

# Iran Is Determined to Boost Regional Ties

▶ Page 3

## Report Campaign for Scotland's independence from UK launched

The Scottish First Minister, Nicola Sturgeon, has pledged to deliver on her party's "electoral mandate" arguing she won last May's election with a "clear commitment to give the people of Scotland the choice of becoming an independent country"

Speaking to reporters at a press conference in Edinburgh, Sturgeon says a discussion is essential on a referendum for Scotland's independence and argued a vote can be held legally with or without London's approval.

Publishing the first in a series of papers that will form the outlook for an independent Scotland, the First Minister said there was an "indisputable" mandate for another vote, pointing out how circumstances have changed since the first independence referendum in 2014.

Prime Minister Boris Johnson government is opposed to a vote and analysts say the road to a second Scottish Independence referendum will be a bumpy ride as the legislation that set up the Scottish parliament stipulates Westminster has to authorize any referendum affecting the UK constitution, under a so-called section 30 order.

Surgeon argues "if this UK government had any respect at all for democracy, the issue of legality would be put beyond doubt,"

Sturgeon says the path to a referendum would be a legal one "if that is what is required", and if the government of Boris Johnson refuses to grant a Section 30 order then she would set out her own legal path to the referendum, after pledging to hold the vote by the end of 2023. ▶ Page 5

## Opinion

## Iran coach Dragan under pressure after loss against Algeria

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Iran national football team head coach Dragan Skocic is under pressure from the critics and football fans after losing to Algeria in a friendly.

This week, the Croat was criticized in the media due to 2-1 loss to Algeria Sunday night in Doha. The disappointing performance by Skocic's men have risen the concerns over the future of the National Team.

The Croatian tactician feels it is unfair to judge him on a pre-World Cup friendly, given what he and his side have done well during the 2022 World Cup qualifiers.

"We all are under pressure for a defeat in a warm-up match and its' unfair, while we had an easy qualification for the World Cup," said Skocic upon arrival in Tehran on Monday.

Recently, there has been talking in the Iranian media about changing the national team's head coach as some football fans have questioned the Croatian's tactical acumen.

The names of Carlos Queiroz, the former head coach of the Iranian national team, and Javad Nekounam, the current coach of ▶ Page 3

## Tehran, Ashgabat explore avenues of energy, trade, transport co-op

TEHRAN - A high-ranking Turkmen delegation headed by Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers of Turkmenistan At-dayev Batyr Taganovich attended a meeting with Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin to discuss ways of

expanding trade ties.

In this meeting, held on Tuesday, the two sides stressed the need for the establishment of a Tehran-Ashgabat trade center, the portal of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) reported.

The attendees also emphasized supporting the businessmen of the two countries in order to facilitate and accelerate trade relations and decided to form a working group to draw a one-year roadmap for future cooperation. ▶ Page 4

## Trade between Iran, Oman expected to reach \$2b by March 2023

TEHRAN - Head of Iran-Oman Joint Chamber of Commerce said the trade between the two countries is expected to reach \$2 billion by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2023), IRNA reported.

"Considering the upward trend of trade with this country [Oman], it is predicted that by the

end of the year, we will record 1.2 billion exports and \$2 billion of trade," Mohsen Zarabi said in the annual ordinary general assembly of the mentioned chamber held at the place of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) on Wednesday.

Last year, the trade between the two

countries reached \$1.336 billion, indicating a growth of 57 percent compared to the preceding year, Zarabi said.

He said that in the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21), exports to Oman reached \$283 million ▶ Page 4

## Iranian university tops world's list for good health and well-being

TEHRAN - Iran University of Medical Sciences has ranked the world's leading university for contributing to delivering the UN's Sustainable Development Goal of good health and well-being.

The 2022 edition of the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, based on universities' contributions to delivering the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), show that universities worldwide are seizing the moment to double down on a long tradition of public service of delivering sustainable social and economic impact for their communities and society at large.

Based on a series of more than 100 metrics and over 200 measurements, covering universities' teaching, research, outreach into the community, and the stewardship of their own resources, the rankings show universities from all over the world delivering real impact across all 17 SDGs - whether that's Western University in Canada leading efforts to help eradicate poverty (SDG 1) or the University of Witwatersrand in South Africa leading on work to provide decent work and economic growth (SDG 8) ▶ Page 7

## Sanctions profoundly affected lives of Iranians: UN Special Rapporteur

TEHRAN - Alena Douhan, the UN Human Rights Council's Special Rapporteur, who recently visited Iran, spoke about the effects of sanctions on Iran, especially the lives of ordinary Iranians.

"Sanctions have had a profound effect on the lives of Iranians in many ways," she said in an interview with the French Weekly Le Point, which was republished by the Iranian foreign ministry.

She added, "The first impact is economic, because Iran is not able to do business. The economic situation of the country has deteriorated, especially for those working in the field of foreign trade. Therefore, all employees of foreign-invested companies have been affected by sanctions. Thus, some industries have been forced to reduce the number of their employees up to ten times. For example, in the handicrafts sector, which used to export many products abroad and has nothing to do with oil or the government. These jobs are mostly family-run, with five to twenty people but now only one person is hired. In the same way, many translators have lost their jobs because tourism and trade have stopped in this country."

Douhan traveled to Iran from May 7 to 18, 2022, to assess US sanctions against Iran. She is the first UN special rapporteur to visit Iran

after 17 years. Douhan is tasked by the UN Human Rights Council to examine the impacts of US unilateral coercive measures on Iran. During her 12-day visit to Iran, Douhan met with Iranian government officials, as well as representatives of civil society organizations, health experts, and financial institutions.

Responding to a question on whether the sanctions affected people's daily lives, the UN official said, "Yes. I will give you a specific example in this regard. First of all, when we talk about people's lives, we have to keep in mind that a lot of people are affected by economic conditions. As a result, the poor people are falling below the poverty line, and the situation of many middle-class people has deteriorated. In the past, people had the opportunity to pay to private institutions to receive better health and educational services for their children. But as the economic situation worsens, their wages have dropped to such an extent that they now use only public services. Subsequently, the workload of public hospitals has increased significantly and in addition, there are tens of thousands of additional refugees that Iran receives daily and thus you will find that an incredible pressure is imposed on Iran's hospitals and educational system, especially since the country does not receive any new income for building hospitals and hiring staff." ▶ Page 3

## La Gacilly Photo Festival showcases works by Iranian photographers

TEHRAN - Works by four Iranians are on display at the La Gacilly Photo Festival, a vast international outdoor exhibition, which is organized every year in the northwestern French city.

Collections by Maryam Firuzi, Gohar Dash-to, Ebrahim Noruzi, Hashem Shakeri and photographers from across the world will be on view at the festival, which will be running until September 30.

Firuzi is attending the festival with photos from her series "Persian Identities". One photo from the collection decorates the homepage of the festival.

"In my opinion, all artistic media are intertwined," she previously said in an interview with Paris Photo, when the Silk Road Gallery in Tehran showcased her work. ▶ Page 8

## Ambassador outlines Iranian deputy FM's upcoming visit to Delhi

TEHRAN - In an interview with Borna news agency, Iran's ambassador to New Delhi has recounted the vast potential for cooperation between Iran and India, noting the pursuit of technical engineering activities and the regulation of the banking mechanism were among the goals of the foreign ministry economic team's visit to India.

Ali Chegini, Iran's ambassador to India, discussed the visit of the economic team of the foreign ministry to India, saying, "The visit of the Deputy Foreign Minister for Econom-

ic Diplomacy, Mehdi Safari, has been on the agenda for a long time, but was postponed to after the holy month of Ramadan due to tight schedules. However, due to the coincidence of the foreign minister's visit to India, it was decided that he would travel to India after Mr. Amir Abdollahian to pursue the agreements between Iran and India."

He continued by saying that banking issues have already been on the agenda of the delegation. ▶ Page 2

- Bhutto Zardari: I am a child of Pakistan and Iran
- Iran FM calls for boost in Tehran-Ankara P2 cooperation P2
- Iran envoy meets Iraqi cleric P3
- Ayatollah Khamenei meets Turkmenistan president P3
- Iranian heavy crude oil price rises 8.7% in May: OPEC P4
- Iran holds 55b tons of proven mineral reserves: GSI head P4
- Ports prepared for private sector's investment in loading, unloading operation P4
- Archaeologists look for traces of Pleistocene humans on Iranian plateau P6
- Finland's ambassador visits Ferdowsi Mausoleum, praises Persian poet P6
- Stepped village in Zanjan being restored P6
- Iran, France confer on environment, SDSs P7
- Tehran, Ashgabat discuss enhanced co-op on health, labor P7
- IRIB to air sequel to Farhadi's TV series "A Tale of a City" P8
- David Harvey's "Anti-Capitalist Chronicles" published in Persian P8

## Iran, Turkmenistan sign 9 cooperation documents

TEHRAN -- Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi officially welcomed his Turkmen counterpart Serdar Berdimuhamedow at Saadabad Palace on Wednesday. Later, the two presidents observed the signing of nine cooperation documents.

Berdimuhamedow arrived in Tehran late on Tuesday.

Three of these cooperation documents were in the field of trade relations.

The two presidents held a joint press conference.

During the presser, Raisi expressed Tehran's firm determination to expand relations with Ashgabat, saying, "In the negotiations, it became clear that the two countries have a serious will to develop relations and implement the agreements reached. More importantly, the two countries are determined to sign a strategic document of 20 years of cooperation."

He went on to reiterate Iran's long-held position on the Afghanistan crisis, saying, "We believe that a comprehensive government should be formed in Afghanistan that represents all political and ethnic groups, and this can create security for Afghanistan. Also, the continuation of discussions held at the meeting of foreign ministers of Afghanistan's neighboring countries was also emphasized by both sides."

Raisi further noted Iran and Turkmenistan's communal view on solving the regional crises without outside interference.

"The two countries share the view that the problems and issues of the region should be resolved by the countries of the region and any foreign presence in the region can be problematic. Our common belief is that the presence of outsiders is not a security-building factor but creates problems," the president stated. ▶ Page 2



## Shahreza, the national city of pottery

The city of Shahreza in the central province of Isfahan was named the national city of pottery last year as the production of earthenware and ceramics in Shahreza dates back to 700 years ago.

In 2016, the city of Lalejin in the north-central province of Hamedan, celebrated its registration as the world pottery capital.











# Iran, France confer on environment, SDSs

TEHRAN – Iranian Department of Environment Chief Ali Salajegheh in a meeting with French Ambassador to Tehran Philippe Thiebaud emphasized the need for international cooperation on sand and dust storms (SDSs) control.

The two officials stressed the need to pay attention to the environment in the global context, noting that the issue of the environment is a global issue, which should be prioritized for all countries.

The issue of the environment in our country is subject to oppressive sanctions imposed by the U.S., and we call on the French government, as the current chair of the European Union, to cooperate in establishing interaction between other countries and Iran on the environmental issues, Salajegheh stated.

He called for the lifting of sanctions and the creation of the necessary conditions for receiving international financial assistance for the implementation of environmental projects in Iran.

He also cited another effect of the brutal sanctions on the Iranian nation as preventing the transfer of environmental equipment and technologies, such as pollution monitoring stations.

Dust storms and the impact of this environmental problem on the European Union have doubled the need for international and regional cooperation, and all countries must play a constructive role in this regard.

Fortunately, Iran has a wide variety of climatic conditions and biodi-



versity, and this capacity can play a valuable role in the exchange of information and students.

Thiebaud also for his part said that the cooperation between Iran and France has a long history, expressing hope for the development of bilateral cooperation on various issues, including in the field of environment.

Emphasizing the need for global convergence and action to implement climate change programs, he said that we hope by reducing and lifting sanctions, Iran can join the Paris Agreement.

## Dealing with SDS

The SDSs phenomenon has been plaguing the country for several years and has caused problems in many provinces. According to experts, natural and human factors

are involved in the occurrence and severity of this phenomenon which is mainly caused by excessive consumption of water and drying up reservoirs.

Tehran will host an international meeting on controlling sand and dust storms (SDSs) in July, with the presence of the ministers of 12 countries that give rise to the highest amount of dust, IRNA reported.

It is therefore planned to implement a regional action plan for the Persian Gulf, especially for the countries with the highest dust emissions, Ali Mohammad Tahmasebi, head of the national working group for SDS mitigation, stated.

"There are numerous bilateral and multilateral agreements with

neighboring countries, including Iraq, Syria, and Turkey, but no operational action has been taken, so the agreement alone is not enough and this issue should be resolved with the help of international institutions.

## Tehran will host an international meeting on controlling sand and dust storms in July, with the presence of the ministers of 12 countries.

## Tehran, Ashgabat discuss enhanced co-op on health, labor

TEHRAN – Iranian Health Minister Bahram Einollahi and Labor Ministry Caretaker Mohammad Hadi Zahedi met separately with Turkmen Deputy Chairman of the Cabinet of Ministers Sapardurdy Toylyev, discussing ways to expand cooperation in the fields of health and labor.

Toylyev visited the two officials in Tehran on Tuesday.

In a meeting with Einollahi, Toylyev expressed readiness to cooperate with Iran, especially in the field of health; Because there are great scientists in Iran and the people of Turkmenistan come to Iran to receive medical services.

Referring to the formation of a joint working group to promote health cooperation between the two countries, he stated that the pharmaceutical industry of the two countries is in a good position.

Over the past month, three pharmaceutical factories have been opened in Turkmenistan, and medical cooperation between the two countries can be expanded, he added.

Holding joint scientific conferences in the two countries can pave the way for the progress of Iran and Turkmenistan in the field of health, he highlighted.

Toylyev also in a meeting with Zahedi inked a

memorandum of understanding (MOU) to cooperate in the fields of social welfare and business development.

Under the MOU, joint entrepreneurship and employment development packages will be developed between the two countries.

Zahedi also announced Iran's readiness to share its valuable experience in the fields of welfare, technical and vocational training, and social security, with Turkmenistan.

It was also decided to hold joint seminars between the two sides to explain the capacities of the two neighboring countries.

## Health, social welfare

The issue of health has always been one of the main indicators of social welfare and attention to the health of the workforce has been on the agenda of governments.

The Iranian labor law also emphasizes the importance of observing safety and health at work; According to a note in Article 96 of the Labor Law, the Ministry of Health is responsible for planning, controlling, evaluating, and inspecting occupational health and is obliged to take the necessary measures in this regard.

With the cooperation of employers, 110 occu-



pational health houses have been set up and are providing health services to 500,000 workers.

There are currently 3,777 occupational health centers across the country, covering one million workers in the field of physical and mental health.

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, has announced.

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.

## Holding joint scientific conferences can pave the way for developing bilateral relations.

## Iranian university tops world's list for good health and well-being

From page 1 ▶ or Fudan University in China heading up the table of universities' contribution to delivering affordable, clean energy (SDG 7).

Among more than 1,400 universities from 106 countries, 17 different universities from 14 countries top one of the 17 individual rankings for each SDG – a diverse global community ready to hold itself accountable for the delivery of the global goals, sharing data, and benchmarking progress.

During the last four years, Iran University of Medical Sciences has been the first and top university in West Asia (the Middle East) in this ranking.

In the Times Impact Rankings 2022, Iran University of Medical Sciences, in addition to gaining the top rank in the Health and Wellbeing Index, won the seventh rank in the field of Quality Education.

### Academic quality

Most recently, fifty-eight universities from Iran were listed among the top universities in Asia, according to the 2022 Asia University Rankings of the Times Higher Education.

The 2022 edition of the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, based on universities' contributions to delivering the UN's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), listed 27 Iranian universities.

The Webometrics Ranking of World Universities 2022 has ranked 694 Iranian institutions

among 30,000 top universities across the world.

Also, 59 Iranian universities have been listed among the top 3,000 institutions in the world in terms of academic quality, according to the 2021-2022 report released by University Ranking by Academic Performance (URAP).

The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Graduate Employability Rankings 2022 list has been released, which included three Iranian universities out of a total of 550 institutes worldwide that highlighted graduate employment processes.

## Iran University of Medical Sciences also won the seventh rank in the field of Quality Education.

Meanwhile, 41 Iranian universities in engineering sciences and 12 universities in computer sciences have made a place among the top 1,188 universities in the world with the announcement of Higher Education World University Rankings 2022 by subject.

It also has introduced 59 Iranian universities among the top institutions in World University Rankings 2022.

The THE Education Young University Rankings 2021 listed 26 Iranian institutions among the world's best universities that are 50 years old or younger.

Moreover, 34 Iranian universities and institutions were listed among the top 1,000 in the world, according to Shanghai Ranking's Academic Ranking of World Universities (ARWU) 2021.

## Birds In Iran

### Part 2

Finally, there are nine species of sea-bird and shorebird of the Indian Ocean, which breed on islands in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz.

Eight major habitat types may be identified, each with its own characteristic bird fauna:

### True desert and semidesert

The desert environment occurs throughout the central desert basin from the region of Tehran through the great Dasht-e Kavir and Dasht-e Lut deserts to the Jazmurian basin in central Baluchestan and locally along the southern coastal lowlands from northwestern Khuzestan to Baluchestan.

Rather few species occur in true desert, and densities are very low, but most of those species which have become adapted to this hostile environment have large ranges both in Iran and in the southern Palearctic as a whole.

Examples include: Houbara bustard *Chlamydotis undulata*, cream-colored courser *Cursorius cursor*, spotted and coronated sandgrouse *Pterocles senegallus* and *P. coronatus*, desert and bairailed desert lark *Ammomanes deserti* and *A. cincturus*, hoopoe lark *Alaemon alaudipes*, desert warbler *Sylvia nana*, desert wheatear *Oenanthe deserti*, hooded wheatear *O. monacha*, and trumpeter finch *Rhodopechys githaginea*.

Although Iran possesses no true endemic species, one species, Pleske's ground jay *Podoces pleskei*, which occurs widely in the deserts of central and eastern Iran, is almost confined to the country, and is known elsewhere only from extreme western Pakistan.

### Semiarid steppe of the desert rim and foothills

Much of Iran's land surface, lying between 1,500 and 2,000 m in elevation and with an annual rainfall of between 100 and 300 mm, supports a steppe vegetation dominated by the low shrub *Artemisia herba-alba*.

Large tracts have been modified by man, either through the grazing of domestic animals or irrigation and cultivation, particularly for cereals. The resulting patchwork is now the home of many of Iran's commonest and most widespread birds.

Characteristic species include: long-legged buzzard *Buteo rufinus*, Eurasian kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*, black-bellied sandgrouse *Pterocles orientalis*, roller *Coracias garrulus*, bee-eater *Merops apiaster*, several species of lark *Alaudidae*, including the ubiquitous crested lark *Galerida cristata*, isabelline wheatear *Oenanthe isabellina*, and black-headed bunting.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica  
To be continued

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## \$4m budget allocated to promote non-motorized transport

A total budget of 170 billion rials (around \$4 million) has been allocated to promote bike lanes across the capital city of Tehran, encouraging the residents to ride bicycles, Sakineh Ashrafi, deputy mayor of Tehran for planning, urban development and council affairs has said.

One of the main issues taken into consideration through the next year's budget bill, was development of non-motorized transportation, which focuses on active transportation and human powered transportation including walking and bicycling, she explained.

According to Tehran third development plan, biking as a green transport has been taken into consideration in order to mitigate traffic congestion and air pollution, she further noted, ISNA reported on Sunday.

## تصویب اعتبار ۱۷ میلیاردی برای توسعه دوچرخه سواری همگانی در پایتخت

سکینه اشرفی معاون برنامه ریزی، توسعه شهری و امور شورای شهردار تهران از تصویب حدود ۱۷۰ میلیارد ریال اعتبار برای توسعه دوچرخه سواری همگانی در پایتخت خبر داد.

وی اظهار کرد: یکی از موضوعاتی که در بودجه سنواتی سال آینده شهرداری تهران به آن توجه شده، موضوع توسعه حمل و نقل عمومی غیرموتوری از جمله دوچرخه سواری همگانی است.

به گزارش روز یکشنبه برگزاری ایسنا وی ادامه داد: در برنامه سوم توسعه شهر تهران، موضوع توجه به دوچرخه سواری به عنوان یک حمل و نقل پاک برای کاهش ترافیک و آلودگی هوا مورد توجه و تاکید قرار گرفته است.

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON JUNE 15

New cases	179
New deaths	4
Total cases	7,034,221
Total deaths	141,357
New hospitalized patients	44
Patients in critical condition	332
Total recovered patients	7,059,738
Diagnostic tests conducted	52,473,502
Doses of vaccine injected	150,173,217

