

# Iran Boosts Diplomatic Ties Amid Tensions With the West

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## Report

## Donating blood is an act of solidarity

By Mehdi Garshasbi

TEHRAN – World Blood Donor Day takes place on 14 June each year. The day provides an opportunity to call to action governments and health authorities to provide adequate resources to increase the collection of blood from voluntary, unpaid blood donors and to manage access to blood and the transfusion of those who require it.

For 2022, the slogan is “Donating blood is an act of solidarity. Join the effort and save lives” to draw attention to the roles that voluntary blood donations play in saving lives and enhancing solidarity within communities.

To ensure that everyone who needs transfusion has access to safe blood, all countries need voluntary, unpaid blood donors who give blood regularly.

In Iran, the safety and health of blood are guaranteed according to the latest global standards and are second to none in the Eastern Mediterranean region, says Abbas Sedaqat, a spokesman for the Blood Donation Organization.

The country is honored to be introduced as a colleague of the World Health Organization, aiming to promote and transfer the knowledge for donating and transfusing blood observing all the global standards.

There are currently 178 blood donation centers in the country and more than 2.1 million Iranians donate blood annually. Iran currently has the highest blood donation rate in the Eastern Mediterranean region.

While blood donation in 70 countries still depends on replacement or paid donors, Iran is the first country in the region that has enjoyed voluntary blood donation by 100 percent since 2007. ► Page 7

## Government warns Israel, says security of Iranians are red line

TEHRAN— Iranian government spokesman Ali Bahadori Jahromi said on Monday that security of the Iranian citizens is Tehran's red line.

In an interview with the Tasnim news agency, Bahadori Jahromi pointed to the recent provocative and hostile moves of the Israeli regime, saying, “The nature of the usurper Zionist regime was and is clear, and the illegitimate establishment of this regime is based on terror, terrorism, oppression and murder, and its continuation is based on this terrorist nature.”

Therefore, he added, the position of Iran towards such a regime is clear and there will be no change in Tehran's stance.

The government spokesman went on to say that “naturally it is expected that international organizations will have a clear position on such illegitimate natures and a clear action against the illegal and terrorist acts of such a regime in order to remove the shadow of the destructive effects and actions of this evil regime from the region.”

Bahadori Jahromi then stated that the red line of the Islamic Republic is the security of its citizens, and in order to maintain security and safeguard the security of the public, Iran will take any necessary measures as a reciprocal action against any external act by this regime.

Israel has tacitly acknowledged that it assassinated Iranian Colonel Sayyad Khodaei in downtown Tehran on May 22.

## U.S. inflation defies expectations again



The latest data shows Inflation levels in the United States have hit another 40-year high rising to 8.6 percent for the month of May with the conflict in Ukraine, which experts say was sparked by the U.S. itself, playing a role.

Last month, the cost of key products such as gas and

food as well as other necessities jumped once again, raising U.S. inflation to a fresh four-decade high and giving American households no breathing space from the rising cost of living.

The U.S. Department of Labour says Consumer prices rose 8.6 percent in May from 12 months

earlier, faster than April's year-over-year rise of 8.3 percent.

Referring to the month-to-month results, the cost of goods jumped one percent in the month of May alone, a huge rise in comparison to the 0.3 percent increase from March to April. ► Page 5

## FDI inflow to Iran rises over 6% in 2021: UNCTAD

TEHRAN – The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), in its latest investment report dubbed “International Tax Reforms and Sustainable Investment”, has said foreign direct investment inflow to Iran increased by 6.4 percent in 2021 compared to the previous year.

The report, published on June 9, put the Islamic Republic's FDI inflow at \$1.429 billion in 2021, while the figure stood at \$1.342 billion in 2020.

According to the report, Iran also had \$82 million in foreign direct investment in other countries in 2021, up from \$78

million the previous year.

UNCTAD has also put the global foreign direct investment in 2021 at \$1.582 trillion, indicating a growth of 64 percent compared to the previous year. The figure stood at \$962 billion in 2020. ► Page 4

## IAEA resolution is ‘political’: Iran

TEHRAN – 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.

“Certainly, we couldn't have let the IAEA's political and non-technical move go unanswered,” Khatibzadeh noted. ► Page 3

## Intl. medical visits to Fars province hit record high

TEHRAN – The number of international travelers who received medical services in Fars province's hospitals hits a record high during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year, the province's deputy governor-general has said.

The number of medical travelers to Fars jumped 250 percent and 550 percent respectively in Farvardin (Mar. 21-Apr. 20) and Ordibehesht (Apr.21-May 21) in comparison to

the same months last year, IRNA quoted Mohammad Farrokhzadeh as saying on Sunday.

“It is an unprecedented record of its kind,” the official said.

Iran is known in the world as an affordable destination for health tourism and the government is making a great effort to attract more health tourists in the years to come. Many believe that medical tourism in the Islamic Republic is a win-win opportunity both

for the country and foreign patients, as they are offered affordable yet quality treatment services and the country gains considerable foreign currency.

According to statistics, hospitals of Fars province admitted 10,500 foreign medical travelers and received some 5,000 international outpatients last year (ended Mar. 20), Farrokhzadeh said. ► Page 6

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## Interview

## Iran must arrange more warm-up games, ex-coach says

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN – Former Iran national football team coach Bijan Zolfagharnasab says that the loss against Algeria cannot question the quality of the current players.

Algeria defeated Iran 2-1 in a friendly match held at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium in Doha, Qatar Sunday night.

It was the first friendly match for Dragan Skocic's side after the 2022 World Cup qualification.

“This defeat and the quality of the team's performance shows that Team Melli suffer lack of preparation with about five months before the start of the World Cup,” said Zolfagharnasab in his interview with Tehran Times.

“Almost all the teams that qualified for the 2022 World Cup started planning their preparation immediately after their participation – in World Cup – was confirmed. Holding training camps and playing various friendly games is a process that began a long time ago for the other teams.

“But the Iranian national team did not have such conditions and, after a long time, finally played their first friendly game,” he added.

The ‘Persian Leopards’ prepare for the 2022 FIFA World Cup, where Skocic's side are drawn along with England, the U.S., and Wales in Group B.

However, Zolfagharnasab believes that the loss against Algeria is not enough to question the quality and potential of the Iranian team's players. ► Page 3

## New painting by Hassan Ruholamin represents Imam Reza's rain prayer

TEHRAN – Iranian artist Hassan Ruholamin has portrayed the story of the rain prayer by Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Imam of the Shia, in his latest painting.

The painting named “The Rain Prayer” was unveiled at the shrine of Imam Reza (AS) in Mashhad on Saturday as part of the Imam's birthday celebration.

The 2.4X3-meter oil painting depicts Imam Reza (AS) on a rock with people around him praying for rain.

The story of the rain prayer occurred months after Mamun, the Abbasid caliph, appointed Imam Reza (AS) as the successor to his throne.

The Khorasan region was affected by severe drought, which was linked to the choice by the Imam's opponents who said, “You see? Since Ali ibn Musa al-Reza has been selected as the crown prince, no more rain has been sent down to us from the sky.” ► Page 8

© ISNA / Morteza Zangeneh



## Iran warns Israel, says response will be at ‘the right place, right time’



TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Monday that Iran will respond to Israel's terrorist acts at the “the right place” and “the right time”.

In his weekly presser, Khatibzadeh added, “We do not give this response in other countries.”

He also pointed to Tehran's active diplomacy, informing reporters that three senior officials will visit Tehran on Tuesday.

“Last week we had Mr. Amir Abdollahian's visit to India. In addition to meeting with the Prime Minister, he met with the Indian Foreign Minister and National Security Adviser. He also met with Iranians and businessmen in Hyderabad, Mumbai and New Delhi. Three agreements and memoranda of understanding were signed during the trip to pursue what is being called regional diplomacy,” he said, adding that Turkmenistan's president, Pakistan's foreign minister and Armenia's parliament speaker will visit Iran on Tuesday.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman also referred to the visit of Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and his accompanying delegation to Iran, noting that Amir Abdollahian's travels will be followed next week.

“Several meetings are scheduled for July in Iran. The Iranian people should know that we did not delay the developments for an agreement in the Vienna talks and tried to make these trips a good achievement for the people,” the diplomat noted.

**We have given Iraqis evidence more than needed**

Khatibzadeh also refuted claims by Iraq's Foreign Ministry spokesman Fuad Hussein that Iran has not provided concrete evidence that Mossad had bases in Erbil, saying “We advise that Iraqis' geographical borders and their country should not be abused by the (Israeli) usurpers for anti-security actions against their friend Iran and the Iranian people. They have been given more information than they need. The usurper regime also knows what it has done in Iraq and on some borders.”

He added, “I warned my friends in Iraq many times from this podium, and the Islamic Revolutions

Guards Corps' attack on Mossad headquarters in Erbil was a small operation, which hit the target accurately.”

**Syria cannot be a backyard for Israeli aggressions**

In response to a question about the recent Israeli attack on Damascus Airport, Khatibzadeh said that immediately after this incident, Amir Abdollahian spoke with his Syrian counterpart and while condemning it, talked about how to solve this problem regarding the airport and the necessary predictions.

He added, “This regime is trying to bring the crises out of the occupied territories in order to cross the abyss in which it is being caught, including economic, social and political. You hear these statements in the comments of the officials of this regime. The right answer is to resist and push back this aggressor regime. The people of Syria and the region know very well that the aggressor's response is a slap in the face and not a laugh, and that the resistance that the Syrian people showed strongly is the path that the (Resistance) Axis and the men of resistance showed against this regime.”

The spokesman reiterated that certainly Syria cannot be a backyard for the aggression of the Israeli regime.

“It seems that to date, some effective measures have been taken by the Syrian army, despite some pressure, and we also support it,” he noted.

**Amir Abdollahian will visit Turkey, Africa**

Elsewhere in the briefing, Khatibzadeh also said that Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian is scheduled to visit several African countries soon.

“Several African officials have traveled to Iran and our relations with some countries in West and South Africa have exceeded one billion dollars. We pursued diversity in foreign policy and economic diplomacy in this regard. In particular, our Africa department has been tasked with following up on these interactions. My visit to Africa two months ago, after a few years at the level of Deputy Foreign Ministers, was to bring them into the executive phase. The foreign ministry's deputy for economic diplomacy also has a mission that I will inform the press as soon as there is a development.”

He then went on to note that the foreign minister plans to visit Turkey, the African continent and several other countries, and Turkey is one of the priorities.

“Planning is done in the next few days, but it will be announced when it is final,” Khatibzadeh concluded.

## Deputy FM: Iran welcomes cooperation with TRACECA

TEHRAN — The secretary general of the International Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia, TRACECA, met with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari in Tehran on Saturday.

In the meeting, Asset Assavbayev said the purpose of his visit to Iran is to underline the need for maximum use of Iran's transit routes for transferring goods from Central Asian countries to Europe.

Assavbayev then pointed to the new situation in the region, saying the amount of goods carried from Central Asia to Europe through the Caspian Sea and the Republic of Azerbaijan is beyond the capacity of those regions, and as a result, the routes that pass through Iran are now of high significance.

For his part, Safari welcomed expansion of cooperation with TRACECA and said Iran's rail and road routes are among the safest for transportation.

He added that infrastructure facilities are ready and Iran's huge transit possibilities can help facilitate international transit of goods, especially under the current circumstances.

The Iranian deputy foreign minister also spoke about facilitating issuance of visas for drivers of TRACECA member countries to cross the transit routes of Iran. Safari underlined that Iran's Foreign Ministry is ready for any cooperation to this end and there are no limitations in this regard.

He then urged the TRACECA secretary general to facilitate issuance of visas for Iranian drivers passing through the members of the group.

The “Transport Corridor Europe-Caucasus-Asia” was established in 1998 with the participation of 12 member countries and its headquarters is in Baku.

Iran joined the international group in 2009 as its 13th member.

## Iran uses own means in Vienna talks to counter other side's excessive demands: FM

TEHRAN- In negotiations in the Austrian capital intended to restore the 2015 Iran agreement, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has said Iran employs its own tools in response to the other side's unreasonable demands.

Hossein Amir Abdollahian made the statements on Sunday after testifying before the Iranian Parliament's Committee on National Security and Foreign Policy to address concerns regarding the recent developments regarding Iran's nuclear program.

Tehran “has offered its initiatives and ideas on a logical basis whenever it was treated in a logical way by the other side,” according to Iran's top diplomat.

“Every time that the opposite side put forth excessive demands during the Vienna talks, we used the country's own tools and power, so that they would understand that the interests and welfare of the Iranian nation were important to us and that we will continue our efforts to this end,” Amir



Abdollahian remarked.

The foreign minister expressed optimism that the steps intended to persuade the negotiation parties to return to the nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), would be implemented in such a manner that Iran's power and demands, as well as the expectations of the Iranian people, would be taken into account.

“While emphasizing the need

to completely protect the rights of the country in international arena, our people expect us to do so while respecting all the red lines,” Amir Abdollahian noted.

Since April of last year, the Iranian negotiating team has been in continuous talks with the other JCPOA parties — the United Kingdom, France, Germany, China, and Russia – with the goal of re-inviting the United States to the agreement and ending the

sanctions against Tehran.

Under previous President Donald Trump, the U.S. withdrew from the historic agreement and launched a “maximum pressure” campaign of sanctions on Iran in the hopes of reaching a “better deal” than the JCPOA.

Meanwhile, the Vienna talks have been on hold since March as the U.S. refuses to make up for past wrongs by removing Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) from its list of foreign terrorist organizations.

The U.S., France, the United Kingdom, and Germany pushed a motion at the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors on Wednesday accusing Iran of not collaborating with the UN nuclear watchdog.

Iran has slammed the resolution, blaming it on the United States and its three European allies for the crisis that has erupted over its nuclear program, which was subjected to unprecedented levels of inspections before Washington pulled out of the JCPOA.

## Venezuelan first lady meets with Iranian VP for women's affairs

TEHRAN- Cilia Flores, Venezuela's first lady, met with Ensieh Khazali, Iran's Vice-President for Women and Family Affairs, and a group of female social and political activists in Tehran.

The meeting, which was held at Tehran's Saadabad Palace, was also attended by deputies of Venezuela's foreign minister.

Flores stated at the meeting that resistance is a regular topic of conversation between Venezuelan and Iranian women.

She also praised the people of her country for resisting U.S. unilateral sanctions and pressure, calling resistance the only option to stand up and

grow. The first lady also expressed joy at being in Iran and knowing about the talents of Iranian women.

For her part, Khazali hailed the Venezuelan people, particularly the ladies, while referring to Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, and his emphasis that the cost of resistance is less than the cost of compromise and surrender.

She emphasized the essential role of women in all sorts of wars by citing Iranian women's resistance during various times of military-political-economic warfare.

The two parties emphasized the need to continue talks and establishing a memorandum of agreement for operational steps.

On the formal invitation of his Iranian counterpart, the Venezuelan president and his high-ranking accompanying entourage visited Tehran on Friday afternoon for a two-day visit.

Maduro met with Ebrahim Raisi, the Iranian President, and Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Raisi and Maduro inked a 20-year collaboration pact aimed at increasing bilateral cooperation in a variety of spheres.

## Amir Abdollahian briefs parliamentary committee on Vienna talks

TEHRAN — Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian attended a special meeting of the parliament's National Security and Foreign Policy Committee on Sunday night to present a report about the process of the Vienna talks and the impact of the anti-Iran resolution at the IAEA Board of Governors, the parliamentary committee spokesman announced on Monday.

“This meeting was held in the presence of Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian, who presented a report on the negotiation process and the impact of the anti-Iran resolution on the negotiations,” Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini said.

Meshkini argued that the Vienna negotiations have their own separate direction but predicted that the IAEA board resolution will affect them.

The Vienna talks, which have stalemated since March, are intended to lift illegal sanctions against Iran by reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

“We did not expect a resolution to be issued contrary to the agreement

between Iran and the IAEA, as the Islamic Republic of Iran entered into a dialogue with the International Atomic Energy Agency in earnest and in good faith. However, this resolution does not have a strong and specific content and seems to be a recommendation that is not important to us,” he noted.

Abbaszadeh Meshkini added that the IAEA board issued the resolution to put on display a gesture of authority and convergence with the West and the United States, therefore it “has no legal or international” value.

Last week, the tense relations between Iran and the West took a new turn after the main interlocutors of Iran in the Vienna talks pushed jointly for the censure resolution. It was the first move of its kind in two years.

The resolution was adopted in the 35-nation board with 30 votes in favor, two against and three abstentions. China and Russia, two parties to the JCPOA, voted against the resolution.

Though mild in language and unbinding in nature, the resolution elicited harsh criticism from Iranian officials at various levels. The government responded by turning off IAEA surveillance cameras and

spinning a new set of advanced centrifuges. President Ebrahim Raisi, speaking in the name of God and the people, vowed resistance.

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

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh on Monday censured Grossi for visiting Israel, a regime which is widely believed to have about 90 nuclear weapons and refused to sign to nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

“He (Grossi) met the wrong people at the wrong time and in the wrong place,” Khatibzadeh told a regular news briefing.

In phone talks with UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Saturday night, Foreign Minister Amir Abdollahian has called the resolution “hasty and politically-motivated.”

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

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

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

“The only way to confront the U.S. is through resistance and persistence,” he said, according to a readout published by khamenei.ir.

“The resistance of the Iranian nation brought about the failure of their maximum pressure policy to such an extent that one of the prominent political officials of the United States recently used the term ‘abject failure’ in referring to this policy.”

### اصلاحیه شرکت آلومینای ایران

**Iran Alumina**

**TENDER No.: j/12**

اصلاحیه متن آگهی فراخوان مربوط به مناقصه شماره j/12

TENDER CALL TEXT AMENDMENT RELATED TO TENDER NO. J/12

ONE STAGE TENDER INTERNATIONAL CALL FOR PURCHASE OF 10000 MT BAKED ANODE BLOCK

اصلاحیه شماره یک/۱: ردیف دو/۲ متن آگهی فراخوان

AMENDMEN NO. 1: ITEM 2 OF TENDER CALL TEXT

TENDER No.: **j/12**

**شماره مناقصه: J/12**

DATE: **8<sup>th</sup> /June/2022**

NOTE: Item no.2 is corrected as follows:

2.: Bid Bond Guarantee: **202,087 Euro/or 57,306,700,000 Rials**

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# Western Trade

**Afghans are selling their organs due to extreme poverty.**

**Lack of jobs and low income made people sell their organs for 5 to 15 hundred dollars.**

**Surgeons say Most organ donors are desperate to feed their families.**

**The donors are often uninformed about the dangers of losing an organ.**

**Even some more desperate parents have to sell their children.**

**The U.S. occupation of Afghanistan put the livelihood of people at risk.**

**The frozen assets of the country by the West are another root of the problem.**

Source: [www.nypost.com](http://www.nypost.com)



# Iran boosts diplomatic ties amid tensions with the West

TEHRAN – Hours after Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro departed Tehran, a senior Iranian diplomat announced that Tehran will be hosting a number of other high-level delegations in the coming days.

Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, said three foreign officials including a president, will soon arrive in Tehran for diplomatic talks.

He said Pakistan's foreign minister is due in Tehran on Tuesday. And the president of Turkmenistan will also be in Tehran in the coming days. In addition, the speaker of the Armenian Parliament is also traveling to Tehran this week.

These visits show Iran is not isolated. Following the adoption of a censure resolution against Iran at the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors last week, some Western media outlets and analysts claimed that Iran is facing growing isolation due to the pause in talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

The resolution mustered support from 30 member states. It was opposed by Russia and China while the three remaining countries – Pakistan, India, and Libya – abstained from voting.

The resolution was vehemently rejected by Iran as politically-motivated and influenced by Israel.



“The Islamic Republic of Iran deplores the approval of a resolution drafted by the U.S., Britain, France and Germany at the IAEA Board of Governors as a political, wrong and unconstructive move,” the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement in reaction to the resolution.

But even the voting numbers in the Board of Governors showed the effectiveness of Iranian diplomacy. Interestingly, India and Pakistan both abstained from voting despite the fact that the two nuclear states rarely agree on certain things. That wasn't a fluke of nature. Instead, it was a result of intensive diplomacy with both states.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian traveled to India last week and held high-level talks with the Indian leaders. In his meeting with

Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Amir Abdollahian underlined the shared views of Iran and India in the talks. On the other hand, the Indian premier pointed to the existing bilateral agreements in various fields. Modi announced his country's readiness to strengthen cooperation with Iran, especially with regard to transit routes.

In addition to the flurry of diplomatic visits to Tehran expected to take place in the coming days, the Iranian foreign minister also plans to resume his trips next week, according to Khatibzadeh. Amir Abdollahian will pay visits to a number of African countries.

The spokesman said several meetings will be held in Iran in the next Iranian calendar month, which starts on June 22.

In addition, Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov is also expected to visit Iran. Khatibzadeh said this visit will take place and its date will be announced in time. Russia confirmed that such a visit is under consideration. The Russian Foreign Ministry said preparations are underway for the visit, according to Russian media.

Earlier this month, Amir Abdollahian and Lavrov spoke over the phone and exchanged views on the most important bilateral, regional and international issues.

Amir Abdollahian and Lavrov discussed the latest state of ties between Tehran and Moscow and followed up various issues resulting from talks between the presidents of the two countries.

In the telephone conversation, Lavrov said he was pleased with his future official visit to Iran and noted that relations and cooperation between Tehran and Moscow are expanding in all spheres.

Amir Abdollahian and Lavrov held consultations over the inclusive document of the Iran-Russia cooperation, ways of boosting economic cooperation between the private and public sectors of the two countries, the forthcoming summit of the Caspian Sea states, the upcoming visit of the top Russian diplomat to Tehran, and the latest developments in the Ukraine crisis, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

## SPORTS

### Iran must arrange more warm-up games, ex-coach says

From Page 1 ► “Iran have excellent players, and this defeat cannot question our national team's technical quality. Instead, it shows us our weaknesses.

“In my opinion, Skocic and his technical staff should use the time left until the World Cup to fix the problems seen in the team's game,” ex-Saipa coach stated.

“This, of course, requires more and better preparation games, which is the duty of the Iranian Football Federation to arrange such games.

“The mistakes seen in the game against Algeria can be resolved. The national team head coach can eliminate these weaknesses with his measures and proper planning.

“The good point about the warm-up games is that the flaws are being exposed, and I think that instead of criticizing, we should use this opportunity to help the national team,” concluded Bijan Zolfagharnasab.

stretch to win the hard-fought set 25-22.

Their confidence boosted after holding 1-1, Iran took command in the third set. Attempting to hit back, the gallant Uzbeks found the rivals too strong. The Iranians continued their good show, scoring back-to-back points to capture the comfortable set 25-15.

Leading 2-1, Iran showed more improvement in the completely lop-sided fourth set to leave the Uzbeks behind by wide margin 20-3. To make short work of the unfancied rivals, Iran stormed on their aggression to win the easy set 25-8, match and the 7th place.

Shaghayegh Hassan Khani weighed in with 21 points including 13 attacks and 3 blocks for Iran, while team-mate Setayesh Hosseini contributed 20 points. Dilnoza Boymirzaeva led Uzbekistan with 12 points.

En route to the 7th-place finish in this top-tier competition, Iran had three wins against three losses to hosts Thailand, Korea, and Kazakhstan to maintain their 7th position they had achieved in the previous edition in 2018 at the same venue here.

In their second presence in the Asian Women's U18 Championship, Uzbekistan ended in 8th position, an improved performance from the 10th position they had won in 2018.

### Iran ease past Indonesia at 2022 FIBA U16 Asian Championship

TEHRAN – Iran overpowered Indonesia 66-37 in the opening match of the 2022 FIBA U16 Asian Championship on Monday.

The Persians will also play Lebanon on Tuesday in Group B.

The FIBA U16 Asian Championship feature 13 teams. They are divided into four groups seeded automatically based on the FIBA World Ranking Boys, resulting in the Groups as follows:

- Group A: Australia, Bahrain, India, Qatar
- Group B: Iran, Lebanon, Indonesia
- Group C: Philippines, Japan, Kuwait
- Group D: Korea, New Zealand, Kazakhstan

The group stage concludes on June 14 with the top teams in each group proceeding to the Final Phase in the Quarter-Finals, starting on June 17. Teams that finish 2nd and 3rd in each group however, will play in the Qualifying Phase on June 16.

The second-ranked team in Group A will play the third-ranked team in Group B and vice versa. Similarly, the second-ranked team in Group C will play the third-ranked team in Group D and vice versa as well.

After the Semi-Finals on June 18, the tournament will reach its climax on June 19 with the Final of the FIBA U16 Asian Championship 2022.

The four teams that advance to the Semi-Finals of the U16 Asian Championship will qualify for the FIBA U17 Basketball World Cup 2022 which will be played from July 2-10 in Malaga, Spain.

### Iran 7th in Asian Women's U18 Volleyball Championship

In-form Iran repeatedly beat Uzbekistan, the team they had earlier beaten in straight sets in the pool plays, with comeback 3-1 (24-26, 25-22, 25-15, 25-8) win to finish 7th place in the 14th Asian Women's U18 Volleyball Championship at Nakhon Pathom Sports Center Gymnasium on Monday.

Iran started solidly in the opening set of the 7th-8th playoff encounter, but Uzbekistan held firm to produce the goods and won the close affair 26-24. Conceding one set, the Iranians responded with effective blocks and powerful attacks in the second set with an aim of making amends for the loss in the first set. Unleashing powerful attacks to surge ahead the rivals, Iran proved steadier at home

### Japan outscore Iran in straight sets: VNL 2022

TEHRAN – Japan defeated Iran 3-0 (25-20, 25-14, 25-19) in the 2022 Volleyball Nations League (VNL) Pool 1 in Brasilia, Brazil on Sunday.

Yuji Nishida scored 17 points for Japan and Iran's Amin Esmailnejhad earned 10 points.

It was Iran's second defeat in the competition. Behrouz Ataeli had also lost to the Netherlands. Iran have defeated China and Australia.

The 2022 FIVB Volleyball Men's Nations League is the fourth edition of the FIVB Volleyball Men's Nations League, an annual men's international volleyball tournament.

The preliminary round will be held during five weeks between June 7 June and July 10. The final round will be held from July 20 to 24.

### Algeria beat Iran in friendly

TEHRAN – Algeria football team defeated Iran 2-1 in a friendly match held at the Jassim Bin Hamad Stadium in Doha, Qatar Sunday night.

Riad Benayad opened the scoring for Algeria two minutes before the halftime.

Alireza Jahanbakhsh equalized the match in the 64th minute but Algerian winger Mohamed El Amine Amoura scored the winner in the 82nd minute.

Dragan Skocic's team prepare for the 2022 FIFA World Cup, where the 'Persian Leopards' are drawn along with England, the U.S. and Wales in Group B.

### Iran's sabre wins bronze at Asian Fencing Championships

TEHRAN – Iran's saber team claimed a bronze medal at the 2022 Asian Fencing Championships in South Korea.

In the match held at the SK Olympic Handball Gymnasium in Songpa, Seoul, Iran defeated Hong Kong 45-43 to finish third in the competition.

Iran's Ali Pakdaman, Mohammad Fotouhi, Mohammad Rahbari and Nima Zahedi loat to Japan 45-44 and failed to reach the final.

The 2022 Asian Fencing Championships started in Seoul on June 10 and will finish on June 15.

## Tehran to make the West regret IAEA resolution, MP says

TEHRAN – A senior Iranian lawmaker has dismissed the resolution adopted by the UN nuclear watchdog's Board of Governors as “political,” vowing to make Western countries behind it regret pushing for such a resolution.

Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini, spokesman for the Iranian 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 International Atomic Energy Agency's regulations and laws, adding that the IAEA has been constantly monitoring the Iranian nuclear activities.

“The visit of the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency to Israel damaged the IAEA's credibility. The Zionist regime is a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, and 200 nuclear warheads are kept in its illegal arsenal.



“The coming and going of Grossi to Iran is of no use to us, so it is better to impose restrictions on his travel to Iran,” he added. “Also, given that the International Atomic Energy Agency is influenced by U.S. decisions and acts under the influence of U.S. decisions, so we need to suspend our membership in this organization.”

He added, “I will submit this proposal to the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee to decide on this issue.”

Earlier on Sunday, Speaker of Parliament Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf accused the UN nuclear watchdog of falling under Israel's sway, saying that exerting influence over the IAEA will not help talks

in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

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

“The adoption of this resolution means that the Agency has fallen under the direct influence of Zionist circles. This move ignores Iran's very constructive volunteer and generous cooperation with the Agency and is a path that the continuation of which will certainly not benefit the ongoing diplomatic negotiations,” he said, according to state news agency IRNA.

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

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

## IAEA resolution is ‘political’: Iran

From Page 1 ► 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.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman noted that Grossi discredited the Agency by visiting Israel. “I think the message of this trip is as clear as any other diplomatic move. The Director General should be concerned about impartiality and independence,” Khatibzadeh cautioned.

“He met the wrong people at the wrong time and in the wrong place. The Agency's reputation has been badly damaged in the public eye,” Khatibzadeh said.

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

The resolution, though mild in language and unbinding in nature, elicited harsh criticism from Iranian officials at various levels.

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) injected uranium gas into advanced centrifuges and deactivated certain UN nuclear agency cameras outside the Safeguards Agreement.

“We have terminated the operations of a number of the Agency's cameras functioning outside the Safeguards Agreement, and tomorrow we will terminate the

operations of the rest, which are 17 to 18 in total,” Mohammad Eslami, Iran's nuclear chief, told a special TV program on Thursday night.

Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi also reacted to the resolution, saying “Iran will not take a step back from its positions.” And in Parliament, there was an uproar on Sunday.

Iran's Foreign Minister also chastised the United States and its three European allies, the United Kingdom, France, and Germany, for filing the anti-Iranian resolution to the IAEA's board, calling the move “hasty and politically motivated.”

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

## Raisi congratulates the Philippines on National Day

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi has sent a congratulatory message to the Philippine president and people on their National Day.

In his message, Ayatollah Raisi stated that “we have witnessed a growing trend of bilateral relations over the past years,” and expressed hope that these friendly relations will be developed and deepened in the interests of the people of the two countries, according to the official website of the Iranian presidency.

Iran has expressed willingness to boost ties with the Philippines especially in the economic sector. In October 2017, the Ambassador of the Philippines to Tehran, Wilfredo Santos, met with former Iranian President Hassan Rouhani to submit a copy of his letter of credence to the Iranian president.

The Islamic Republic of Iran welcomes deepening of cooperation with the Philippines, especially in economy, Rouhani said at the time, stating: “The Islamic Republic of Iran and the Philippines have always had good, friendly relations.”

“Undoubtedly, familiarity of the private sectors of the two countries with each other's capacities are very effective in strengthening economic relations between Iran and the Philippines,” said Rouhani while receiving the letter of credence of Santos.

Rouhani also emphasized the importance of joint investments and development of Tehran-Manila economic activities, adding: “I hope that we can all emerge victorious in the fight against terrorism and reduce the scope of this great global problem day by day to eventually eradicate it.”

During the meeting, Ambassador Santos said:



“Today, we feel the need more than ever before to cement our relations with Tehran, especially in economy and investment.”

He added, “I hope that with the joint fight against terrorism, we will see complete destruction of terrorism around the world.”



## FDI inflow to Iran rises over 6% in 2021: UNCTAD



From page 1 ► “Global flows of foreign direct investment recovered to pre-pandemic levels last year, reaching \$1.6 trillion. Cross-border deals and international project finance were particularly strong, encouraged by loose financing conditions and infrastructure stimulus. However, the recovery of greenfield investment in the industry remains fragile, especially in developing countries,” the report said.

This fragile growth of real productive investment is likely to persist in 2022. The fallout of the war in Ukraine with the triple food, fuel, and financial crises, along with the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and climate disruption, is adding stress, particularly in developing countries, UNCTAD said in its report.

Global growth estimates for the year are already down by a full percentage point. There is a significant risk that the momentum for recovery in international investment will stall prematurely, hampering efforts to boost finance for sustainable development, it added.

The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development was established in 1964 as an intergovernmental organization intended to promote the interests of developing states in world trade.

## President Raisi holds talks with ICCIMA board members



TEHRAN – President Ebrahim Raisi held a meeting with the board of directors of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) on Sunday to discuss major economic issues as well as the strategies and obstacles to the effective presence of the private sector in the country's economy.

As reported by the portal of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA), in this meeting Raisi emphasized the importance of the presence of the private sector in the country's economy, saying that new strategies should be considered and implemented to allow the private sector to have a stronger presence in the country's economic scene.

The president stated that the basis for the government's economic decisions is the alliance of major policies and decisions, adding: “Political agendas and party considerations should not influence these decisions or prevent decisions from being made.”

Raisi stated that the government supports the development of non-oil exports, especially by the private sector exporters, adding: “The participation of the private sector in the completion of semi-finished projects is also on the agenda and the private sector should count on the government's support to enter this field.”

“Barriers to the private sector's participation and investment in semi-finished projects must be identified and removed,” he stressed.

According to Raisi, the growth of the country's economy depends on the investment making of large state-owned companies, non-governmental public institutions, and private sector investors as well as foreign investment, but private sector investment can have the most important role and the most impact.

In this meeting, the ICCIMA board members announced their readiness to cooperate with the government in various areas and voiced their support for the government's important policies and programs in the field of economic reform.

They also stressed the need for cooperation between the country's chambers of commerce in shaping the future of the country's economy and stated that they are ready to participate in the completion of semi-finished projects and create at least one million jobs.

The attendees of the meeting also expressed their views on the performance of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) and criticized the issuance of numerous directives by the bank.

They also called for the removal of redundant customs regulations which are creating obstacles in the way of exports by the private sector.

## Alumina powder production up 11% in 2 months on year

TEHRAN- Production of alumina power in Iran rose 11 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, according to the data released by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO).

The IMIDRO's data put the alumina powder output at 42,406 tons in the two-month period of this year, while the figure was about 38,000 tons in the same time span of the previous year.

Based on the data previously released by IMIDRO, Iran has produced 230,682 tons of alumina powder in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20).

The IMIDRO's data put the alumina powder output at 231,612 tons in year 1399.

Aluminum oxide, which is commonly called alumina, is an inert, odorless, white amorphous material often used in industrial ceramics.

Alumina is an important ceramic material for



industrial applications. The numerous fields of application range from construction materials, to filling materials, as well as abrasives and catalysts.

In plants and mechanical engineering, alumina ceramics are mainly used for wear and corrosion protection.

The particle size distribution largely determines the application range and the quality of an alumina powder. Reliably identifying the differences in particle size is therefore an essential requirement of the measuring instrument.

# Annual exports from textile, clothing industries up 8%

TEHRAN – The value of exports from Iran's clothing and textile industries in the previous Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20) increased by eight percent compared to the figure for the preceding year, an official at the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade said.

Afsaneh Mehrabi, the director-general of the Weaving and Garment Industries Department of the ministry, said that the weight of the exports from the mentioned sector also increased by six

percent year on year, IRIB reported.

Referring to the reviving of about 200 stagnant textile and clothing production units over the last three years, Mehrabi said: “Reviving of 405 idle units and establishing 138 new units is also on the agenda this year.”

According to the official, production of some items in the textile and clothing industries increased by 12 percent in the mentioned year.

Mehrabi further stated that a significant part of the raw



materials used in the garment and textile industry is produced inside the country, adding: “We are now almost self-sufficient in the supply of some raw materials, such as cotton yarns and only two percent of acrylic yarns are imported due to the need for color diversity, especially in export products,” she said.

She considered machinery as one of the important factors in the production of high-quality, competitive, and export-oriented products, and said: “In the

textile and clothing industry, machinery must be upgraded and reconstructed at least once every 10 years.”

The textile industry in Iran has a long history and is one of the most important sectors for employment.

This industry has a high employment potential, and the amount of foreign currency investment to create a job in the textile industry is very low compared to some industries such as automotive.

## Iran eyes expansion of road transport co-op with TRACECA members

TEHRAN – Iran is eyeing the expansion of international road transportation cooperation with the Transport Corridor Europe Caucasus Asia (TRACECA) Initiative member states, the portal of Iran's Transport and Urban Development Ministry reported on Sunday.

The issue was brought up during a meeting between Head of Iran Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization (RMTO) Dariush Amani and TRACECA Secretary General Asset Assavbayev.

According to Amani, the meeting has been focused on the development of international road transport cooperation with TRACECA member countries and increasing the volume of transit through this corridor.

Amani noted that following the policies of the government, RMTO is implementing new strategies to actively and effectively participate in international forums, regional treaties and join international conventions on transportation.

Various steps have been taken in this regard, including joining the transport of perishable goods (ATP) and the International Carriage



of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) treaties, participating in the electronic version of the International Carriage of Goods by Road (e-CMR) convention, as well as the successful implementation of the project (E-TIR), the official said.

Amani stated that there are great areas for cooperation between the member states of the TRACECA agreement with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and added: “We are therefore interested in making the best use of the various projects and courses offered or held each year under the framework of the said agreement at the secretariat or in other member states.”

The RMTO head has also called on the

Assavbayev to take the necessary measures to eliminate or reduce significant tariff barriers and unconventional tolls imposed by some TRACECA member countries on the international road fleet crossing those countries in order to realize the goals envisioned for the corridor.

According to Amani, during the meeting Assavbayev stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran is an active member of TRACECA and the main link between Central Asia and Europe.

“The main purpose of these talks is to develop cooperation and implement TRACECA programs through the Islamic Republic of Iran; In this regard, the main concern is to reduce transportation costs and increase cross-border traffic in order to optimize trade activities,” he said.

Established in May 1993 in Brussels, TRACECA is an international transport program involving the European Union and 12 member states of the Eastern European, Caucasus, and Central Asian region. The program's aim is to strengthen economic relations, trade, and transport in the regions of the Black Sea basin, South Caucasus and Central Asia.

## TEDPIX climbs 39,000 points on Monday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 39,059 points to 1.571 million on Monday.

As reported, over 8,432 billion securities worth 54.452 trillion rials (about \$201.67 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 31,157 points, and the second market's index climbed 70,758 points.

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

In an interview with IRNA on May 8, Ahmad Eshtiaqi pointed to the growth of the stock market index and the factors affecting it and said: “It seems that the shares of companies still have room for growth and according to the forecasts, the stock market can grow by about 30 percent by the end of the year, but this growth will be gradual and slow.”

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

The capital market expert further mentioned another factor influencing the rise of the stock market index and continued: “World prices rose sharply after the Russia and Ukraine war and oil prices reached more than \$100, and this has affected the performance of some companies to some extent.”

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

Given that the stock market

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

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

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

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

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

Another capital market expert has said that the Iranian economy is expected to experience significant growth in the next two years, adding: “This will be a good thing for the capital market and we will see a positive effect on the market as well.”

In an interview with IRNA on April 25, Hamid Mir-Moeini pointed to the return of growth to the trend of stock exchange transactions and the factors affecting it, saying: “After the downward trend in the past [Iranian calendar] year (ended on March 20), the capital market finally returned to an uptrend in the last days of the year, paving the way for some optimism in the market for the current year.”

“The resumption of growth in the stock exchange transactions



over the last week of Esfand (last month of the Iranian calendar year) was due to the optimism that was influenced by the nuclear talks and this event affected the whole market,” he added.

According to Mir-Moeini, in the new year, however, some of the optimism about the Vienna negotiations waned, and this resulted in a decline in market transactions, but the stock market index continued its upward trend due to the debate over the privatization of the country's automakers and offering their shares in the market.

“There is still optimism about the nuclear negotiations, and this could be a major factor in removing sanctions and improving the activities of companies, which will greatly improve the capital market transactions,” the market analyst stressed.

Noting that the capital market will react to real changes in macroeconomic indicators, he said: “Companies are experiencing good profitability under the influence of increasing access to international markets, and this indicates that economic growth is on the horizon for the country.”

“In the next one or two years, we will experience good economic growth, which is in favor of the capital market and we will see its positive impacts in the market as well,” Mir-Moeini added.

Meanwhile, as stated by the head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO), the monthly sales of the shares of companies listed on the Tehran Stock Exchange

has been very good in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), and it is predicted that the growing trend of the exchanges will continue in the present year as well.

“Considering the general provisions approved in this year's budget bill we expect that companies will have good capital increase and take positive development measures, and it will be easier for investors to make decisions,” Majid Eshqi told the press on March 12.

Mentioning the measures taken for the improvement of the market in the past year, the official said: “For nearly 12 years, no new brokerage companies were established across the country, but since late October 2021, a licensing permit has been issued in this regard and a new brokerage firm has also been established.”

The establishment of new financial institutions including investment funds, investment consulting companies, financing firms, and financial information processing companies were also mentioned as other steps taken in this regard.

Eshqi also pointed to the launch of Iran's largest and most advanced capital market data center earlier this month and said that in order to promote the use of information technology in this sector, a smart system is also going to be unveiled for monitoring and assessing the capital market and investment companies.

The above-mentioned data center was established with the aim of stabilizing and developing technology infrastructure in all areas of processing, storage, and security in order to protect the interests of shareholders and meet the technological needs of the capital market.



# U.S. inflation defies expectations again

From page 1 ► America's uncontrollable inflation is hitting ordinary households strongly. Consumers will be further concerned by economists who are predicting very little easing of the inflation rate this year.

The cost of living is placing a heavy burden on families, forcing them to pay much more for food, gas, and rent while reducing their ability to afford other basic services such as a haircut.

Lower-income and Black and Hispanic Americans, in particular, are suffering more because, on average, a larger proportion of their income is consumed by necessities.

High inflation has also forced the Federal Reserve into what will likely be the fastest series of interest rate hikes in three decades but critics say it will be a difficult balancing act for the central bank over fears the quick measures may tip the economy into recession and make matters worse for ordinary households.

Surveys indicate that Americans view inflation as the nation's biggest problem and most disapprove of President Joe Biden's handling of the economy.

In the run-up to the midterm elections later this year, Congressional Republicans have been taking advantage of the situation by slamming the Democrats on the issue.

But the real reason behind the record inflation is rising energy prices as a result of the conflict in Ukraine. The much higher gas prices are erasing the finances of millions of Americans.

Western sanctions on Russian oil and gas following its military operation in Ukraine further increased the costs at the gas pumps by limited international supplies.

The average price that Americans pay for gasoline is closing in on \$5 a gallon, a massive drain on the

wallets of motorists and other gas consumers.

According to the American Automobile Association (AAA), the nationwide average for regular gas is hovering at around \$4.97 a gallon, up a quarter in just the last week and \$1.90 more than motorists were paying a year ago.

GasBuddy, a service that helps motorists find deals on gas, has announced that the average surpassed \$5 for the first time in the United States's history.

Prices at the pump have been rising steadily for months, shooting past the \$4 mark in early March. The cost of crude oil was rising even before Russia's military operation in Ukraine which lifted the price of oil even higher.

California has the highest average price, at \$6.40 a gallon, according to AAA. Several other Western states and Illinois are higher than \$5.50.

It's not just Americans that are paying more to fill up the oil tanks of their vehicles. This week, gasoline prices in one of America's closest allies, the United Kingdom hit a record £182.3 per liter which is about \$8.80 per gallon.

Analysts expect prices to keep rising until they reach a point where the cost of oil and gas becomes so high that demand for the commodity drops.

Analysts have no idea exactly when or where that might be. GasBuddy says "we're not at the end of the road yet, we have very little margin for error this summer. We need every barrel of refining capacity we can get."

Experts have pointed out that U.S. oil companies are very limited in numbers and therefore have no competition to bring prices down. In essence, they are able to keep the cost of gas for motorists as high as possible and for as long as they can make a significant profit at the expense of ordinary households



struggling to make ends meet.

The oil prices are skyrocketing just as families try to cope with inflation in the cost of food, housing, cars, airline tickets, and other needs. On both sides of the Atlantic, pressure is growing on governments to take the necessary measures and help motorists.

In the UK, The Automobile Association (AA) said prices are "crippling the lives of those on lower incomes, rural areas and businesses," demanding the government to intervene.

According to a new study from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Ukraine conflict will lead to persistently higher inflation rates in rich countries this year.

In the latest of several reports on the global economic outlook published each year, the Paris-based Organization called on Western governments to avoid a repeat of the slow and unorganized response to the Covid-19 pandemic and act promptly to help those in need.

In response to rising inflation in the U.S., President Joe Biden promised that combatting inflation is going to be his "top economic priority," but blamed Russia once again for rising inflation back at home.

On Friday Biden put Russia accountable for America's economic woes for the umpteenth time saying "Putin's price hike hit hard in [the month of] May here," he said, blaming Moscow's military action for the "high gas prices at the pump, energy, and food prices."

He made no mention of the un presence sanctions imposed on Russia banning it from exporting just about everything.

Despite claiming to fight inflation, the

U.S. just recently announced more arms and other military

equipment for Ukraine to prolong the fighting.

This would mark around a dozen times now, Washington has approved the delivery of arms to Ukraine.

Since the conflict began on February 24, the Biden administration has provided almost \$4.6 billion in weapons to Kyiv.

The military aid will form part of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act of 2022, which would offer over \$40 billion in new financing to support the U.S. military response to the Ukraine situation.

U.S. arms manufacturers are the biggest beneficiary of the Ukraine crisis. And this is comes as reports surface of Russian forces destroying Western arms deliveries.

On Sunday, the Russian military fired Kalibr cruise missiles hitting a large depot with U.S. and European weapons in Ukraine's Ternopil region according to the Russian defense ministry. Russian forces also shot down three Ukrainian SU-25 fighter jets in eastern Ukraine, the ministry added.

The problem with Biden's policy is that Ukraine is complaining about the lack of military support it is receiving. Critics say no amount of weapons will help end the fighting in the east of the country but will only prolong it whilst arms companies make more profit.

So why is Biden punishing U.S. households with further support for a war that can be ended with meeting Russia's security guarantees?

Moscow sent the proposals months before fighting broke out in February this year, but Washington chose to ignore them. Since then it has also decided to ignore any push for a diplomatic solution.

Rassemblement National currently has eight seats in the National Assembly, short of the 15 needed to form a parliamentary group. However, that could change next Sunday, with the party projected to win anywhere from 20 to 45 seats, according to some polls.

One notable loser on Sunday was far-right pundit Eric Zemmour, who attracted strong media attention in the presidential race earlier this year but has failed to turn that into electoral success. Zemmour failed to reach the second round in his bid for a seat representing Saint Tropez.

His Reconquete or Reconquest party won just 4.24% of the vote and failed to send a single candidate to the run-offs.

#### Still all to play for

French voters were choosing from an eye-watering 6,293 candidates, which works out as nearly 11 candidates per constituency on average. Of these, 55.8% were men (3,514 candidates), and 44.2% women (2,779 candidates).

With the run-off vote decisive for those who did not cross the 50% threshold this Sunday, there is still a lot to play for.

Macron is hoping that he will not become the first president since 2002 to have to deal with "cohabitation" -- a situation in which the prime minister is not on the same political side and the president does not have a majority in the assembly.

Macron needs to win a majority in parliament to have the best chance of pushing through his policies, including tax reductions, increasing the retirement age and an overhaul of the welfare system.

(Source: euronews)

## UN official in Kabul to address Afghan refugee issues

UN Deputy High Commissioner for Refugees Kelly T. Clements, during her visit to Kabul on Sunday, said she will meet with Islamic Emirate officials to discuss resolving Afghan refugee issues and establishing grounds for their return to Afghanistan.

"We will be talking over the course of the next days with the interim authorities about how we can support the needs of the Afghan people and how we can find solutions for those that are outside the country that want to come home and want to be able to rebuild their lives in peace and have an Afghanistan that is inclusive of all," Clements said.

Afghanistan has been forgotten, according to the United Nations official.

"This is a very important moment for this country and the people of Afghanistan, it is a time where the world's attention has turned to other situations of displacement, other wars, other conflicts," she added.

Meanwhile, according to the Ministry of



Refugees and Repatriations, hundreds of Afghan refugees return to Afghanistan every day from other countries.

"Corruption, instability, and conflict in Afghanistan are finished now," said Khalil Rahman Haqqani, acting Minister of Refugees and Repatriations. "Now thousands are returning to Afghanistan every day."

According to UN data, there are currently more than six million Afghans living outside of Afghanistan.

(Source: tolonews.com)

## Senators reach a bipartisan deal on gun safety legislation

A bipartisan group of Senate negotiators say they have reached a deal on a package of safety and gun-related measures narrowly focused on preventing future shootings similar to the one in Uvalde, Texas, where 19 children and two teachers were killed in their school.

The proposal, which has not been written into legislative text, includes money to encourage states to pass and implement so-called "red flag" laws to remove guns from potentially dangerous people, money for school safety and mental health resources, expanded background checks for gun purchases for people between the ages of 18 and 21 and penalties for illegal straw purchases by convicted criminals, NPR reported.

The agreement has the support of at least 20 senators who worked closely over the past several weeks to find the areas of common ground that could pass the closely divided Senate. The group includes 10 Republicans, meaning a final bill could potentially garner the 60 votes necessary to overcome a filibuster.

The negotiators called it a "commonsense" proposal that would reduce the threat of violence across the country.

"Our plan increases needed mental health resources, improves school safety and support for students, and helps ensure dangerous criminals and those who are adjudicated as mentally ill can't purchase weapons," the group said in a statement. "Most importantly, our plan saves lives while also protecting the constitutional rights of law-abiding Americans."

The framework calls for additional vetting for potential gun buyers between the ages of 18 and 21 to include previously blocked juvenile records on criminal activity and mental health.

The provision on so-called "red flag" laws would provide federal funding to encourage states to pass such laws to take guns away from people who already own them but might pose a threat to themselves or others. Lawmakers say the money creates incentives for states that have not yet passed laws to allow that kind of review and would help ensure the laws are properly implemented.

The school safety and mental health sections include funding for school-based programs like mental health support, violence prevention and training for students and educators. The plan would also expand telehealth for mental and behavioral treatment and investments in children and family mental health services through community health centers.

However, mental health experts, like the National Alliance for Mental Illness, say the majority of gun violence is not perpetrated by people with a history of mental illness.

Aides have said that it could take weeks to go through the legal and technical

process of turning a preliminary deal into a final bill. Connecticut Sen. Chris Murphy, the lead Democrat in the negotiations, told Reuters that aides would begin that work on Monday morning.

#### Growing support, despite detractors

Votes are not expected imminently on this agreement. Senators have been broadly optimistic that any bipartisan agreement will eventually pass the Senate, but the ultimate fate of the bill is not entirely clear.

President Biden expressed support for the deal in a statement. "Obviously, it does not do everything that I think is needed, but it reflects important steps in the right direction, and would be the most significant gun safety legislation to pass Congress in decades," Biden said.

Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., pledged to put a bill on the floor as soon as possible once legislation is written. Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., released a statement praising the negotiators but stopped short of pledging support to an eventual bill.

At least two prominent gun safety advocacy groups are backing the legislation. Everytown for Gun Safety and Moms Demand Action both released statements supporting the proposal.

"If the framework announced today gets enacted into law, it will be the most significant piece of gun safety legislation to make it through Congress in 26 long and deadly years," John Feinblatt, president of Everytown for Gun Safety, said in a statement.

Shannon Watts, founder of Moms Demand Action, called the framework "a major step in finally getting federal action to address gun violence."

The National Rifle Association has not yet released a position on the proposal. In a statement, the group said they do not weigh in on frameworks and will wait until the final bill is complete.

"We encourage our elected officials to provide more resources to secure our schools, fix to our severely broken mental health system and support law enforcement," the statement said. "The NRA will continue to oppose any effort to insert gun control policies, initiatives that override constitutional due process protections and efforts to deprive law-abiding citizens of their fundamental right to protect themselves and their loved ones into this or any other legislation."

Other gun rights groups are already opposing the plan and criticizing the 10 Republican senators who are backing it. If they are able to convince any one of them to back away from the deal as the legislative details are hammered out, it could kill the legislation if no other Republicans join Democrats to support the proposal.

## French parliamentary election first round: Five key takeaways

French voters took to the voting polls on Sunday to elect the National Assembly MPs for a new five-year term.

The first round of the parliamentary election, held less than two months after President Emmanuel Macron won his reelection, saw more than 6,000 candidates compete for 577 seats, with each spot in the Assembly its own local race.

Candidates who did not cross the 50% threshold in the first round will now have to go into the second run-off round on Sunday, 19 June.

Here are the top five takeaways after the polls closed on Sunday:

#### Macron's slight lead

The French parliamentary election's opening round saw Macron's Ensemble coalition take a slight lead, with 25.75% of the popular vote, compared with 25.66% for the NUPES leftist bloc of Jean-Luc Mélenchon, according to official results.

The closeness of the vote means that Ensemble might not keep their absolute majority in parliament, depending on how results go next Sunday.

Different polls have predicted that Ensemble could get between 255 and 310 seats, compared to NUPES' possible range of between 150 and 220 deputies.

#### Strong showing from the left

NUPES, an unexpected left-wing alliance consisting of Melenchon's La France Insoumise, Socialist, Green and Communist parties came a strong second on Sunday.

Shortly after polls closed, Melenchon claimed that the tight race signaled the defeat of Ensemble, with NUPES representatives



challenging the predicted number of seats won by Macron's bloc.

However, Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne fired back, saying that Ensemble is "the only political force capable of obtaining a majority".

#### Low turnout

Turnout was noticeably lower than in past elections, with the majority of voters opting to stay at home. An estimated 52.49% of registered voters did not cast their ballots.

Turnout of 18.43% at noon was almost one point lower than in 2017, when it stood at 19.24%, and was down six percentage points from the April presidential election when turnout stood at 25.48%.

The left has already begun mobilizing its voters who abstained in the first round, publicly asking them to go out in large numbers on 19 June.

#### Far-right comes in third

Far-right and nationalist Rassemblement National led by Marine Le Pen – who lost to Macron in the second round of presidential elections – came in a distant third, receiving 18.68% of the vote.



## Intl. medical visits to Fars province hit record high

From page 1 ▶ Referring to comparative admissions, the deputy governor-general noted 148 foreign patients were stayed in hospitals during Farvardin last year (1400) while the number reached 367 in the same month this year (1401), which shows a 250 percent growth.

“Fars hospitals admitted 183 foreign patients in Ordibehesht last year while the number hits 1003 in the same month this year.”

About one million medical tourists, mainly from the neighboring countries, arrive in Iran annually, Mohammadreza Tarjoman who presides over the Health Ministry's tourism office said in April. A selection of 200 Iranian medical centers have permission to accept foreign patients, he added.

Experts believe that medical tourism in Iran is a win-win opportunity both for the country and foreign patients, as they are offered affordable yet quality treatment services and the country gains considerable foreign currency.

Amid Iran's trump cards are the presence of credible surgeons and physicians, cutting-edge medical technologies, high-



tech medicine and diverse specializations, super affordable procedures, and finally its hospitable people.

Iranian hospitals offer a wide variety of medical services such as eye surgeries and services, cardiovascular surgeries especially pediatric heart surgery, bone marrow transplantation, gynecologic and obstetric surgery, oncologic services, cerebrospinal surgery, orthopedic surgery (total knee & total hip replacement, etc.), and urologic surgery, and so many other services.

The Islamic Republic has set goals to exceed its yearly medical travelers to around two million in [calendar year] 1404 (March 2025-March 2026).

## Baluchi needlework, traditional textiles go on show



TEHRAN –An exhibition of Baluchi handicrafts, made by female artisans of Sistan-Baluchestan province, will go on display in an exhibition at the Iranian Art Museum Garden in Tehran.

The three-day exhibition will open to the public on Tuesday afternoon, IRNA reported on Monday.

Sets of needlework, local and traditional clothing, and traditional embroideries will go on display at the exhibit.

Several deprived areas of the Iranian capital will also host the exhibit for over a month.

Needlework (Souzan-douzi in Persian) is a very common occupation among people of the southeastern province. It is the art of drawing images on plain fabrics by sewing delicate stitches using a needle and colorful yarns. They are mainly used to

embellish women's clothes; however, such works are applied to decorate bracelets, necklaces, bags, and scarves.

Last October, Iran's Anthropology Research Institute published an atlas of traditional clothing and attires of people who are natives of the southeastern province. To preserve indigenous traditions and original clothing, it seems vital to revive indigenous clothing and its effectiveness today, the research institute said.

The collective province -- Sistan in the north and Baluchestan in the south -- accounts for one of the driest regions of Iran with a slight increase in rainfall from east to west, and an obvious rise in humidity in the coastal regions. In ancient times, the region was a crossword of the Indus Valley and the Babylonian civilizations.

The province possesses special significance because of being located in a strategic transit location, especially Chabahar which is the only ocean port in Iran and the best and easiest access route of the middle Asian countries to free waters. The vast province is home to several distinctive archaeological sites and natural attractions, including two UNESCO World Heritage sites, namely Shahr-e-Soukhteh (Burnt City) and Lut desert.

## 17 objects kept in Fars province granted national status

TEHRAN – A selection of 17 moveable properties being kept in Fars province's museums have been inscribed on the national heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts announced the inscriptions on Monday in separate letters to the governor-general of the southern province, CHTN reported.

Historical documents, a piece of pottery, a tile, and metal utensils were among the properties added to the prestigious list.

The ancient region of Fars, also spelled Pars or Persis, was the heart of the Achaemenian Empire (c. 550-330 BC), which was founded by Cyrus the Great and had its capital at Pasargadae. Darius I the Great moved the capital to nearby Persepolis in the late 6th or early 5th century BC.

The capital city of Shiraz is home to some of the country's most magnificent



buildings and sights. Increasingly, it draws more and more foreign and domestic sightseers flocking to this provincial capital which was the literary capital of Persia during the Zand dynasty from 1751 to 1794.

Shiraz is home to some of the country's most magnificent buildings and sights including Eram Garden, Afif-Abad Garden, Tomb of Hafez, Tomb of Sa'di, and Jameh Mosque of Atigh.

## Tall-e Khakestar stratigraphy survey finds no archaeological sediments, only evidence for ancient stopovers discovered

TEHRAN – Pottery fragments, previously discovered on the surface of Tall-e Khakestar, have grabbed the attention of archeologists for years to conduct an exploratory survey on whether the north-central Iranian site is home to an ancient settlement or not.

“Situated one kilometer away from Shahroud in a northward direction, Tall-e Khakestar was named a natural cultural heritage in the year 1388 (2009). For years, however, the site has drawn the attention of archaeologists due to pottery fragments scattered on the surface,” CHTN quoted archaeologist Mostafa Rashidi as saying on Monday.

Based on recent studies and its modern morphology, this area lacks ancient deposits. And objects discovered on the surface may be due to the short-term settlement of nomadic tribes, Rashidi said.

“One of the reasons is that the

site is close to a mountain terrain, and mountainous pastures could be a good choice for temporary settlement of nomads.”

The first archaeological season on the site commenced in June 2020, in which 19 trenches each measuring 1.5 meters by 1.5 meters were curved for an initial stratigraphy survey, the archaeologist said.

Although no traces of ancient deposits have been found in the layers excavated in the boreholes, the existence of surface finds, including pottery pieces, suggests the idea that this area was probably a temporary refuge for the people who left little cultural remnants, he explained.

Tall-e Khakestar is situated at the junction of Bastam and Shahroud plains, in Semnan province, he said.

Semnan is home to many ancient and prehistorical sites with Tepe



Hesar being amongst the most important ones. Tepe Hesar was first excavated in 1925 and 1931-1932 when the construction of the Trans-Iranian Railway cuts through the main mound. It was one of the first Chalcolithic and Bronze Age excavations in this area, and the stratigraphy has been very important to date in similar sites.

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

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

A 2019 study published by the Journal of Human Evolution, suggests that Neanderthals were roaming over the Iranian Zagros mountain range between 40 to 70 thousand years ago. Neanderthals lived before and during the last Ice Age of the Pleistocene in some of the most unforgiving environments ever inhabited by humans. They developed a successful culture, with a complex stone tool technology, that was based on hunting, some scavenging, and local plant collection. Their survival during tens of thousands of years of the last glaciation is a remarkable testament to human adaptation.

## Restoration laboratory inaugurated in Persepolis

TEHRAN – A restoration workshop and laboratory dedicated to ancient relics and ruins has been inaugurated on the premises of the Persepolis, the director of the World Heritage site has said.

“The chemistry section of the laboratory offers researchers facilities to test, identify, and conduct qualitative analysis on historical relics,” IRNA quoted Hamid Fadaei as saying on Monday.

“It is also possible to perform mechanical tests such as density measurement, determining the percentage of porosity, and determining how much water is absorbed into rock samples in this lab,” the official explained.

Having this laboratory and several workshops on the site enhances the ability of the restorers and experts to provide more accurate restoration solutions than ever before, he mentioned.

The UNESCO-registered Persepolis, also known as Takht-e Jamshid, whose magnificent ruins rest at the foot of Kuh-e Rahmat (Mountain of Mercy), was the ceremonial



capital of the Achaemenid Empire. It is situated 60 kilometers northeast of the city of Shiraz in Fars province.

The royal city of Persepolis, which ranks among the archaeological sites which have no equivalent, considering its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art, was burnt by Alexander the Great in 330 BC apparently as revenge against the Persians because it seems the Persian King Xerxes had burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 years

earlier.

The city's immense terrace was begun about 518 BC by Darius the Great, the Achaemenid Empire's king. On this terrace, successive kings erected a series of architecturally stunning palatial buildings, among them the massive Apadana palace and the Throne Hall (“Hundred-Column Hall”).

This 13-ha ensemble of majestic approaches, monumental stairways, throne rooms (Apadana), reception rooms, and dependencies is classified among the world's greatest archaeological sites.

The ancient region, known as Pars (Fars), or Persis, was the heart of the Achaemenid Empire founded by Cyrus the Great and had its capital at Pasargadae. Darius I the Great moved the capital to nearby Persepolis in the late 6th or early 5th century BC. Alexander the Great defeated the Achaemenian army at Arbela in 331 and burned Persepolis apparently as revenge on the Persians because it seems the Persian King Xerxes had burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 years earlier.

## Drought unveils 3,400-year-old palace of Indo-Iranian empire

TEHRAN – Remnants of a 3,400-year-old palace emerged from the waters of the Mosul Dam reservoir in northern Iraq early this year as water levels fell rapidly due to extreme drought.

Receding waters has provided a significant opportunity for an Iraqi-German archaeological team to race against time to excavate and document an emerging Bronze Age city before it disappears under water.

The palace belonged to the mysterious Mittani, an Indo-

Iranian empire centered in northern Mesopotamia that flourished from about 1500 to about 1360 BC.

The team has discovered important clues about one of the most significant archaeological discoveries in the region, according to Kurdish archaeologist Hasan Ahmed Qasim who worked on the site.

The Mittani Empire is among the least researched empires of the Ancient Near East. The information on the existence of this particular empire is so little that historians

don't even know the capital of the Mittani Empire, archaeologist Ivana Puljiz of the University of Tübingen said.

In the second millennium BC, colorful murals were the prime feature of palaces in the Ancient Near East but they never found any so well-preserved, Puljiz explained.

The researchers hope to find more about the Mittani Empire, which was prevalent in several parts of Syria and northern Mesopotamia.

According to Britannica, at its

height, the Mitanni Empire extended from Kirkuk (ancient Arrapkha) and the Zagros Mountains in the east through Assyria to the Mediterranean Sea in the west.

Mitanni was one of several kingdoms and small states founded by the Indo-Iranians in Mesopotamia and Syria. Although originally these Indo-Iranians were probably members of Aryan tribes that later settled in India, they apparently broke off from the main tribes on the way and migrated to Mesopotamia instead.

## Handicrafts exhibit opens in Ardabil

TEHRAN – On Sunday, an exhibition of Iranian handicrafts was inaugurated at the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and Shrine Ensemble in the city of Ardabil, northwest Iran.

Addressing the inauguration ceremony, Ardabil's governor Seyyed Mohammad Etemad said this exhibition and other similar events play an important role in introducing handicrafts and the prosperity of Ardabil as a tourist destination.

It can widen employment opportunities for young people, the official said.

The Khanegah and Shrine Ensemble is a microcosm of Sufism where arrays of harmonious sun-scorched domes, well-preserved and richly-ornamented facades and interiors, and, above all, an atmosphere of peace and tranquility have all made a must-see stopover while traversing northwest Iran.

It is named after Sheikh Safi al-Din Ardabili



(1253-1334), who was a Sufi philosopher and leader of Islamic mystic practices. It embodies the essence of Sufi traditions by having a microcosmic ‘city’, which embraces a mosque, a madrasa, a library, a cistern, a bathhouse, kitchens, and a hospital, as well as religious houses amongst others. The place also boasts a remarkable collection of antique artifacts.

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.



# Tehran, Yerevan explore avenues of sci-tech co-op

TEHRAN – Armenian Ambassador to Iran Arsen Avagyan met with Iranian deputy science minister Vahid Haddadi Asl, discussing ways to broaden ties in the fields of science and technology.

The meeting was held in Tehran on Sunday, IRNA reported, citing the two sides expressed readiness to exchange university students, transfer technology, and create joint research centers.

An Iranian delegation will visit Yerevan to evaluate the situation of Armenian universities. Moreover, Avagyan said that the Armenian science minister was ready to travel to Iran.

## Houses of innovation

An Iranian House of Innovation and Technology (IHIT) is to be established in Armenia with the aim of developing the export of Iranian knowledge-based products.

Over the few past years, with the support of the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, the Iranian house of innovation has been set up in several countries to develop the global market for knowledge-based products.

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

By supporting innovative ideas, and holding technological and innovative events, the centers will



be a platform for the development and promotion of Iranian knowledge-based companies, startups, and creative industries.

## Science diplomacy

One of the indicators of the growth of science diplomacy is conducting joint research between two or more countries, Iran has written more than a third of its articles in Scopus in 2020 with international participation, which is about 30.7 percent.

In 2019, the articles with international participation reached 27.4 percent, so compared to 2019, Iranian researchers increased their international scientific contributions by 3.3 percent. It should be noted that in 2020 more articles were published internationally by Iranian researchers, but nevertheless, the amount of international participation has increased.

## Scientific growth

Studies show that Iran entered the year 2022 with the 15th rank in science production worldwide and it is expected to make progress over the next years as the coronavirus pandemic is going to ease.

In reviewing scientific products, various indicators such as publication of articles in prestigious international journals, citations, validity of journals, the level of productivity, and scientific impact of scientists are considered quantitatively and qualitatively.

According to the latest information on science production, Iran is ranked 15th in the world in the international system of Web of Science in 2021, with an h-index of 383, which indicates the quality of Iranian articles registered.

Iran's scientific position in the Web of Science over the last 5 years

shows that the production of conference papers has been on a downward trend during 2020 and 2021 due to the outbreak.

## Health technology

Based on innovative indicators of health technology development in 2021, Iran was ranked 60th among 132 countries, which shows an improvement of 60 steps compared to 2014, the deputy health minister for research and technology, said in April.

A total of 1,670 knowledge-based firms are operating in the health sector, ISNA quoted Younes Panahi as saying.

He added that there are 13 science and technology parks and 95 technology growth centers in the field of health, while 343 technological products have so far been licensed, and 335 inventions in medical sciences have been patented.

## Iran is to establish a house of innovation and technology in Armenia with the aim of developing the export of its knowledge-based products.

## Sri Lanka, Kyrgyzstan seek Iran's medical, pharmaceutical expertise

TEHRAN – The ambassadors of Sri Lanka and Kyrgyzstan expressed willingness to import medical equipment and medicine from Iran and benefit from the country's technology in building medical centers.

On Sunday, Pir Hossein Kolivand, head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society, met separately with of Kyrgyzstan Ambassador Turdakun Sydykov and Sri Lanka Ambassador Wishwanath Aponsu.

The Sri Lankan envoy called for importing medical items and equipment from Iran to ease the crisis of medicine shortage in his country.

Aponsu also said that Sri Lanka's economic situation today is extremely critical, especially in the fields of oil, fuel, medicine, etc., and the poor situation in Sri Lankan hospitals is due to the shortage of medicines for cancer patients, diabetics, and medicines for pediatric diseases.

Pointed to Iran as a manufacturer of medicine and medical equipment, he called for cooperation with the IRCS, because Sri Lanka not only has problems in supplying medicine but also with medical equipment.

The Kyrgyz ambassador, for his part, announced readiness to expand medical cooperation with Iran, suggesting the construction of a hospital in the Lakan region, which is one of the deprived areas of Kyrgyzstan.

Kolivand also announced readiness for cooperation with the two countries and said that Iran has long supported humanitarian activities.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society, in addition to being the only institution in the country that can set up medical centers abroad, also has a high capacity in the field of training aid workers, Kolivand said.

He also noted that Iran can help the countries struggling with medicine and medical equipment shortages.

## Share of global market

Iran holds a share of one percent (about \$5 billion) in the global market for medical equipment of approximately \$500 billion, but the country has the potential to increase the share, according to the statistics of the Ministry of Health.

In 2018, the National Medical Device Directorate reported that the Iranian medical equipment market was worth \$2.5 billion, 30 percent of which belonged to over 1,000 domestic firms.

On a global scale, 56 percent of 500,000 medical equipment items available in the world market have Iranian versions. In pharmaceuticals, around 70 percent of Iran's \$4.5 billion markets are domestic products and, in 2018, 97 percent of pharmaceuticals consumed in the country were manufactured locally.

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

A total of 227 knowledge-based firms are supplying medical equipment for health centers



across the country, according to the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology.

Iranian companies producing medical equipment export their products to 54 countries across the world.

## IRCS services

The IRCS, established in 1922, is one of the first and oldest members of the movement and is currently one of the top five societies in the world due to its significant activities in the national and international arenas.

Currently, some 14 medical facilities of the IRCS are offering humanitarian, relief, and health services to the deprived people in 13 countries, including Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, Bolivia, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Ghana, Congo, Kenya, Lebanon, Mali, Niger, and Ecuador.

In 2005, the IRCS received the Henry Davison Award for outstanding humanitarian services, and the IRCS initiative of volunteers was selected as the best project (out of 50 projects from 45 national societies), by the General Assembly of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies.

## SOCIETY

JUNE 14, 2022

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

7

## Donating blood is an act of solidarity

From page 1 ▶ More than 85 percent of all donated blood worldwide is used to produce blood products, while the rate is 65 percent in Eastern Mediterranean countries. Iran ranks among the highest-income countries in terms of converting more than 97 percent of the blood donated by people to plasma-derived medicinal products (PDMP), according to WHO.

## World Blood Donor Day

World Blood Donor Day was created to raise global awareness of the need for safe blood and blood products for transfusion; highlight the critical contribution voluntary, unpaid blood donors make to national health systems; and support national blood transfusion services, blood donor organizations, and other non-governmental organizations in strengthening and expanding their voluntary blood donor programs by reinforcing national and local campaigns.

The need for blood is universal, but access to blood for all those who need it is not. Blood shortages are particularly acute in low- and middle-income countries.

An effective blood donor program, characterized by the wide and active participation of the population, is crucial in meeting the

need for blood transfusion during peacetime as well as during emergencies or disasters, when there is a surge in demand for blood, or when the normal operation of blood services is affected.

While an enabling social and cultural atmosphere with strong solidarity facilitates the development of an effective blood donor program, it is also widely acknowledged that the act of blood donation contributes to generating social ties and building a united community.

The specific objectives of this year's campaign are to thank blood donors in the world and create wider public awareness of the need for regular, unpaid blood donation; highlight the need for committed, year-round blood donation, maintain adequate supplies and achieve universal and timely access to safe blood transfusion; recognize and promote the values of voluntary unpaid blood donation in enhancing community solidarity and social cohesion; raise awareness of the need for increased investment from governments to build a sustainable and resilient national blood system and increase collection from voluntary non-remunerated blood donors.

## Tribes in Iran

Part 24

It is customary among the tribes to keep female lambs and kids for increase of the flock and to sell male lambs and kids when they have been out to graze for one year.

Tribesmen who own no animals or for some reason have lost those which they owned can stay in the tribal community and, after working some years as shepherds for others, eventually acquire or reacquire a flock of their own.

The share of the tribes in the whole Iranian livestock sector is thought to be normally about one third or even one half, though no accurate statistics have been taken.

The Statistics Center's tribal census of 1353 SH./1974, with its narrow terms of reference, returned figures which are too low. In it the tribes, defined as wholly nomadic, were found to own only 10 percent of the country's 75,000,000 live-stock units (1 sheep or goat = 1 unit, 1 donkey = 3 units, 1 cow or ox = 4 units, etc.), specifically, sheep 11 percent, goats 21 percent, bovines 4 percent, horses 3 percent, mules 9 percent, donkeys 6 percent, and camels 46 percent.

There can be no doubt, however, that the numbers of the livestock grazing on natural pastures are far greater than these.

As mentioned above, many tribes, while retaining their tribal structure, have in recent times made agriculture their principal activity. The present circumstances of such tribes will not be discussed here.

It has already been noted that agriculture was a significant element in the traditional tribal economy. The kuch (transhumance) is combined with dry farming in both the qeshlaq (winter quarters) and the yeylaq (summer quarters).

For example, the Qashqa'i tribesmen plough land in their qeshlaq in the month of Esfand (Feb-

ruary-March), replough it in the month of Farvardin (March-April) before their move to their yeylaq, sow the seed in the autumn after their return to the qeshlaq, and reap the crop late in Farvardin or in early Ordibehesht of the following year, just before their next kuch to the yeylaq.

Early in the autumn they plough and sow in the yeylaq before their move to the qeshlaq, and they reap the crop in the summer after their return. In the yeylaq they sometimes cultivate vegetables as well as cereals (wheat, barley, and a little rice).

By leaving half of the ploughed areas in fallow, they always have land available for sowing and cropping (Peyman, 1347 SH./1968, pp. 89-90).

In the case of another tribe, the Bala Geriva of Lorestan, which does not make long migrations like those of the Qashqa'i but has summer and winter quarters only about 90 km or ten days trek apart, a different rhythm of cultivation and migration has been described.

They reap their wheat crop early in the month of Tir (June-July), plough and sow in the month of Shahrivar (August-September), and then leave the land to itself. In the following year, after their return from the highlands (sardsir), they again plough and sow wheat as soon as the first rains fall in the second half of Shahrivar or early in the month of Mehr (September-October).

They then spend the winter in the garmsir. They set out for their yeylaq in the middle of Farvardin (Amanollahi, 1360 SH./1981, pp. 47-48).

As already noted, the making of carpets, gelims, jajims, and khorjins (saddlebags) is pursued on a large scale by Iran's tribes. For tribes which themselves produce the requisite wool, these activities were particularly advantageous when the wool price was low.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

Concluded

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## ‘Only 15% of Tehran’s construction, demolition waste recycled’

While some 50,000 tons of construction and demolition waste is produced in Tehran daily, only 10 to 15 percent of which are recycled and the rest is dumped or disposed, Mohammad Hossein Bazgir, head of Tehran's department of environment (DOE) has said.

Waste materials, generally termed as construction and demolition waste, are part of construction materials' packaging, containers, and spent machinery and equipment parts that are no longer usable.

“A good portion of construction wastes can still be usable with proper planning and their usage can be a solution itself to the burgeoning waste issues that the communities and the construction industry face,” Bazgir said.

He further referred to a construction waste management unit opened in Abali in Damavand county last week, and stated that the unit is capable of recycling some 3,000 tons of construction waste, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

To eradicate the issue, construction waste trucks must be equipped with GPS to determine their route and not allow them to dispose the waste at any areas, he concluded.

## تنها ۱۵ درصد نخاله های ساختمانی تولید شده در تهران بازیافت می شود

رئیس اداره محیط زیست شهر تهران با بیان اینکه در تهران روزانه ۵۰ هزار تن نخاله ساختمانی تولید می شود، گفت: متأسفانه تنها ۱۰ تا ۱۵ درصد این زباله ها بازیافت می شود و بیش از ۸۰ درصد آن دپو می شود. محمد حسین بازگیر در گفت و گو با ایسنا، اظهار کرد: بازیافت پسماندهای ساختمانی بخشی از فرایند مدیریت پسماند است که سبب می شود این نوع زباله ها دوباره به چرخه مصرف بازگردانده و بسیاری از مشکلاتی که مردم و صنعت ساخت و ساز با آن روبرو هستند، برطرف شود. ظرفیت این واحد بازیافت حدود ۳۰۰۰ تن است و می تواند این مقدار نخاله و آوار ساختمانی را بازیافت کند.

وی در پایان با تأکید بر اینکه کامیون های مخصوص حمل نخاله های ساختمانی باید ساماندهی شوند و پیمانکاران حمل نخاله تحت مدیریت مناسب و هوشمند قرار بگیرند، گفت: کامیون های حمل نخاله باید مجهز به GPS شوند تا مسیر تردد آنها مشخص شود و امکان تخلیه زباله را در هر نقطه ای نداشته باشند.

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON JUNE 13

New cases	192
New deaths	2
Total cases	7,233,880
Total deaths	141,352
New hospitalized patients	32
Patients in critical condition	361
Total recovered patients	7,059,253
Diagnostic tests conducted	52,453,407
Doses of vaccine injected	150,134,736



TEHRAN TIMES



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Managing Director: **Mohammad Shojaeian**  
Editor-in-Chief: **Ali A.Jenabzadeh**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895  
Email: [info@tehrantimes.com](mailto:info@tehrantimes.com)  
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000  
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430  
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807  
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran    P.O. Box: 14155-4843    Zip Code: 1599814713

JUNE 14, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Wealth converts a strange land into homeland and poverty turns a native place into a strange land.  
*Imam Ali (AS)*

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

## Persian art: Drawing

Part 1

Drawing, an art form primarily dependent on expressive line. The high quality of Persian drawings maintained from the late 13th to the early 20th century provides a clear indication that this art form was appreciated by the Persian cultural elite.

All artists were trained in ateliers under an arduous apprenticeship system, absorbing through practice and emulation Persian artistic traditions and ideals.

There are two main categories of Persian drawings: preparatory or exploratory and finished works of art (Swietochowski and Babaie).

The first category includes underdrawings, the skeleton of all Persian painting, invisible in the final product (e.g., Swietochowski and Babaie); rare practice sketches filling every corner of paper scraps; drawings of figures or groups, animals, landscape and architectural elements that served as models for finished drawings or elements in compositions of varying complexity (e.g., Swietochowski and Babaie); preparatory drawings transferred to another surface by means of pouncing (Swietochowski and Babaie); and decorative drawings to be used as patterns on media other than paper: ceramics, textiles and costumes, leather, wood, and the like.

A number of the last type survive in albums in the Topkapi Saray, Istanbul, and in the “Diez album” in the Staatsbibliothek, Berlin (e.g., Lentz and Lowry).

One of the Istanbul albums includes a report on the progress of work, believed to be in the hand of Jafar Tabrizi, director of the manuscript atelier (ketab-khana) of the Timurid prince Baysonghor (d.1433).

Beside manuscripts the artists were preparing decorative drawings for a saddle, a bookbinding, a chest, and tent poles, and one artist was busy exclusively with designs for binders, illuminators, tentmakers, and tilemakers.

On the other hand, the finish and detail of some drawings are evidence that they were intended as works of art. They range from fully developed compositions that are the visual equivalent of paintings and are often embellished with restrained touches of color to seemingly spontaneous sketches executed for the artist’s own pleasure, as a gift for a friend, or even in hopes of a sale.

Often internal evidence alone is all that helps to distinguish these groups, but occasionally the artist inscribed his drawing with details of the circumstances in which he made it.

The Ilkhanid period: Any attempt at a summary of the history of Persian drawings is hindered by insufficient surviving examples, especially from the earlier periods, and insufficient information from surviving contemporary texts.

Nevertheless, it seems that Persian drawing developed as an art form under the Ilkhanids at the turn of the 14th century, when the first wave of Chinese influence manifested itself in Persian art.

A painting style in which line is dominant and colors washed in emerged, as in two fragmentary manuscripts of Rashid ad-Din’s Jame’ al-tawarikh of 1307 and 1314, in marked contrast to an earlier style characterized by areas of flat, strong color.

In Persia, this early style and the new Chinese elements become integrated during the course of the 14th century, but the new emphasis on line gave impetus to an independent evolution of drawing.

A clue to the development of Persian drawing is provided by the 16th-century Persian artist Doost-Mohammad Heravi. In his famous preface to the album (Topkapi Saray), he prepared in 1544 for the Safavid prince Bahram Mirza: “Amir Dawlatyar, a slave (ghulam) of Sultan Abu- Sa’id (1317-35), was ennobled by being a pupil of Master Ahmad Musa and was outstanding in this regard, especially in qalam-siyahi . . .”; it was Ahmad Musa who “lifted the veil from the face of depiction, and the [style of] depiction that is now current was invented by him”.

Doost-Mohammad thus provided an unequivocal statement that an artist of the first half of the 14th century was particularly esteemed for his black-and-white drawings.

Several examples signed by Mir Dawlatyar survive in the Istanbul and Diez albums. According to Doost-Mohammad, one of his pupils, Shams ad-Din, was trained in the time of the Jalayirid sultan Oveys (1356-74); a finished drawing in the Diez album, showing a stylistic affinity with the drawings of his teacher, is ascribed to Shams ad-Din.

Under the Jalayerids (1336-1432): After the fall of the Ilkhanids, the Jalayerids succeeded to their western and northwestern domains.

The Jalayerids were dedicated patrons of the book arts, and under their tutelage the classic canons of Persian painting and drawing evolved.

Although varying considerably in subject matter and finish, drawings, by their immediacy, provide a closer view of artistic creativity in this period than would surviving paintings alone.

The Istanbul and Diez albums contain preliminary sketches, usually undated and unsigned, that can be identified as Jalayerid from comparison with dated paintings and from internal evidence.

Human figures tend to be elongated and long-waisted, with tall caps or turbans pulled down on one side. The horses are small in body and have proportionally smaller heads; other animals, like lions, appear in both naturalistic and improbable poses, while swimming ducks and birds in flight are abundant.

Landscape elements are very diverse. Hunting and animal-combat scenes were particularly popular. These drawings help to clarify artistic relations between the Jalayerids and the contemporary Muzaffarid rulers (1314-93) of Fars, on one hand, and the Timurid courts of the 15th century, on the other. The Muzaffarid style appears to have been a provincial offshoot of the Jalayerid.

Doost-Mohammad reported that Abd al-Hayy, a pupil of Shams ad-Din, “instructed Sultan Ahmad [1382-1410] in depiction so that the sultan himself produced a scene . . . in qalam-siyahi”.

Timur, who invaded Persia in 1392, took Abd al-Hayy back to Samarqand, where he remained the rest of his life and “all masters imitated his work”.

Mohammad Khayyam, though not mentioned by Doost-Mohammad, was a prolific and imaginative Jalayerid master, who frequently signed his drawings.

His output included single animals, especially lions, and animal and human combat scenes, all characterized by a simple, undifferentiated line, with the addition of spots of gold and red.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

# New painting by Hassan Ruholamin represents Imam Reza’s rain prayer

From Page 1 ► Mamun was informed about the adverse comments, and asked Imam Reza (AS) to hold a prayer for rain, so the Imam along with a group of people left the city to hold a rain prayer in the desert. Following their return to their homes, rain began to pour down.

“Working for Imam Reza (AS) differs from working for other Imams; it differs in its ambience,” Ruholamin said in a video while working on the tableau.

“The subject may be imperceptible by some people; worldly reason cannot yield a proper perception of the issue; it is based on the belief that the immaculate Imam is still alive and present,” he added.

The story of the rain prayer has been portrayed by several other artists, including Ameneh Badrossama and Saeid Abbasi.

Ruholamin’s “The Rain Prayer” has been produced based on a contract with the Imam Reza (AS) International Foundation for Culture and Arts.

According to the agreement, Ruholamin has been commissioned to do four paintings about Imam Reza (AS), two of which have previously been unveiled.

One of the works, “Condition of Tawheed”, was created based on the Hadith of Silsilah al-Dhahab (The Hadith of the Golden Chain).

The 2 X 3.6-meter oil painting was introduced publicly on May 12, 2021.

The artwork depicts the story of the Hadith of the Golden Chain narrated by Imam Reza (AS) upon his arrival at the northeastern Iranian town of Neyshabur.

The hadith refers to the continuity of spiritual authority that is passed down from the Prophet Muhammad (S) to Imam Ali (AS), the first Imam of the Shia, and through each of the successive Imams to Imam Reza (AS).

Another painting portrays the arrival of Hazrat Masumeh (SA), the sister of Imam Reza (AS), to the Iranian city of Qom on the date of Rabi’ al-Awwal 23, 201 on the Islamic calendar (October 23, 816 CE). The artwork was unveiled on October 25, 2021 during a celebration marking the anniversary of the event.

This picture shows “The Rain Prayer” by Hassan Ruholamin.

## Paris Iran Cinema Festival to hold retrospective of actor Ali Nasirian

Actor Ali Nasirian poses with his wax effigy at the Film Museum of Iran on July 11, 2020. (FMI)

TEHRAN – The Iran Cinema Festival (Festival Cinemas d’Iran) will hold a retrospective of the 87-year-old actor Ali Nasirian in its ninth edition, which will take place in Paris from June 22 to 28.

Seven films, including “The Cow” directed

by Dariush Mehrjui, will be reviewed in the retrospective.

Winner of the FIPRESCI Prize of the 1971 Venice Film Festival, “The Cow” follows Masht Hassan, who owns the only cow in a remote and desolate village.

While he is away, his cow, whom he treats as his own child, dies. Knowing the relationship between Masht Hassan and his cow, the villagers hastily dispose of the corpse, and when Masht Hassan returns, they tell him that his cow ran away. Devastated by the news, Masht Hassan starts to spend all his time in the barn eating hay and slowly begins to believe that he has become the cow.

In this film, Nasirian portrays Masht Eslam who along with the headman (Jafar Vali) takes Masht Hassan to a psychiatry hospital.

Mehrjui’s 1971 comedy-drama “Mr. Naive”, also known as “Mr. Gullible”, will also be screened.

Nasirian stars in the title role as a villager who goes to the city to find a job and marry a wife. But he encounters a lot of troubles he

did not anticipate.

The lineup also includes director Masud Jafari Jozani’s 1985 drama “Frosty Roads”.

In winter, a young man named Esmaeil is forced to go to the city to get medicine for his father. Mr. Musavi (Nasirian), the teacher of the village and another youngster Rahman accompany him. On the way, the teacher leaves them to get back to the village but is attacked by wolves. He hides in a pit waiting for help. Esmaeil and Rahman make it to the city and get the medicine and on the way back home join a group of villagers who have come to rescue the teacher, and together they manage to save him.

The retrospective also features “The Scent of Joseph’s Coat” (1995) by Ebrahim Hatamikia, “Iron Island” (2005) by Mohammad Rasuloof and “A Hairy Tale” (2019) by Homayun Ghanizadeh.

In its official section, the Iran Cinema Festival will screen nine films, including Saeid Rustai’s drama “Leila’s Brothers”, an absolute highlight of this year’s Cannes competition.

## Emily Haworth-Booth’s “Last Tree” stands tall in Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – A Persian translation of award-winning British author and illustrator Emily Haworth-Booth’s 2020 book “The Last Tree” has come to Iranian bookstores.

Fatemi is the publisher of the book translated into Persian by Akram Hassanpur.

From the author of the multi-award shortlisted “The King Who Banned the Dark” comes a new tale about community and our relationship with the environment and nature.

Once upon a time, a group of friends were seeking a place to call home. The desert was too hot,

Front cover of the Persian edition of Emily Haworth-Booth’s book “The Last Tree”.

the valley was too wet and the mountain was too windy.

Then they found the forest. It was perfect. The leaves gave shelter from the sun and rain, and a gentle breeze wound through the branches.

But the friends soon wanted to build shelters. The shelters became houses, then the houses got bigger. All too soon they wanted to control the environment and built a huge wooden wall around the community.

As they cut down the trees, the forest becomes thinner, until there is just one last tree standing.

It is up to the children to find a solution.

The book “shows how much a simple story can convey,” said Nicolette Jones, children’s books editor of the Sunday Times.

Haworth-Booth is also an educator who teaches at the Royal Drawing School in London. Her short comics have previously appeared in print in the Observer and Vogue. Her first children’s book, “The King Who Banned the Dark”, was shortlisted for numerous awards including the Klaus Flugge Prize and Independent Bookshop Week Book Awards.

## Khorramshahr is a sacred place

**An interview with Mahdi Zare**

“Blood,” the latest book by Iranian author Mahdi Zare, was recently published by Soore Mehr. This book is about the defense and resistance of the people of Khorramshahr during the early days of the Iraqi invasion of Iran, and the author examines urban identity in detail before applying it to national identity.

**\*What is the book’s main subject?**

This book is about Khorramshahr and the people’s resistance during the start of the imposed war. It’s the story of a woman who wanted to protect both her identity and her hometown.

**\*How significant is this new method of**

**presenting content as a novel?**

I attempted to avoid being ideological or biased in my approach. I tried to show the characters’ good and bad sides, as well as their own flaws and strengths. I noticed that the city is closely linked to the houses and people who inhabit it. Birds, trees, climate, and other aspects contribute to the city’s spirit, which gives the city its identity. Khorramshahr is a sacred place in my opinion, and its defense was the defense of all of Iran, and people from other places lived there because of its industrial factories.

**\*Do the story’s characters have any real-life counterparts?**

Although I did not base the story on real people, each of the characters could have real-life counterparts.