; (2) Iranian (all others in Iran) in the Center; (3) Hazara Tajik (Persian-speakers) and Pashtun (Pashto-speakers) in the east.

The alignment of the western and eastern Iranian clusters with South Caucasian (Svani and Georgian) and North Caucasian, respectively, reveals the language areas which those western and eastern Iranian languages overlaid, but not necessarily which language groups, or even which language family.

In the west, Caspian is aligned with South Caucasian. This suggests that speakers of the latter once extended well into Azerbaijan.

This alignment would thus strengthen the assumptions discussed above of ancient Caucasianate populations in NW Iran: (a) the Caspii, Cadusii, and their successors, the Gelae, with Caucasian, which can now be specified as South Caucasian; and (b) the Matiani in Azerbaijan, and possibly the Manneans in Kurdistan.

Kurdish, however, is genetically most similar to other West Asian groups, rather than to Caucasian, and is most distant from Central Asian groups.

In the east, the Hazara and Pashtun are

genetically aligned with North Caucasian. On first sight, the vast geographic distance between Afghanistan and southern Russia makes any linguistic alignment questionable.

However, the alignment may well reflect an archaic linguistic continuum of non-Indo-European-speakers which has been proposed on linguistic grounds.

This is assumed to have once stretched from the Hindu Kush, the Pamirs (including the modern language isolate Burushaski), and Afghanistan to lower Central Asia (Bactria, Margiana) and further west to the Northern Caucasus and Southern Russia (and even further, to include the linguistic isolate Basque, as proposed by Bengtson).

While such a vast Neolithic linguistic continuum is doubtful, it is probable that the pre-Iranian population in Khorasan and on the eastern Caspian littoral, that is, the Tapurii and pre-Hyrcanii (Iranian Wrkana, pre-Iranian Khnanta) represent a southern extension of an earlier Caucasus-Central Asian continuum. In that case, they would have met the western (South Caucasian) Caspians somewhere between Mazandaran and Gilan.

The recognition that, according to Cavalli-Sforza's genetic chart, Armenian is not aligned with South Caucasian (and Kurdish-Caspian-Iraqi), but instead with North Caucasian, suggests that the Hurrian-Urartian populations whom the Indo-European Armenians overlaid must once have immigrated into the southern Caucasus from the north.

This implication would strengthen the not widely accepted arguments by M. Diakonov and S. Starostin of a remote linguistic link between Hurro-Urartian and Northeast Caucasian, discussed above.

Finally, by implication, the close genetic alignment of "Iranian" in the Center (Iranian plateau, southwestern and southeastern Iran) with Turkish (Turkey) may suggest that the genetic stock of the population of much of Iran represents the eastern extension of an archaic continuum that links it with the genetic stock of much of Anatolia and the Levant.

In conclusion, whatever the genetic ground, ethnogenesis is not a matter of genes, but of social and political construction, under a leader and affiliates.

Ethnicity implies shared interest and shared beliefs and behavior, geographic, social, economic, cultural, religious, and/or linguistic.

Membership is not by language, but by birth, affinal relations, and, crucially, approved clientship. For the latter, the most ancient Iranian reference is found in the Gathas, Y. 46.1, which tells of the rejected Zarathushtra: kam namai zam, kuora namai ayani 'Where on earth for pasture? Where else shall I go to supplicate? (apparent pun with IE nem- "to allot, drive to [allotted] pasture," as in Greek nome "pasture," and IE nem- "to bend, supplicate").

Groups may split off, and form kernels of new traditions, as did the two groups of Parsua in the early half of the first millennium BCE, one near Lake Urmia, the other in Fars.

In his succinct yet far-reaching discussion of the semantic and social connotation of this hotly debated designation, P. Widmer points out two kernels which are clearly distinguished by Darius and Xerxes: Parsa parsahy puja ariya ariya(-)cija "Persian, son of a Persian; Iranian, of Iranian stock."

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

Concluded

# Actress Merila Zarei finds film “Henas” on assassinated nuclear scientist unbiased

From Page 1 ▶ “The director has tried to make an unbiased film away from an atmosphere some movies seek and cause filmgoers’ abstention,” Zarei said before the screening.

“The film depicts a compassionate and loving atmosphere and the true story through the eyes of martyr Rezainejad’s wife,” she added.

She also called the film’s story a part of Iran’s contemporary history and stated, “Thank God and that’s great that I was picked for the film to play a role in portraying the women of my country who stood successfully and showed great patience for pain and suffering.”

Zarei said that it is a difficult job to play the role of a living person in a true story, and Pirani thanked her for her good performance in the film.

“Henas” had its Iranian premiere in Tehran during the 40th Fajr Film Festival in February.

In a press conference held at that time, Pirani said “There is no

point in the film in conflict with reality.”

“However, there are some scenes that were suitably exaggerated in order to influence the audience,” she added.

She also said, “This film is the story of choice; in the life with my husband, I learned in depth about valuable topics such as motherland, identity and national solidarity, and this movie has depicted all these very well.”

The assassination of Rezainejad has previously been the subject of the play “Day of Armita”, which was performed at the 39th Fajr Theater Festival in 2021.

The play was centered on Rezainejad’s daughter, Armita.

Nuclear scientist Dariush Rezainejad's widow, Shohreh Pirani (3rd L) talks to the audience during a special screening of “Henas” at Tehran’s Azadi Cineplex on June 10, 2022. Her daughter Armita (4th L), cast members Merila Zarei and Kosar Heidari (1st, 2nd L), producer Mohammadreza Shafah and director Hossein Darabi are seen in the photo.

## Georgian Iranologist Lili Zorzoliani wins Shahriar Medal

Tea Shurgaia, a professor at the Iranian Studies Department of Tbilisi State University, also attended the award ceremony.

Zorzoliani won the medal at the Fifth Shahriar International Scientific and Cultural Medals Festival in November 2020 for her article on Iran-Georgia cultural relations and the place of the Shahnameh in Georgia. However, she could not attend the festival due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In a meeting with Zorzoliani, Mehri, who is the representative of the Sadi Foundation, a Tehran-based organization that promotes the Persian language abroad, praised the expert for her career in Iranian studies, which spans nearly 50 years.

He said that Zorzoliani has made great contributions to the establishment of the Iranian Studies Department, where numerous students and professors have been trained.

On her part, Zorzoliani expressed her thanks to the Iranian Culture Center in Tbilisi, and said, “The award makes our duty to promote Persian literature and Iranian studies heavier than ever.”

TEHRAN – Iran’s Sadi Foundation has honored Georgian Iranologist Lili Zorzoliani with a Shahriar Medal.

Zorzoliani, who is best known for her translation of Persian poet Fedowski’s masterpiece Shahnameh, received the medal from Iranian cultural attaché Ahmad-Ali Mehri at Tbilisi State University, the Iranian Culture Center in Tbilisi announced on Sunday.

## “Tesla: Man Out of Time” appears in Persian bookstores

TEHRAN – American mathematician Margaret Cheney’s 1981 book “Tesla: Man Out of Time” has been published in Persian.

Masud Moradi is the translator of the book published by Moein.

In this “informative and delightful” biography, Cheney explores the brilliant and prescient mind of Nikola Tesla, one of the twentieth century’s greatest scientists and inventors.

Called a madman by his enemies, a genius by others, and an enigma by nearly everyone, Nikola Tesla was, without a doubt, a trailblazing

Front cover of the Persian edition of Margaret Cheney’s book “Tesla: Man Out of Time”.

inventor who created astonishing, sometimes world-transforming devices that were virtually without theoretical precedent.

Tesla not only discovered the rotating magnetic field -- the basis of most alternating-current machinery -- but also introduced us to the fundamentals of robotics, computers and missile science.

Almost supernaturally gifted, unfailingly flamboyant and neurotic, Tesla was troubled by an array of compulsions and phobias and was fond of extravagant, visionary experimentations.

He was also a popular man-

about-town, admired by men as diverse as Mark Twain and George Westinghouse, and adored by scores of society beauties.

From Tesla’s childhood in Yugoslavia to his death in New York in the 1940s, Cheney paints a compelling human portrait and chronicles a lifetime of discoveries that radically altered -- and continue to alter -- the world in which we live.

“Tesla: Man Out of Time” is an in-depth look at the seminal accomplishments of a scientific wizard and a thoughtful examination of the obsessions and eccentricities of the man behind the science.

## A beautiful historical story by the late Saeed Tashakori

Most people nowadays know and admire Saeed Tashakori, a dedicated and honest writer whose love for the eighth Imam can be found in all of his works.

“Parizad,” like most of the works of this popular author, was born with a unique subject from the heart of history. This book is one of the final artifacts he left for our literary world, and it was released just before he died. “Parizad” is a lively and well-received work. Because the characters are numerous and everyone has an essential part and a crucial role in the plot, it is impossible to present the protagonist as a single individual.

The book is divided into fourteen chapters, each of which is broken down into

smaller parts, each having its own narrator and individual point of view. The characters are introduced quickly, and the story moves at a fast pace with numerous different locations. The shifts are so drastic that one could think the author is disorganized in the first few pages, but Saeed Tashakori is more professional than just going through a story without a strategy.

The plot of the novel takes place during the Timurid dynasty. The country is facing serious crises, such as water shortages in large parts of Greater Khorasan, as well as other challenges. The title of the book is taken from a young girl who emerges in the story with a strange mission.

“Parizad” is a complete historical novel

published by Soore Mehr, and its author, Saeed Tashakori, was a brilliant writer, critic, director, and novelist who died on February 7th of last year in Mashhad.