

Israel Resorts to Bluffing Amid Ongoing Talks

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Report UK Judiciary okays “unethical” Rwanda refugee policy

The Court of Appeal in London has given the green light for the British government to start the first flight for asylum seekers to be sent to Rwanda in a controversial immigration policy that has drawn the wrath of the United Nations, rights organizations and the Church of England.

Judge Rabinder Singh said the Court of Appeal could not interfere with the original “clear and detailed” judgment and refused permission for any further appeal. A full hearing to determine the legality of the policy in its entirety is expected to take place next month.

The Court of Appeal also dismissed a second separate challenge from Asylum Aid, a refugee charity, which hoped to stop the new government policy, which Downing Street alleges will deter refugees from crossing the English Channel on small boats.

Charlotte Kilroy, a lawyer representing Asylum Aid, argued asylum seekers were not given enough time to challenge their deportation, noting there was a high risk of unlawful and unsafe decisions made.

The second challenge was heard by judge Jonathan Swift who claimed everyone on the flight had been given legal access to a lawyer to contest their deportation on an individual basis.

Initially, around 37 asylum seekers were set to be deported on the first flight to Rwanda, but according to the charity Care4Calais, that number has now fallen, in the face of individual legal challenges.

Other reports say that as the Court of Appeal verdict was made the number of asylum seekers scheduled to leave the plane was less than a dozen with one report putting the figure at seven.

Report Disorganization: the huge blow to Iran football

By Masoud Hossein

TEHRAN – With only five months before the start of this year’s World Cup in Qatar, concerns have been raised about the performance of Iran national football team in Doha.

Dragan Skocic’s side lost to Algeria 2-1 Sunday night in a friendly match but what is more worrying is the management challenge in the football federation ahead of the prestigious event.

The federation is leading by an acting president and it could be a huge blow to the team’s preparation for this year’s World Cup.

The Iranian fans have a strong fear of being humiliated by powerhouses England in the competition after the National Team’s lackluster performance against the Algerian team.

Iran are to play the U.S. and Wales in Group B as well.

Many critics argue that Skocic is not a good option to lead the National Team in the World Cup, but the federation’s disorganization is the bigger problem at the moment.

The federation has to arrange more friendlies, however, it should first find its new president in September.

Iran football can make history to qualify for the World Cup next stage for the first time ever but the federation wastes the opportunity with-out a shadow of a doubt.

It cannot appreciate the chance to access this significant achievement.



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U.S. indecision puts Vienna talks at jeopardy

TEHRAN — Pakistan’s Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari met with his Iranian counterpart Hossein Amir Abdollahian in Tehran on Tuesday.

Zardari, who is in Tehran for a two-day visit, met with President Ebrahim Raisi as well.

After their bilateral meeting, the two foreign

ministers participated in a joint press conference.

Expressing satisfaction with the presence of his Pakistani counterpart in Tehran, Amir Abdollahian said, “The deep-rooted relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Re-

public of Pakistan, two great countries in the Islamic world, have been full of hopeful moments over the past 75 years.”

He added that Raisi’s administration has established relations in the direction of developing more cooperation.

Heads of Iran, Afghanistan railways confer on mutual cooperation

TEHRAN – The heads of the railways of Iran and Afghanistan met on Monday in Tehran to discuss avenues of mutual cooperation and ways for resuming halted joint projects, the portal of Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) reported.

In this meeting, Miad Salehi and

Bakht-ur-Rehman Sharafat talked about resuming the reconstruction and the completion of the third section of the Khaf-Herat railway.

Speaking at this gathering, Salehi stressed the Iranian government’s policies for expanding cooperation with neighboring countries

and said: “Based on the policies of the 13th government administration and the transport diplomacy that is being followed by the government, very good agreements have been reached with neighboring countries in recent months.”

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Iranian knowledge-based companies to cooperate with Venezuela

TEHRAN – Iran and Venezuela will begin technological cooperation in the field of agriculture, medicine, and medical equipment, Mehdi Ghalehnoei said, adding that it was planned to cooperate in the field of technologies related to agriculture, medicine, and medical equipment, as well as export in some areas.

Venezuelan Minister of Science and Technology Gabriela Servilia Jimenez and Minister of Agriculture Wilmar Castro Soteldo visited an exhibition of Iranian knowledge-based companies’ achievements in the House of Technology and Innovation located at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Sunday.

The products of four knowledge-based companies were attractive to the Venezuelan delegation, Ghalehnoei said, adding that it was planned to cooperate in the field of technologies related to agriculture, medicine, and medical equipment, as well as export in some areas.

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Tehran, Baghdad ink MOU to renew tourism co-op

TEHRAN – On Monday, Iran and Iraq signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to expand cooperation in the tourism sector, IRNA reported.

The MOU was signed by Iran’s Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezatollah Zarghami and Iraqi Minister of Culture, Tourism, and Antiquities Hassan Nazim in Tehran’s Niavaran Palace.

The agreement lays the ground for facil-

itating travel by car between the two countries in collaboration with the Touring and Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Furthermore, the sides agreed to facilitate the issuance of tourist visas, banking services for travelers, and tourism-related investments such as hotel construction.

Specifically, the MOU emphasizes the removal of barriers to land tourism throughout

the year, so that people may travel by private car all the year and not just during the Arbäen ritual, Zarghami said on the sidelines of the event.

Pilgrimage tourism is the most important area for cooperation between the two sides, such as the Arbäen ritual, which is the largest human community in the world, and is expected to be inscribed as a World Heritage, he added.

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Possible origin of reported particles could be result of subversive acts, Iran tells IAEA

TEHRAN – The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) issued a statement on Tuesday responding to claims of alleged undeclared nuclear activities by Iran in Marivan, Varamin and Turqezabad, saying the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) is regrettably considering “fabricated” documents by Israel as “totally authentic” while ignoring Iran’s explanations.

For example, in response to claims of traces of uranium particles in Marivan, the AEOI has said, “Unfortunately, the Agency considers all fabricated documents and fake information provided by the Israeli regime totally as authentic while it has disregarded Iran’s clarifications, and has concluded that the so-called Marivan issue, as ‘not clarified’, without sufficient reasons.”

Iran has reminded the IAEA that it should not disregard possible nuclear contamination of such sites by Israel, which has a history of sabotage acts at Iran’s nuclear sites.

“Given the fact that Iran could not yet find any technical reasons for the presence of such uranium particles, it would reasonably imply that possibly external elements (sabotage) have been involved in the contamination of those locations,” part of the statement said.

Iran’s Association of Writers for Children and Youth announces nominees for 2023 ALMA

TEHRAN – Nominees of Iran’s Association of Writers for Children and Youth for the 2023 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA) were announced on Tuesday.

Writer Farhad Hassanzadeh and reading promoters Nushafraim Ansari and Nader Musavi will be competing for the prestigious Swedish prize for children’s literature in the world.

In a press release, the association said, “With a professional career spanning nearly four decades, Farhad Hassanzadeh has produced amazing stories for children and young adults, which have been acclaimed by readers and received Iranian and foreign prizes.”

He has been selected for his concern for the environment, issues on women and girls in the modern world, and human values such as peace, friendship and children’s rights as well as his different view of wars.

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## U.S. indecision puts Vienna talks at jeopardy

From page 1 ► “I am proud to be the first Foreign Minister who traveled to Pakistan in the new era and recent political developments inside Pakistan and congratulated my good colleague, Mr. Zardari, better known in our country as Mr. Bhutto,” he noted.

### Iran never escapes negotiation table

Elsewhere in the presser, the Iranian foreign minister also referred to the recent resolution issued by the IAEA Board of Governors, saying, “Another issue that was on our joint agenda in today's talks is how the Islamic Republic of Iran will react to the resolution issued by the International Atomic Energy Agency and whether to stop the ongoing process of negotiations in Vienna.”

Amir Abdollahian stated that Iran has never escaped from the negotiation table.

“We believe that negotiation and diplomacy are the best way to reach the end point of the agreement. We have taken important steps in recent months in the negotiations that my colleague Mr. Bagheri (Kani) had with Mr. Enrique Mora and the 4+1 countries in Vienna, as well as in the exchange of messages that took place between Iran and the United States during this period,” he noted.

The foreign minister reiterated his long-held position that Iran is seeking a “good, strong and stable agreement”.

He went on to say that in recent days, particularly last week, despite the continued exchange of indirect messages between Tehran and Washington and despite the progress that was made in the course of talks, all of a sudden, the American side submitted a resolution to the IAEA Board of Governors to put political pressure on Iran and to gain more concessions.

“Despite the fact that the American side informed us that this resolution was hollow, the very spirit of (issuing) the resolution made us warn the American side in doing so,” Amir Abdollahian noted.

He went on to inform the press that in the past days and prior to the issuance of the IAEA board's resolution, Iran put forward yet another initiative, which was accepted by the United States.

“We put a new political package and a new initiative on the table, the American side accepted the initiative, but insisted on passing the resolution.

As a result, we carried out these (reciprocal nuclear) measures by increasing our nuclear activities in areas that were announced, and implemented them through the Atomic Energy Organization (of Iran). These measures were officially noted to the Secretariat of the International Atomic Energy Agency before the resolution was issued,” he elaborated.

Amir Abdollahian stated that in response to the resolution Iran started to increase its nuclear activities. However, he underscored that Tehran will not run away from dialogue and negotiation.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran will not deviate from the logic of diplomacy and the logic of negotiations to reach a good, strong and lasting agreement,” he reiterated.

Indecision and lack of a will to seal a deal in Vienna coupled with the United States' major dependence on its close allies have led to a never-ending pause in the Vienna talks.

This indecision may be rooted in Biden's change of tactics to keep close to its West Asian allies, e.g. the Israeli regime and Saudi Arabia.

Once called the Saudi Kingdom a “pariah,” Biden has now changed his strategy by planning a visit to Riyadh next month.

“The President looks forward to outlining his affirmative vision for U.S. engagement in the region over the coming months and years,” White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre said in a statement, announcing the visit.

Remember there was a time when Biden said he won't have talks with Mohammad bin Salman whom he directly holds responsible for Jamal Khashoggi's brutal murder. Well now, all that has turned into some positive diplomatic mumbo-jumbo.

“The President appreciates King Salman's leadership and his invitation. He looks forward to this important visit to Saudi Arabia, which has been a strategic partner of the United States for nearly eight decades,” the new White House press secretary said.

Biden must choose. Either he wants to seal the deal in Vienna, or he wants to keep his friends happy. You can't have your cake and eat it too.

# Top Iran rights official blasts illegal trial of Assadi

TEHRAN - The secretary of Iran's High Council for Human Rights has condemned the detention and prosecution of an Iranian diplomat, Assadollah Assadi, who was abducted in Belgium in July 2018.

Kazem Gharibabadi expressed displeasure over the Assadi case in a letter to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Gharibabadi has guilting the Belgian and German governments for the way Assadi is treated and voiced profound worry over the two governments' flagrant violations of the detained diplomat's rights.

The human rights chief urged a probe into the arrest and illegal trial of the diplomat and violation of his rights.

Below is the full text of the letter:

“In my capacity as the Secretary-General of the High Council for Human Rights of the Islamic Republic of Iran, one task assigned thereto is to follow up on the cases of human rights violations and to secure the denied rights of foreign-based Iranian nationals, I, the undersigned, am addressing this urgent letter to Your Excellency to express my profound concern about the flagrant violations of Mr. Assadollah Assadi's human rights by authorities in the Federal Republic of Germany and Belgium.

The aforesaid is one of the Islamic Republic of Iran's diplomatic agents stationed in Vienna, Austria. Despite enjoying diplomatic immunity, he was unlawfully arrested in July 2018 in the State of Bavaria in Germany on his way back to his residence in Vienna. After 101 days in custody, Assadi was extradited to Belgium in October 2018 pursuant to an unlawful ruling issued by the Karlsruhe court, after which, the Antwerp criminal court

illegally sentenced him to twenty years in jail irrespective of diplomatic immunity thereof by virtue of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. He is currently imprisoned in Belgium.

Given the leadership role and the mandate assigned to the High Commissioner for Human Rights in safeguarding all human rights and following up on the enforcement of international and human rights obligations by the Federal Republic of Germany and Belgium, I am hereby listing the instances of human rights violations by said States with a view to following up on and securing the foregoing person's rights:

### Federal Republic of Germany

The Federal Republic of Germany is a signatory to the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations. Membership of numerous international conventions on human rights and additional protocols as well as membership of the European Convention on Human Rights requires Germany to enforce provisions set forth therein. Nonetheless, the measures undertaken by the German Government amount to Berlin's flagrant violations of its international and human rights obligations vis-à-vis Assadi and his family.

Article 40 of the 1961 Vienna Convention on Diplomatic Relations stipulates that a diplomatic agent and members of his family accompanying him shall be accorded inviolability and the entire immunities and privileges set forth therein for returning to diplomatic post in a third State or transiting a third State to return to their own country. German police and judicial officials' unlawful conduct in the illegal detention of Assadi and his



family, in contravention of the binding regulations of Article 40, has not only violated the 1961 Vienna Convention, but also it has resulted in illegal denial of freedom and physical restrictions under tough conditions. Not only is that in conflict with the principles set forth in the UN Charter, but it also amounts to the flagrant violation of the right to liberty and security stipulated in Article 3 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 9 (1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights as well as Article 5 of European Convention on Human Rights.

Furthermore, the Federal Republic of Germany is a signatory to the 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the European Convention on Human Rights, whereby respectively Articles 2, 7 and 3 in the said documents require Germany to refrain from subjecting any person to torture, cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Incarcerating Assadi in a cold and poorly-lighted cell, failure to provide sufficient food and drinking water thereto, holding him in the section reserved for dangerous criminals, imprisonment in a bunker fitted with CCTV for a period of 28 days, failure to provide sufficient clothing in conformity with climate conditions, undressing, and improper behavior by police and penitentiary authorities during custody and extradition to Belgium have altogether subjected the above named to physical and psychological torture and humiliation, in violation of the rights set forth in the foregoing documents.

Prohibition of discrimination vis-à-vis inmates is among obligations which, on the strength of Article 2(1), 10 and 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 14 of the European Convention on Human Rights, require the authorities of the Federal Republic of Germany to comply therewith vis-à-vis all detainees and prisoners. Albeit Assadi is a diplomatic agent and contrary to international regulations, he had been held in solitary confinement in a bunker for 28 days; he had been held in the section reserved for dangerous criminals and denied access to such facilities as TV, exercise equipment and food recipients, to which other inmates have access.

Under any circumstances, the relatives of the detainee should be immediately informed of the detention and place of detention and be granted right to communication and visitation. The penitentiary authorities' refusal to authorize Assadi to have correspondence and communicate with his family for 53 days amounts to flagrant violation of Articles 7 and 10 (1) of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 8 (1) of the European Convention on Human Rights.

I regret to point out that during the 101-day period Assadi was illegally detained, penitentiary authorities violated the right to freedom of religion and practice thereof under Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and Article 9 of the European Convention on Human Rights, by prohibiting observance of religious rituals and confiscating religious books.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

## Interior minister laments sufferings of Yemeni, Syrian and Afghan children



TEHRAN- Iran's Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi has branded Western countries' attitudes toward children and teenagers as

“deceptive”.

“The children of Afghanistan, Syria, and Yemen are being oppressed, but the Western governments are not protesting, and no voice is being heard from them,” Vahidi remarked during an inaugural speech at the National Conference for the Protection of Injured Children and Adolescents at Risk.

In March 2015, Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates, and some other countries launched a war on Yemen with the support of the United States. The war led to a tragedy. In addition to costing the lives of tens of thousands, or possibly hundreds of thousands, including children and women, it displaced millions of others.

Though a truce has been mediated by the UN recently, Yemen is still under the Saudi siege.

The Iranian Interior Minister added the U.S.' illegal deed in Afghanistan has escalated child homelessness and relocation.

Vahidi went on to say that “the mentality of Western countries in the field of children are shaped in the form of the International Convention on the Child, which does not pay so much attention to the moral issues and spiritual development of children.”

Iran, according to the interior minister, is attempting to educate immigrant children for humanitarian reasons.

## Greece makes U-turn on U.S. demand, releases Iranian oil tanker

The Greek government has overturned its recent decision to confiscate an Iranian oil tanker, dismissing Washington's pressures which were behind the seizure in the first place, Press TV reported.

According to a statement issued by Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) on Tuesday, the Greek government ordered the release of the ship and its cargo despite sustained U.S. efforts to do otherwise.

“The Greek government has eventually ordered the return of the cargo to its owner and lifted the seizure order thanks

to the Islamic Republic of Iran's decisive and prompt actions, the pursuit of the matter by relevant bodies, and the support from the Minister of Roads and Urban Development [Rostam Qasemi],” read the statement.

Late last month, Reuters quoted an unnamed Greek source as saying that the U.S. Department of Justice had confiscated 700,000 barrels of the Iranian oil cargo.

The source said that the oil cargo had been transferred to another ship hired by Washington and will be sent to

the U.S..

At the time, the PMO described the U.S. seizure of the Iranian oil cargo as an “act of piracy” that was “in violation of international standards.”

The Iranian Foreign Ministry also condemned the unacceptable surrender of Greece to illegal U.S. pressures and reiterated that the seizure was an example of international piracy.

The seizure of the Iranian oil tanker took place at a time when the U.S. administration claims that it seeks the revival

of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), commonly known as the Iran deal. So far, talks for the revival of the 2015 deal have come to a standstill.

Days after the seizure, Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) seized two Greek oil tankers in the Persian Gulf over violations.

Tehran and Athens had friendly relations before the unilateral U.S. imposition of sanctions against Iran and countries working with it. The export of Iran's oil to Greece was halted as a result of the bans.

## Iran's labor minister resigns

TEHRAN— Hojjat Abdolmaleki, Iran's minister of labor and social welfare, resigned early on Tuesday.

In a weekly press briefing, government spokesman Ali Bahadori Jahromi revealed that this was Abdolmaleki's second resignation,

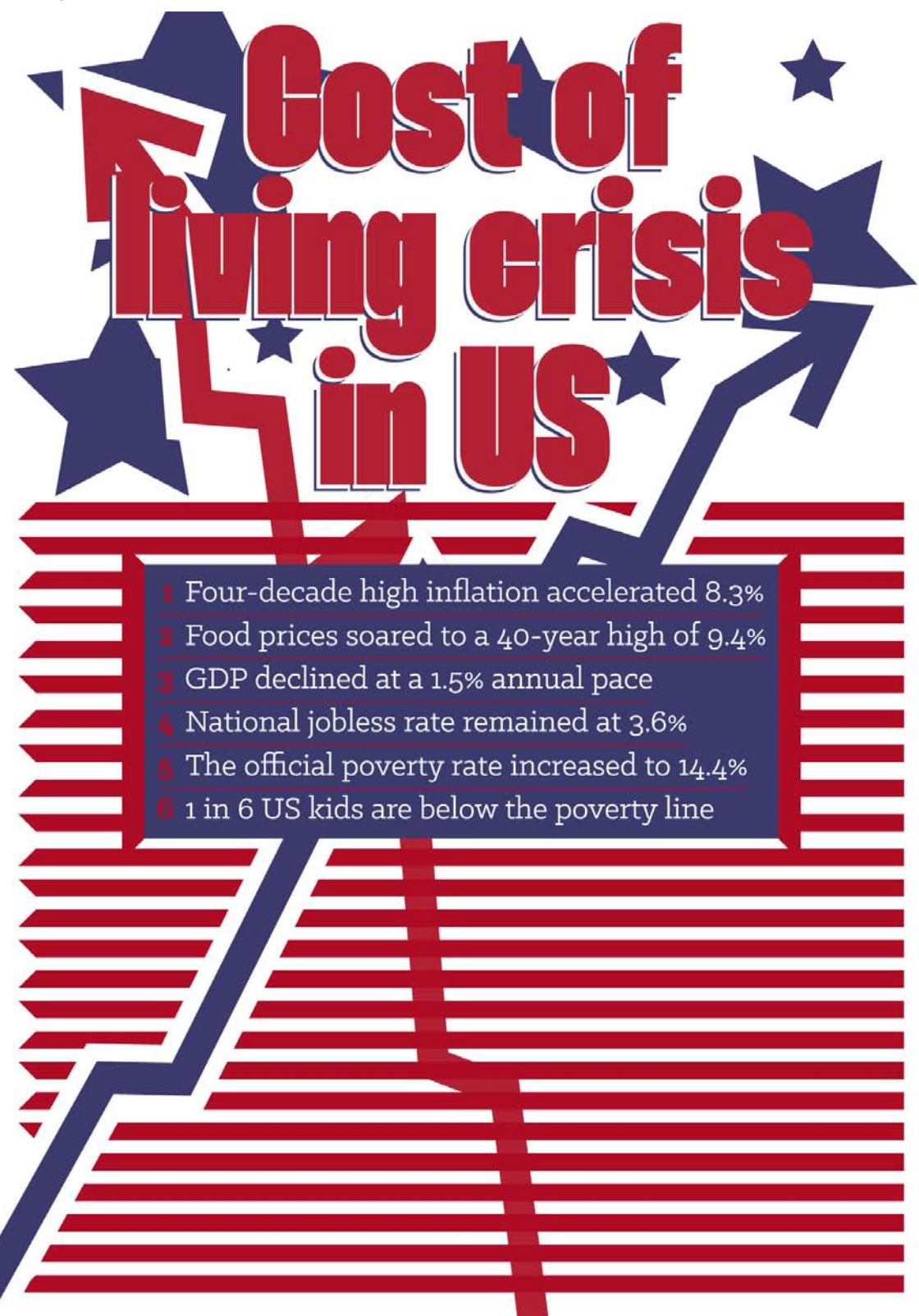
and the president has accepted it.

He then informed the press that Mohammad Hadi Zahedi Vafa will act as the caretaker minister of labor.

Zahedi Vafa, an Ottawa University PhD holder in Economics, served as the economic

deputy of First Vice President, Mohammad Mokhber.

Constitutionally, President Ebrahim Raisi should introduce his desired candidate to the parliament for a vote of confidence in no more than three months.





# Israel resorts to bluffing amid ongoing talks

TEHRAN – Over the last few weeks, Israeli media outlets have magnified some deaths in Iran in such a way that suggests Israel's long arm inside Iran.

After the assassination of Sayyad Khodaei, the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps colonel who was assassinated in a drive-by shooting in front of his home in Tehran, Israeli and Western media launched a concerted media campaign to portray almost every death of civilian and military officials as suspicious, thereby insinuating that Israel was behind such deaths.

This campaign used Iran blaming the assassination of Colonel Khodaei on Israel as proof to attribute every death to Israel. To this end, the death of ordinary engineers in faraway cities was portrayed as a special operation by Israel. A case in point was the death of an engineer in Yazd who Western media said died of food poisoning. But Iran said he was an ordinary citizen whose death wasn't the result of an Israeli operation.

The slanted coverage of deaths in Iran was also obvious in the cases of two other Iranian military personnel whose death was announced by officials. A few days ago, the IRGC said one of its members named Ali Kamani lost his life in a car accident in Arak Province. Also, the Iranian Defense Ministry announced that its employee, Mohammad Abdous, died an incident



while in the line of duty.

Despite Iranian announcements on the cause of these deaths, Israeli and Western media unleashed their minds to imagine bizarre stories. In one story cooked up by a television news channel close to Israel, Kamani and Abdous were introduced as key members of an arms development and production program aimed at supplying Lebanese Hezbollah with arms.

Tasnim said these reports were fictitious, unfounded and untrue.

“This form of cooking up stories and disseminating untrue and undocumented data has become a new normal in recent years for media outlets opposing the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Tasnim said.

According to Tasnim, in recent months some Western media, particularly Persian-language ones, in a joint psychological operation, are trying to depict any incident in Iran as a security issue.

In a bid to give substance to this media campaign, some Israeli officials are busy making remarks insinuating that they are taking the battle to Iran. For instance, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett, whose cabinet is teetering on the brink of collapse, has sought to project power and strength through promoting what he calls the Octopus Doctrine, a new strategy allegedly aimed at dealing with Iran directly instead of countering its allies in the West Asia region.

“The past year has been a year of

changing course in Israel's strategy vis-à-vis Iran,” Bennett said on June 7 at a meeting of the parliamentary defense and foreign affairs committee, according to the New York Times. “We have shifted into a higher gear. We are acting at all times and places, and we will continue to do so.”

Iran has said it will respond to Israeli provocative measures. On Tuesday, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said Israel must stop its provocative and hostile behavior, according to Al Jazeera.

Amir Abdollahian also said that talks between Iran and the West is underway.

In late May, Commander of the IRGC General Hossein Salami vowed revenge for Sayyad Khodaei. He blamed the assassination of Khodaei on Israel, underlining that Iran will avenge his killing.

By the assassination of Khodaei Israel seemingly sought to show that it was broadening the scope of its confrontation with Iran. A few days after the assassination of the IRGC colonel, Israeli media reported, with great fanfare, that Israel was also behind an alleged quadcopter drones attack on Iran's military site in Parchin, where IRGC Aerospace Force Commander General Amir Ali Hajizadeh was supposed to be assassinated.

noted, “This cooperation will strengthen peace, stability and economic and trade prosperity in the region,” according to the official website of the Iranian presidency.

Raisi further stated that Iran supports the progress in the peace talks between Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, and said, “We hope that the remaining issues in this field are resolved peacefully and with respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the two countries, in accordance with the principles of international law and also paying attention to the rights and security of all the people of the Caucasus region.”

The president emphasized, “The Islamic Republic of Iran is deeply committed to the fact that the issues of the region must be resolved with the consensus and cooperation of all countries in the region and on the basis of common interests and mutual respect.”

Raisi pointed out, “The Zionist Regime is by no means a friend of the nations of the region and the oppression that this regime has inflicted on the Palestinian people is unprecedented in history. The activities of the Zionist regime must be faced with sensitivity and caution in order to prevent its influence in the region.”

In the telephone conversation, the Armenian prime minister reported on the implemented agreements and appreciated the principled positions of Iran in the developments in the region and insisted on maintaining the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all countries. He also described Iran's role in the region as important and effective.

Khatibzadeh also expressed regret over Grossi's trip to Israel ahead of the adoption of the resolution. “It is regrettable that the Director General of the Agency, as the Agency's agent, has put this Agency at the disposal of such a law-breaking regime,” he lamented.

Khatibzadeh added, “He (Grossi) met the wrong people at the wrong time and in the wrong place.”

Also, a senior Iranian lawmaker has dismissed the resolution as “political,” vowing to make Western countries behind it regret pushing for such a resolution.

Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini, spokesman for the Parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, also said Iran is not bound by the resolution.

“This is completely a political resolution and is not binding to us,” Meshkini told Fars News.

He said Iran's nuclear activities are in line with the IAEA's rules and regulations, adding that the Agency has been constantly monitoring the Iranian nuclear activities.

Meshkini also lambasted Grossi's visit to Israel, which has refused to sign the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) has about 90 nuclear weapons.

“The visit of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency to Israel damaged the Agency's credibility,” the MP remarked.



Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Monday that the speaker of the Armenian Parliament is traveling to Tehran this week. Earlier in June, Pashinyan spoke over the phone with Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi.

In the call, Raisi described the ongoing consultations as a sign of the importance and depth of friendly relations between the two countries and said, “Iran considers Armenia a friendly country and attaches great importance to neighborly relations with Armenia.”

He described one of Iran's main policies as supporting the territorial integrity and sovereignty of all countries. “Preserving the geopolitics of the region, including international borders and respecting the national sovereignty of countries is emphasized by the Islamic Republic of Iran,” the president asserted.

Expressing Iran's support for the development of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in the fields of energy and transportation, Raisi

countries concluded the eighth round of talks without reaching a final deal.

The Vienna talks were dealt another blow last week after the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors approved a censure resolution on Iran.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has rejected the censure resolution adopted by the UN nuclear watchdog's Board of Governors as “political.”

Speaking at a weekly press conference on Monday, Khatibzadeh said Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) were on a path of cooperation since March but the resolution disrupted this path.

“It was a completely political and designed move. And it disrupted the path defined between Iran and the Agency,” Khatibzadeh said of the resolution.

The spokesman said Iran and the IAEA exchanged visits in accordance with the March 15 joint statement.

The resolution showed that IAEA Director-General Rafael Grossi was taking orders from a “center,” he added.

In reaction to the IAEA board's move, Iran turned off surveillance cameras outside the Safeguards agreement. It also started installing more advanced centrifuges.

“Certainly, we couldn't have let the IAEA's political and non-technical move go unanswered,” Khatibzadeh noted.

## Armenia enjoys ‘very close ties with Iran’: PM

TEHRAN – Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan has hailed relations with Iran as friendly, expressing hope for further enhancement of ties with Iran in the realm of trade.

In an interview with Al Jazeera, the Armenian prime minister touched on the relations with neighboring countries, including Iran.

“We have four neighbors, and with two of them we have very good relations, I mean Georgia and Iran. Iran is a friendly country for us, and we consider Iran as a friendly country, which also has good relations with Azerbaijan too,” he said, according to ARMENPRESS.

He added, “It isn't our intention not to have good relations with countries which have good relations with Azerbaijan. But now we have very close ties with Iran.”

He also expressed hope that through cooperation with Iran, Armenia will be able to enhance the bilateral trade with Qatar as well.

He said, “And we are working on developing the communications connecting Iran with Armenia, and now we are in the process of constructing a very strategic highway named North-South, connecting our Georgian border with our Iranian border.”

Pashinyan noted, “And we hope that as a result of that project, our economic relations with Iran will increase. By the way, the Eurasian Economic Union has free trade agreement with Iran which is very important for our bilateral relations as well.”

Iran enjoys strong relations with Armenia and during the last war in the Nagorno-Karabakh region, Iran sought to make peace between Yerevan and Baku.

## Iran says didn’t leave nuclear talks

TEHRAN – Ali Bahadori Jahromi, the government spokesman, said on Tuesday that Iran did not walk out of the talks in Vienna over removing sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Iran has not bowed out of the negotiations on the removal of sanctions, although it believes that the nullification of the sanctions requires domestic solutions, he said, according to Tasnim.

Speaking to reporters at a presser on Tuesday, Jahromi said Iran has not left the negotiating table on the removal of the sanctions, referring to the Vienna talks about the revival of the 2015 nuclear deal.

The administration has relied upon domestic capabilities and maintains that the problems could be addressed internally as it pursues plans to neutralize U.S. sanctions, he stated.

The spokesman also noted that Tehran has taken proper measures in recent months for the nullification of the sanctions.

“In addition, the negotiations for the removal of the illegal sanctions are being pursued (by Iran),” Bahadori Jahromi said, adding that the IAEA's report has nothing to do with the negotiations and such issues would not affect the negotiations.

Talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), have come to a standstill since March when Iran and the P4+1 group of

## IRAN IN FOCUS

JUNE 15, 2022

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## SPORTS

### Iran beat Qatar in IHF Youth Beach Handball World Championships

TEHRAN – Iran edged past Qatar 2-0 (15-14, 15-14) in the International Handball Federation (IHF) Youth Beach Handball World Championships on Tuesday in Heraklion, Greece.

Iran had started the campaign with a 2-0 (31-10, 20-8) win over the U.S. in their opening match.

Iran are scheduled to meet Sweden in Group A on Wednesday.

The 2022 IHF Men's Youth (U18) Beach Handball World Championships takes place between 14 and 19 June, while the IHF Men's Beach Handball World Championships are set to be played between 21 and 26 June in the same venue in Heraklion.

2022 IHF Men's Youth (U18) Beach Handball World Championship

Group A: Sweden, Iran, Qatar, the U.S.

Group B: Brazil, Croatia, Togo, France

Group C: Spain, Greece, Jordan, Czech Republic

Group D: Ukraine, Argentina, Germany, Uruguay

### Alexander Nouri on verge of becoming Esteghlal coach: Report

TEHRAN – Iranian-German coach Alexander Nouri is on the verge of becoming Esteghlal football team coach.

The 43-year-old coach has most recently worked at the Greek professional football club Kavala.

Nouri started his coaching career in VfB Oldenburg in 2013 and has also coached Werder Bremen in 2016-17 season.

Portuguese coach Jose Morais has been also shortlisted to take charge of the Blues.

Esteghlal are without a coach since parting company with Farhad Majidi in early June.

Majidi left Esteghlal for Emirati football team Kalba after helping Esteghlal win an Iran league title after nine years.

### Iranian powerlifters to compete at 2022 Asia Oceania Open Championships

TEHRAN – Iran's men's and women's powerlifting team will participate at the 2022 Asia Oceania Open Championships in Pyeongtaek, South Korea.

The competition will take place from 15 to 20 June and it will be the first out of four World Para Powerlifting regional championships to take place this year.

The last edition was held in Kitakyushu, Japan, in 2018. As four years ago, the event will be open to athletes from outside the two continents.

China is the favorite to top the medals table as the most decorated nation from the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics. Chinese athletes won seven golds and six silver medals at the Games.

The tournament will bring 231 athletes from 33 countries together in South Korea.

Iran registered female athletes for the first time and powerlifters are on their journey towards Paris 2024.

Iran's men's team:

59kg: Mohsen Bakhtiar

65kg: Amir Jafari, Ali Seifi

80kg: Rouhollah Rostami

97kg: Hamed Solhipour

107kg: Saman Razi, Aliakbar Gharibshahi

+107kg: Mehdi Sayadi

Iran's women's team:

67kg: Fatemeh Ansari

73kg: Zeynab Yaghoubi

86kg: Samaneh Hoda Aq-qale

### Three Iranians among 30 players to watch at FIBA Asia Cup 2022

TEHRAN – Hamed Haddadi, Mohammad Jamshidi and Arsalan Kazemi have been listed among 30 players to watch for the FIBA Asia Cup 2022.

There's only 30 days left to the competition.

The FIBA Asia Cup will be held in Jakarta, Indonesia from July 12 to 24.

Haddadi has won four Asia Cup MVPs, but has been able to defend the title only once when he won the award in 2007 and 2009. Coming off another fantastic 2017 MVP campaign averaging 16.2 points, 10.8 rebounds, 6.5 assists and 1.8 blocks per game, the legendary center from Iran might come back for another run.

Jamshidi was also on the Asia Cup 2017 All-Star Five team. Jamshidi has been on fire, recently torching Bahrain for 41 points in the World Cup Qualifiers and will be looking to keep that going should he be headed to Jakarta.

Meanwhile, Kazemi could be looking for his first Asia Cup title as well after coming so close in 2017. He averaged 10.2 points, 8.2 rebounds, and 3.2 assists per game, highlighted by a near-perfect game of 19 points, 10 rebounds, 3 assists, and 3 steals on 8-9 shooting against Korea in the Semi-Finals.

### Shahram Mahmoudi announces retirement from volleyball

TEHRAN – Iran opposite spiker Shahram Mahmoudi announced his retirement from volleyball.

The 33-year-old player represented Iran at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio, where the Iranian team finished in fifth place.

Mahmoudi helped Iran win gold medal in the 2013 Asian Volleyball Championship and 2014 Asian Games.

The player was a member of the Iranian team who won a bronze medal at the 2007 FIVB U21 World Championship.

Mahmoudi started his playing career for Iran national team in 2013 and was invited by Julio Vlasco to represent Iran at the 2013 FIVB Volleyball Women's World Grand Champions Cup in Tokyo, Japan.

Mahmoudi, dealt with numerous injury issues through his career, announced his retirement from national duty after the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio but came out the retirement and joined Iran in the 2019 FIVB Volleyball Men's Nations League.

On Tuesday, he announced he is going to continue his volleyball career as coach.

### Iran to participate at St. Petersburg judo tournament

TEHRAN – Iran will send seven judo players to the International Judo Tournament “Anatoliy Rakhlin Cup” 2022.

The two-day competition will begin on June 17 in St. Petersburg.

Russia, Iran and Serbia will participate in the tournament.

**Iran's Team:**

**-66kg:** Hamid Reza Papi

**-73kg:** Mohammad Sedighi, Vahid Jeddi

**-81kg:** Mehdi Fathipour

**-90kg:** Ghasem Baghcheghi

**+90kg:** Hamid Reza Malekzadeh, Alireza Parhizgar

### Kurban Berdyev nominated to lead Iran's Tractor

TEHRAN – Turkmen football coach Kurban Bekiyevich Berdyev is a nominee to be appointed as head coach Iranian football club Tractor.

Tractor have not reportedly reached an agreement with Turkey's Ertugrul Saglam to extend his contract.

The Iranian top-flight club have reached an agreement with Berdyev.

The 69-year-old coach has coached Russian clubs Rubin Kazan, Rostov and Kristall Smolensk.

He has most recently worked as head coach of Kazakhstan's Kairat.





## Heads of Iran, Afghanistan railways confer on mutual cooperation

From page 1 ► “We also welcome cooperation with Afghanistan,” Salehi said, adding: “If Afghanistan is ready for long-term cooperation and practical agreements with our country, we will also declare our readiness in this regard.”

The RAI head also expressed Iran's determination to launch the Khaf-Herat railway as soon as possible and stressed the need to take operational steps to determine the requirements and ways to make this route operational.

The official also suggested that Iranian companies can finance the project and in return, Afghanistan can award them the development of the country's mines.

He also called on the Afghan side to ensure the safety and security of Iranian companies that are going to work in the country.

“Iran and Afghanistan have many capacities, but these potential capacities are not used

properly and the enemies are happy with the backwardness of our countries,” Salehi said.

Sharafat, the head of the Afghan Railways Administration, for his part said: “The Afghan government welcomes cooperation with Iran.”

He called on the Iranian Ministry of Transport and Urban Development to reconstruct and complete the third section of the Khaf-Herat railway as soon as possible and to resume holding training courses and technical programs for Afghan railway personnel.

The 222-kilometers-long Khaf-Herat railway is part of the Iran-Afghanistan rail corridor. The project, whose implementation started in 2007, connects Iran's eastern city of Khaf to Afghanistan's western city of Ghoryan.

The construction of the third section of the project was halted after the regime change in Afghanistan.

## Iran MARINEX 2022 running in Kish Island



PMO Deputy Head Hassan Beyk-Mohammadlou (R) and NITC Head Hossein Shiva cutting the ribbon in the opening ceremony of Iran MARINEX 2022 in Kish Island on Monday.

TEHRAN – The 12th edition of Iran International Marine Industries Exhibition (Iran MARINEX 2022) kicked off at Kish International Exhibition Center in southern Hormozgan Province on Monday, the portal of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) reported.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition was attended by senior maritime officials including PMO Deputy Head Hassan Beyk-

Mohammadlou and Head of the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC) Hossein Shiva.

As reported, the purpose of holding this four-day exhibition is to develop the maritime industry and to promote the maritime economy in various fields including shipping, designing, shipbuilding, ports, maritime, fisheries, environment, tourism, and other offshore activities.

Promoting scientific and trade relations among different fields, increasing the regional and global market share of port and maritime services, creating a suitable opportunity for interaction among maritime scholars, upgrading the scientific and industrial quality of the maritime sector, attracting foreign investment, and promoting the domestic production of the equipment used in this industry are also among the goals of this exhibition.

Many universities, research centers, maritime educational institutions, and also knowledge-based companies are also participating in this year's exhibition along with companies active in this field.

## Over 3,300 National Housing Movement units under construction in Hamedan province

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, 3,323 units of National Housing Movement are being constructed in Hamedan province.

Masoud Rezaei, the director-general of Hamedan Housing Foundation, said that the construction operation of the mentioned units enjoys 30 percent physical progress at the moment.

On Saturday, transport and urban development minister announced that 1.35 million units of National Housing Movement are currently under construction throughout the country and the number is increasing every day.

Referring to the registration of 5.2 million people in National Housing Movement, Rostam Qasemi 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

TEHRAN – Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji met with Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro in Tehran on Monday, during which the two sides stressed the expansion of energy ties, especially in the oil industry, Shana reported.

In this meeting, Oji and Maduro discussed and decided on issues such as fuel supply to Venezuela and also the exports of petroleum products, petrochemical products, and petrochemical catalysts to the south American country.

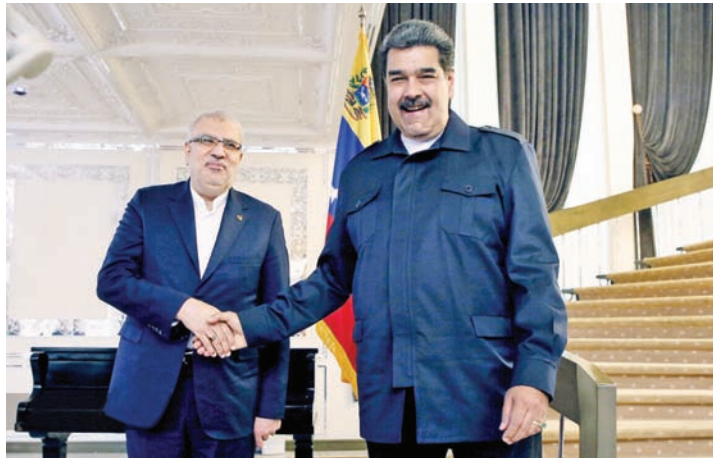
Other topics discussed at the meeting included decisions on the export of technical and engineering services to Venezuela by Iran with the aim of the reconstruction and modernization of the country's refineries and the development of its oil and gas fields.

Heading a high-ranking politico-economic delegation Maduro arrived in Tehran on Friday, June 10 for an official visit.

The presidents of Iran and Venezuela, as holders of more than 460 billion barrels of crude oil reserves, formally held talks in Tehran on Saturday and signed a 20-year cooperation document.

The strategic document includes cooperation in the fields

# Tehran, Caracas to expand oil cooperation



Oil Minister Javad Oji (L) and Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro met in Tehran on Monday

of politics, culture, economy, oil, petrochemicals, and tourism.

The document was signed in the presence of President Ebrahim Raisi of Iran and his Venezuelan counterpart Nicolas

Maduro.

A 20-year roadmap that outlines Tehran-Caracas relations was also signed by the two presidents.

After the signing of the

## Building biomass power plants with 400MWh capacity on agenda

TEHRAN – Iran's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (known as SATBA) has it on the agenda to construct biomass power plants with the capacity of 400 megawatt-hours (MWh) across the country, an official with the organization announced.

Reza Samadi, director-general of SATBA's Technical, Economic, and Environmental Assessment Office, said the organization has put on the agenda a plan to identify and solve the problems of existing biomass power plants in addition to construct new power plants with a total capacity of at least 400 MWh.

The official said northern provinces and metropolitan areas are the priority for the construction of the mentioned power plants.

He noted that there are currently seven

biomass power plants with a total capacity of about 14 MW in the country, which are not operating at their full capacities due to technical, legal, or economic problems.

According to Samadi, if the goals of this program are achieved and new biomass power plants with the capacity of 400 MWh are constructed 3,000 kWh of electricity can be generated annually, and it will also lead to energy efficiency and reduction of transmission and distribution network losses while saving 850 million cubic meters of natural gas.

Explaining the process of turning waste into compost, Samadi said that in metropolitan areas, 65 percent of the waste is wet, of which 60 percent can be converted to compost which contains energy. Dry waste also accounts for 35 percent of the waste and their recycling has a high



economic justification, of which about 10 percent is currently recycled.

“One of the major sustainable solutions to overcome the existing environmental crises is the production of energy through biomass resources, which is an optimal and economical way to generate energy in the world and reduces the volume of waste and its destructive effects while producing electricity and heat,” he added.

## Export from West Azarbaijan increases 9% in 2 months on year

TEHRAN – The value of export from West Azarbaijan province, in the northwest of Iran, rose nine percent in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a provincial official announced.

Abdol-Hamid Sartipi, the acting head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, said that commodities worth over \$118 million were exported from the province in the two-month period.

The official also stated that the two-month export indicates a 17-percent rise in terms of weight year on year, putting the weight of

exported products at 366.53 million tons.

He named agricultural and industrial products, minerals, petrochemicals, carpets, and handicrafts as the major items exported from the province.

The data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) show that the value of Iran's export of non-oil products increased 37 percent during the first two months of the current year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Iran exported 17,014 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$8.516 billion in the said two months, also

registering a 1.6-percent rise in weight as compared to the first two months of the previous year, the data indicate.

Based on the IRICA data, Iran traded over 22.196 million tons of non-oil products worth \$16.631 billion with other countries in the mentioned period.

The Islamic Republic imported 5.182 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$8.115 billion in the first two months of the present year, with a 24-percent growth in value and a 3.37-percent decline in weight year on year.

Among the country's non-oil export destinations, China was

strategic cooperation document, the two presidents held a joint press conference.

Raisi said Iran's foreign policy has always been focused on building relationships with independent countries.

“Venezuela has shown exemplary resistance to enemy threats,” Raisi said.

The cooperation between Iran and Venezuela, which had already begun with the exports of Iranian gasoline to this country in 2020, has now entered a new phase and expanded to other sectors following the signing of this document.

Back in May, Oji headed a delegation to Latin American countries including Venezuela to pursue expansion of ties.

Earlier on January, the two countries had signed a memorandum of understanding on the sidelines of the 6th Summit of the Gas Exporting Countries Forum (GECF) in Doha, Qatar, to cooperate in a variety of areas including technical services, technology transfer, training services, manpower training and cooperation in the refining sector.

The document was signed by Oji and Venezuelan Foreign Minister Felix Plasencia Gonzalez.

## TEDPIX gains 2,600 points on Tuesday



TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 2,619 points to close at 1.574 million on Tuesday.

As reported, over 7.823 billion securities worth 46.074 trillion rials (about \$170.6 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 22 points, and the second market's index gained 11,160 points.

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

Emphasizing that there is potential for growth in the market, Hassan Kazemzadeh told ISNA on June 5: “Given this potential, the market will grow. Of course, there are ups and downs, but no matter how much

distrust there is, the changes of major economic factors will affect the market, but this effect takes place gradually and over time.”

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

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

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



# Possible origin of reported particles could be result of subversive acts, Iran tells IAEA

*IAEA views Israel's forged documents as authentic, Iran laments*

From page 1 ► Following is the text of the statement:

**Explanatory note**

*The Islamic Republic of Iran comments and observations on Report by the Director General on NPT Safeguards Agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran*

GOV/2022/26 of 30 May 2022

A: General comments:

1. The Islamic Republic of Iran is complying completely with its obligations under its Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (INFCIRC/214) through which the Agency continues to maintain its knowledge with a robust verification system that is unique in the Agency's verification system including C/S measures on Iran's nuclear material and activities.

2. Also, in light of further cooperation with the Agency, Iran agreed to conclude in two occasions the joint statements of 26 August 2020 and 5 March 2022, the provisions of which were fully implemented by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

3. The locations referred to in the current report of the DG is based upon allegations posed by an ill-intended third party- namely Zionist regime- which has no legal ground. It should be noted that pursuant to the principles of International Law "pacta tertiis nec nocent nec prosunt", that means "treaties neither obligate nor benefit third parties"; also Article 34 of the Vienna Convention on the Law of Treaties between States and International Organizations that stipulates: "a treaty cannot create rights and obligations for a third party without its consent", a non-party of safeguards agreement without adhering to such instruments, cannot exploit some of the rights and benefits mentioned in the agreement and use it against any party in order to raise any allegation and involve the Agency in endless investigation.

B: Comments on the report, Background:

1. Regarding paragraph 3 of the report which states: "the Agency identified in 2019 a number of questions related to possible undeclared nuclear material and nuclear-related activities in Iran that had not been declared to the Agency and requested responses to these questions from Iran, pursuant to Article 69 of the Safeguards Agreement and Article 4.d. of the Additional Protocol". It should be mentioned that:

- It is a matter of concern that the Agency is intentionally, even politically, conflating a Member State's obligations under the CSA (Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement) with the ones under the AP (Additional Protocol).

- As explained by Iran frequently, there has never been any undeclared location in Iran which is required to be declared under the CSA. Iran's nuclear activities remain peaceful under Agency's full-scope safeguards. Therefore, mentioning these issues and expressing "concern" by the Agency in this regard is baseless.

- The Agency's requests were not initially considered by Iran, because:

The Agency's requests were not supported by required authentic information, documents and evidences, in so far as relevant for the purpose of safeguards.

Therefore, the Agency's statement in this paragraph which reads: "... the Agency's also provided Iran with detailed information..." is not accurate; because the Agency did not provide any authentic information for its request.

2. In paragraph 4, the Agency also states: "...Location 2 had undergone extensive sanitization and levelling in the past, the Agency assessed that there would be no verification value in conducting a complementary access at this location." It should be mentioned that:

- Access to Lavisan-Shian site had been granted to the Agency



in 28 June 2004. The Agency took environmental samples including soil and plants at this location. Iran stated that "no nuclear material declarable in accordance with the Agency's safeguards was present", and that "no nuclear activities related to fuel cycle were carried out in Lavisan-Shian".

- The Agency found no contamination there, and pursuant to Iran's clarifications about the razing of the Lavisan-Shian, in August 2005, finally it was reported by the Agency in GOV/2005/67 that the information provided by Iran appeared to be coherent and consistent with its explanation of the razing of the Lavisan-Shian.

3. Paragraph 5 of the report states: "Director General had become deeply concerned that nuclear material had been present at undeclared locations in Iran and that the current location of this nuclear material was not known to the Agency." It should be mentioned that:

- The mere finding natural uranium particles in the collected environmental samples cannot be considered as an indication that a quantity of nuclear material had been present at these locations, while the Agency incorrectly concluded that nuclear material had been present at this location without taking into account other possible causes.

- As it was frequently explained to the Agency, its claims have no legal basis and are audacious accusations. In fact, there is no undeclared nuclear material in Iran, and the Agency assertion is merely based on false and fabricated information provided by illegitimate Zionist regime that itself possesses nuclear weapons.

- In its deliberations with the Agency, Iran has explained its assumptions about probable causes of the presence of uranium particles in the locations reported by the Agency. Iran has exhausted all its attempts so as to discover the origin of such particles. Given the fact that Iran could not yet find any technical reasons for the presence of such uranium particles, it would reasonably imply that possibly external elements (sabotage) have been involved in the contamination of those locations.

4. On location 2, which as a result of Iran's cooperation has been closed according to paragraph 7.6 of the Agency's report. The report states further in paragraph 7.4 "the Agency conducted further verification activities at JHL. As a result, in a letter dated 14 January 2022, the Agency informed Iran that while it had not been able to identify the disc from amongst those stored at JHL, it could not exclude that the disc had been melted, re-cast and was now part of the declared nuclear material inventory at JHL. Nevertheless, the Agency could not confirm the current location of this disc". It should be mentioned that:

- The claim about existing another undeclared location containing natural uranium in the form of a metal disc is based on the same false and fabricated assertions of illegitimate Zionist regime without any ground.

- Iran has stated frequently that the uranium metal had been produced previously only in Jaber Ibne Hayyan (JHL) which has been verified many times by the Agency since 2003 and have been under the Agency's continuous C/S measures. This fact was reflected in the Agency report

(GOV/2015/68) as "...the Agency re-evaluated this information in 2014 and assessed that the amount of natural uranium involved was within the uncertainties associated with nuclear material accountancy and related measurements". Therefore, this project was wholly verified by the Agency in the past and the issue was resolved. It is regrettable that the Agency reopens a closed issue dating back to 2003-2004 based on unauthentic information.

- Although all nuclear material pertaining to this project has been under the Agency seals since 2003, it is very unfortunate that the Agency has occasionally resorted to base on new fictitious assumptions according to unauthentic information delivered by Iran's vicious enemy added to this report.

- It is very much regrettable that while the Agency in its letter as well as in this report made a conclusion that "... it could not exclude that the disc had been melted, re-cast and was now part of the declared nuclear material inventory at JHL", but once again based on unauthentic information, in this report has changed its conclusion and looks for an assumable disc in a nowhere location!

C. Comments on actions taken following the Joint Statement

In paragraph 10, the Agency states "The Agency reviewed the information provided by Iran on 19 March 2022 and found that it was predominantly information that Iran had previously provided to the Agency but also included new information, which was subsequently assessed by the Agency. The information provided by Iran did not address all of the Agency's questions". It should be mentioned that:

- In accordance with the agreed Joint Statement, on 4 April 2022 and within the determined time table, the Islamic Republic of Iran has provided the Agency with all required information requested by the Agency concerning the identified locations, which as it was said, have been under the control of private sector. It should be reiterated that the Islamic Republic of Iran has fulfilled all its commitments in this respect and addressed all Agency's questions in a very cooperative manner.

Comments on the Agency evaluations related to each Location:

1. In section D.1 about Location 4 - 'Marivan': It should be mentioned that:

- the logic behind the naming location 4 as "Marivan" by the Agency is irrelevant and unknown for Iran since the Agency had named until recently this location as "Abadeh". Moreover, the Agency had closed the issue related to a location called "Marivan" in its report contained in Gov/2015/68 of 2 December 2015 (see para 41 of the 2015 report).

- In reply to the Agency questions regarding this location, Iran repeatedly has responded that it gives no value to questions derived from fabricated information provided by illegitimate Zionist regime.

- The Agency has claimed that it has provided Iran with supporting documents about the location so called "Marivan". These documents claimed by the Agency are only two images from an unknown location which cannot be regarded as authentic evidence at all, because they are easily producible thus have

no legal and technical value.

- The Agency's reference to the presence of neutron detectors in this location, principally has no safeguards and even AP ground. Despite this fact and although the Agency's questions were not based on authentic information relevant to the purpose of safeguards for its request of access to these locations, the Islamic Republic of Iran based on its goodwill, voluntarily granted access to the Agency and provided explanations regarding complete history, usage and even the application of bunkers.

- In spite of these extensive cooperation, the Agency has considered the information received from Iran as being inconsistent with the said alleged documents, simply by unjustifiably relying on some unauthentic and fabricated documents and drawing fallacious and invalid conclusion upon its own wrongly shaped assumptions.

- Iran has merely reflected the relevant history of the location without referring or linking it to such contamination to a foreign company. It is quite natural that the concerned Member State was not able to find any information about its company's activities after half a century. Therefore, the Agency's conclusion on the explanation of Iran is not correct and substantially defendable.

- This location was used for the exploitation of fireclay through a contract with a foreign company decades ago. However, the Agency baselessly alleged that the location has been involved in nuclear activities. The Agency's allegations that this location has conducted explosive experiments with protective shielding in preparation for the use of neutron detectors is merely a fantasy based on false and unauthentic information. This conclusion is absolutely false, unrealistic and biased.

- The Agency's making linkage between Lavizan-Shian and the so called Marivan based on unauthentic and fabricated picture of detector is also baseless.

- The origin of presence of depleted uranium with U-236 mentioned in the analytical results of the Agency's environmental samples is unknown. However, it is clear that these particles do not have Iran's origin, rather have origin from companies such as Merck, Amersham, etc., which are commercially available in the market. It should not be difficult for the Agency which claims to having a rich library of the characteristics of particles to substantiate their origins.

- Other possible origin of reported particles by the Agency could be result of subversive acts (sabotage). It should not be forgotten that the Islamic Republic of Iran has been subjected to numerous sabotage acts in various locations repeatedly by different means and methods.

- The Agency's assessment based on similarities between different trucks observed at the so-called 'Marivan' and Turqzabad during mid-July and mid-August 2018 through the analysis of commercially available satellite imagery is merely inaccurate and unprofessional for claiming that items were being removed from Turqzabad. Such commercially satellite imagery cannot provide a valid base for a deduction like that. Iran is a vast country; there are great number of similar trucks moving around the country. Surprisingly, the Agency has indicated the similarities of trucks in these two different locations seen through the commercial satellite imagery as a reason to claim that the same truck moving from one location to another.

- Unfortunately, the Agency considers all fabricated documents and fake information provided by the Israeli regime totally as authentic while it has disregarded Iran's clarifications, and has concluded that the so-called Marivan issue, as "not clarified", without sufficient reasons.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

## UK Judiciary okays "unethical" Rwanda refugee policy



From page 1 ► The government has not provided any details about those selected for the first deportation flight to the Rwandan capital Kigali. Reports in the British press say the flight will cost more than half a million pounds sterling.

Nevertheless, the UK Foreign Secretary Liz Truss says she expects the flight to take off imminently regardless of the number of people on board.

She told British media "I can't say exactly how many people will be on the flight. But the really important thing is that we establish the principle."

"There will be people on this flight and if they're not on this flight, they will be on the next flight," she added.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has warned that Rwanda does not have the capacity to process the claims.

After the appeal to halt the deportations brought by refugee charities and a trade union which called it "immoral, dangerous and counter-productive" was defeated by the Court of Appeal, the UN refugee chief hit out saying the deportation policy was "all wrong".

Filippo Grandi told reporters "we believe that this is all wrong... for so many reasons," as a planeload of some asylum-seeking claimants was expected to take off in one-way flights.

Grandi pointed out he also wanted to end dangerous journeys by refugees, but reiterated the UNHCR's position that exporting asylum seekers was not the way to address the issue.

"The UK says... we do this to save people from dangerous journeys. Let me doubt that a little bit," he said.

"Saving people from dangerous journeys is great, is absolutely great. But is that the right way to do it?" he asked. "I don't think so."

The UN agency has expressed concerns about the legal process in Rwanda and potential discrimination against claimants.

Britain with its advanced structures and large resources should not be "exporting its responsibility to another country," Grandi said.

He said Rwanda had been "quite good to refugees", having taken in and dealt efficiently with tens of thousands from the Democratic Republic of Congo and Burundi.

But he stressed that its structures and resources were vastly different from those that existed in Britain, and that Rwanda was not equipped to adopt the UK system for refugee status determination. That "is a completely different ballgame," he said.

The UN refugee chief also warned that the UK decision will provide a poor example that other countries might follow, with disastrous effect.

He highlighted that there are many countries in Africa and elsewhere that are far poorer than Britain hosting hundreds of thousands and even millions of refugees.

"What am I going to tell them if they say a rich country like the UK, they are sending them abroad, I will do the same. I close my border... and they can go to another country? The precedent that this creates is catastrophic," he added.

Rwandan opposition parties have also denounced the deal as "unrealistic and unsustainable," calling on their government to focus on their country's domestic problems

before dealing with issues of other nations.

The most senior cleric in the Church of England, Archbishop Justin Welby, was also among the high-profile critics of UK PM Johnson's plans.

Welby earlier stated that "a country like Britain informed by Christian values cannot sub-contract out our responsibilities, even to a country that seeks to do well like Rwanda,"

Following the Court of Appeal's verdict, he and the entire leadership of the Church of England published a letter saying "this policy should shame us as a nation. The shame is our own, because our Christian heritage should inspire us to treat asylum seekers with compassion, fairness and justice"

The main opposition Labour Party described the policy as "unethical" while the Scottish National Party condemned the move, saying "this cash-for-deportations policy is akin to state-sponsored trafficking and transportation."

Activists believe that the flight could take off from either Stansted airport or the Royal Air Force base of Lyneham. A foreign airline has reportedly agreed to undertake the first deportation flight on behalf of the British Home Office.

Measuring just 26,338 square kilometers (10,169 square miles) in size, Rwanda is a landlocked nation and the fourth-smallest country in the African continent.

On April 14, the two countries made headlines when they announced the controversial and rather bizarre policy that asylum seekers arriving in the UK would be sent some 6,400 kilometers (4,000 miles) away to Rwanda. There, Rwandan authorities would be in charge of processing their asylum claims, and, if successful, they would be allowed to live in Rwanda or deported to their country of origin.

The government claims the new deportation strategy will deter asylum seekers from crossing the English Channel in small boats from Europe to reach the British border.

But some 160 charities and Human rights groups say the policy is inhumane and will put refugees at risk. Human Rights Watch says "the government continues to embrace a policy of cruelty."

Home Secretary Priti Patel and Prime Minister Boris Johnson have not submitted to the pressure and criticism, insisting the policy is needed. Earlier Johnson said the government was determined to press ahead with the policy regardless of the legal challenges and strong opposition.

Despite the government claiming the deportation plan would deter the refugees crossing the English Channel that separates Britains southern border from Europe, according to government figures, more than 3,500 people have reached Britain in small boats since the middle of April when the Rwanda scheme was unveiled.

In another indication that the policy will not work as the government wishes or deter refugees from seeking asylum in the UK; while the court hearings were taking place about 35 refugees arrived in the British port city of Dover off the English Channel, some carrying their possessions in bags, where they were taken away by British border officials.



## Tehran, Baghdad ink MOU to renew tourism co-op

From page 1 ► The promotion of tourism through travel agencies boosts employment and economic growth in the two countries while establishing tourism credibility, he mentioned.

For his part, Nazim said that due to the religious belief of the people of Iran and Iraq, religious tourism between the two countries is very important.

Nazim expressed hope that his visit to Iran would lead to a strengthening of cultural, artistic, and tourism relations between the two countries.

Back in February, Iran and Iraq discussed ways to facilitate travel by car between the two countries.

Negotiations focused on facilitating car travel with the prediction that land traffic between the two countries would increase once the visa for Iran-Iraq is officially waived on March 4.

In addition to providing suggestions for improving the procedure and further coordination, the two sides discussed obstacles and problems of temporary entry and exit of foreign passenger vehicles from Iraq into Iran and vice versa.

## Rudsar burial structures belong to different Islamic periods, archaeologists find

TEHRAN – Archaeologists have recently concluded the previously-excavated burial structures in Rudsar, northern Iran, belong to different Islamic periods.

The burial chambers were unearthed earlier this year after an archaeological team carved several trenches in the modern town of Rudsar.

“Led by archaeologist Seyyedeh Mana Rouhani, the team was tasked to investigate possible historical layers disappearing beneath the town,” according to Vali Jahani who presides over Gilan province’s tourism directorate.

Studies on potteries obtained from the chambers suggest the cemetery dates from the early Islamic era, Jahani said on Monday.

Evidence indicates that the sequence of the cemetery stretched some nine centuries, the official explained.

“The identified graves date from around the third century AH to the 11th century AH.”

## Spinning silk thread to be revived in northern Iran

TEHRAN – Traditional skill of silk spinning, which has fallen into oblivion, is planned to be revived in the northern province of Gilan, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

Reviving the forgotten fields of handicrafts and traditional arts is one of the priorities of the province’s Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department, IRNA quoted Hamidreza Azarpour as saying on Tuesday.

To develop the handicrafts sector, artisans and craftspeople in the province

The rules and regulations for motor vehicle international transit, fuel exemptions for passenger cars leaving Iran, the evaluation of the value of temporary entry vehicles, the temporary blocking of foreign travelers with expensive and luxury vehicles entering Iran, as well as the ease of access to mobile SIM cards at borders were also discussed.

Back in November, several Iraqi travel insiders and tour operators requested Iran waive visa requirements for Iraqi nationals who want to enter the Islamic Republic via land borders.

Iran’s ambassador to Baghdad, Iraj Masjedi, recently announced that Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi had promised to waive the land visa between Iran and Iraq starting on March 4.

Furthermore, the two neighbors agreed to abolish visa requirements for air travelers last year. The announcement came after Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi and Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi met in Tehran, discussing various issues including visa waiver, a joint railway project, and increasing the level of trade.

Historical texts suggest that Rudsar rose to prominence as a prosperous coast town in the early Islamic era, the official added.

Gilan is well-known for its rich Iron Age cemeteries such as Marlik that have been excavated over the past century. Until the 7th century CE, Gilan was in the sphere of influence of the consecutive Achaemenid, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid empires ruling Iran.

The subsequent Arab conquest of Iran led to the rise of many local dynasties, and Gilan acquired an independent status that continued until 1567.

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

are encouraged to diversify their products and packaging to increase sustainable employment, the official added.

Last year, traditional skills of silk spinning and keeping silk cocoons were collectively inscribed on the national heritage list.

For more than three millennia, silk thread produced in Iran has been used to make clothing fabric and for weaving Persian rugs and there are silk makers in Gilan, who still practice the trade their ancestors did some 3,000 years ago.

# Archaeologists discover Seleucid tumulus, find no traces of missing deceased

TEHRAN – Efforts made by an archaeological team finally failed to discover the corpse of a high-ranking Seleucid official following the discovery of the ruins of an ancient tumulus in west-central Iran.

The discovery of a tumulus was made in Tepe Naqarechi where archaeologists were in search of the Seleucid Laodicea Temple under the modern town of Nahavand in Hamedan province, ILNA quoted archaeologist Mohsen Khanjan as saying on Tuesday.

Naqarechi is a circular hill with a height of about eight meters situated among orchards in the southeast of Nahavand.

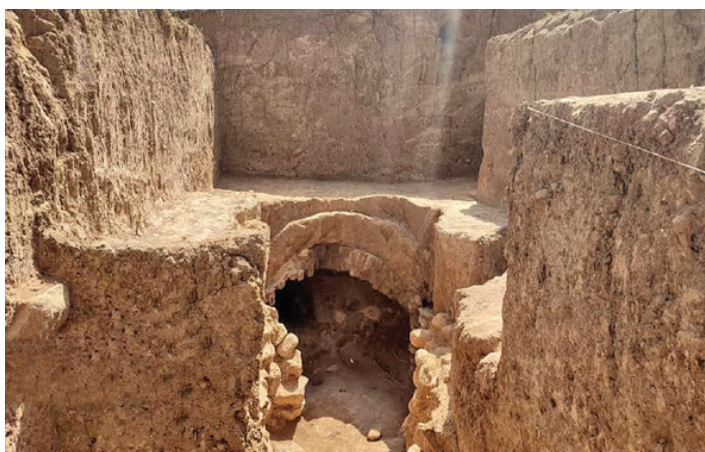
“A coffin and some (burial) objects were taken out during the reign of Nasser al-Din Shah (r. 1848 – 1896), and we are dealing with only a tumulus left from the Seleucid period. There is no sign of the deceased,” the archaeologist explained.

Khanjan, who led the excavation, said his team hopes to find more clues about Hellenistic life in west-central Iran.

The discovery of this tumulus may shed new light on dark corners of the Seleucid period on the Iranian plateau, Khanjan said.

Nahavand was an important town during the reign of Greek Hellenistic king Antiochus III, who ruled over the region of Syria and large parts of the rest of western Asia towards the end of the 3rd century BC.

“Nahavand was one of the towns that Seleucids built during



their Iran rule over occupied Iran, using their own artisans, teachers, artists, historians, traders, ... to Greekize Iranian land,”Khanjan said.

In the realm of archeology, it has always been speculated that there may be a tumulus in Iran, but this possibility finally came true after several centuries, he stated.

Future research should consider the possibility of finding two or more other (Seleucid) tombs in the area, the archaeologist said. “We hope to find more tombs in future excavations.”

Khanjan has led several archaeological seasons to possibly unearth the Laodicea Temple believed to be placed beneath the Dokhaharan’s sanctuary.

According to the archaeologist, significant objects such as bronze statues of Greek gods, a stone altar, column head, column shaft, column base, and pottery pieces had been discovered in the Dokhaharan neighborhood.

“Regarding those findings, we concluded that the history of the city of Nahavand goes far back in prehistoric times, on the contrary to what previously believed it only dates back to the Seleucid period.”

“The consequence of previous excavations determined that a Seleucid city was established on remains of a prehistoric settlement...”

In 1943, archaeologists discovered an 85x36 centimeter ancient inscription of 30 lines written in Greek calling on the people of Nahavand to obey the laws of the government. The inscription indicated the existence of the Laodicea Temple, which had been built by the Seleucid king who ruled Asia Minor, Antiochus III the Great (223-187 BC), for his wife Queen Laodicea.

Two of the inscriptions as well as four bronze statuettes, unearthed at the site, are on display in the National Museum of Iran in downtown Tehran. And, column capitals and bases

are currently being used as decorations in Nahavand’s Hajian Bazaar and several other parts of the city.

Antiochus was the most distinguished of the Seleucids. Having made vassal states out of Parthia in present-day northeastern Iran and Bactria (an ancient country in Central Asia), he warred successfully against the Egyptian king Ptolemy V and in 198 BC obtained possession of all of Palestine and Lebanon.

Later, the Seleucid monarch became involved in a conflict with the Romans, who defeated him at Thermopylae in 191 BC and Magnesia (now Manisa, Turkey) in 190 BC. As the price of peace, he was forced to surrender all his dominions west of the Taurus Mountains and to pay costly tribute. Antiochus, who early in his reign had restored the Seleucid Empire, finally forfeited its influence in the eastern Mediterranean by his failure to recognize the rising power of Rome.

The Seleucid Empire reigned from 312 BC to 63 BC; Seleucus I Nicator founded it following the division of the Macedonian Empire vastly expanded by Alexander the Great. Seleucus received Babylonia (321 BC) and from there expanded his dominions to include much of Alexander’s near-eastern territories. At the height of its power, the Empire included central Anatolia, Persia, the Levant, Mesopotamia, and what is now Kuwait, Afghanistan, and parts of Pakistan and Turkmenistan.

## Webinar explore ways to showcase handicrafts beyond borders



TEHRAN – On Tuesday, an online seminar was held in Yazd to discuss effective ways to promote and market Iranian handicrafts in foreign handicraft exhibitions.

Along with several Iranian artisans and craftspeople, the director of the Asia section of Milan’s International Craft Selling Exhibition (L’Artigiano in Fiera) attended the event, CHTN reported.

A handicraft must have an ID, packaging, brand name, detailed specifications of the product, and the manufacturer to be able to participate in the Milan exhibit, the Italian expert explained.

To market and promote hand-made products, special planning needs to be developed in terms of the type of product with its target market, the quality of the product, the historical background, its originality, and the materials used, the experts explained.

L’Artigiano in Fiera, which will be held from December 3 to 11, shows the best of Italian and worldwide handicraft and artisan work. The distinctive feature of this event is the variety of products on display that come from all over the world and cover an infinite range of categories.

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 a year earlier due to the damage the coronavirus pandemic has inflicted on global trade.

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

## Stop-off Ilam could turn into major destination: tourism official

TEHRAN – Rather than being just a stopover for travelers from neighboring countries, the western province of Ilam could become a tourism hub, an official with the tourism ministry has said.

The border province of Ilam attracts a large number of tourists a year from neighboring countries, particularly Iraqis, who just pass through the province on their way to other parts of the country, Javad Vahedi explained on Tuesday.

However, the province itself could become one of the country’s tourism hubs, allowing travelers to stay and visit the province for a few days by developing tourism infrastructure, the official added.

It is important to pay attention to the neighboring provinces of Ilam in Iraq as a way of introducing Iranian handicrafts and attracting Iraqi tourists to the country, he noted.

There are many handicraft capabilities in the province of Ilam, which if supported will be an effective support for job creation and prosperity for art, he mentioned.



### “TENDER”

Tender for purchasing of the following items:

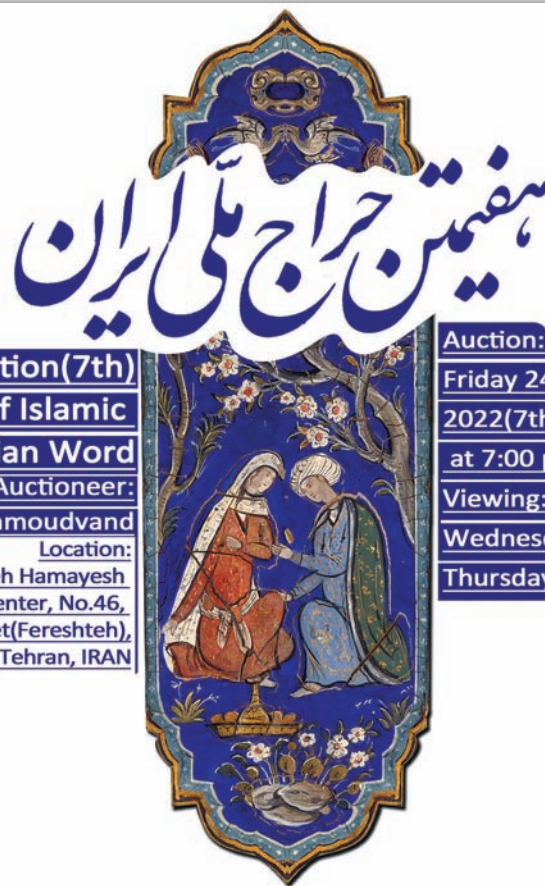
- 1) 15600 MT first class wood free high white offset printing paper in reel (70gsm)
- 2) 4300 MT fully coated paperboard with white back for book covering (210gsm)
- 3) 4000 MT first class wood free high white offset printing paper in sheet (70gsm)

Offset Press Co. and Iran Textbook Printing and publishing Co. intend to purchase the above mentioned paper through a tender.

Interested parties who wish to participate may collect the tender documents from the address below as soon as possible and send the requested documents and samples by 2pm on Wednesday 29/06/2022.

Address: Offset Press Co. No.8, Damavand Road, Tehran – Iran  
Postcode: 1746853171

Tel: (+98) 21 77961611 Fax: (+98) 21 77339097 Email: [info@offset.ir](mailto:info@offset.ir)



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**at 7:00 pm**  
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# Positive marriage rate for second consecutive year

TEHRAN – Some 568,930 marriages were registered over the past [Iranian calendar] year (March 2021-March 2022), which shows a growth of 2.2 percent compared to a year before.

“After years of negative marriage rates, it grows positive for the second year in a row. Some 568,930 marriages were registered last year, which shows a growth of 2.2 percent compared to a year before. Decreasing marriage ceremonies during the coronavirus and increasing the number of marriage loans by 8 to 10 times (over 4 years) has had a positive effect on this growth,” Vahid Yaminpour, deputy minister of sports and youth, tweeted on Monday.

In April and May, 83,857 applicants received marriage loans, which is a 174 percent increase over the same period last year, according to Yaminpour.

The rate of marriage in the country has increased by 23.6 percent, over the first three months of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 21-June 21, 2022) compared to the same period last year, according to



the data published by the Statistical Center of Iran.

The marriage rate in Iran has increased by 5 percent over the [Iranian calendar] year ended in March 2021, despite the coronavirus pandemic, Masoumeh Ebtekar, former vice president for Women and Family Affairs, said in May 2021.

## Demographic issue

Today, the country's fertility rate has reached about 1.6 children per woman, however, it was 6.5 children per woman, in 1986. The lowest fer-

tility rate in the whole region of West Asia, North Africa, and the MENA region is recorded for Iran.

While 1,594,000 births were registered in the [Iranian calendar] year 1394 (March 2015-March 2016), the downward trend continued annually to the point that the number of births reached about one million in the [Iranian calendar] year 1399 (March 2020-March 2021). In other words, we lost more than 550,000 births in five years.

The decline in the marriage rate, followed by a dramatic decrease in

childbearing, has sounded the alarm of the aging population, an issue that has forced government officials to enact legislation to support the population growth and the youth.

This law was proposed in a situation when despite the announcement made by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in [the Iranian calendar year] 1393 (March 2014-March 2015) regarding 14 policies to support childbearing and the family, the lack of operational and systematic planning to solve this important and strategic issue was evident.

The marriage rate in Iran increased by 5 percent over the [Iranian calendar] year ended in March 2021, despite the coronavirus pandemic.

## \$103m approved for development in villages

TEHRAN – A total of 31 trillion rials (nearly \$103 million) for the eradication of deprivation in rural areas was approved by the Majlis (Iranian Parliament) in the budget bill for the current Iranian calendar year (March 2022-March 2023).

The comprehensive development plans aim to develop rural areas in line with cultural, economic, and social conditions, as well as housing provision for the rural residents and improving environmental services.

There are around 40,000 villages in the country with more than 20 households, for all of which comprehensive development plans have been approved every 10 years.

## Rural development

Currently, 26 percent of the country's population lives in villages, around 39,000 villages have

more than 20 households and 23,000 villages have less than 20 households.

Thus, more than 97 percent of the country's rural population lives in villages with over 20,000 households.

More than 97 percent of the country's rural population lives in villages with over 20,000 households.

In Iran, where villages account for generating 20-23 percent of the value-added in the country, the development of rural areas has been always a top agenda of the government's activities.

Many efforts have been made over the past couple of years by the government to support villagers and slow down the trend of migration from rural areas to cities.

Rural tourism, agritourism, religious tourism, and ecotourism are alternatives or complementary economic activities that could further stimulate rural devel-



opment while decreasing rural community dependency on one main economic sector (agriculture, forestry, energy, or mining).

Mohammad Omid, the then vice president for rural development, said in November 2020 that for the first time in the country, the migration of people from rural areas to cities has reached zero.

Since 2003, some 37,919 village administration offices have been established nationwide, offering services to about 95 percent of the country's rural population.

goods, equipment, and services into global markets.

Some 42 percent of the products in this field are related to construction, more than 17 percent to the field of oil, gas, and petrochemicals, 13 percent to the field of automobiles, and over 10 percent to the field of optoelectronic.

Some 270 companies are active in the nanotechnology field and it is predicted that their revenue will reach up to 80 trillion rials (nearly \$310 million), Vice President for Science and Technology, Sourena Sattari, announced.

## Iran improves in nanotechnology

Iran's ranking in nanotechnology articles citation in 2019 has significantly improved compared to 2018, as it moved 26 levels higher, according to the StatNa-

no's statistics collected from the WoS database.

Based on a report Nanotechnology Publications report, Iran ranked 38 worldwide for the average number of times the nano-articles have been cited in the Journal Citation Reports in 2019, while in 2018, it was placed 64.

Iran ranked 4th for the highest number of nano-article publications.

Bases for exporting nanoproducts to China, India, Indonesia, Syria, Turkey, and Iraq have been set up in recent years.

## Iranian knowledge-based companies to cooperate with Venezuela

From page 1 ► The vice presidency for science and technology is trying to facilitate the export of technological products to the Venezuelan market with the necessary follow-ups.

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 have 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.

Ghalehnoei said in February that last year, knowledge-based companies gained about \$800 million in revenue from export, and the figure is expected to reach to \$2 billion this year.

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

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei designated the current Iranian year as “The Year of Production: Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating”.

Strengthening knowledge-based companies

is on the agenda, raising hope for reducing obstacles on the path to development.

The Leader has called on all Iranians, including citizens and government officials, to work hard to boost knowledge-based production and create new jobs.

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, Vice President for Science and Technology, Sourena Sattari told Fars on February 13.

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.

Africa, neighboring countries, Southeast Asia and Eurasia are the main destinations for Iranian knowledge-based products.

## Birds In Iran

## Part 1

## Description of the Iranian bird fauna

Despite the fact that large portions of the country are arid to semi-arid, Iran possesses a very rich and diverse bird fauna; over 490 species are known to have occurred.

Two main factors are responsible for this; the great range of habitats—from permanent snows to deep deserts and from lush deciduous forest in the north to palm groves and mangroves in the south—and Iran's position at a crossroads between three major faunal regions.

The bulk of the country lies within the Palearctic faunal region, which stretches from Europe and North Africa across north and central Asia to the Soviet Far East and Japan.

Lying along the southern edge of this region, Iran's bird fauna includes a large Western Palearctic faunal element, reaching its eastern extremity in the central Alborz and Zagros mountains, and a smaller, but still marked, Eastern Palearctic element, which extends into northeastern Iran in the highlands of Khorasan.

In a number of cases, western and eastern forms—either closely related species or well differentiated subspecies of a single species—come together with a narrow zone of hybridization in the central Alborz; e.g., the wheatears *Oenanthe hispanica* and *O. pleschanka*, the buntings *Em-*

*beriza melanocephala* and *E. bruniceps*, and the green-backed and gray-backed forms of the great tit *Parus major* (Haffer).

In southern Iran, two other faunal regions have a pronounced influence on the avifauna: the Oriental region in the southeast, and the Afrotropical (Ethiopian) in the southwest.

Of 324 breeding species, 131 occur widely in the Palearctic region, 81 are Western Palearctic species, reaching the easternmost extremities of their ranges in Iran, while 19 are typically Eastern Palearctic species, reaching the westernmost tip of their ranges in Iran.

A further 25 species are characteristic of the great Saharo-Sindian desert belt which stretches along the southern edge of the Palearctic region from North Africa through West Asia (the Middle East) to Mongolia, while another 24 are Palearctic species with restricted ranges in West Asia.

The bird fauna of southern Persian Baluchestan and the southern Persian Gulf coast is predominantly Oriental, with some 29 breeding species of Oriental origin reaching the northwestern extremities of their ranges in Iran, while in southwestern Iran there is a small Afrotropical influence with six breeding species of African origin.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON JUNE 14

New cases	162
New deaths	1
Total cases	7,234,042
Total deaths	141,353
New hospitalized patients	25
Patients in critical condition	342
Total recovered patients	7,059,527
Diagnostic tests conducted	52,463,433
Doses of vaccine injected	150,152,924

## ENGLISH IN USE

## LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Precipitation forecast to reach above normal in next 3 months

The country is predicted to receive above normal rainfall over the next three months (February 20-May 21), head of the climatological research institute affiliated to Iran's Meteorological Organization (IMO) has said.

The whole country will meet normal and above normal rainfalls, the northern parts will receive above normal rainfall while southern provinces will receive normal to lower-than-normal rainfall, IRNA quoted Iman Babaeian as saying on Sunday.

This month, northern and eastern provinces will receive rain above normal averages, while in the first month of spring precipitation will be at normal amounts across the country, he noted, adding, during the second month of spring rainfall will reach its peak.

## بارش‌های کشور در سه ماه پیش رو بیش از نرمال است

رئیس پژوهشکده اقلیم‌شناسی سازمان هواشناسی گفت: پیش‌بینی‌ها نشان می‌دهد میزان بارش در کشور در سه ماهه پیش رو (اسفند ۹۷، فروردین و اردیبهشت ۹۸) در حد نرمال و متمایل به بیش از نرمال خواهد بود.

ایمان باباییان روز یکشنبه در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: مجموع بارش‌ها در سطح کشور نرمال و متمایل به بیشتر از نرمال است اما در نیمه شمالی، بیشتر از نرمال و در نیمه جنوبی در محدوده نرمال تا کمتر از نرمال خواهد بود.

وی اظهار داشت: بارش‌ها در اسفندماه ۹۷ در نیمه شمالی و شرقی بیشتر از نرمال است، در فروردین ماه ۹۸ نیز بارش‌ها در محدوده نرمال و برای اردیبهشت بیشتر از نرمال پیش‌بینی شده است.



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JUNE 15, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Do not feel ashamed if the amount of charity is small because to refuse the needy is an act of greater shame.

Imam Ali (AS)

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

## Persian art: Drawing

Part 2

Although Mohammad Khayyam apparently lived long enough to be employed in Baysonghor's ketab-khana (mentioning a piece of calligraphy dated 1409), his style remained quintessentially Jalayerid.

The culminating achievements of Jalayerid art are the marginal drawings (actually each seeming a full-page drawing with text panels superimposed) of the Divan of Sultan Ahmad Jalayer, from the opening years of the 15th century and now in the Freer Gallery of Art, Washington, D.C.

These drawings, with touches of gold and washes of blue, are imbued with a combination of naturalism and lyricism in which Chinese influence is evident but in which there is also a suggestion of familiarity with European manuscript painting.

The Timurid period. Sultan Ahmad Jalayer's son-in-law Eskandar Soltan, Timurid governor of Fars from 1409 to 1414 during the reign of his uncle Shahrokh (1405-47), fell heir to the Jalayerid tradition of cultivated patronage.

A series of manuscripts made for Eskandar Soltan, who seemed to prefer small portable volumes like two miscellanies of 1410-11 (in the Gulbenkian Foundation, Lisbon, and the British Museum, London, respectively), are adorned with lively and delicate decorative drawings, in addition to their painted illustrations: "Another distinguishing element of several of Iskandar's manuscripts is the accompanying illumination and drawing... in the margins, in scalloped medallions, and on entire pages".

When Eskandar Soltan was blinded for rebelling against Shahrokh in 1414 the center of court patronage shifted to the Timurid capital, Herat, under the aegis of Baysonghor.

The tradition established under the Jalayerids and carried on by Eskandar Soltan was further developed at Herat. Timurid court artists adopted similar subject matter, though their work was less experimental and varied than that produced under the Jalayerids.

For example, a drawing that has been labeled "Baysonghor Slays a Wolf," representing the theme of princely valor and skill, is characterized by economy of line and a sense of effortless power.

The face of the prince is too idealized to justify identification with Baysonghor, however; he seems to have been more accurately depicted in frontispieces to manuscripts made for him.

Timurid decorative designs, often within shaped cartouches, follow their predecessors so closely that distinguishing material from the two periods is very difficult.

Although much of the vocabulary in these drawings had originally been borrowed from China, by the 15th century it had been thoroughly assimilated.

Nevertheless, a renewed interest in Chinese art may have been stimulated by missions to and from China during the reign of Shahrokh, as suggested by a drawing of two arhats copied from a Yuan dynasty original.

Extant underdrawing from the early Timurid period attests the mastery of draftsmanship achieved by court artists.

In his aforementioned preface Doost-Mohammad described Herat as an artistic center during the reign of Sultan Hosayn Bayqara (1470-1506).

He had high praise for Behzad, best known for his paintings but demonstrably also a great draftsman. A late 15th-century drawing of a youth teasingly removing a bottle from the reach of an older man has been assigned to him by Stuart Cary Welch; the economy of line and keen observation of the figures seem

to confirm the attribution.

Among other late 15th-century Herat artists one was particularly recognized for his drawings. In Tarikh-e rashidi Mirza Mohammad-Haydar Dughlat (1500-51), a Central Asian cousin of Babur, founder of the Mughal dynasty, praised Shah Mozaffar even above Behzad: "His pen and ink drawings (qalam-siah) are to be found in the possession of some people [and] the masters of this art consider them very dear".

Little of Shah Mozaffar's work seems to have survived, perhaps because he died at the age of twenty-four years; it is not clear whether two of his unpublished works in the Bahram Mirza album are drawings or paintings (mentioning a citation to Shah Mozaffar in a chronicle but without identification of his work).

Although the chroniclers did not mention artists who worked for the contemporary Turkman sultans, two Istanbul albums are treasure troves of Turkman paintings and drawings through the reign of the Aq Qoyunlu sultan Yaqub (1478-90).

Quite a number bear what appear to be valid ascriptions to the artists Shaykhi and Darvish Mohammad. More problematic are works ascribed to Mohammad Siah-qalam (lit., "black pen," suggesting his preference for drawing as a medium).

This name is most closely associated with a series of pictures of demons and nomads in black and reddish tones that have aroused much speculation but are not relevant here; there are also a few drawings ascribed to him that seem to fit stylistically into the period of Sultan Yaqub.

The Safavid period: The Timurid dynasty came to an end in Persia with the death of Sultan Hosayn. In 1501, the first Safavid shah, Esmail I (1501-24), was crowned in Tabriz, and in 1510 he took Herat from the Uzbek conquerors.

The Safavid court style thus developed from a combination of the Timurid Herat style with the Aq Qoyunlu style of Tabriz.

Shah Tahmasb (1524-76) was, like his father, a great patron of the arts during the first half of his reign. Under his patronage there seems to have been increased appreciation of drawings, for a considerable number of finished examples survive.

The themes continued to parallel those of painting. The two artists of this period who received the most unstinted praise from Doost-Mohammad were Soltan-Mohammad and Aqa Mirak; although both were superb draftsmen, it is for their paintings that they are admired today.

Welch has convincingly attributed to Soltan-Mohammad several border drawings in a dispersed copy of Sadi's Golestan, executed in shades of gold and silver and filled with real and imagined beasts and birds, figures, and angels amid trees, foliage, and rocks.

Aqa Mirak was noted for his ornamental drawings and was cited by Sadeqi Beg Afshar in Qanun-e sowa for his animal designs; Welch has attributed to him the original borders of a manuscript of Nezami's Khamsa in the British Museum, with birds, beasts, and foliage in silver and shades of gold.

In the mid-16th century the Safavid capital was moved from Tabriz to Qazvin, but Tahmasb himself turned away from artistic patronage, and court artists sought employment with such cultivated princes as the shah's brother Bahram Mirza and the latter's son Ebrahim Mirza, as well as at the Mughal court of Homayun at Kabul and later at Delhi.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

# Iran’s Association of Writers for Children and Youth announces nominees for 2023 ALMA

From Page 1 ▶ Ansari received the nomination “for about six decades of activities in librarianship and as a reading promoter, and her contributions to reading culture and the Iranian Children’s Encyclopedia, and the establishment of numerous cultural organizations such as the Children’s Book Council of Iran.

As an Afghan immigrant, Musavi was picked as the association’s foreign nominee for the award.

As a writer and teacher, Musavi has made great endeavors for over 20 years to promote reading among the children of Afghan expatriates living in Iran.

He is the author of several books carrying materials for Afghan migrant children about their motherland.

He also travels across Iran every year to run reading programs in over 350 schools for Afghan migrant children.

Musavi and Iranian writers Ahmad Akbarpur and Ali-Asghar Seyyedabadi have also been nominated for the 2023 ALMA by the Children’s Book Council of Iran.

The Institute for Research on

A combination photo shows Nushafraim Ansari, Farhad Hassanzadeh and Nader Musavi as the nominees of Iran’s Association of Writers for Children and Youth for the 2023 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.

History of Children’s Literature, and the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCY-Kanoon) are other Iranian cultural centers allowed to select Iran’s nominations for the ALMA.

Kanoon has previously

announced writer Hamidreza Shahabadi and illustrator Reza Dalvand as its nominees for the 2023 ALMA.

The Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award amounts to SEK 5 million (about €570,000), making it the world’s largest award for children’s

and young adults’ literature.

The award was established in 2002 by the Swedish National Council for Cultural Affairs to commemorate Swedish writer Astrid Lindgren and to promote children’s and youths’ literature from around the world.

## Doc links male child preference to gender imbalance in Iran’s population

Hayedeh Moradi directs a scene from her latest documentary “Sonography”.

TEHRAN – Iranian director Hayedeh Moradi has made a documentary that shows Iranians’ quest for male children has upset the gender balance of the total population in the country.

The documentary entitled “Sonography” has focused on the northwestern Iranian province of Ardebil, where Moradi made her previous acclaimed documentaries “Snowy Roofs” and “Snowy Roads”, the Experimental, Documentary and Animation Film Center, the producer of the film, announced in a press release.

Studies show that the ratio of male to female

births is 109:100 in the province. Moradi said that these research findings can be generalized to other provinces, and the imbalance will cause serious problems in the country.

Preference for male children is an ongoing practice in Ardebil as Moradi has witnessed some women among her relatives have decided to have an abortion after they learned that their children are female following a gender test.

According to her research, women seeking abortions are categorized into two groups, one of which is made up of women with higher education who marry late in life. They do not have sufficient child-bearing years remaining to let them think about having more than one child. Therefore, they seek male children in their sole opportunity for having a child.

The second group is made up of women living in lower-class families. Due to their gender, they are deprived of any basic human rights. They do not want to give birth to female children who may experience similar deprivations in the future.

Moradi had hired a pregnant woman to appear in her documentary for paying the cost of her hospitalization and other necessities for the supervision of a normal pregnancy.

Following strong opposition from her husband, the woman withdrew from the project three months after working for the documentary.

Due to her husband’s desire for a male child, she wanted to have an abortion if her child was female. Her husband wanted the abortion to be done without any intervention from others.

Moradi hopes that her documentary can change people’s attitudes toward the gender of their children. “The minor issue the documentary intends to point out is that people with a strong desire for male children will face a problem in finding a wife for their children in the near future.”

Moradi is also the director of the documentary “Snowy Roofs”, which centers on the experiences of Najibeh Abbaspur, Zahra Morovati and Soghra Babazadeh, delving into the lives of these women who live in a village in Ardebil that has no men.

Since there are no jobs to be found there, men leave to find work in cities and eventually marry. Only women remain in the village, surrounded by loneliness, the bitter cold, and the crippling unemployment.

She has also made “Snowy Road” about the obstacles in way of girls trying to go to school in the rural regions in Iran’s Azarbaijan.

## “Death Knocks” at Tehran theater

A poster for the stage reading of Woody Allen’s comic play “Death Knocks” at the Art Bureau in Tehran.

bald, the paunchy 57-year-old dress manufacturer is lying on the bed finishing off tomorrow’s Daily News.

He wears a bathrobe and slippers, and reads by a bed light clipped to the white headboard of the bed. The time is near midnight. Suddenly we hear a

noise, and Nat sits up and looks at the window.

In “Death Knocks”, Woody Allen provides a new treatment to a classical theme: a man seeing himself on a final mission succeeds in buying time from the ineluctability of death by challenging a personified death to a game that he wins, gaining

so a temporary reprieve.

“Death Knocks” has previously been performed by various troupes in Iran.

The latest one was director Shaahin Ramezani’s group, which performed the play during the 2020 Fajr International Theater Festival in Tehran. Ramezani previously staged “Death Knocks” at the Iran Tamasha Theater Hall in Tehran.

The reading performance of “Death Knocks” is part of the bureau’s program “A Laugh on the Stage”, which takes comic plays by the world’s celebrated dramatists on stage.

Samuel Beckett’s “Waiting for Godot” and Anton Chekhov’s “Swansong” and “A Marriage Proposal” have previously been performed by different groups in the program.

## A story about military service in “Blacksmiths Section”

The issue of military service has sparked much debate, and there are many supporters and opponents. For many youngsters reaching the age of seventeen or eighteen, it becomes the first and most pressing worry, and serving in the military appears more frightening, foolish, and pointless than ever. We may be shocked to hear that someone has eagerly signed up to serve in the military, yet the military was formerly held in high regard.

This book’s plot revolves on the same theme, and the book’s narrator describes his military service and his memories of it during the war years. The story begins in the early days of the war, with a cheerful teenager from Dezful, who has gone through everything from being at an air force base

to serving as a committee guard, showing us the atmosphere of those early days and going into some detail.

The story’s main character, Mohammad Hossein Shamshirgar Zadeh, has been in the center of major events, from the early days of the Islamic revolution through the invasion of Iraq and the official start of the war, and he tells everything in great detail. However, his memories of being in the military are at the heart of the story.

The author has written the story and events without censorship, and as a result of this honesty, the book has stepped away from the mainstream of years of sacred defense and stereotyped terms.