

# Israel Takes Aim at Iran-Turkey Ties

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Report

## Latin America hails “historic” Colombian election result

Gustavo Petro's victory in Colombia's election as the first left-wing president in the country's history has been described as “stunning” by pundits and has been met with praise from governments across Latin America.

The former mayor of the capital Bogota and current senator beat his rival Rodolfo Hernandez, a business mogul, with 50.47 percent of the vote in the runoff election, which was heavily focused on increasing inequality and rising costs of living.

The 62-year-old pledged profound social and economic change and has named Francia Marquez, a prize-winning defender of human and environmental rights, as vice-president, marking the first time a black woman fills the post.

Around 22.6 million people voted, about 1.2 million more than in the first round. Petro will take office in July replacing the incumbent conservative Ivan Duque and spelling an end to right-wing rulers in the country, for the next four years at least. Since 2015, the president is restricted to a single four-year term and barred from running for reelection.

The victory has also expanded a trend over the past few years that has seen many countries in the region swinging to the left with similar ideologies and policies.

Recent elections in Bolivia, Peru, Argentina, Chile, Mexico, and Honduras have seen new governments emerge that has expanded the leftist rule in Latin America and Petro's victory has sparked a feeling of unity and togetherness amongst the new leaders. ▶ Page 5

Report

## Moradi no longer president of Iran weightlifting federation

TEHRAN – Ali Moradi was forced to leave his post as president of Iran's Weightlifting Federation.

Moradi was re-elected as head of Iran Weightlifting Federation in July 2019 but the result of the elections was annulled by the Iran's Administrative Justice Court.

Moradi was a candidate for the Presidency of the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) but he cannot participate in the elections scheduled for June 25-26 in Tirana, Albania.

He was under pressure from the country's weightlifting society and the veteran weightlifters have blamed him over the past years.

Moradi served as general secretary of Asian Weightlifting Federation (AWF) and head of Iran federation for many years.

Iran's 2012 Olympic gold medal winner Behdad Salimi and former Iran coach Kourosh Bagheri say that Moradi is responsible for athletes' setback in the sport.

Yekta Jamali, first Iranian female weightlifter who won medals in international tournaments, left Iran's delegation at the World Junior Weightlifting Championship in Greece in May and sought asylum in Germany.

Sajad Anoushiravani, who won a silver medal at the 2012 Summer Olympics in the +105 kg category, was chosen as the acting president of the federation by Iran's Sports Ministry.



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TEHRAN— On Monday, Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett bode farewell after a one-year tenure, submitting a bill to dissolve the Israeli Parliament, otherwise known as the Knesset.

Consulting his key coalition ally Yair Lapid, the two agreed that Lapid would take over as the

caretaker Israeli premier next week, until the elections are held.

Creating a major surprise for the Western media, the announcement followed weeks of increasing political instability in Tel Aviv.

In a joint press conference with Lapid, the archi-

tect of the coalition, Bennett said he made the “difficult” decision to dissolve parliament in order to protect Jewish settlers in the occupied West Bank.

Elsewhere in the presser, the two announced that Bennett would continue his job of propagating against Iran by remaining in charge of the Iran file. ▶ Page 2

## TCCIMA hosts Iran-Belarus business forum

TEHRAN – Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) hosted an Iran-Belarus business forum on Monday, the TCCIMA portal reported.

The forum was attended by representatives of some major Iranian companies and a Belarusian trade delegation comprising

of the representatives of the country's food and agricultural industries, led by Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Republic of Belarus to the Islamic Republic of Iran Dmitry Koltsov.

During this event, the two sides discussed ways to develop trade relations.



© File photo

## Top eulogist Mohammad-Ali Karimkhani dies at 72

TEHRAN – Top Islamic eulogist Mohammad-Ali Karimkhani died at his home in Tehran on Monday after years of suffering from Parkinson's disease. He was 72.

Karimkhani was best well-known for the ritual song “A Piece from the Heaven” or “I Came, O King, Shelter Me” that he sang for Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Imam of the Shia. ▶ Page 8

## Geotourism still has untapped potential in Iran

TEHRAN – Geotourism is an important sector in Iran due to the country's special geological structure, an official with the tourism ministry has said.

“Due to its unique geological structure, Iran has a special capability in the field of geotourism,” IRNA quoted Seyyed Mostafa Fatemi Firuzabadi as saying on Tuesday.

The development of this sector can contribute significantly to the protection of the

land and to the development of local communities on cultural, economic, and social levels, the official explained.

There are several items that must be addressed by the tourism ministry, including identifying geotourism destinations, addressing geopark issues and solutions, diversifying geotourism activities, and developing education and human resources for tourism, he added.

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## Enemy relying on soft war: Leader

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei says the enemy has relied on soft war to undermine the Islamic Republic of Iran.

“Today, the enemy of the Iranian nation, of Islam, of the country and of the Islamic Republic is relying on a soft war,” Ayatollah Khamenei said.

He made the remarks in a speech delivered on June 12, 2022 in a meeting with the officials in charge of the Nomadic Martyrs Commemoration Congress.

The Leader praised the nomadic people and described them as the most loyal groups of Iran.

“The nomadic people of Iran are one of the most loyal groups of Iranian people. When I say ‘one of the most loyal,’ this is not based on my personal viewpoint or on conjecture. I am saying this based on the events that have taken place in the country, which I am aware of. In our contemporary history and in the history of the past two or three centuries, there are many stories about the efforts made by foreigners, in particular by the English, to infiltrate the nomadic people of the country. They have done strange things in this regard. If we had enough time, it wouldn't have been bad to recount the things they have done, but you must read about these things in books,” he said according to khamenei.ir. ▶ Page 3

## ‘UN report on human rights situation in Iran is unprofessional’

TEHRAN— Following the submission of a report about human rights situation in Iran by UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres on Thursday, Iran's High Council for Human Rights released a statement on Tuesday calling the UN interim report a “non-reflection of the country's human rights developments and achievements.”

The statement said granting the mandate of compiling a country-specific report to the secretary-general on human rights, while there is an international expert mechanism in this regard, is basically “unreasonable and illogical as well as both unnecessary and unprofessional.”

In his report, Guterres claimed that Iran has used coercive measures against dissidents.

The following is the statement issued by the Iranian High Council for Human Rights:

“According to resolution A/RES/76/178 of the General Assembly, the Secretary-General of the United Nations is required to prepare an interim report on the human rights situation of the Islamic Republic of Iran and submit it to the 50th session of the UN Human Rights Council. However, the previous responses of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Secretary-General's reports have emphasized that such resolutions are politically motivated, biased and unfair, and have not been drafted on the basis of a promotional approach to human rights, which is one of the main tasks of international human rights institutions and without the consent of Member States. ▶ Page 2



## Venezuela's Maduro praises Leader, says he met Gen. Soleimani in 2019



TEHRAN — In an interview with the khamenei.ir published on Monday, Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro praised the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, noting that meeting Ayatollah Khamenei “filled him with spirituality and wisdom.”

Maduro also revealed for the first time that he met martyr Major General Qassem Soleimani in Caracas in 2019.

The following is the full text of the interview:

**In your recent meeting with Ayatollah Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution stated that Iran and Venezuela have a very close relationship. What is your opinion about this important statement by Ayatollah Khamenei?**

Since Commander Hugo Chavez's first visit in 2001, Iran and Venezuela have established exemplary political, diplomatic, moral, and spiritual ties. During this current trip, I've witnessed how there is an exemplary relationship between us in terms of our increasing cooperation. We've had many successes. So Ayatollah Khamenei is right when he states that the relationship between the two countries is quite unique and extraordinary.

**In your meeting with the Leader, you said, “The Zionist regime is continuously conspiring against Venezuela through its Mossad.” Could you give us a little more information about these conspiracies?**

Yes. Unfortunately, imperialism and Zionism are conspiring against the progressive, revolutionary processes taking place in Latin America and the Caribbean, especially the Bolivarian Revolution. This is because we are a true alternative, an alternative of truth and justice, an alternative of freedom, an alternative of democracy, and an alternative for realizing projects that are fully humane in the Latin American region and the Caribbean Sea. In addition to this, Mossad's conspiracies are due to our strong position of solidarity with the Palestinian people and our support of them for their regaining their historical rights and for the Palestinian Resistance. Our support of them is strong and unique, and we will continue supporting them in this manner.

**What role have General Soleimani and the Quds Force played over the last 20 years in strengthening the relationship between Iran and Venezuela?**

I met General Soleimani in March and April of 2019. He came to Venezuela during the time when we were suffering from cyber-attacks against our power plants. These attacks were launched from the United States. I really didn't know. I didn't know him. I didn't know how amazing he was, but the discussion I had with him was very pleasant. We reviewed everything during our meeting and he immediately suggested we get help from Iranian experts. Two or three days later, Iranian experts came to repair electrical services in Venezuela.

## Iran dismantles spying network affiliated with Mossad

TEHRAN— Iran has dismantled a network of Mossad spies who had plans to assassinate Iranian nuclear scientists in Zahedan, capital of the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan.

Explaining the details of the arrest of Mossad agents by the intelligence service in the province, the provincial attorney general said, “These spies intended to assassinate nuclear scientists.”

In a press conference on Tuesday, Mehdi Shamsabadi pointed out that the case is currently in the preliminary investigation stage and an indictment will be issued and sent to the court soon.

The attorney general went on to say that a plethora of evidence were collected against them so that they did not even protest when the arrest warrant was issued.

Stating that some members of the network were arrested in Sistan-Baluchestan, Shamsabadi said that a number of other members

Ayatollah Khamenei believes, “If Jesus Christ (PBUH) were among us today, he wouldn't miss a moment to fight the leaders of global oppression and arrogance.” What is your opinion about this? If Jesus Christ were among us, what would have he done?

We're believing Christians. We're the type of Christians who take action while praying and thinking. And Christ came into this world to fight the Empires. He came to confront the Roman Empires. He risked his life. He sacrificed his life to fight the Roman Empire. If there's one good thing I can say about Christianity, it is its anti-imperialist nature and its seeking of truth and justice against the oppressors. I have no doubt that if Christ were among us today, he would have been at the forefront of the battle against imperialism, colonialism and all forms of oppression.

**During your presidency, you have met with Ayatollah Khamenei several times. Please tell us about any things we may not have heard about from these meetings and also from the meeting between Mr. Chavez and Ayatollah Khamenei.**

I've always admired Ayatollah Khamenei's excellent memory. That he recalls the memories of those days is important. In the talks that I have had with him, he has recalled some of the conversations he had with Commander Chavez where Commander Chavez shared some of his memories about Cuba and Commander Fidel Castro. There was a time when a hurricane was heading straight toward Cuba. It was a Category 5 hurricane. A conversation took place between Fidel and Chavez. Fidel said, “Chavez! What you need to do right now is to pray. Pray for us!” Chavez started praying. That day passed and the hurricane changed its course. It didn't cross over Cuba. Chavez called Fidel and said, “It's a miracle!” Fidel replied, “Yes, it's because God helps Chavez and Chavez's friends.” In the last talk that I had with Ayatollah Khamenei, he told me this story in a friendly, kind way in memory of Commander Chavez and Commander Fidel Castro. Holding a conversation with Ayatollah Khamenei truly fills one with spirituality and wisdom. He likes the Venezuelan people. He likes the people's ideals, and he always offers us great ideas and recommendations.

**What is your definition of the Axis of Resistance and which countries do you think it includes?**

The Axis of Resistance exists throughout the world. It exists in Africa, in Asia, in the Middle East, in Latin America and in the Caribbean. The Resistance also belongs to the people who are fighting against neoliberalism, racism and various forms of colonization, political, economic, cultural colonization and cyber colonization. Cyber colonization is something that is now on the rise by way of the social media. Cyber and cultural colonization...All of us who fight against colonialism, all of us who fight to decolonize our minds and our people, are part of the Axis of Resistance that stands against the methods of the imperialists for imposing a hegemony on the world. The 21st century is our century. It is the century of the unity of the people. It is the century in which people will be liberated. It is the century of justice and truth. Empires are in decline, and people's projects for well-being, development and greatness have just begun. This century is our century.

and agents of the spying network were arrested outside the province by intelligence forces.

He added some of the agents, according to the detainees' confessions, were in direct contact with Mossad officers.

Following a series of intelligence and operational measures by the intelligence members, three publishers of classified information and documents related to the Israeli regime's intelligence service were arrested with judicial permits. These agents were involved in the dissemination of classified information and documents.

One of these individuals tried to pave the way for access to confidential information by approaching administrative and executive officials.

One of the detainees was a woman, and prior to her arrest, she had a senior provincial responsibility as well as working for an organization subsidiary to the presidential office in the previous administration.

# ‘UN report on human rights situation in Iran is unprofessional’

From page 1 ▶ Granting the mandate of compiling a country-specific report to the Secretary-General on human rights, while there is an international expert mechanism in this regard, is basically unreasonable and illogical as well as both unnecessary and unprofessional.

The Islamic Republic of Iran reiterates the principled objection that while in the preparation of such detailed and time-consuming reports, no prior consultation is made with country, only a week is given to review and respond to and comment on allegations enumerated therein. This indicates the adoption of a political approach in compiling such reports in which the views of the country concerned have no place.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, in response to the previous reports of the Secretary-General and the Special Rapporteur, has provided detailed and reasoned opinions and arguments regarding each paragraph and the allegations made in those reports, but unfortunately, the authors of the reports have been inattentive to the information and opinions of the Islamic Republic of Iran as they were minimally reflected in the final version of the previous reports. It seems that not only there is no will to pay attention to the opinions and consequently to modify the report based on correct and reliable sources, but also there is an insistence to repeat unsubstantiated claims and cite false or invalid sources. In fact, the main text of the report is mainly based on the allegations and accusations made by anti-establishment and dissident groups.

Another noteworthy point in the report and other reports prepared and presented on the situation of human rights situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran is non-reflection of the country's human rights developments and achievements. While the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is constantly devoting all its efforts to promoting and protecting the human rights of its citizens and significant progress and achievements have been made in this regard, but such positive cases have either not been reflected completely or if reflected, they are presented with misleading analysis and biased interpretations.

It should also be noted that, unfortunately, out of more than 100 sources mentioned in the footnotes of the report, only 20 cases have cited internal sources which of course in such cases, the facts have been clearly distorted by misinterpreting the cited news. The rest of the sources and references have been made based upon anti-Iran foreign and dissident media outlets' propaganda. This indicates the politicized approach of the authors of the report on the one hand, and the lack of credible, documented and accurate sources on the other.

The death sentence is issued in accordance with legal standards only for the most serious crimes and in full compliance with Paragraph 2, Article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The main part of the death penalty is premeditated murder and retribution-in-kind. Of course, in this case, the practice of the judicial system is to try to seek pardon from the victim's next-of-kin.

The recent media hype using the code name of “deaths in state custody” comes from unsubstantiated and groundless fabrications made by certain media outlets affiliated to governments hostile to the Islamic Republic of Iran. Investigations into the names of allegedly deceased persons in a so called NGO, and the response to inquiries from the relevant authorities, show that some of the names do not exist at all. Only a few of those listed, all of whom were either armed smugglers or members of terrorist groups, were killed during armed clashes with police or border guards. These individuals have as a matter of fact never been in police custody.

Some of the names refer to those who died of disease while receiving medical treatment outside prison. The assessments produced following autopsy along with the results of lab tests are emblematic of the fact that the above named had never been mistreated. A number of these individuals have died of drug poisoning and abuse, with some of them committing suicide. What is ridiculously interesting is



the mentioning of individuals who are either released or imprisoned and alive as those who lost their lives in custody.

However, in any case where a prisoner loses life thereof during sentence, investigations will be carried out and if it is proven that the prison authorities are at fault or have been negligent, a lawsuit will be filed and the offender or offenders will be prosecuted.

The lack international human rights documents' failure to pay attention to the cultural diversity of countries is the biggest problem which, if ignored, deprives countries of their human rights in freedom of thought and opinion and violate the purpose of promoting human rights in the world.

No one is prosecuted in Iran for merely holding an opinion or belonging to a particular class or group. At the same time, anyone breaking laws will not be tolerated due to affiliation thereof with a particular group. Therefore, titles such as civil society activists, human rights defenders, minority rights activists or any other title cannot be served as a basis for persecution or circumvention of laws.

Judiciary-licensed lawyers and 57,000 lawyers admitted to the bar) are freely practicing law in the country. Legal action against a few of them has not been for the practice of law; rather, for having committed corpus criminal enterprises not associated with their profession.

The Law on Youthful Population and Family Protection has been ratified on the strength of Article 10 of the Constitution and by virtue of the Law on the Sixth Five-Year Economic, Cultural and Social Development Plan, with the aim of protecting the family and preventing dangerous medical, psychological, cultural and social complications of abortion and addressing concerns about population decline. A great part of this plan is dedicated to providing incentive items such as livelihood, welfare and housing facilities, insurance support for infertile couples, proper culture building and facilities for housewives and working mothers; it is under no circumstances whatsoever in conflict with personal life, privacy and reproductive health of citizens.

Staging gatherings and rallies and attending assemblies is an undeniable right of citizens, which has been recognized in Article 27 of the Constitution and other regulations in effect in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including in Articles 43 and 46 of the Citizen's charter (enacted in 2016). Organization of hundreds of assemblies, gatherings and protest rallies a year in the country (in some cases even unauthorized) is indicative of the recognition of this civil right and the establishment heeding public demands.

The principled policy of the Islamic Republic of Iran is the management of rallies with tolerance and restraint as long as it is peaceful. But if some participants in the rallies want to turn it into violence and disturb public order; it is the duty of the officers to establish order, prevent violence against the people and fend off destruction of public and private property. Police exercised maximum restraint in response to riots by giving a non-violent response. The police however might be forced to brandish weapons, in full observance of the Law on the Use of Firearms, in response to terrorist-backed armed thugs who had sought to cause and fuel unrest by using combat and hunting arms as well as shotguns.

It is deeply regrettable that while the present draft report and similar reports defend criminals and terrorists, and sometimes portray them as human

rights activists, they are unable to condemn the martyrdom of more than 40 law enforcement officers, most of whom lost their lives in the face of armed drug traffickers or terrorist groups. As long as such an approach is governed by international mechanisms and human rights, human rights will not be promoted and the place of the victim will be replaced by the criminal.

Politicization of human rights by the Secretary General amounts to the violation of the most fundamental and most evident statutory and legal principles, including the principle of equality before law and the principle of non-discrimination. This report has an independent section on “foreign nationals and dual nationals”. Double nationality is not recognized by the Islamic Republic of Iran. Having double nationality neither gives any privilege nor does it deny any citizen right. Pursuant to the laws in effect in the Islamic Republic of Iran, all persons referred to in this report are recognized as Iranian and they will be dealt with based upon the rules and regulations in effect in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The serious question here is to know why some foreign states are using some Iranian nationals with double nationality and even their own nationals in actions running counter to Iran's national security. Justice is applied to all convicts and nationality does not deny due process of law. The question which remains open is to know why the Secretary General has not mentioned Iranians held in detention abroad. It is recalled that more than 4,000 Iranians are currently held in prisons in the United States and other countries, nearly 40 of whom on charges of seeking to circumvent sanctions.

Unfortunately, despite the existence of some paragraphs appertaining to sanctions in the Secretary-General's report, there is no trace of the negative impacts of sanctions therein. The Secretary-General should have explicitly pointed out the negative impacts of unilateral coercive measures on the human rights of the Iranian people and various rights thereof, and called on the orchestrators to lift the sanctions. The Islamic Republic of Iran refers the Secretary-General to the remarks of the Special Rapporteur on the Negative Impact of Unilateral Coercive Measures on the Enjoyment of Human Rights who recently visited Iran.

The draft report does not mention the responsibility of the orchestrators and perpetrators of sanctions. It has also refrained from describing the imposition of negative, destructive, damaging and deadly impacts of cruel and criminal unilateral coercive measures against the human rights of the Iranian people by the U.S. regime and international responsibility thereof. The Secretary-General of the United Nations was expected to first condemn the imposition of unilateral coercive measures, and call for the lifting of all such sanctions. The report has also ignored the provisional order issued by the International Court of Justice in 2018 appertaining to the alleged violations of the 1955 Treaty of Amity, Economic Relations and Consular Rights (Islamic Republic of Iran v. United States of America).

The Islamic Republic of Iran has nevertheless pursued a policy of interaction and cooperation with international mechanisms. A signatory to international human rights conventions and treaties galore, the Islamic Republic of Iran – in order to fulfill commitment thereof – has submitted the following periodic reports to treaty institutions over the past 18 months including the Preliminary Report on the Implementation of the Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, Fourth Periodic Report on the Implementation of Obligations Under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, The Fourteenth Periodic Report on the Implementation of Obligations Under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, Finalizing the Fifth and Sixth Reports on the Implementation of Obligations Under the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Preparing the Second, Third and Fourth Combined Reports on the Implementation of Obligations Under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.”

## 5 elections in 3 years: Instability rocks Tel Aviv

From page 1 ▶ The coalition that includes religious nationalists like Bennett, Lapid's centrist party, hawks, left-wingers and Arab Muslims had until June 30 to renew a measure that ensures West Bank settlers live under Israeli law.

Multiple Arab lawmakers within the coalition refused to support the move in the Palestinian territory under occupation since 1967.

However, the controversially outrageous bill was not the only thing that cost Bennett his seat. He had lost the Knesset majority since April this year.

On April 6, 2022, a key member of the Bennett-Lapid coalition from Yamina party said she was quitting the coalition government – a surprise move that abruptly leaves the coalition without a parliamentary majority.

Having been plunged into a political

crisis, dissolving the Knesset would mean that an election must be held in Tel Aviv to determine the next prime minister. An announcement by Bennett's office said that the elections will be held on October 25.

Ironically, one of the candidates for the premiership is 73-year-old former Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

In a private meeting, Netanyahu has announced that he intends to take over the position to hand the regime in a “strong economic, security and social status,” local Israeli reporters said. The claim that provoked hilarious reactions from the Israeli community, ridiculing Netanyahu over his miserable tenures as the prime minister.

Commenting on Bennett's ruling, Diana Butt, a lawyer and former adviser to the Palestinian peace negotiations team said, “This has

never been a coalition that is good to Palestinians; to the contrary, this government has made sure to expand settlements and has pushed for the demolition of more Palestinian homes than any other government. It has also passed a racist law that openly declares that Israel wishes to ensure a Jewish demographic majority.”

The Lapid-Bennett coalition failed miserably in a one-year reign. Even Bennett himself admitted it.

On September 12, 2021, Bennett called the escape of six Palestinian high-security prisoners “a series of mistakes and failures.”

Killing and abducting journalists was also one of the major focal points of the right-wing coalition's tenure, which created a massive outrage in the global community.

However, it won't matter who would

take over the premiership in Tel Aviv. What matters is that the 8th-decade course is working.

The prophecies of Israel in the Old Testament Tanakh (or the Hebrew Bible) say that the fall of the Israeli Kingdom has internal causes and is caused by conflicts between the Israeli tribes, and in the end, God will do what He did. Like King Solomon's kingdom which fell apart.

These prophecies are being examined today in the discourse of Israelis with the arrival of Israel in its 8th decade with concern about internal differences in Israeli politics.

The majority of Israel's leaders believe in the 8th-decade curse. According to scholarly reports, most of Israel's governments collapsed after Solomon during the eighth decade.

The end is near.



# Israel takes aim at Iran-Turkey ties

TEHRAN – Over the last few weeks, Israel has launched an all-out media campaign against Iran that included bizarre claims of Iranian threats against ordinary tourists in neighboring Turkey.

Israeli media and officials first issued warnings of imminent alleged threats from Iran to Israeli tourists in Turkey and then claimed that “several” attacks were foiled as a result of Turkish-Israeli security cooperation. “The operational efforts with the Turkish security forces have borne fruit,” Israeli Prime Minister Naftali Bennett claimed. “In recent days, in a joint Israeli-Turkish effort, we thwarted a number of attacks and a number of terrorists were arrested on Turkish soil.”

Neither Bennett nor other Israeli officials have offered any kind of evidence to support their claims.

The string of warnings began on Friday when several Israeli officials alleged that there were “concrete” threats that Iran was allegedly trying to target Israelis in Istanbul over the weekend, and urged all Israeli citizens to leave Turkey immediately.

Iran has officially responded to Israeli hyperboles. Iran believes that Israel is openly spreading lies unworthy of a response. Nour News, a news outlet close to Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said Iran is determined to avenge the assassination of Colonel Sayad Khodaei but it'll not target innocent people.



“Given the past experiences, the Zionist regime [Israel] is well aware of the certainty of Iran's response to this regime's mischief and terrorist moves such as the martyrdom of Sayad Khodaei,” Nour News said, adding, “The officials of this regime also know that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not punish innocent individuals when taking vengeance on the Zionist government's crimes.”

The outlet said the leaders of Israel know that only the perpetrators and those who issued orders will be punished. This is why Israeli officials seek to mobilize the public with unfounded claims to increase the cost of Iran's revenge, according to Nour News.

The Israeli claims are intended to achieve another goal. According to Nour News, Israeli officials want to pitch Turkey and Iran against each other through unfounded claims. This is while the Iranian and Turkish foreign ministers have recently spoken over

the phone and discussed ways to boost bilateral ties.

This month, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu spoke over the phone twice in less than a week. In the first call, they discussed the latest developments in bilateral relations, according to the Iranian foreign ministry. Amir Abdollahian stressed the need to keep up the consultations between the two countries and promote cooperation, especially in bilateral trade and consular issues. The top Turkish diplomat invited his Iranian opposite number to visit Ankara for talks on issues of mutual interest in the near future.

In the second call, Cavusoglu once again extended an invitation to Amir Abdollahian to visit Turkey and expressed hope that continued negotiations between the officials of the two countries will help boost

bilateral ties and increase their cooperation. Amir Abdollahian reaffirmed Tehran's determination to boost ties with Turkey more than ever before. The top Iranian diplomat also expressed hope that the two sides will hold more consultations over the matter.

The Israeli claims come against a backdrop of broadertensions between Iran and Israel. Israeli officials have ramped up their threats against Iran and, recently, even boasted about taking the battle into Iran. Bennett and other Israeli officials are now talking of the so-called Octopus Doctrine, a new strategy allegedly aimed at dealing with Iran directly instead of countering its allies in the West Asia region.

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

Iran has said it will respond to Israeli provocative measures. Amir Abdollahian has recently said Israel must stop its provocative and hostile behavior.

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

## Enemy relying on soft war: Leader

From Page 1 ► The Leader added, “Foreigners tried to infiltrate the nomadic people in order to somehow entice them into betraying their country in different ways – for instance by dividing the country, by waging civil wars and by doing all sorts of things. But they failed to draw them toward the direction they wanted. When I say the nomadic people are ‘the most loyal’ and ‘one of the most loyal,’ this is why.”

Citing the sacrifices of the nomads during Saddam Hussein's war against Iran in the 1980s, Ayatollah Khamenei said, “In recent history – during the Revolution, the Sacred Defense and after that – nomadic people emerged victorious in different tests. The fact that more than 11,000 nomadic people were martyred is very important in itself. It was not the case that all of our nomadic people resided in border areas and that they were threatened. Some lived in border areas, and thus they were being threatened directly during the Sacred Defense. But some lived in the center of the country without any direct threat. However, they rushed to the Sacred Defense battlefields and defended, made serious effort and worked for the country.”

He stated, “What factor caused the nomadic people of our country to stand together to serve Islam and the country despite their differences in tribes and languages? What was holding them together? It was religion and piety. Religion is an important factor in unity, progress, sacrifice and altruism. The element of religion is what encouraged nomadic people to stand together in various arenas. It prevented tribal and other differences from dividing them and from creating discord among them. Religion has such an effect.”

Ayatollah Khamenei continued, “Our late Imam too was able to carry out this great Revolution and help it achieve victory by benefitting from this factor. After the victory of the Revolution too, he was able to preserve the country with the help of this factor. Had it not been for religion, the Revolution would not have achieved victory. You can be sure about this. No other factor would have been able to bring the youth, who would come to the streets empty-handed and would stand up to bullets and guns, into that difficult arena. No other factor could have done this. It was religious faith that brought them into the arena. Imam benefitted from this factor to achieve the victory of this Revolution. Subsequently, he depended on the people's faith to immunize the country.”



The Leader said religion played a major role in preventing the disintegration of Iran.

“After the Revolution, the country faced the avarice of the enemies. It was not the case that all of a sudden, the idea flashed through Saddam's brain to attack Iran. No, they provoked and enticed him, gave him promises and fulfilled his promises. They gave him money, weapons and war strategies for attacking Iran. Their goal was not for him to come and divide a part of the country. Their goal was to destroy the Islamic Revolution by means of dividing the country and by other means. That was their goal.”

Pointing to the effect of religious faith in nullifying plots to disintegrate the country and divide the nation, the Leader said, “The U.S., England, France, reactionary regimes and everyone who followed them stood behind him (Saddam) and wanted to tear the country into pieces. They wanted to reinstate U.S. domination of the country. They wanted to take the Iranian nation captive, but Imam did not let them. With what? With religion. Such is the role of religion and religious faith.”

Addressing the nomadic people, the Leader said, “Your martyrs are a beautiful, magnificent manifestation of religious faith. The 11,000 martyrs that you offered are in fact showing the effects of religious faith. Those young people could have stayed home, lived their lives in their own environment beside their parents, their spouses and their children and enjoyed the comforts of life as much as was possible, but they did not do that. They abandoned all of that, they left their dear children, dear spouses and loving parents and they departed. Why? What was their motive? Their motive was religion. They were soldiers who returned, became disabled or were martyred. As for their parents, it was also because of religion that they were able to endure this loss and hardship and to calm the burning flames of their hearts.”

Ayatollah Khamenei went on to say that

the enemy's soft war is aimed at undermining religion and the people's religious motive. He said, “In the analyses that some people make, they say that those young people went to protect the borders of their country and to ensure security. Yes, this is evident. The security and protection of the country comes from these sacrifices, martyrdoms, their disabilities and the fighting. There is no doubt that such actions ensure the security of the country, but their main motive was religion and God. Their motive should not be considered to be anything less than religion. They indeed moved and worked for God, and this is what brings the dignity of martyrs. There are some individuals who are not religious. They cannot deny these martyrdoms. Therefore, they try to tamper with the motive of martyrs. One of the most important aspects of the enemy's soft war is to eliminate and weaken the people's religious motive, which is the most important, highest motive.”

He added, “Today, there is a political motive behind every action that is carried out against religious traditions and beliefs. The people taking such actions may not realize this themselves, but this is the case, and they have been pulled onto this path. Undermining religion, weakening religious traditions, slogans and principles, questioning these things and portraying them as unreasonable are weapons that the enemy uses. The individuals who take these actions may not realize it. Some people do an action out of ignorance.”

He noted, “Today, the enemy is trying to undermine religious faith, hope and optimism about the future and the management of the country. These are things that they are planning for. They think about finding ways to make the people believe that they have no future, that the future is a dead end, and that they are stuck in an impasse. They are making plans for this. In the internet and sometimes in our own official media, they promote these ideas so as to cause the people to come to the conclusion that all paths lead to a dead end, that all paths are wrong and that the officials and managers in the country do not know how to run the country.”

He stated, “Anyone who undermines the people's faith is working to the advantage of the enemy, whether they do this knowingly or unknowingly. Anyone who causes the people to lose their belief in the actions, efforts and plans of the officials of the country and causes them to become pessimistic is working to the advantage of the enemy, whether they do this knowingly or unknowingly.”



## IRAN IN FOCUS

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Straight Truth  
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## SPORTS

### Maryam Azmoun named Iran's women's football coach

TEHRAN – Maryam Azmoun was named as new head coach of Iran's women's football team.

The 48-year-old has returned to the Iranian team for the second time. She led the women's national team from 2016 to 2020.

Azmoun replaced Maryam Irandoost who stepped down from her role last week.

Iran prepare to compete at the 2022 CAFA Women's Championship in early July under leadership of Azmoun.

### Hamid Motahari named Nassaji head coach

TEHRAN – Hamid Motahari was appointed as new head coach of Nassaji football club Monday night.

He will take charge of the Iranian football team in 2022/23 Iran Professional League season.

Motahari, 48, has previously worked at the Ghaemshahr based club in 2019 as Majid Jalali's assistant.

Motahari was part of Persepolis coaching staff in the last three seasons.

He will lead Nassaji, Hazfi Cup champions, against league winners Esteghlal in Iran's Super Cup in his first experience as head coach.

### Mohun Bagan eye Iranian duo: report

TEHRAN – Indian side Mohun Bagan have reportedly contacted Iranian duo Karim Ansarifard and Ashkan Dejagah.

The team regard a one-year contract for each player.

Mohun Bagan finished in third place in the Indian Super League last season.

Ansarifard, 32, currently plays for Greek Super League club AEK Athens, while free-agent Dejagah, 35, has been also linked with Iranian giant Esteghlal.

### Site predicts Iran's tough job to reach World Cup next round

TEHRAN – Indian site Wionews.com has predicted that Iran will have a tough job to reach the 2022 FIFA World Cup next round.

This will be the first time that six countries from the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) will be taking part in a FIFA World Cup as the 2022 edition kicks off in Qatar later this year.

The usual Asian heavyweights – Saudi Arabia, Iran, Australia, South Korea and Japan – have all booked their spot in the tournament while hosts Qatar will be making their debut.

The six teams will also take strength from the fact that the last time Asia hosted the tournament back in 2022, South Korea reached the semi-finals while Japan made it to the Round of 16.

With a few months to go ahead of FIFA World Cup 2022, here's a look at Iran, one of the six AFC teams which will be taking part in the competition.

Under the management of Dragan Skocic, Iran have the most impressive team in the AFC qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup 2022. With most goals scored and the most points for any nation, Iran cruised past their opponents with their only loss coming against South Korea.

Bayer Leverkusen striker Sardar Azmoun finished the campaign with 10 goals while his strike partner Mehdi Taremi provided able support. This will be Iran's sixth appearance in the World Cup and with England, Wales and the United States in their group, it will be a tough job for them to reach the playoffs.

### Ricardo Sa Pinto reaches agreement with Esteghlal

TEHRAN – Portuguese football coach Ricardo Sa Pinto has reached a preliminary agreement with Iranian football club Esteghlal.

The Blues won the title of the Iran league last season but have been without a coach since parting company with Farhad Majidi.

The 49-year-old coach started his coaching career in Sporting CP in 2012 and has also coached Braga, Legia Warsaw, Vasco da Gama and Gaziantep.

Sa Pinto has most recently worked in Moreirense as head coach.

Esteghlal have also negotiated with Alex Nouri, Jose Morais, Reza Enayati and Javad Nekounam.

### Iran Greco-Roman team runners-up at Asian U17 Wrestling Championships

TEHRAN – Iran Greco-Roman wrestling team finished in second place in the Asian U17 Wrestling Championships on Monday.

The Iranian wrestlers claimed two gold medals, four silvers and two bronzes in the competition held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan.

Mohammad Moradi in the 71kg and Mohammad Jahangiri in the 110kg claimed two gold medals.

Payam Ahmadi (45kg), Ali Ahmadvafa (48kg), Abolfazl Mirshekar (60kg) and Reza Azarshab (80kg) won four silver medals.

Mohammad Gholami in the 51kg and Hamidreza Keshtkar in 92kg grabbed two bronze medals.

Kyrgyzstan on the title with 182 points, followed by Iran (174) and Kazakhstan (170).

### Iran volleyball team invited to Russia

TEHRAN – Iran national volleyball team were invited to Russia to participate in a tournament.

The International Volleyball Federation (FIVB) has stripped Russia of this year's Volleyball Men's World Championship following the invasion of Ukraine.

Now, the volleyball federation of Russia is going to hold a six-team tournament.

Iran volleyball federation has not yet answered the Russian federation's request.

### Iran suffer two defeats at IHF Beach Handball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran suffered two losses in Group C of the 2022 International Handball Federation (IHF) Men's Beach Handball Championship on Tuesday.

The Persians lost to Denmark 2-0 (23-10, 20-12) in their opening match, then were defeated 2-1 (30-23, 20-21, 9-8) by Norway in the second match.

Iran were scheduled to meet Egypt on Wednesday.

The 16 teams are split into four groups of four teams each with the top three in each group qualifying through to two main round groups of six teams each.

The top four in each main round group then progress through to the quarter-finals, followed by semi-finals and then medal matches.

The ninth edition of the 2022 Men's Beach Handball World Championships is being held from 21 to 26 June 2022 at Crete, Greece under the aegis of International Handball Federation (IHF).

## Iran condoles with Ethiopia over terror attack

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh has expressed deep condolences and regret over the death of a number of Ethiopians in an attack by armed insurgents in the Oromia region.

Khatibzadeh strongly condemned

the terrorist attack and expressed sympathy with the Ethiopian government, people and survivors, the Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

It should be noted that at least 260 people were killed and hundreds more were injured in

the attack by armed groups in the Oromia region in western Ethiopia. The massacre marked one of the bloodiest days in Ethiopia. Residents who survived the attack reported that the assailants massacred people and buried their bodies in mass graves.



## TCCIMA hosts Iran-Belarus business forum



From page 1 ► He called for the holding of regular economic meetings in the two countries as a step forward for the private sectors of the two sides to reach greater mutual understanding.

The envoy underlined the two countries' membership in the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) as a historic opportunity for the formation of significant economic and trade relations, saying: "Iran is one of our trading partners in the region and we hope to benefit from the help and support of Iran in meeting the

economic needs of Belarus, including in the field of transit."

He also pointed to the cooperation between the two countries in machinery manufacturing and food industries as the first steps for expanding mutual economic relations, noting that Iran and Belarus could expand exports to third markets through joint production in these sectors.

Bahman Eshghi, the TCCIMA secretary-general who was also present at the forum, said that the economic relations between Iran and Belarus have become limited due to the unjust U.S. sanctions, however despite the situation, the two sides can find common ground at the present to provide a suitable platform for long-term economic growth and cooperation between the two countries after the lifting of sanctions.

As an active EAEU member, Belarus is very interested in cooperating with the Iranian private sector, especially in the field of transit and transportation.

## SEO inks co-op MOU with Central Bank of Yemen

TEHRAN – Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the Central Bank of Yemen to exchange knowledge and infrastructure required for the development of stock exchange activities in both countries.

As reported by the capital market news portal (Sena), the MOU was signed by SEO Head Majid Eshqi and Governor of the Central Bank of Yemen Hashem Ismail in Tehran on Monday.

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Eshqi pointed to the conclusion of this memorandum as a very positive step for expanding cooperation between the two sides and expressed hope that the relations between the two countries in the field of creating financial markets will increase more than before.

Ismail for his part underlined Iran's experiences in creating financial markets and expressed hope that by concluding this MOU,



SEO Head Majid Eshqi (R) and Central Bank of Yemen Governor Hashem Ismail pose with signed MOU documents in Tehran on Monday.

new paths will be created for more cooperation between the two countries in various fields.

One of the main provisions of this memorandum is providing the necessary infrastructure for the establishment of Yemen's capital market, for which Iran has announced its readiness to provide consulting,

## Iran-Kazakhstan trade targeted to reach \$3b by next 3 years

TEHRAN- Iran and Kazakhstan aim to reach the bilateral trade of \$3 billion by the next three years, an official with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced.

Rahmatollah Khormali, the director-general of the TPO's office of Central Asia, Caucasus, and Russia, made the remarks referring to the recent trip of the president of Kazakhstan to Iran in which nine cooperation MOUs were signed by the two sides.

"According to the goal set by the officials of Iran-Kazakhstan Joint Economic Committee in late February, the value of trade

between the two countries will increase to \$3 billion in the next three years, and the export of technical and engineering services is seen in this goal. There is also scope for cooperation in the field of oil", the official further stated.

Kazakhstan's President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev met Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi in Tehran on Sunday, and nine MOUs were signed in the presence of the two presidents to expand cooperation in different areas between the two countries.

Two MOUs were inked by Iran's Ministry of Industry, Mining and



Trade and Kazakhstan's Ministry of Trade and Integration on boosting trade between the two countries, and on analytical studies and exchange of experiences between the two sides.

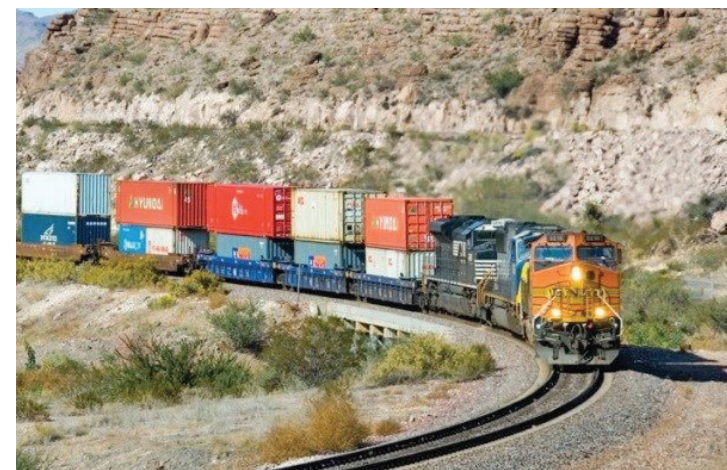
One MOU was signed by the two countries' ministries of agriculture on agricultural cooperation.

Iran's Ministry of Agriculture also signed another MOU with Kazakhstan's Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Industry and Infrastructural Development on trade and transit of agricultural products.

An MOU was inked by National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and KazMunayGas, which is the state-owned oil and gas company of Kazakhstan.

Another MOU was inked by Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) and Kazakhstan Temir Zholy (KTZ), which is the country's national railway company.

# Annual transit of goods via Iranian railways hits record high



TEHRAN – Transit of goods through Iran's railway network stood at 1.913 million tons in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), to register a new record high, the head of Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) announced.

"It is a big step to create a corridor through Iran", Miad Salehi underlined.

As stated last week by the spokesman of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), after seven years of reduction in the transit of goods from the country, the growth path of transit resumed in the past

Iranian calendar year, and with the passage of 12.65 million tons of goods through Iran, a growth of 68 percent was achieved.

Ruhollah Latifi said that the 68-percent growth in transit last year and the 39-percent rise in the first two months of this year promise to reach 15 million tons of goods passing through Iran in the current year, which has been unprecedented in the entire history of the country.

The policy of paying attention to neighbors and developing political and economic relations with neighboring countries in

the current government, increasing attention to road and rail routes in the world and the efforts and cooperation of transportation and trade-related organizations in establishing or activating corridors through the country has led to significant growth in transit of goods through Iran.

Iran is one of the countries that has a special status in trade and transit relations due to its strategic location and special geography, as the country is the passage of several important international corridors.

Considering its geographical location, Iran can play a

significant role in the transit of goods in the region and benefit a lot from its status in this due.

Paying attention to upstream documents, especially the country's development plans, and the government's decision to develop transit, paying special attention to infrastructure development, reducing transit time, making it cheaper to cross Iran and making more advantages over competitors, due to the short path for customers, can lead to facilitating the development of transit so that the country can reach the desired growth in this due.

## Domestic production of 19 gas platform equipment items to be realized by late Oct.

TEHRAN – The acting head of the Domestic Production Committee at Iran's Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) said his company is going to domestically produce 19 platform equipment items by the end of the seventh Iranian calendar month of Mehr (October 21), the POGC portal reported.

POGC, which is in charge of developing the country's giant South Pars gas field in the Persian Gulf, is collaborating with domestic knowledge-based companies to manufacture the mentioned items of which seven are in the final stages of production, according to Qasem Pour-Zeytani.

Over 45 billion rials (about \$165,216) has been invested in the projects defined for the construction of the said equipment, the official said.

According to him, the mentioned 19 items will save the company about 45 billion rials, and their domestic production is 50 percent cheaper than similar foreign samples.

POGC completed nine projects regarding the domestic production of similar



equipment in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) which saved the company 61 billion rials (about \$223,960), he added.

Pour-Zeytani noted that 27 billion rials (about \$99,129) was spent to complete the mentioned nine projects in 1400, which was 70 percent more cost efficient compared to the imports of similar products from abroad.

"Some of the projects that were completed last year include the production of a portable turbine washing machine and the personnel transport basket, have been carried out for the first time in the country, and the rest have been the first

experiences of Pars Oil and Gas Company in this field, which is very important," he explained.

He further noted that POGC is also in talks with domestic knowledge-based companies for the production of 16 more items and added that the projects for the production of the mentioned 16 items have been targeted to be completed in the next Iranian calendar year.

Domestic production of oil and gas industry equipment has been always among the objectives of the Iranian Oil Ministry. However, the issue became further highlighted since the re-imposition of the U.S. sanctions and Washington's determination for cutting off the Islamic Republic's ties with the world advances in knowledge and technology, especially in the oil and gas sector.

Back in January, Oil Minister Javad Oji said domestic producers are currently supplying over 70 percent of the oil and gas industry's needed equipment, adding that this figure can increase to 95 percent.

## Construction of Iran's 1st biorefinery reaches 85% physical progress

TEHRAN – Iran's first biorefinery, which is the largest such unit in the region, has reached 85 percent physical progress and is in its final stages of construction, Head of Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO) Ali Nabavi announced.

Located in the western Kermanshah province, the biorefinery is going to produce bioethanol as its main output product, IRNA quoted Nabavi as saying on Tuesday.

According to Nabavi, despite the limitations and problems created by the U.S. sanctions, IDRO has managed to successfully implement the mentioned project with the help of local engineers and experts.

The construction, installation, testing, and commissioning of this important biorefinery

are expected to be carried out and completed in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2023).

The official noted that over 12 trillion rials (about \$44.05 million) has been invested in this project which is going to create direct job opportunities for over 200 people.

When fully operational, this biorefinery will have an annual production capacity of 66 million liters of bioethanol which will save the country more than \$65 million every year, according to Nabavi.

The refinery will also produce 66,000 tons of fermented meal leftover from the production of alcohol annually as a by-product; this product is currently imported as a valuable livestock feed.

## TEDPIX falls 7,600 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), dropped 7,617 points on Tuesday.

As reported, the index closed at 1.539 million points.

Over 5.691 billion securities worth 34.747 trillion rials (about \$119.8 million) were traded at the TSE on Tuesday.

The first market's index lost 6,666 points, and the second market's index dropped 11,966 points.

TSE is on the four Iranian stock exchanges, the other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

## 150 hectares under greenhouse cultivation in Semnan province

TEHRAN- As stated by the governor-general of Semnan province, 150 hectares of lands are under greenhouse cultivation in this province.

"We are trying to develop greenhouses in the province and boost productivity through them", Mohammadreza Hashemi noted.

"We will have the most cooperation with the farmers in this due", he also stressed, adding that supporting Agriculture Development Fund of the province is on the agenda.

In recent years, the water crisis has caused serious challenges in Iran's agriculture sector.

To solve this problem, several solutions, including the implementation of pressurized irrigation project and greenhouse

cultivation, have been emphasized by experts and officials in this sector.

Iranian Agriculture Ministry's Greenhouse Development Program is one of the priority projects of this ministry which aims at increasing productivity, efficiency, and water consumption management in the agriculture sector.

The program was approved in the Iranian calendar year 1395 (ended on March 20, 2017) under the framework of the National Resilient Economy Plan.

The development of the country's agricultural parks and greenhouses not only is going to create new job opportunities but also increases the country's non-oil exports and helps preserve the environment and the national water and soil resources.



In last August, Darioush Salempour, the director of the Agriculture Ministry's Greenhouse Development Program, had mentioned the ministry's plans for the modernization and renovation of the country's traditional and old greenhouses, saying: "Our plan in the 10-year horizon is to improve and renovate more than 5,000 traditional, wooden and worn-out greenhouses across the country."

"We have planned to renovate about 650 to 700 hectares of traditional and worn-out greenhouses each year," he added.

Due to the growing need of the market for flowers and ornamental plants, as well as off-season vegetables and summer crops, greenhouse cultivation has become one of the most profitable agricultural sectors today.

Cultivation in the controlled space of the greenhouse will have an average of 10 times higher yield per unit area than outdoor cultivation due to suitable environmental conditions.

Significant reduction in water consumption in modern greenhouses is in fact the major advantage of greenhouse cultivation.

In greenhouse cultivation, due to

the closed environment, water loss through various evaporation ways is greatly reduced. Also, through mechanized irrigation methods such as irrigation canvas and irrigation tape, water consumption is minimized.

Increased control over pests, weeds and diseases is the other advantage of greenhouse cultivation.

In greenhouse cultivation, due to accurate monitoring and control of pests and diseases, especially the use of biological control methods and a sharp reduction in the use of chemical pesticides, we will see an increase in product quality, that will lead to the popularity of the product in the market and increase export capability.

As a result, along with preserving the soil and environment, we will see good foreign currency income.



# ‘I want to normalise hijab wearing’: Western Australia’s newest Labor senator on making history

When Fatima Payman takes her seat in the Senate in July, she will make history as the first woman to wear a hijab in Australia’s parliament.

The 27-year-old Muslim Australian, confirmed as Labor’s newest senator from Western Australia on Monday, says she will wear it with pride.

“I want to normalise hijab wearing,” Payman tells Guardian Australia.

“I hope to be an inspiration to many other young Australians, that just because you believe in God, or just because you look different, it shouldn’t prevent you from being involved in such an important institution.

“You can’t be what you can’t see, and if that [parliament] is not reflective of the general Australian public then how can you have complete faith that they can hear your voice, and be your voice in power?”

Payman is still pinching herself at being elected, describing her path to becoming an Australian senator as “completely unreal”.

She was just five years old when she fled Afghanistan with her family, seeking refuge from the Taliban who had targeted the family because her grandfather was a member of the Afghan parliament.

From Pakistan, her father, Abdul Wakil Payman, left by boat to come to Australia, “seeking a better life for his children”.

Three years later, Payman, her mother and her siblings joined him in Perth, where he worked three jobs – as a kitchen hand, a security guard and a taxi driver. Her mother ran a business



providing driving lessons.

Payman said her father “would always talk about politics” after dinner, hoping that one day she might return to Afghanistan to be elected to his homeland’s parliament.

“He never conceptualised the idea that one day his daughter could be running in the Senate in Australia,” she says.

After her father died of leukemia in 2018, Payman became politically active, joining the United Workers Union as an organiser.

“When I joined the union I found that there were resources out there for workers to fight for better wages, pay and conditions that my dad didn’t have the privilege of, or the understanding of,” she says.

“Thinking of how hard he struggled for us and how much he sacrificed for us, I can’t let his sacrifices go in vain and I really do want to advocate for workers like

him who are really just trying to make ends meet and make a better life for their families.”

Payman makes light of the fact that she will join the Senate at the same time as One Nation senator Pauline Hanson is reelected, who once wore a burqa in the Senate as part of a political stunt calling for a ban on the Muslim dress.

“I would like to say I wish Pauline didn’t do it because she has stolen my thunder, I could have been the first one,” Payman says. “But that is OK, maybe I’ll teach her how I wear my hijab.”

While Payman is not bothered by the focus on the history-making moment of her Muslim headscarf, she says that her identity will always be “Australian first”, saying she remains amazed at how quickly she adopted her new country after arriving as an eight-year-old.

“Yes, I am the first hijab-wearing

woman in parliament, but it was my Labor values that carried me here,” she says.

“Before I am Afghan, or a migrant or a Muslim, I am an Australian Labor senator, I do really want to emphasise that. I believe that everyone deserves a fair go in life despite where they came from and what they believe in, their sexual orientation, age or ability.”

She says she “has faith” that the new Labor government will do more to improve the treatment of migrants and refugees in Australia and also for those in offshore detention. She also wants to bring a focus to cost-of-living concerns, childcare, climate change and other issues affecting young families.

“I am really excited to get involved, learn as much as I can and start to make a difference, because that is exactly why I put my hand up in the first place,” she says.

When the button was finally pushed by the Australian Electoral Commission on Monday, Payman says it was a “very emotional moment”.

“My mum was bawling,” she says. “She said ‘you have fulfilled your dad’s dream and I wish he was here to witness that, he would be so happy and proud of you’.

“There was relief but also a massive sense of responsibility. There is a lot of work to be done. A lot of people are looking up to us as a government with hope for an inclusive and diverse government.

“I honestly would do anything to know or see my dad’s reaction. I know he would be so proud of me. He would feel that this has been an unreal journey.”

(The Guardian)

## Russia: Two Americans captured in Ukraine committed ‘crimes’

Russia says two Americans captured while fighting with Ukraine’s military were “mercenaries” engaged in illegal activities and should be “held accountable for those crimes”.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said the detained men are not covered by the Geneva convention as they are not regular troops.

“They’re soldiers of fortune and they were involved in illegal activities on the territory of Ukraine. They were involved in firing and shelling our military personnel. They were endangering their lives,” he said.

According to the Interfax news agency on Tuesday, the two Americans are currently in the Russian-backed separatist region of Donetsk in eastern Ukraine.

The two men have been identified as Andy Huynh and Alexander Druke, both from Alabama. Britons Shaun Pinner and Aiden Aslin and Moroccan citizen

Brahim Saadoun were sentenced to death by a Donetsk court this month, after being captured fighting with the Ukrainian army.

Though Russia does not carry out the death penalty, the self-styled Donetsk and Luhansk people’s republics do.

Druke, 39, is a former US Army staff sergeant who served two tours in Iraq, while Huynh, 27, is a former Marine.

The soldiers went missing while fighting under heavy fire in a village near Kharkiv only 25 miles from the Russian border.

The US State department confirmed having



seen photos and online videos of the two veterans in custody.

On the ground in eastern Ukraine, pro-Russia fighters said they were advancing towards the main battlefield bastion.

Ukraine acknowledged difficulties in fighting in its east as Russian forces regrouped after stepping up pressure and making advances on two cities.

The governor of the Luhansk region, scene of the heaviest Russian onslaughts in recent weeks, said Russian forces had launched a massive attack and gained some territory.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky had predicted Russia would step up attacks ahead of the EU summit on Thursday and Friday. He was defiant in a late Monday address to the nation, though referring to “difficult” fighting in Luhansk for Sievierodonetsk and its sister city, Lysychansk.

Luhansk governor Serhiy Gaidai said Russian forces controlled most of Sievierodonetsk, apart from the Azot chemical plant, where more than 500 civilians have reportedly been

sheltering for weeks.

The war has entered a brutal attritional phase in recent weeks, with Russian forces concentrating on Ukrainian-controlled parts of the Donbas, which Russia claims on behalf of separatists.

In Odesa, Ukraine’s biggest Black Sea port, which is blockaded by the Russian navy, a Russian missile destroyed a food warehouse on Monday, Ukraine’s military said.

The United States and its European allies have provided weapons and financial assistance to Ukraine but avoided direct involvement in the conflict.

Meanwhile, Russia on Tuesday summoned the European Union’s ambassador in Moscow over a rail blockade that has halted shipments of many basic goods to a Russian outpost on the Baltic Sea.

The latest diplomatic crisis is over the Kaliningrad enclave, a port and surrounding countryside on the Baltic Sea that is home to nearly a million Russians, connected to the rest of Russia by a rail link through EU- and NATO-member Lithuania.

In recent days, Lithuania has shut the route for basic goods including construction materials, metals and coal.

Vilnius and Brussels say Lithuania is implementing new EU sanctions that came into force on Saturday. Moscow calls the move an illegal blockade and has threatened unspecified retaliation.

(Source: Press TV)

## European Parliament member: U.S. overlooks Saudi human rights abuses, war crimes

TEHRAN - Clare Daly, a member of the European Parliament, tells the Mehr news agency that Joe Biden is overlooking Saudi human rights abuses and its war crime in Yemen by planning to visit the kingdom.

The White House said on Sunday that Biden’s upcoming meeting with Saudi officials will “include” the kingdom’s crown prince, Mohammed bin Salman, hours after Energy Secretary Jennifer Granholm suggested there would be a one-on-one meeting.

Biden had vowed to turn Saudi Arabia into a pariah for murdering Jamal Khashoggi, a Saudi dissident writing for

the Washington Post. The CIA concluded the murder had been ordered by the crown prince, known as MBS.

Daly also says the U.S. has secured Europe as a “new captive market for its LNG exports” in the aftermath of the Ukraine war.

Following is the text of Daly’s interview with Mehr:

“Saudi Arabia’s bargaining power has hugely increased since the invasion of Ukraine. In response to the Ukraine war, Europe has passed sanctions against Russia, and this increasingly includes a ban on Russian energy imports, which Europe depended heavily on. “

“The United States is very keen to prolong the war in Ukraine and to prevent any improvement of relations between Europe and Russia for as long as possible because it is in the U.S. strategic interests to see Russia bogged down in a prolonged conflict, while Europe is trapped in a U.S.-led NATO alliance. But if the situation is to continue like this, alternatives to banned Russian energy imports have to be found or else Europe will begin to waver,” she added.

“Although the United States is an energy exporter, and has now secured Europe as a new captive market for its LNG exports, it cannot

meet Europe’s energy needs on its own. And so Biden is very keen to unlock alternative sources of energy for Europe. The U.S. has walked back foreign policy commitments in a number of other ways – resuming, for example, dialogue with Venezuela, another oil producing nation. Saudi Arabia – which enjoys historically close relations with the United States – is a natural candidate. Saudi has been refusing to increase oil production to meet the crisis – a clear bargaining position, and as a result, the United States is walking back its policy commitments regarding Saudi human rights abuses and war crimes,” Daly noted.

## Latin America hails “historic” Colombian election result

From page 1 ► Mexico President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said Petro’s success could heal the wounds in a country in which “political assassinations” are not uncommon. Colombia has been rocked by decades of violence and more recent years of unrest during street protests.

Expressing his views on a social media thread, President Lopez Obrador said “the conservatives of Colombia have always been tenacious and tough” and recalled a writer who recounted that the “dictators” of Colombia “dipped their daggers in holy water before killing.”

He referenced the ten-year Colombian civil war that broke out following the 1948 assassination of leftist presidential candidate Jorge Eliecer Gaitan and triggered the ensuing six-decade-long conflict between the state and left-wing guerrillas.

“Today’s triumph can be the end of this curse and the awakening for this brotherly and dignified people,” Lopez Obrador said.

Argentina’s President Alberto Fernandez wrote on social media “your victory validates democracy and ensures the path towards an integrated Latin America in this time when we demand maximum solidarity amongst brother peoples,”

The Chilean President Gabriel Boric, who was elected earlier this year to replace conservative Sebastian Pinera, labeled Petro’s victory as a “joy for Latin America.”

“We will work together for the unity of our continent in the challenges of a world-changing rapidly,” Pinera said.

Peru’s President Pedro Castillo, who is also a teacher and trade unionist, said he was looking forward to working with an ally, despite the right-wing opposition dominating Peru’s congress.

“We are united by a common feeling that seeks improved collective, social, and regional integration for our peoples,” Castillo said.

Bolivia’s Luis Arce said “Latin American integration is strengthened,” as a result of Petro’s unexpected victory.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro, who has accused the former Colombian government of working with the United States to topple his government and replace it with a Washington-friendly administration said “the will of the Colombian people has been heard, it went out to defend the path to democracy and peace.”

Maduro said “I congratulate Gustavo Petro and Francia Marquez for their historic victory in the presidential elections in Colombia. The will of the Colombian people was heard, who came out to defend the path of democracy and peace. New times are in sight for this brother country”

In 2019, the Venezuelan government broke off diplomatic ties with Colombia after the now outgoing President Duque-backed attempts by Venezuelan opposition figure Juan Guaido, who claims to be the country’s acting leader, to oust Maduro.

Petro has advocated for a reopening of ties with the elected Venezuelan government of President Maduro, ending the country’s former policy of trying to isolate its neighbor.

Miguel Diaz-Canel, the president of Cuba, which like Venezuela is the subject of sanctions by the U.S., spoke of his hope for “advancing the development of bilateral relations for the wellbeing of our peoples.”

The United States recently angered many Latin American leaders by not inviting the heads of Nicaragua, Cuba, and Venezuela to the Summit of the Americas, leading to many leaders in the region to boycott the event or sending lower-

level delegations.

There has also been some welcoming remarks from one of the few remaining conservative leaders in Latin America: neighboring Ecuador’s Guillermo Lasso, who last year beat the leftist Andres Arauz is a rare recent success for the right.

Lasso said he has spoken to Petro and “reiterated the availability of our government to strengthen friendship and cooperation, prioritizing development and the integration of our peoples.”

Petro says he will try and unite the country, declaring “change consists precisely in leaving behind sectarianism... It is not a time for hate.”

During his victory speech, Petro issued a call for unity and extended an olive branch to his opponents, saying all members of the opposition will be welcomed at the presidential palace “to discuss the problems of Colombia”.

“From this government that is beginning there will never be political persecution or legal persecution, there will only be respect and dialogue,” he said, adding that he will listen to not only those who have raised arms but also to “that silent majority of peasants, Indigenous people, women, youth”.

Outgoing President Duque has congratulated Petro shortly after the results were announced, and his election rival Hernandez quickly conceded defeat.

“Today the majority of citizens have chosen the other candidate. As I said during the campaign, I accept the results of this election,” Hernández said in a video posted on social media. “I sincerely hope that this decision is beneficial for everyone.”

Analysts say the remarks by the outgoing President and Petro’s rival indicate there will be a smooth transition of power with no violence expected.

The 62-year-old has pledged to fight inequality with free university education, wholesale land reform, a wealth tax on the largest 4,000 fortunes in the country, and the repeal of laws from two decades ago that liberalized the labor market.

His tax reform plan is aimed at raising at least \$10 billion a year to help the country’s suffering economy. Petro has said he would implement this partly by imposing levies on company dividends, offshore assets, and large rural estates; but will not nationalize any private property.

The move “would affect 4,000-5,000 people in Colombia but it would bring social justice, stimulate production and give us the source of money we need,” he told the Financial Times in a recent interview.

He has pledged to use the revenue to fund universal free higher education and a minimum wage for 1.3 million people, and to cut the government deficit, which reached 7.1 percent of gross domestic product at the end of 2021.

“We hope we can have a constructive dialogue with the new government,” said Bruce Mac Master, president of the National Business Association of Colombia. “Petro is an economist. He understands economic issues. The important thing now is that he names a really good cabinet.”

Even Colombia’s last recognized guerrilla group, the National Liberation Army (ELN), said it was ready to reopen peace talks with the government after Petro was elected the country’s first leftist president.

Despite the White House publicly welcoming Petro’s victory, many experts have said Washington will be deeply concerned by the election result and the regional tide to the left.





## Swiss envoy visits Kordestan

TEHRAN – On Monday, Switzerland's chargé d'affaires Kim Sitzler visited some tourist attractions in the western Iranian province of Kordestan.

Sitzler, who was accompanied by the provincial tourism chief Yaqub Guylian, toured Khosro-Abad Palace Museum and Sanandaj Anthropology Museum among other sites, CHTN reported on Tuesday.

There are many historical and natural sites of value in this province, which is one of the most beautiful tourist areas in Iran, Sitzler said.

There are plenty of natural resources and antiquities in this province, which makes it an attractive place for foreign tourists, he added.

Kordestan province has the ability to brand handicrafts in the world proportionally to its resources in the handicrafts industry, he mentioned.

Tourism is a great way to gain knowledge of each other's cultures, and Kordestan and other Iranian provinces with their tourist attractions and historical landmarks, could showcase their culture and art, he concluded.

Kordestan also spelled Kurdistan,



is bounded by the Iranian region of Azarbaijan on the north, and it borders Iraq on the west. The name Kordestan means "Country of the Kurds," referring to the region's principal inhabitants. After the Turkish invasion of Iran in the 11th century CE (Seljuk period), the name Kordestan was applied to the region comprising the northwestern Zagros Mountains.

It was during the reign of the Safavid monarch, Shah Abbas the Great, that the Kurds rose to prominence, having been enlisted by Abbas I to help stem the attacks of the marauding Uzbeks from the east in the early 17th century.

## Bushehr's anthropology museum being restored



TEHRAN – The anthropology museum of the southwestern Bushehr province has undergone some rehabilitation works, the deputy provincial tourism chief has announced.

The restoration project of the museum, which is located in Taheri Mansion, one of the most significant and valuable buildings in the historical texture of Bushehr, is expected to come to an end within a month, Nasrollah Ebrahimi said on Tuesday.

The project involves strengthening the structure, repairing the walls, and painting doors and windows, the official added.

A budget of 1.3 billion rials (\$4,400) has been allocated to the project, he noted.

Back in January, a province's tourism official said that the historical texture of Bushehr holds the potential to be inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

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

the official added.

Such places, which are usually significant tourist attractions as well, are meant to keep culture and customs alive around the world, he noted.

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

With over 6,000 years of history and significant monuments from the Elamite, Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras, Bushehr is one of Iran's most important historical centers.

Besides its cultural heritage, beautiful beaches and lush palm groves make it an attractive destination for world travelers.

The historical and architectural monuments of Bushehr include Islamic buildings like mosques and praying centers, mansions, old towers, castles, as well as gardens.

When it comes to cultural attractions, there are many historical mounds in Bushehr including Tall-e Khandaq with Sassanid architectural style, Tall-e Marv located near an Achaemenid Palace, and Qajar era Malek al-Tojar Mansion. Qajar era Kazeruni Mansion, which has been inscribed on the World Heritage List, is another attraction that world travelers love to see among various ancient sites.

# Geotourism still has untapped potential in Iran



From page 1 ► development in geotourism, mechanisms related to planning for education, empowerment of local communities, the provision of necessary infrastructure, advertising, introduction, and attraction of geotourists, he stated.

### In line for inscription

To develop and promote this branch of tourism, a number of Iranian geoparks including Tabas and Aras geoparks are in line for possible inscriptions on the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization's Global Geoparks list.

In May 2017, UNESCO included Iran's southern Qeshm Island on its Global Geoparks list. Qeshm embraces a wide range of ecotourism attractions such as the Hara marine forests and about 60 villages dotted mostly across its rocky coastlines. The island has an abundance of wildlife, including birds, reptiles, dolphins, and turtles as well.

Tabas Geopark, which is situated in a vast county of the same name in east-central Iran, has enormous potential to be registered as "the biggest geopark" in the West Asia region.

Sprawled in the eastern province of South Khorasan, Tabas Geopark includes a variety of scenic landscapes and untouched terrains with the mysterious Kal-e Jeni (canyon of Jinn) located in Azmighan village, among them.

Situated in East Azarbaijan province, Aras Geopark covers an area of about 1670 square kilometers, sprawling across the whole Jolfa county. The topography is generally extremely steep and forms astonishing landscapes so the highest point in the Jolfa region is the Kiyamaki mount with 3347 meters and the lowest points include the

northern boundary and the Aras River valley with 720 to 390 meters.

It has an appropriate geotourism attraction, because of its mountainous landscapes, an outcropping of different sedimentary and igneous rocks, diversity in tectonic structures, semi-cold and semi-arid climate, and diverse flora and fauna.

### Due to its unique geological structure, Iran has a special capability in the field of geotourism.

Experts believe that the majority of geoparks help promote awareness of geological hazards, including volcanoes, earthquakes, and tsunamis and many help prepare disaster mitigation strategies with local communities. Geoparks embody records of past climate changes and are indicators of current climate changes as well.

A UNESCO Global Geopark

fosters socio-economic development that is culturally and environmentally sustainable directly affecting the area by improving human living conditions and the rural environment. It gives local people a sense of pride in their region, strengthens public identification with the area, and promotes a better understanding of the area's geological, natural, archaeological, cultural, and industrial heritage.

### What is geotourism?

Geotourism is defined as tourism that sustains or enhances the distinctive geographical character of a place—its environment, heritage, aesthetics, culture, and the well-being of its residents.

Many experts believe that geotourism is not a niche market as the global population of travelers increases and destinations become more globalized and homogenous, principles of geotourism are resonating with travelers across the globe.

## Golestan to develop coastal tourism infrastructure

TEHRAN – The coastal tourism infrastructure in the northern province of Golestan could be boosted, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The province's beaches, specifically Nokandeh at its western entrance, can attract tourists and benefit its residents, Rahman Farmani explained on Tuesday.

In order to increase tourism in the province and retain travelers, particularly in the coastal cities, attention should be paid to the capabilities of cultural heritage, tourism, and handicrafts, the official added.

Investors from the private sector are also welcome to channel budgets in this sector, he noted.

Back in May, the official announced that the Iranian government allocated some 1.1 trillion rials (\$3.7 million) to the tourism and handicrafts sectors of the province.

This budget is set aside for 55 projects in the areas of tourism, cultural heritage, and handicrafts, he explained.

Golestan is reportedly embracing some 2,500 historical and natural sites, with



UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus – a one-millennium-old brick tower – amongst its most famous.

Narratives say the tower has influenced various subsequent designers of tomb towers and other cylindrical commemorative structures both in the region and beyond. The UNESCO comments that the tower bears testimony to the cultural exchange between Central Asian nomads and the ancient civilization of Iran.

### Coastal and maritime tourism

Over the past couple of years, the Islamic Republic has made various efforts to exploit

maritime tourism potential by developing hospitality infrastructures, diversifying sea routes, and drawing private sector investors along its vast southern coasts.

Prosperous maritime tourism could help the country to meet its ambitious target of attracting 20 million annual tourists by 2025. It also keeps an eye on tourism developments in the Caspian Sea in the north.

Back in February, the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to develop maritime tourism and make the best use of its potential on the southern and northern coasts of the country.

Promoting the culture of using the sea as a tool to increase social vitality, developing coastal activities in the form of environmentally-friendly plans and programs, and creating the necessary grounds for cooperation and exchange of knowledge and information was also among the topics of the agreement.

## Moveable properties in Ilam made national heritage



TEHRAN – A total of 17 moveable properties in Ilam

province have recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

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

Clay vase, plasterworks, and

a gravestone were among the historical properties added to the list.

Home to almost half of Iran's UNESCO sites, western Iran is a land of hospitable people, wild extremes, and wilder history, and it may be an independent traveler's adventure playground. The region also witnessed the rise and fall of many

great empires once bordering Mesopotamia, Ottoman Turkey, and Czarist Russia.

From the fecund Caspian coast to the stark, mountainous northern borders, and the crumbling desert ruins of the southern plains, the region hosts everything from paddy fields to blizzards to Persian gardens.

## Iran's Cappadocia eyes World Heritage tag

TEHRAN – Iran is following up on a possible inscription of the rocky Kandovan village in East Azarbaijan province, which is sometimes referred to as Iran's Cappadocia, a local tourism official has said.

As the village has recently been added to the UNESCO's temporary list, its possible registration is being pursued more seriously, Mehdi Jodai said on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

Necessary steps are being taken in this regard such as the demarcation of the village with the aim of preventing illegal constructions as well as preserving and protecting the village, the official added.

Earlier in April, provincial tourism chief Ahmad Ahmadzadeh announced that the UNESCO registration of Kandovan village is one of the ultimate goals of the province's directorate.

Kandovan is one of the main destinations for foreign travelers to Iran, he said.

"Necessary measures should be taken to develop tourism infrastructure in Kandovan with the full cooperation of the public and private sectors because our ultimate goal is global

registration of this historic village," the official explained.

### Kandovan epitomizes genuine manmade dwellings that have been carved out of substantially eroded rocks.

Situated near the city of Osku, Kandovan epitomizes genuine manmade dwellings that have been carved out of substantially eroded rocks and it has been continuously inhabited since ancient times.

As to its shape and appearance, Kandovan is highly reminiscent of Turkey's Cappadocia, a UNESCO World site that features troglodyte villages, and underground towns with

traces of human habitat dating back to the 4th century.

Kandovan's history dates back to 6000 years ago. Some researchers of archeology have estimated its age up to 7000 years old.

The village and its rocky houses enjoy a distinct architecture; the thickness of its walls reaches two meters in some places. The rock acts as energy-efficient material, keeping the house cool during summer and warm during winter. The heights of these rocks are about 40 meters.

Additionally, there are sharp pyramidal cliffs with holes on their irregular surfaces in this village which have been created



due to volcano eruption in the region of the Sahand Mountain Range. The cliffs have shaped hive cells which are also known as Karan. Generally, most of these Karans are two-story in some cases, three and even four floors that they are not related to each

other from the inside.

Furthermore, residents have carved every room of the cliff houses like kitchens, halls, and even pens out of stone to make windows for the rooms and later, to decorate them with colorful glasses.



# Iran joins International Cooperative Alliance

TEHRAN – Iran Chamber of Cooperatives has become a member of the Board of Directors of the International Cooperative Alliance (ICA) for the first time.

Iran Chamber of Cooperatives, surpassing its global rivals among 110 influential and powerful countries, was elected as a member of the board of the ICA, IRIB reported on Tuesday.

The promotion of Iran's votes and position in the International Board of Directors can be considered a step forward and progress through the activities and close interaction with the global movement and cooperative regions.

Bahman Abdollahi, Chairman of the Iranian Chamber of Cooperatives, was elected to the Board of Directors of the International Cooperative Alliance for 4 years on behalf of the Iranian cooperative department.



It should be noted that the

national organization for the first time during these years.

The election was held in Seville, Spain.

## UN to help Iran confront natural hazards



TEHRAN – The United Nations will use all its power and capacity to assist Iran deal with natural hazards by increasing operational performance and improving safety in specialized areas, Stefan Priesner, the UN Resident Coordinator for Iran, has said.

He made the remarks in an earthquake preparedness training session held in Tehran on Tuesday in cooperation with the UN, the Crisis Management Organization.

Expressing the desirable capacities of Iran in dealing with natural hazards, he said that we will do everything to assist Iran. In this regard, we can increase operational performance and improve safety in the sector to enhance cooperation.

Mohammad Hassan Nami, head of the Crisis Management Organization also said that humanitarian assistance in times of crisis and natural disasters will be a bilateral issue, and the Islamic Republic declares its readiness to provide assistance to other affected countries.

He further stressed the need for various exercises and maneuvers in order to prepare for responding to various crises, as well as the formation of various working groups.

He also called for the establishment of 13 specialized working groups with the United Nations and regional offices and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to strengthen infrastructure.

Given the climate change and global warming that is taking place around the world, the role of the United Nations and other influential organizations in preventing countries from engaging in risky activities in this area, he noted.

Nami also called on the UN envoy to cooperate in providing crisis management equipment to the country, citing unilateral U.S. sanctions on Iran.

### Natural disasters

Throughout history, mankind has always struggled with natural disasters, which are exacerbating over time.

The Iranian plateau, with its location between two vast expanses of water as well as the intersection of the Eurasian plateau and Saudi Arabia, has always been exposed to numerous natural hazards and disasters.

Earthquake, as one of the main natural challenges, occasionally becomes the uninvited guest of Iranian homes. On the other hand, the existence of important rivers and water reservoirs in the country has also increased flood risk.

According to UN surveys this year, the main natural disasters listed for Iran are drought, floods, and earthquakes. Subsidence is also a phenomenon that has emerged as one of the consequences of drought along with the aforementioned three challenges.

According to UN surveys, the main natural disasters listed for Iran are drought, floods, and earthquakes.

## Iran leading the world in protected areas growth

From page 1 ► According to the latest studies, about 1,300 species of vertebrates, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic fish, about 30,000 species of invertebrates, and 8,000 species of plants have been identified in the country.

Following the formation of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), various world-class meetings were held between scientists, and new parks with new management emerged in different countries. In Iran, too, the issue of protection of hunting grounds changed to a more general issue, so in 1956, the Hunting Club of Iran was formed.

Later, it developed into an organization overseeing hunting and

fishing activities in the country. In 1971 the organization changed its name to its current one and notably has hosted the Ramsar Convention on Wetlands of International Importance in the city of Ramsar in the same year.

The Convention on Biological Diversity predicts that the average protected area in the world will reach 30 percent of the total area of a country. There is 11.6 percent of the protected areas in Iran. Therefore, the DOE introduced 29 areas with about 700,000 hectares as new areas to the Ministry of Agriculture, but there are some problems.

Of course, despite all these problems, the rate of Iran's protected areas is higher than many countries in the world, or over a 40-year

period, the growth of these areas in Iran is higher than the global average, Ali Bali, deputy director of the habitats and regional affairs office of the DOE said.

The global average for protected areas is about 15.7 percent of a country's area, although the average in countries such as Venezuela, Ecuador, Canada, India, and Nepal is above 30 to 40 percent, he noted.

From 1962 to 2018, the average number of protected areas in the world has increased 26 times, compared with 37 times in Iran. Of course, this growth has been in terms of the number of protected areas, but the issue is how large this number is, he explained.

He pointed to the challenges of protected areas and said that one

of the main threats to protected areas is habitat destruction, which may be done by government agencies to implement development projects, or in a more limited area by the locals.

The next challenge is mining and mining activities. We have a big challenge in this area; Mines are the most incompatible activities against protected areas, he stated, citing poaching as another challenge for protected areas.

Drought, dust, human-made, and natural hazards such as wildfires are other challenges that threaten these areas, and on the other hand, the development of villages in or around protected areas also threatens the dynamism of these areas, he concluded.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Iran gets ready for two-week coronavirus closure

The National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control will implement a plan, according to which all occupations, except for emergency services and basic food suppliers, will be closed for two weeks in more than 100 cities in an attempt to curb the coronavirus.

Alireza Reisi, a spokesman for the Headquarters, said that "the plan will go into effect on November 21."

The plan divides cities into three levels of alert, according to which, if a city is in a state of high alert, all other occupations will be closed, except for the most essential jobs, which are related to the provision of basic necessities, security, and health.

Deputy health minister Iraj Harirchi has predicted that the COVID-19 death toll would double in the next two weeks.

"Unfortunately, daily deaths reached over 450 in the past 10 days, and an upward trend in infection, hospitalization, and death is predicted," he lamented.

## اجرای طرح تعطیلی دو هفته‌ای سراسری برای مقابله با کرونا هفته آینده

ستاد ملی مقابله با کرونا در ایران طرحی را اجرا خواهد کرد که بر مبنای آن بیش از ۱۰۰ شهر از جمله تهران با وضعیت هشدار بالای کرونا به مدت دو هفته تعطیل خواهند بود.

به گزارش ایسنا، علیرضا ریسی سخنگوی ستاد ملی مقابله با کرونا گفت: این طرح از اول آذرماه آغاز می‌شود.

این طرح شهرها را به سه سطح هشدار تقسیم بندی می‌کند که بر اساس آن، اگر شهری در وضعیت سطح هشدار بالا قرار گیرد به جز مشاغل خیلی ضروری که مربوط به تهیه مایحتاج ضروری مردم، امنیت و سلامت می‌شوند، بقیه مشاغل همه تعطیل هستند.

یرج حریرچی معاون وزیر بهداشت از پیش‌بینی‌ها در دو برابر شدن مرگ ناشی از کرونا در دو هفته آینده خبر داد. به گزارش ایرنا، حریرچی گفت متأسفانه بیش از ۱۰ روز است که مرگ‌های بالای ۴۵۰ مورد را تجربه کردیم و پیش‌بینی‌ها این است که فعلاً روند صعودی در ابتلا و در بستری و در مرگ را خواهیم داشت.

## Iran attends WMO Executive Council

TEHRAN – Sahar Taj-Bakhsh, head of Iran's Meteorological Organization (IMO), has attended the 75th Executive Council of the World Meteorological Organization in Geneva on June 20-24.

The 75th meeting of the Executive Council (EC-75) of the World Meteorological Organization will present the reports of the specialized committees, the finance committee, the hydrological coordination panel, the climate, and the WMO restructuring working groups.

The meeting will also examine some of the long-term goals of the World Meteorological Organization, including increasing the implementation of flood forecasting through the hydrology program and observations and forecasts of the Earth system.

According to the Meteorological Organization, Taj-Bakhsh will meet some officials and negotiate with the heads of meteorological services of some countries to promote mutual interactions and bilateral cooperation.

## Birds In Iran

### Part 6

#### Coastal habitats

The tidal mud-flats, mangrove swamps, sandy beaches, rocky shores, and sea-cliffs of Iran's south coast support a variety of breeding and wintering waterfowl and sea-birds.

Breeding species include crab plover *Dromas ardeola*, great stone plover *Esacus recurvirostris* (only in the east), several species of herons and egrets such as Indian pond heron *Ardeola grayii*, western reef heron *Egretta gularis* and goliath heron *Ardea goliath* (in mangroves), and several species of terns *Sterna* sp.

Wintering species include Dalmatian pelican, cormorant, spoonbill, osprey *Pandion haliaetus*, white-tailed eagle *Haliaeetus albicilla*, many shorebirds notably oyster-catcher *Haematopus ostralegus*, bar-tailed godwit *Limosa lapponica*, curlew *Numenius arquata* and plovers of the genus *Charadrius*, and a variety of skuas *Stercorarius* sp., gulls *Larus* sp., and terns *Sterna* sp.

#### Offshore islands

The many small and uninhabited islands in the Persian Gulf and straits of Hormuz provide ideal breeding grounds for large colonies of seabirds. The main species are great crested tern *Sterna bergii*, lesser crested tern *S. bengalensis*, white-checked tern *S. repressa*, and bridled tern *S. anaethetus*, but small colonies of red-billed tropic-bird *Phaethon aethereus*, socotra cormorant *Phalacrocorax nigrogularis*, and saunders' little tern *Sterna saundersi* have been found, and the Persian shearwater *Puffinus lherminieri persicus* probably breeds.

Of the 491 species which are known to have occurred in Iran at least 324 breed regularly. 103 are almost if not entirely sedentary, remaining on or near their breeding grounds throughout the year.

A few undertake short altitudinal migrations, moving down from the highest mountain ranges during periods of hard weather. 123 species can be classed as "partial migrants."

In some cases, the individuals breeding in Iran are largely sedentary, but numbers are swelled in autumn with the arrival of individuals from breeding grounds to the north of Iran. In other cases, individuals breeding in north or central Iran tend to be migratory, while many or all of the individuals breeding in the south are sedentary.

In a third group of species, mainly those breeding in the highlands of north and west Iran, there is some movement of individuals, particularly



larly young birds, out of the breeding grounds into the central desert basin and southern lowlands in the autumn. 98 species are breeding summer visitors, with the great bulk of the Iranian breeding population migrating in autumn either southwest to winter in the Arabian peninsula and Africa or southeast to winter in the Indian subcontinent.

Among a few species there seems to be a "migratory divide," with birds breeding in western Iran migrating southwest in autumn and those breeding in eastern Iran migrating southeast, e.g., swallow *Hirundo rustica* and sand martin *Riparia riparia*. In many species, a small number of individuals occasionally overwinter in the extreme southwest or southeast of Iran.

Of the non-breeding visitors to Iran 86 species are winter visitors from breeding grounds in Russia. Two-thirds of these are waterfowl (particularly ducks, geese, swans, and shorebirds) and birds of prey.

Banding studies have shown that the bulk of ducks wintering in Iran originate from breeding grounds in the basin of the Ob and Irtysh rivers in Western Siberia.

In many cases the number of birds overwintering represents only a small proportion of the total present during the migration seasons, indicating that a large through passage is taking place. 24 species occur in Iran only as passage migrants in spring and autumn, breeding to the north of Iran and wintering to the southwest or southeast.

The remaining 57 non-breeding species include vagrants and rare stragglers, chiefly from central and eastern Asia, and a small number of species which were formerly reported as breeding in Iran but which have not been recorded for many years, e.g., pied crested cuckoo *Clamator jacobinus*, brown fish owl *Ketupa zeylonensis*, scaly-bellied green woodpecker *Picus squamatus*, black-headed shrike *Lanius schach*, black drongo *Dicrurus macrocereus*, jungle crow *Corvus macrorhynchos*, and desert sparrow *Passer simplex*.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON JUNE 21

New cases	187
New deaths	4
Total cases	7,235,175
Total deaths	141,370
New hospitalized patients	38
Patients in critical condition	264
Total recovered patients	7,060,813
Diagnostic tests conducted	52,528,538
Doses of vaccine injected	150,260,936



