

# Iran Is Ready to Restore Ties, But Will Saudi Arabia Reciprocate?

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## Report Thousands protest against NATO summit

Thousands of demonstrators have poured their anger on the streets of the Spanish capital Madrid against NATO in protest over the U.S.-led military alliance's support and backing for wars as Western leaders face further criticism over the Ukraine war.

The protest in Madrid comes ahead of a NATO summit which will take place in the Spanish capital next week. A second demonstration which had been organized for Wednesday has now been banned by the Spanish government citing security reasons.

Demonstrators called for NATO to be dissolved and demanded the military bases maintained by Washington in their country's territory be shut down. Protesters criticized an increase in military spending in Europe which was urged by NATO, saying it poses a threat to regional peace and security.

Banners with the words "No to NATO, No to War, For Peace" were held as the protesters marched through the city.

"I am fed up (with) this business of arms and killing people. The solution they propose is more arms and wars and we always pay for it. So, no NATO, no (army) bases, let the Americans go and leave us alone without wars and weapons," Concha Hoyos, a retired Madrid resident, told Reuters.

"We think NATO is a criminal organization that doesn't help the working classes," protest organizer Javier Martorell told CGTN, "with them it's just war and misery. So we don't want NATO in our country – that's why we are protesting." ► Page 5

## Report Saudi Arabia to promote talks with Iran to diplomatic level

TEHRAN — According to the Iranian foreign ministry spokesman, Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi who visited Tehran on Sunday, brought an important message from the Saudi officials.

The message, Saeed Khatibzadeh announced, included the Saudi Kingdom's readiness to upgrade the level of negotiations with Iran from security level to the diplomatic level.

Al-Kadhimi came to Iran from Jeddah, where he had a cordial meeting with the Saudi Crown Prince, Mohammad bin Salman.

Bin Salman and al-Kadhimi addressed "bilateral relations and opportunities for joint cooperation", the official Saudi Press Agency reported on Saturday.

"They exchanged points of view on a number of issues that would contribute to supporting and strengthening regional security and stability," it added.

Over the past year, Iraq has hosted five rounds of talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia, two regional rivals, with the last session held in April.

Saeed Shirvani, Deputy Secretary of Iran's National Security Council, has so far been the chief negotiator with the Saudis, marking the assumption that the talks are being held at a security level. The assumption is partially true, particularly about the Saudi delegation, ► Page 2

## Iran building schools, hospitals in Karabakh region

TEHRAN – Ali Alizadeh, the Azerbaijani ambassador to Iran, has invited Iranian companies to participate in reconstruction projects in the Karabakh region, saying Iranian contractors are currently constructing schools and hospitals in the region.

Speaking in a meeting with Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafeie, the ambassador said: "There are many opportunities for Iranian companies [in Karabakh region]. We have good opportunities for

cooperation in the fields of energy, transportation, and trade, and we are determined to pursue this cooperation."

"Azerbaijan and Iran are two close, brotherly and friendly countries that have a great relationship, and the President of the Republic of Azerbaijan attaches great importance to relations with Iran and emphasizes strengthening these relations," Alizadeh said.

As reported by the ICCIMA portal, he noted that economic and trade ties play a pivotal

role in strengthening political relations between the two countries, and since the ICCIMA is one of the most important economic players in Iran, the embassy likes to pursue the strengthening of economic and trade relations between the two countries through ICCIMA as well.

"There are lots of common areas for cooperation between the two countries in various fields including energy and transportation. Last year, the Republic of Azerbaijan was able to increase its trade balance by ► Page 4

## Government seeking to revive Trade Ministry

TEHRAN — Iranian government spokesman announced late on Sunday that the cabinet had agreed to revive the Ministry of Trade which currently falls under the responsibility of Ministry of Industry, Mines and Trade.

Writing on his Twitter page late Sunday, Ali Bahadori Jahromi announced,

"The government today agreed on a plan to form a Ministry of Commerce."

## Iran's military chief issues stark warning on Israeli CENTCOM membership

TEHRAN — Iran's Armed Forces Chief of Staff, Major General Mohammad Bagheri, has issued a stark warning against the Israeli regime's membership in the U.S. Central Command (CENTCOM).

Bagheri made the remarks in a meeting with Nadeem Reza, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Pakistan Army, in Tehran on Monday.

The military chief labeled the Israeli regime as the ringleader of "interventions" and the cause of "instability" in the region.

The Israeli regime is trying to establish relations with the countries of the region to achieve its interventionist goals by implementing its plans, the general pointed out.

He said the Israeli regime's membership in CENTCOM and its moves in deploying equip-

ment and participating in the exercises are a stepping stone for creating threats to the region, adding, "We will not tolerate these threats and we will certainly give responses to them."

Regarding the United States and the Israeli regime's interventions in the region, the top military official pointed out that the formation of terrorist and Takfiri groups in the region, especially in Syria and Iraq, is another case that the U.S. and the Israeli regime have created in the region.

"Iran and Pakistan have significant potential"

The top Iranian military official also praised the growing interactions between Iran and Pakistan in the military field. ► Page 2

## Miniseries to depict General Soleimani failed assassination plot

TEHRAN – The Avini Art and Cultural Institute has said that plans to make a miniseries featuring a 2019 plot to assassinate Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, former IRGC Quds Force chief.

Sirus Moqaddam, director of the popular TV series "Paytakht", "Madineh" and "Mikail", will helm the miniseries entitled "Assassination".

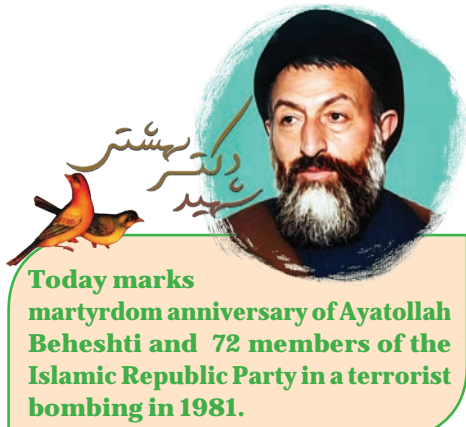
This docudrama "intends to depict the higher political and military status of the

## Hormozgan to boost tourism sector

TEHRAN – A budget of 840 billion rials (\$2.8 million) has been allocated to develop some tourism-related projects across the southern province of Hormozgan, the provincial tourism chief has said.

"A sum of 840 billion rials has been approved to be distributed to 22 tourism-related projects since the beginning of the current Iranian year (begins on March 21)," CHTN quoted Sohrab Banavand as saying on Monday.

The projects, which include tourist complexes, traditional restaurants, hotels, eco-



Today marks martyrdom anniversary of Ayatollah Beheshti and 72 members of the Islamic Republic Party in a terrorist bombing in 1981.

## From Inside

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## Report

## Iran third at 2022 Asian Taekwondo Championships

TEHRAN – Iranian taekwondo delegation finished in third place in the 25th edition of the Asian Taekwondo Championships.

The competition was held from June 24 to 27 in Chuncheon, South Korea.

Iranian taekwondo practitioners claimed three gold medals, five silvers and two bronzes.

The Iranian women made history in this edition by winning three gold medals, as opposed to the men who failed to win a single gold.

Nahid Kiani defeated Uzbekistan's Charos Kayumova in the -53kg weight class to register Iran's first gold in the competition.

Zahra Pouresmaeil seized the second gold for the Iranian delegation, beating Kazakhstan's Cansel Deniz in the -73kg class.

Akram Khodabandeh took the third gold in the +73kg, defeating Chinese practitioner Zhou Zeqi.

Mobina Nematzadeh seized a silver in the -49kg class. She lost to Guo Qing of China. ► Page 3



**Iran marks Judiciary Week**  
TEHRAN — The National Judiciary Conference was held in Tehran on Monday at the presence of President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, Judiciary Chief Gholam-Hossein Mohseni Ejei and Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf. The conference was held to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Seyyed Mohammad Hossein Beheshti, Iran's first Judiciary Chief who was assassinated by the MKO in 1981.



## Iran's military chief issues stark warning on Israeli CENTCOM membership



From page 1 ► “We believe that the two countries have significant potential. In the past 5 years, we have witnessed many interactions and exchanges between the military officials of Iran and Pakistan,” Bagheri stated.

General Bagheri continued by saying that the issue of border security between Tehran and Islamabad has been one of the most important issues between the two capitals.

“During my visit to Pakistan, I have seriously pursued common issues between the two countries, especially in the field of border security,” the top military official reiterated.

Bagheri added that Iran's approach to the development of relations with neighbors is “one of a kind” and this important issue has been strengthened in the Raisi government and is developing.

The top military official continued, “In recent years, military relations between Iran and Pakistan have developed significantly, which has led to security and efficiency in the economic development of the two countries.”

Bagheri went on to note that the geographical region, where Iran and Pakistan are located, is “very important and sensitive.”

### “The Yemen war is a tragedy”

Referring to the developments in Yemen, Bagheri called the Yemeni war a “tragedy,” noting, “Another issue in our region is the tragedy of Yemen, which has been ongoing for a long time, and this process must end immediately.”

The war on Yemen, led by Saudi Arabia and supported logistically by the U.S., started on March 2015.

The humanitarian disaster resulting from the war has been described by the United Nations as the worst of its kind in modern history.

On April 2, Yemen and Saudi Arabia

agreed on a two-month truce under the efforts of UN Special Envoy for Yemen Hans Grundberg. On June 2, the sides extended truce for another two months. Iran has welcomed the truce.

### Iran pays attention to oppressed people of Kashmir

Elsewhere in the meeting, Bagheri went on to underline that the issue of Kashmir is another issue of the Islamic world and Iran's position in this regard is the same of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

Iran pays attention to supporting the oppressed and Muslim people, he added.

### NATO expansion is a threat to Russia's security

Elsewhere in his remarks, Bagheri pointed out that the war between Russia and Ukraine will definitely affect the region and the world, calling NATO's expansion towards Russia's borders “a threat to the country's security.”

He then expressed hope the two sides would “resolve the issues through dialogue.”

Russia launched a military attack on neighboring Ukraine on February 24 to what Moscow called “de-Nazify” the country. However, some believe that Kyiv's rapprochement to the U.S.-led NATO alliance was the chief reason for the attack.

### Afghanistan issue very important for Iran and Pakistan

Referring to Afghanistan as one of the priorities of Tehran and Islamabad, General Bagheri said, “Afghanistan is one of the most influential issues between Iran and Pakistan. Given the situation in Afghanistan, the participation of other ethnic groups will play a constructive role in creating security and stability in the future of this country.”

Iran has been insisting for an inclusive government in Afghanistan. It has conditioned its recognition of the interim Taliban government to involving all ethnic and religious groups in the government.

General Bagheri added that Tehran is concerned about the spread of terrorism in some areas of Afghanistan.

“We also have plans in this regard and we believe that these issues and problems can be solved with the cooperation of Iran and Pakistan, and there is no need for foreign intervention,” he concluded.



Ankara to attend the meeting of the foreign ministers of the countries bordering the Caspian Sea, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Monday.

## Amir Abdollahian departs for Turkey

TEHRAN— Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian left Tehran for Ankara, Turkey, on Monday.

Amir Abdollahian intends to hold bilateral discussions with high-ranking Turkish officials.

The visit to Ankara by the Iranian foreign minister is taking place upon an official invitation by his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu after postponing the trip twice.

The visit is scheduled to give a boost to relations between the two countries as well as regional and international cooperation.

Iran's top diplomat is also scheduled to directly fly to Turkmenistan after his trip to

## President calls for reinforcing ties with D-8 countries

TEHRAN— Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has emphasized that the D-8 Organization for Economic Cooperation (D-8) has great potential to expand trade and transit commodities, which have been overlooked.

Raisi made the remarks in a meeting on Monday with D-8 Secretary-General Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, who is visiting Tehran.

Raisi went on to say that Iran is ready to share its technological knowhow with D-8 member states, citing Iran's scientific progresses by knowledge-based companies.

Recognizing the importance of increasing trade exchanges among D-8 countries, President Raisi emphasized that members should strive to increase trade exchanges among themselves while exercising their capacities.

The president went on to say that the U.S. does not want developing countries to grow and likes to see them dependent in order to keep its dominance in any way possible.

Iran, according to Abdulqadir Imam, is an active member of the organization, with two prominent D-8 institutes located in Tehran and Hamedan.

D-8 includes Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Turkey.

Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari also held talks with the D-8 chief on Monday. At the meeting, Safari said multilateral economic organizations like D-8 are important for the Islamic Republic's economic diplomacy. Safari also declared Iran's readiness to achieve the common goals of the group.

From page 1 ► since they are all high-ranking officials of the Saudi intelligence service, an informed source familiar with the matter told the Tehran Times.

However, the source added, the Iranian delegation consists of security, political, and diplomatic officials from various government bodies.

In April, al-Kadhimi said he believed that “understanding is near” between Riyadh and Tehran, a supplementary echo of shifting political orientations across the region.

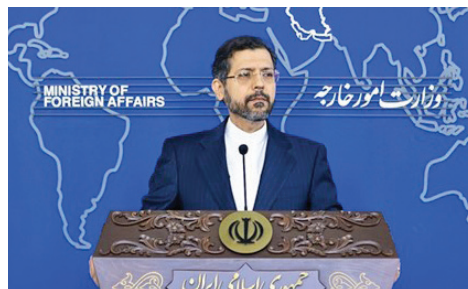
However, since April, Iranian officials have repeatedly stated that they are awaiting the Saudis' response in writing, and nothing “major” have happened.

Nonetheless, a breakthrough has occurred in Tehran-Riyadh talks, as announced by the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh.

Speaking at his last press briefing as the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Khatibzadeh said, “Al-Kadhimi's visit to Tehran was pre-planned and was defined in the context of bilateral issues and regional developments, including the positive and constructive role that Baghdad has played in Iran-Saudi Arabia talks in recent months.”

The spokesman noted that during the trip, the Iraqi Premier

## Only differential points will feature in JCPOA revival talks with U.S.: Iran



TEHRAN — In his last briefing as the Foreign Ministry spokesman, Saeed Khatibzadeh gave new details about the impending JCPOA revival talks between Iran and the United States.

Regarding the timing and venue of the talks, Khatibzadeh said, “Both the time and the place are almost determined. Give us a few hours so that the final decisions are made. Messages are exchanged and comments are being taken. Hopefully, one of the countries in the Persian Gulf will be the host, and this meeting will take place in the coming days and this week. It will probably be clear by the end of today, given the messages that are being exchanged.”

He then went on to thank the EU foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, noting, “We are grateful for the role played by the European Union and for Borrell himself, because of his contacts that took place after the developments of the last few weeks, especially both before and after the issuance of the anti-Iran IAEA Board of Governors' resolution.”

In the contacts that Borrell had with Iran and the U.S., one of the issues that he requested was that the talks be based on the initiative proposed by Iran, which was given before the resolution, Khatibzadeh said.

After this, the spokesman said, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian invited Borrell to Tehran and the sides held detailed talks during which the chief EU diplomat conveyed the views of the American side.

Borrell was accompanied by a four-member team, including his deputy Enrique Mora.

“The most important thing they said was that the United States is committed to everything that is in the JCPOA and guarantees Iran's economic benefits. Of course, they pledged to address differential points between Tehran and Washington,” the spokesman said.

The diplomat continued, “Amir Abdollahian and Borrell had a one-hour private talk with the

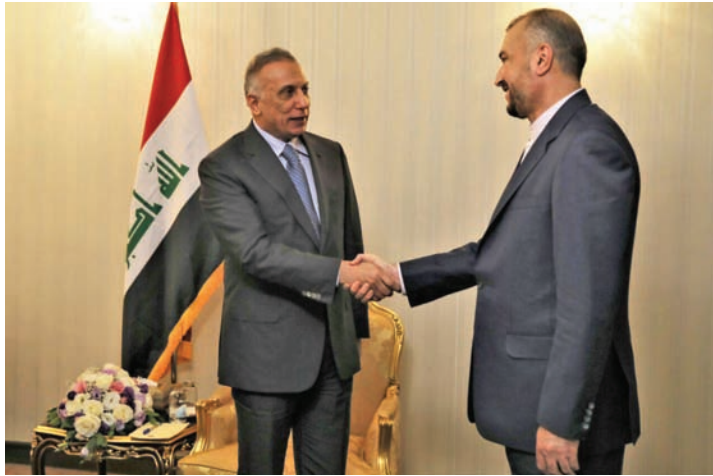
## Amir Abdollahian pushes for reopening embassies in Tehran and Riyadh

TEHRAN - The Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has stressed that Tehran supports moves aimed at reopening the Saudi and Iranian embassies in the capitals of the two regional powerhouses.

Amir Abdollahian made the comments at a meeting late on Sunday with Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi, who came directly from Riyadh to Tehran earlier in the day.

Amir Abdollahian and Al-Kadhimi also talked about topics of shared interest and current events in the region. They also mulled over the

# Saudi Arabia to promote talks with Iran to diplomatic level



and Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian discussed economic issues and projects that have been suspended or are underway. There was also a discussion about public relations and travel, he added.

Khatibzadeh called the relations between Iran and Iraq “multi-layered and strategic,” noting, “These issues

are always followed up, following the visit of the Iraqi Foreign Minister to Iran some time ago.”

He then noted that another dimension of the trip was the role that Iraq has been playing in the Iran-Saudi dialogue.

“Five rounds of talks have taken place in Baghdad and we

presence of their deputies and talked about the various aspects of continuing the talks. Of course, other issues mentioned by Amir Abdollahian in his presser with Borrell were also discussed during the meeting.”

Khatibzadeh confirmed that the two sides have reached agreements on both the content and form, which happened during the three-month pause and the last session conducted in Vienna.

However, he said, whether the Americans will come as planned and show in practice that they will continue Trump's legacy and accept that it is a responsible player “we have to wait and see.”

The spokesman added, “We are committed to resolving the few remaining issues as soon as possible, and we hope that the messages that Borrell brought will be seen in practice.”

Khatibzadeh said the U.S. has shown how unreliable it is, and it has shown to what extent it does not adhere to what it signs and commits.

It has shown that it uses all means to empty the content of the agreements and not fulfill its obligations, the spokesman added.

“What we are told is the opposite of what has been done to date. Therefore, we proceeded to these negotiations with determination and seriousness, assuming definite distrust of the American side,” Khatibzadeh remarked when asked about Iran's demands from that U.S. that Washington provide guarantees that it will not violate its commitments again.

Khatibzadeh continued by saying that the greatest guarantee for the Iranian nation is their own capabilities.

“If we do not take further retaliatory steps today, it is because we do not want to, not because we cannot. We act according to our natural needs, and they saw this in action. What is the inherent guarantee and capability of this nation is what we always maintain,” the diplomat said.

Of course, he said, various guarantees have been predicted about which Tehran is careful, and these must be finalized.

In response to a question posed by the Tehran Times' correspondent about the statements of Iranian top negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani quoted

expansion of bilateral ties.

Iran's senior diplomat commended Iraq's helpful role in easing tensions between Iran and Saudi Arabia during the meeting.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran does not want anything but good for the region and supports the reopening of embassies in the capital of the two countries,” he noted.

The Saudi monarchy was keeping a combative foreign policy with the Islamic Republic, particularly during the presidency of Donald Trump, with whom the Saudis had strong connections.

Since last year, though, the kingdom seems to have altered course and is now negotiating with Iran in the Iraqi capital to resume diplomatic relations.

The Iranian foreign minister underscored during the meeting that only the region alone could provide a solution to regional issues.

On that point, he highlighted the similarities between Iran and Egypt, whose bilateral relations have soured in recent years, and emphasized that improving ties between Tehran and Cairo would be in the best interests of the region and the Muslim world at large.

appreciate the role of Iraq. Al-Kadhimi conveyed messages to us from Saudi Arabia. Based on what we have heard, the Saudi side is ready to upgrade the talks to the diplomatic level, and these talks will continue in Baghdad,” the spokesman noted.

Khatibzadeh added that the date of the next Iran-Saudi talks will be announced soon.

“This dialogue will move forward at the diplomatic level. It was also agreed that arrangements would be made for expert delegations to visit the embassies, all of which would be pursued in the coming days,” the spokesman noted.

Tight knots were made in Iran's diplomatic relations with the world since Amir Abdollahian took office 11 months ago, yet, the foreign minister has been able to break the deadlock through strategic patience and active diplomacy.

Iran and the United States have agreed to resume negotiations in Doha through the European Union's mediation on Tuesday, according to unofficial reports. In line with this announcement, al-Kadhimi also brought a message from bin Salman, stating his readiness to speed up the talks. These deadlocks will soon be broken. It is just a matter of time, but so far, strategic patience and active diplomacy have paid off.

by an MP that Borrell's visit had nothing to do with the content of the JCPOA, he said, “What we are going to do in the next few days in the next negotiations is not about the nuclear aspect of the talks, because the nuclear issues have been closed once.”

The upcoming talks will only center on the disputes that still remain including the lifting of sanctions, he noted. “What is going to be negotiated in one of the Persian Gulf countries is only about a few remaining issues in the field of lifting sanctions, so nothing will be added to the agreements reached in Vienna and nothing will be omitted.”

He then went on to reiterate that “nothing is agreed until everything is agreed.”

The spokesman continued by saying that Amir Abdollahian also mentioned that Borrell acts as the facilitator.

## “Amir Abdollahian and Borrell had a one-hour private talk with the presence of their deputies and talked about the various aspects of continuing the talks.”

“What is going to be negotiated between us and the other party are issues related to the content. These talks are a continuation of the format that was in Vienna; that is, it will be conducted indirectly, and it is only about the quarrels some issues that has remained since last meeting in Vienna. We hope to see positive results. The ball is in Washington's court. If it comes with an answer, be sure that the agreement can be reached quickly,” Khatibzadeh concluded.

Meanwhile, Reuters reported that U.S. Special Envoy for Iran, Robert Malley, was expected to arrive in Doha on Monday and meet with the Qatari foreign minister. Reuters also said that an Iranian official has told the media that Iran's chief negotiator Bagheri Kani would be in Doha for the talks on Tuesday and Wednesday.

Also, Reuters claimed that Qatar will host indirect talks between Iran and the United States in coming days, citing Iranian media.

At the end of his presser, Khatibzadeh bode farewell to the press, announcing that next week's presser would be held by the new spokesman, Nasser Kanaani.

Kanaani previously served as the head of the office for protection of Iran's interests in Egypt.



# JCPOA revival depends on lifting sanctions, offering guarantees: advisor

TERHAN – A senior advisor to the Iranian negotiating team in the nuclear talks has said that reaching a deal with the United States depends on Washington offering sanctions relief and giving acceptable guarantees.

Mohammad Marandi, who is also a professor of American studies at the University of Tehran, said the resumption of talks does not mean that a deal is imminent because reaching a deal depends on the U.S. making the necessary decisions.

In remarks to the Qatari-owned Al Araby Al Jadeed newspaper, Marandi said Iran chose Qatar as a venue for negotiation because Qatar is a friendly country, noting that the resumption of nuclear negotiations does not mean that an agreement is in the air “because the agreement has become hostage to the will of the Americans.”

He stressed that the conclusion of the agreement depends on “lifting sanctions and providing guarantees to Iran in an acceptable manner.”

Marandi stressed that “Iran must obtain guarantees in order to make sure that America cannot easily repeat its previous behavior.”

He added, “The Americans permanently violated the nuclear agreement during the era of [former U.S. President Barack] Obama, and they broke it during the eras of [former U.S. President Donald] Trump and [current U.S. President Joe] Biden, and they pursued a policy of maximum pressure.”

Commenting on whether the resumption of negotiations means that the United States has taken its decision on the outstanding issues,



the adviser to the Iranian negotiating team denied this, stressing that “the Americans have not yet made a necessary decision.”

As regards, the nature of the outstanding contentious issues that European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell described as “political,” Marandi noted that “Mr. Josep Borrell would like to call the issues of guarantees and lifting of sanctions as political, but from our point of view they are completely legal and technical issues.”

Marandi pointed out that “Iran will not allow America to defraud us, and therefore the issues of guarantees and sanctions must be resolved. If Mr. Borrell meant that these issues were political, he might mean that the Americans should make a political decision regarding them.”

The adviser added, “We implemented the nuclear agreement in full, both in the era of Obama when they [the Americans] violated the agreement, and then we implemented it completely for a long time during the era of Trump when he tore up the agreement. After that, we began to gradually reduce our commitments.”

He stressed that “the Americans

must convince Iran that they will implement the agreement in full later, and it matters to Iran a lot because in the past they did not implement their commitments.”

Marandi said that “as regards the possible transfer of negotiations to Qatar, Iran chose it as a place for negotiations because it is a friendly country.”

He stated that “whether the negotiations take place in Vienna, Qatar or Oman, the policy of the government of Mr. (Ebrahim) Raisi is to establish the best relations with neighbors, and currently we are seeing the result of this policy.”

He referred, in the context, to the Iranian president's visits to neighboring countries and the agreements he signed with these countries within a year of his assumption of the presidency.

Regarding the future of the negotiations, the advisor stressed that “the future of the negotiations depends on the decisions of the Americans, as the Iranian government has proven its seriousness.”

He added that “Iran did not leave the negotiating table despite the Americans’ exploitation of the

International Atomic Energy Agency” to issue a resolution against Iran two weeks ago.

Referring to Iran's nuclear measures in response to the resolution adopted by the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors, he said, “Iran has shown very well to America that sharp and irrational American practices will face serious responses.”

Marandi concluded that “the Americans saw that Iran will act out of force, and they know that their circumstances and that of the Europeans have become more difficult because of the Ukrainian war, so concluding the agreement is in America's interests.”

Borrell revealed on Saturday evening that the next round of nuclear negotiations will not take place in Vienna because it will not be within the framework of the P4+1 group that its members are party to the nuclear agreement, saying that the negotiations will be between Tehran and Washington and may be held in a Persian Gulf country.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian announced on Saturday that Iran is ready to resume nuclear talks to lift sanctions on the Islamic Republic by reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Amir Abdollahian said the decision was made after detailed and in-depth talks with Josep Borrell, the EU foreign policy chief.

“The talks to remove the sanctions imposed on Iran will be resumed soon,” Amir Abdollahian said in a joint press conference with Borrell.

## SPORTS

### Iran third at 2022 Asian Taekwondo Championships

From Page 1 ▶ Nastaran Valizadeh also snatched a silver, losing to Korean Nam Min-seo in -62kg.

Zahra Sheidaei won Iran's only bronze medal in the competition in the -57kg.

The Iranian men's taekwondo practitioners won three silver medals and one bronze.

Mahdi Haji Mousaei fell short against his Korean rival Bae Jun-seo in the final match of -58kg.

Mirhashem Hosseini lost to Uzbekistan's Jasurbek Jaysunov in the -74kg weight class.

Alireza Nadalian also was defeated against Chinese representative Song Zhaoxiang in the final match of the +87kg.

South Korea finished in first place, winning four gold medals, one silver and three bronzes.

Uzbekistan came second with four gold medals, one silver and two bronzes.

### Pep Losada very excited to work in Iran

TEHRAN – Spanish coach Pep Losada is excited to work in Iranian football club Persepolis.

He replaced Mazaher Rahimpour in Persepolis.

“I have worked there a few years ago. First with Javad Nekounam, who is a star in Iran and was an important player at Osasuna. And then I cooperated with Majid Jalali at Gol Gohar. And that is why I accepted to go to Persepolis. They together with Esteghlal are the two great rivals of the country and also of the capital Tehran,” Losada said in an interview with lavozdigital.

Asked him if he knows Persepolis coach Yahya Golmohammadi, the Spanish coach said they have face each other in Iran league.

“We knew each other as rivals in the league. I believe there would have been information from my work and my resume persuaded Golmohammadi to hire me. Golmohammadi was looking for a physical trainer who was a foreigner and according to what I have been told he had very good references about me, especially from Majid Jalali, who was the last one I worked with. So, after checking with his club, he called me directly.

“Iran is a very soccer-loving country and with quite a few followers. Right now, the population is crazy because the 2022 FIFA World Cup is coming. For example, to get an idea, the Persepolis FC stadium, similar in style to the Nou Camp, holds 90,000 people. I'm very, very excited to work in Iran,” Losada concluded.

### India women junior handball beat Iran at President's Cup

TEHRAN – India edged past Iran 31-30 in the 2022 IHF Women's Junior Handball World Championship President's Cup on Sunday.

The Iranian team are scheduled to play Slovakia on Tuesday in Group I.

The 23rd edition of the 2022 IHF Women's Junior World Championship is being held in Slovenia from 22 June to 3 July 2022 under the aegis of International Handball Federation (IHF).

### Neneca named Persepolis goalkeeping coach

TEHRAN – Brazilian goalkeeping coach Neneca was named as goalkeeping coach of Iranian football club Persepolis.

Welesley Antonio Simplicio, nicknamed Neneca, has most recently worked at Qatari football club Al Rayyan.

Persepolis had been also linked with Romanian coach Alin Dinca, who currently works in Tractor.

Neneca replaced Davoud Fanaei in Persepolis.

Persepolis failed to win Iran league title for the sixth successive season due to poor performance of their goalkeepers.

### Esteghlal defender Daneshgar joins Sepahan

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team defender Mohammad Daneshgar joined Sepahan of Isfahan on Monday.

The 28-year-old defender has penned a three-year contract with Sepahan.

Daneshgar helped Esteghlal win Iran football league after nine years.

The details of his deal have not been released.

The center back joined Esteghlal in 2018 from Saipa.

### Iran beaten by Kazakhstan in U16 Women's Asian Championship Division B

TEHRAN – Iran lost to Kazakhstan 56-46 in the 2022 FIBA U6 Women's Asian Championship Division B on Sunday.

Annastassiya Knaub was spectacular as usual with a double-double of 13 points and 16 rebounds. Meanwhile, Anna Kochura led the team in scoring with 16 points.

Iran's Farnaz Khodamoradi tried to carry Iran with 12 points, 12 rebounds, and 5 assists, but it was not enough to get the win.

With the results of today's games, the Philippines and Kazakhstan come out on top of their groups and head on directly to the Semi-Finals which will be played on 29 June.

As second place in Group A, Syria will face Iran who finished third place in Group B. These two teams will play to Qualify for the Semi-Finals on where the winner will face against Lebanon.

On the other side of the bracket, the second place team in Group B Kazakhstan will face the third place team in Group A Samoa. The winner of this game will advance to the Semi-Finals to play the Philippines. Both of the Qualifying games to the Semi-Finals will be played on 28 June.

### Sajad Shahbazzadeh officially signs for Esteghlal

TEHRAN – Sajad Shahbazzadeh officially joined Esteghlal football club on Monday.

The 32-year-old forward has previously played two stints in the Iranian top flight club.

Shahbazzadeh had been also linked with a move to Esteghlal's archrivals Persepolis.

He started his playing career in 2010 in Saipa has also played in Iranian clubs Naft Tehran and Sepahan.

Shahbazzadeh had also two unsuccessful periods in Turkey's Alanyaspor and Qatar SC.

### Iran's Mes suffer third loss in Asian Club League Handball Championship

TEHRAN– Kuwaiti club Al-Kuwait Club defeated Mes Kerman of Iran 30-17 in the 2022 Asian Handball Men's Club League on Monday.

The Iranian team had lost to Bahrain's Al-Najma 31-25 in the opening match and also were defeated against Qatari club Al-Wakrah in their following match.

Sanat Mes will play Saudi club Al-Noor in the 5th – 8th play-off on Wednesday.

The 24th Asian Men's Club League Handball Championship is taking place in Hyderabad, India from June 22 to 30.

## Iran is ready to restore ties, but will Saudi Arabia reciprocate?

TEHRAN – Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi has undertaken shuttle diplomacy to breathe new life into Iran-Saudi talks. He succeeded in getting Iran to forge ahead with diplomacy with Saudi Arabia but whether the Saudis are ready to reciprocate remains an open question.

Earlier this week on Saturday, al-Kadhimi arrived in Saudi Arabia for talks on “several regional and international issues,” as well as “efforts to consolidate peace and calm in the region.”

In Saudi Arabia, he met with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman. In this meeting, they put emphasis on “regional cooperation in a way that promotes sustainable development in the region,” according to a press release by the Iraqi Prime Minister's office. The two sides stressed the prominent role of Iraq in the convergence of views in the region and in the efforts of establishing calm and constructive dialogues.

In a move that indicated his mediatory role, al-Kadhimi left the Saudi port city of Jeddah for Tehran where he met Iranian President Ayatollah Ebrahim Raisi and Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

The Iraqi Prime Minister's office has said that al-Kadhimi discussed with President Raisi “the most important regional issues that are of common

interest, which involve issues related to the security of the two neighboring countries and the stability of the region.”

Yemen and Egypt were also on the agenda of the visit. All in all, al-Kadhimi is making efforts to boost his country's status as the mediator on which regional heavyweights rely to dispel misunderstandings. Iraq's mediatory role first came to the surface when Baghdad began contact with Tehran and Riyadh with the aim of finding a common ground between the two rivals. And Iraq made great strides in this regard.

Iran and Saudi Arabia held five rounds of talks in Baghdad, with al-Kadhimi playing a key role in facilitating the talks. In the last round held in late April, the Iraqi prime minister appeared flanked by the Iranian and Saudi negotiators in a photo. In the fifth round, Tehran and Riyadh agreed to elevate the talks from the security level to the diplomatic one. Nearly two months after the fifth round, the talks came to a standstill again, something that required al-Khadhimi to pay visits to Iran and Saudi Arabia. And he apparently succeeded in breaking the ice as Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Monday that the next round will be held soon.

Iran also signaled its openness to exchanging

embassies. But there is a clear apathy on the Saudi side. The Saudis did not reciprocate Iran's willingness to open a new chapter in relations. Instead, they are busy making consultations with other regional players about the upcoming visit of U.S. President Joe Biden to the region, which has raised alarm bells in Tehran, given the speculations over the U.S. intention to forge a regional alliance against Iran.

Iran made several diplomatic efforts to restore relations with Saudi Arabia. In addition, it played an active role in fostering peace in Yemen, the main concern of the Saudis which has overshadowed the Baghdad talks.

In response to a phone call from Mahdi Al-Mashat, the Chairman of the Yemeni Supreme Political Council, on Saturday afternoon, President Raisi praised the epic resistance of the Yemeni people and said, “Emphasizing the need to preserve Yemen's territorial integrity and national sovereignty, the Islamic Republic of Iran supports the ceasefire that will lead to complete peace and the real lifting of the oppressive economic blockade against the Yemeni people.”

“Iran is ready to send humanitarian aid, especially COVID-19 vaccine, to the Yemeni people,” Raisi said, according to the official website of the Iranian presidency.

U.S., a big change that seems to have moved past the traditional format of the P5+1 group of countries.

The resumption of talks in a Persian Gulf country is also important for another reason: it comes amid Iranian efforts to patch up relations with the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council countries, most notably Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE), in line with the Raisi administration's new foreign policy doctrine known as “neighborhood policy.”

The secretary general of D-8 also outlined some programs that are afoot in D-8 in areas related to trade, including the organization's payment system and its set-off chamber.

The D-8 includes Bangladesh, Egypt, Indonesia, Iran, Malaysia, Nigeria, Pakistan, and Turkey.

Abdulqadir Imam further proposed that member states of the D-8 implement regional joint ventures.

Iran's deputy foreign minister for economic diplomacy also said that multilateral economic organizations like D-8 are important for the Islamic Republic's economic diplomacy. Safari

## Iran deputy FM receives D8 secretary general

TEHRAN - Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam, Secretary General of the Organization for Economic Cooperation, D-8, who is visiting Tehran, met with Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mehdi Safari.

In the meeting, Isiaka Abdulqadir Imam expressed pleasure to visit Iran and gave a report on the latest areas of cooperation within D-8, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

He then pointed to the agreements among the group's members in fields like trade, industry, agriculture, technology, science, communications and aviation, saying Iran plays an important role in implementing those agreements.



## Iran building schools, hospitals in Karabakh region



ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie (R) and Azeri Ambassador to Tehran Ali Alizadeh

From page 1 ► about 30 percent, and at the beginning of this year the trade balance has increased by about 20 percent,” the official stated.

Shafeie for his part mentioned close relations between Iran and Azerbaijan, saying: “Iran and

Azerbaijan have special and exceptional relations. If you travel from Azerbaijan to Iran and from Iran to Azerbaijan, you will not see much cultural difference between the two countries, and cultural and linguistic commonalities are effective in comprehensive relations.”

the ICCIMA head noted that there are great opportunities for cooperation between the two countries, adding: “The development of transportation between the two countries will play an important role in regional trade.”

“Yesterday I had a meeting with the chairman of the Moscow Chamber of Commerce who visited the UAE, Pakistan and India, his whole plan was to seek ways to increase transportation between Russia and Southeast Asia; We emphasized the cooperation of Iran and Azerbaijan in this project,” Shafeie said.

## Bushehr province’s monthly fishery export stands at over 10,000 tons

TEHRAN- Bushehr province's fishery export stands at 10,109 tons in the second Iranian calendar month Ordibehesht (April 20-May 21), a provincial official, announced.

Morteza Bohrani, the director-general of the province's Veterinary Department, said that different types of fishes were exported from the province to nine Asian countries in the second month.

In addition to fishing fishes and shrimps, farming is one of the fishery programs in the province, where veterinary experts have the necessary supervision to prevent the spread and transmission of the disease, the official further noted.

As previously announced by the deputy head of the province's Veterinary Department for the health affairs, 25,342 tons of fishery was exported from Bushehr province, in the southwest of Iran, during the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20).

Mohammad-Mehdi Seymarouni said that of the mentioned figure, 19,000 tons were farmed shrimps, and 6,000 tons were the other types of fisheries.

He said that European Union countries, Russia, China, Persian Gulf littoral states, Malaysia, Turkey, Taiwan, Armenia, Belarus, Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Azerbaijan, Thailand, and South Korea were the destinations of the province's fishery exports.

Bushehr province is the top producer of farmed shrimps in the country, the official



underscored.

As stated by an official with Iran Fisheries Organization (IFO), production of 714,000 tons of fishery has been targeted for the current Iranian calendar year.

Morteza Afrasiabi, the acting head of the IFO's fishery development department, said that of the mentioned figure, 277,000 tons will be fishes bred in cages and 70,000 tons will be shrimps.

Achieving the targeted 714,000 tons of fishery requires infrastructure as well as credits and banking facilities, the official added.

Fishery production has increased noticeably in Iran in recent years.

Enjoying high quality, Iran's fishery products were sold easily in the export markets, and also some new export destinations welcomed these products in the past three years; as new markets including China, South Korea, and the Eurasian Union nations opened up for Iranian fishery products.

## NIDC digs 26 oil, gas wells in 3 months

TEHRAN- National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) dug and completed the digging operation of 26 oil and gas wells during the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), an official with the company said.

According to Masoud Afshar, the deputy head of NIDC for drilling operation, the drilled wells consisted of two development, two exploratory, and 21 workover ones, IRIB reported on Monday.

The official stated that 21 of the mentioned wells were drilled in the operational zone of the National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC), three wells were drilled in the fields under the supervision of the Iranian

Offshore Oil Company (IOOC), and two in the operational zone of the drilling management department of the National Iranian Oil company (NIOC).

Since the beginning of this year, the drilling area of the wells has reached 26,038 meters, he said, adding that 16 drilling rigs are being relocated in the operational positions.

NIDC owns 70 light, heavy and super-heavy drilling rigs, including 67 onshore drilling rigs and three offshore rigs.

The company managed to dig and complete 75 oil and gas wells in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20).



According to the company data, 56 of the mentioned wells were drilled in the operational zone of the NISOC, 10 wells were drilled in the fields under the supervision of the IOOC, three in the fields under the operation of the Petroleum Engineering and Development Company (PEDEC), one in the field under the supervisor of Iranian Central Oil Fields Company

(ICOFC), three wells in the framework of project and two in the operational zone of the drilling management department of National Iranian Oil company.

Some 76,125 meters of drilling were conducted for drilling the mentioned wells.

Considering the National Iranian Oil Company's strategies for strengthening the presence of domestic companies in the development of the country's oil fields, NIDC, as a major subsidiary of the company, has been supporting such companies by lending them drilling rigs and other necessary equipment.

## Quarterly transit of goods via Iran rises 32% on year

TEHRAN- Transit of commodities through Iran increased 32 percent in the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Alireza Moqadasi said that 3.674 million tons of goods were transited via the country in the mentioned three-month period.

This growing trend of transit via Iran is one of the important achievements of the country, the official underscored.

As previously stated by the IRICA spokesman,

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 (ended on March 20) and with the passage of 12.65 million tons of goods through Iran, a growth of 68 percent was achieved.

Last month, 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

# Tehran, Baghdad determined to expand all-out ties

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has said Iran and Iraq are determined to expand mutual relations in all areas, especially in economic sectors, Shana reported.

Speaking in a joint press conference with Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi on Sunday, Raisi said: “Iran's relations with Iraq are very deep, rooted in common cultures, beliefs, and long-standing brotherhood between the two nations, and today senior officials of the two countries have serious will to develop relations in all areas.”

He mentioned his talks with Al-Kadhimi, saying: “In today's talks we discussed political, economic, and trade relations between the two countries and agreed to expand the interactions in all these areas.”

Al-Kadhimi for his part emphasized that within the framework of mutual interests of the Iranian and Iraqi nations, the countries will expand their economic interactions.

“Today we agreed to further



President Raisi (R) and Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa Al-Kadhimi attend a press conference in Tehran on Sunday.

expand our economic ties, in the framework of safeguarding the mutual interests of the two nations,” the prime minister said.

He further referred to an agreement reached between the two countries for facilitating the pilgrimage trips of the Iranians to Imam Hussain's holy shrine during a certain period of Arbaeen (the 40th day after the martyrdom

anniversary).

The Iraqi prime minister also said that another part of his consultations with the Iranian officials was on the regional challenges, in which both sides agreed on the need for restoration of regional peace and stability.

According to the prime minister, joint efforts to ensure food security that is endangered due to

the Ukraine war, was also among the reached agreements.

**Iran, Iraq eye co-op in developing joint fields**

Al-Kadhimi also met with Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber on the same day, during which the two officials discussed ways of cooperation in various fields.

“The grounds are ready for cooperation between the two governments of Iran and Iraq in the fields of academia, transportation, developing joint fields, energy, technical and engineering services, medicine, and health,” Mokhber said.

In this meeting, while reviewing the previous negotiations and agreements reached in various economic fields, the two sides exchanged views on removing obstacles and accelerating the implementation of these agreements.

Al-Kadhimi arrived in Tehran on Sunday at the head of a high-level delegation to hold talks with Iranian officials.

## Modern irrigation systems established in 34,000 ha of Semnan farmlands

TEHRAN- As stated by the governor-general of Semnan province, 34,000 hectares of farmlands are equipped with the modern irrigations systems in this province.

“Development of this system is one of our priorities in the province”, Mohammadreza Hashemi noted.

Saying that there are 197,000 hectares of farmlands in Semnan province, the official said, “We are trying to have 30 percent of the farmlands equipped with the modern irrigations systems in the province”.

As stated by the project manager of the Agriculture Ministry's smart irrigation systems development program, so far 2.6 million hectares of the country's farmlands have been equipped with modern irrigation systems.

Fariborz Abbasi has said that completing semi-finished agriculture projects is the priority of his ministry in the current Iranian calendar year, and expanding the modern irrigation network across the country is of significant importance in this regard.

The deputy agriculture minister noted that the project for implementing irrigation networks in the west and northwest of the country is about 70 percent completed and the ministry is pursuing to get the necessary funding for the remaining 30 percent.

The official expressed hope that considering the budget allocation for the provinces at

the beginning of the current Iranian year, the ministry would be able to develop the project in terms of both quantity and quality.

The purpose of implementing the plan of modern irrigation systems is to increase the productivity and sustainability of water and soil resources in the country to ensure the sustainable production of agricultural products.

“Over the past three years, each year, an average of 150,000 hectares of farmlands have been equipped with modern irrigation systems, and we have witnessed a 300 percent jump”, the official said.

Agriculture Ministry is also taking the necessary measures for supporting the domestic manufacturing of equipment used in these systems, he added.

Back in September 2021, Abbasi had said that 95 percent of the equipment used in such systems is manufactured inside the country.

The official said the ministry has comprehensive plans for indigenizing the knowledge for the production of the other five percent as well.

He pointed to the filters and drippers in modern irrigation systems as the equipment whose domestic production is on the agenda and predicted: “In a two- or three-year plan, part of the imported equipment and supplies will be produced by domestic manufacturers.”

Abbasi mentioned the quality improvement



of modern irrigation systems as one of the main strategies of Agriculture Ministry and said: “We believe that along with the quantitative development of new irrigation systems, quality improvement should also take place to improve productivity and ensure food security by increasing water efficiency in the best possible way.”

He further underlined educating farmers, officials, and managers of companies active in the field of production and implementation of new irrigation systems as one of the programs that his ministry is pursuing in order to improve the quality and optimal use of these systems.

Referring to the activity of 2,400 private companies in the development of new irrigation systems in the agricultural sector, Abbasi said: “The private sector in this field includes 350 consulting companies, 1,600 contractors, 400 manufacturers and suppliers of equipment, and a number of monitoring firms.”

## 26m smart gas meters to be installed across Iran in 4 years

TEHRAN – The managing director of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC) has said his company is implementing a program to install 26 million smart gas meters across the country over the next four years, IRIB reported.

Speaking at Iran National Innovation Fund (INIF)'s first event to develop knowledge-based collaborations to establish a smart natural gas distribution system on Monday, Majid Chegeni said initial estimations show that about \$4 billion is required to complete the program.

INIF's event was held in four sectors including smart meters, data transmission infrastructure, data analysis platforms, and requirements and regulations.

The event also included an exhibition section in which companies active in the field of designing and manufacturing smart measurement systems and IT showcased their capabilities and products.

The most important product presented

## TEDPIX gains 2,741 points on Monday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), climbed 2,741 points on Monday, IRNA reported.

As reported, the index closed at 1.504 million points.

About 10.938 billion securities worth 59.085 trillion rials (about \$195.3 million) were traded at the TSE on the mentioned day.

The first market's index gained 2,047 points, and the second market's index climbed 5,401 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).



# Thousands protest against NATO summit

From page 1 ▶ “We are protesting against the policies of NATO and we are against them giving weapons to Ukraine,” one male protester told the news channel.

A female protestor also said that NATO had “been causing genocide and wars for 40 years – all financed by capitalism – so we are here to protest against that.”

Another, Jaled, 29, said NATO was not the solution to the war in Ukraine.

“Twice as much money is being spent on the army and militarism as before, and that money is being taken away from health, education...” says protester Elena Zurita.

Organizers say around 5,000 people participated in the first demonstration. Leaders of the NATO member countries will be meeting in Madrid between 29-30 June as the organization faces the unprecedented challenge of the Ukraine conflict.

NATO is also expected to consider the membership bids of Finland and Sweden who applied to join following the Russian military operation in Ukraine. The Kremlin says the “special military operation” is in response to the eastward expansion of NATO’s military on Russian borders. Moscow has also condemned the U.S. for failing to provide security guarantees about the military build-up on Russia’s borders several months before military action was taken.

A heavy security presence is expected in Madrid during the two-day summit.

More than 10,000 police officers and other security forces are reportedly providing protection for the NATO summit despite a Spanish interior ministry spokesman saying no threat has been identified.

Meanwhile, protesters have also marched in the southern

German town of Garmisch-Partenkirchen, which is close to where leaders of the Group of Seven leading economies (G7) are meeting, demanding action to tackle domestic and international problems.

The protesters’ demands include the fight against poverty, climate change, and world hunger. Greenpeace activists participated in the protests. Footage also showed protesters holding an Oxfam banner that read “Stop Burning Our Planet” while wearing costumes depicting the summit’s leaders.

Another protester Erich Utz criticized the G7 leaders for not involving the young generation in their meetings and their decision-making.

“I’m 17 years old - there are people sitting there who are four times my age, discussing my future without asking any young people what we want even once,” Utz said.

The G7 group of leaders which make led by the United States started a three-day summit on Sunday at Schloss Elmau in the Bavarian mountains with the conflict in Ukraine set to be high on the agenda.

Reports suggest the United States and the United Kingdom are concerned over divisions among Western governments regarding the approach to the Ukraine crisis.

On Sunday, as G7 leaders gathered for the summit, U.S. President Joe Biden urged Washington’s allies to maintain their unity saying “we have to stay together” against Russia.

The G7 leaders have reportedly moved to ban the imports of Russian gold in a bid to tighten the sanctions against Moscow. However, it was not clear whether there was consensus on the measure, with European Council President Charles



Michel saying the plan will need to be “handled carefully and discussed further.”

According to the British government only the UK, the U.S., Japan, and Canada have agreed to the ban on Russian gold imports.

Like Biden, the British Prime Minister Boris Johnson has pleaded with the West on the need to keep a united front against Russia. Johnson has urged other world leaders to hold firm in their “long-term support” for Ukraine.

Reports suggest there is increasing concern among the British government that some countries could become persuaded by calls for Kyiv to cede the eastern Donbas region in exchange for a peace deal.

As his domestic political woes continue to haunt him, Johnson held a marathon of bilateral meetings and TV interviews. Outlining his key message, he said the financial cost of providing longstanding support to Ukraine was “a price worth paying”.

In a peculiar move, Johnson also addressed the American people (suffering a cost-of-living crisis) by speaking to U.S. media. “I would just say to people in the United States that this is something that America historically does (a price worth paying),” Johnson said.

Critics say the sanctions against Russia has rebounded on Western economies as it has exacerbated the rising costs of food and energy. Reports are surfacing of governments expressing concern about the collateral damage from Western sanctions on Moscow as soaring inflation and energy shortages rebound on their own citizens. The skyrocketing global energy and food prices are hitting economic growth in the wake of the conflict in Ukraine, as the UN warns of an “unprecedented global hunger

crisis”.

Oxfam says the pain from food price spikes for developing countries has become “visceral” and called on G7 leaders to support developing countries in their battle against the food crisis.

However, the U.S. and UK are pushing for more sanctions against Russia.

The G7 meeting was also denounced after UK PM Johnson and Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau exchanged jokes about Russian President Vladimir Putin in front of TV cameras.

Critics say the two leaders joking in public at a time when a deadly conflict is unfolding in Eastern Europe and households are struggling to put food on the table back home is not the best PR message to show the two leader’s seriousness.

The light-hearted exchanges between Johnson and French President Emmanuel Macron despite strong divisions between the two countries over London changing parts of the Brexit deal regarding the Northern Ireland Protocol has also been viewed as a lack of genuineness by the two leaders.

Oddly enough, Biden and Johnson are not scheduled to hold a bilateral meeting in both the G7 or

NATO summits despite being leading advocates for the continuation of the war in Ukraine.

That has led to question marks over whether they actually want to be seen together as Johnson and Biden’s popularity hits rock bottom. A meeting between the pair would likely make negative headlines back home as neither one appears to have a clear strategy on how to repair their damaged leadership apart from blaming Russia.

network Nine.

Northern Territory Chief Minister Natasha Fyles hailed the launch as an “extremely proud” moment for Australia, adding it was conducted with the blessing of the region’s Aboriginal traditional owners.

“Here on Yolngu land, young Territorians can look up at the sky and know what can be done,” Fyles said.

“When we see the oldest living culture combining with the science of space, as we have here, it’s something we can all reflect on and be very proud.”

Australia has stepped up its space efforts in recent times, unveiling a defense agency focused on countering Russia and China’s ambitions in space.

The Arnhem Space Centre is the first and only commercially owned and run equatorial launch site in the world.

“We have achieved a remarkable feat and made a huge mark in the history of Australia’s journey in space,” Jones said in a statement.

“[It] confirms that we and Australia can provide access to space and this is just the beginning for us.”

The next launch is expected to take place on 4 July.

NASA has pledged to collect all material and debris and return them to the US.

## G7 launches infrastructure fund to counter China

Leaders of the Group of Seven (G7) began three days of talks on Sunday in Germany’s Bavarian Alps with Russia’s invasion of Ukraine set to dominate the agenda.

One of the first announcements was a \$600 billion (€568 billion) infrastructure initiative to help developing countries tackle climate change. The initiative is seen as the West’s response to China’s massive Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).

“I want to be clear — this isn’t aid or charity,” Biden said. “It’s an investment that will deliver returns for everyone, including the American people and the people of all our nations. It will boost all of our economies.”

Beijing has been accused of trapping low-income countries into unaffordable debts to be part of its trillion-dollar BRI push, which is seen as expanding China’s trade power with Africa, Asia and Europe.

The new G7 fund will focus on climate initiatives, among other projects, including a \$2 billion solar farm investment in Angola, \$320 million for hospital construction in Ivory

spending by €100 billion (\$106 billion).

He added that Germany was one of Washington’s most important allies after the two appeared briefly before the press.

Biden also said the G7 states and the NATO alliance must “stay together” in the face of Russia’s invasion.

### Russian gold exports outlawed

Shortly before the summit began, London announced in a statement that the UK, along with the US, Japan and Canada, would ban new imports of Russian gold to tighten the economic effect of sanctions on Russia.

The joint action “will directly hit Russian oligarchs and strike at the heart of Putin’s war machine,” British Prime Minister Boris Johnson said in the statement.

Washington said the decision will be formally announced as a G7 move on Tuesday.

The UK said that Russian gold exports reached around \$15.5 billion in 2021 and that this figure has gone up since sanctions were imposed as a means of getting around them.



### What else is on the agenda?

German Chancellor Olaf Scholz and US President Joe Biden were also expected to discuss proposals to tackle the sharp rise in food and oil prices across the world, as well as inflation, with the leaders of Canada, France, Italy, Japan and the United Kingdom. The G7 leaders are also due to tackle climate change, with Germany pressing for the creation of a “climate club” to set practical targets for reducing emissions for the participating countries.

EU Council President Charles Michel said during a press conference that the EU welcomes the “climate club” proposal, stressing the need to diversify energy sources and speed up renewable energy infrastructure.

He also highlighted the importance of tackling the food security crisis, partly by getting Ukrainian food products to the global market and by supporting the EU’s partners that have been most hit by food shortages.

Berlin hosted a global conference on Friday to discuss this issue.

## Bosnian Serb leader prays for Trump’s return

The leader of Bosnia’s Serbs said Sunday he hoped former U.S. President Donald Trump would return to power and that the Serbs would “wait for appropriate global circumstances” to reach their goal of seceding from Bosnia, which he called an “unsustainable state.”

Milorad Dodik, who was a rare European official to hold talks with Russian President Vladimir Putin since the war in Ukraine started in late February, made the comments at a gathering marking the start of a bloody breakup of Bosnia 30 years ago.

Bosnia went through a devastating 1992-95 war in which over 100,000 people died before a U.S.-brokered peace deal ended the conflict.

The peace deal, also known as the Dayton Accords, created Bosnian Serb and Bosniak-Croat entities tied together by joint Bosnian institutions and a tripartite presidency of which Dodik is a member.

Russia’s war in Ukraine has aroused fears that the turmoil could spill over to the volatile Balkans, where Russia has maintained strong influence among fellow-Slavic Serbs.

Dodik, who has led a Bosnian Serb secessionist drive, said he was convinced that Serbs would soon make important decisions about their fate in Bosnia. He also expressed expectation that Trump would again lead the United States, ABC News reported.

“For the first time in history, Serbs are waiting for time,” Dodik said. “We must be patient, understand time. Europe is inevitably confused, with its internal problems. I pray to God that Donald Trump comes to power in America again.”

During his presidency, Trump rarely spoke against the continuous attempts by Bosnian Serbs to destabilize Bosnia. After Joe Biden became president, Dodik was slapped with the U.S. and British sanctions over his proclaimed goal to split about half of Bosnia and join it with neighboring Serbia.

Dodik met Putin in Russia earlier this month, saying Sunday he was proud of the meeting.

“He told me only one thing, and that was, ‘We are not leaving our friends.’ It is the Russians who have not done us any harm,” Dodik said.

## NASA launches first rocket from Australian spaceport

An unassuming patch of red dirt in remote Australia has made history as the site of NASA’s first rocket launch from a commercial spaceport outside the US, BBC reported.

The sub-orbital rocket blasted off from the tiny site early on Monday local time.

It will enable astrophysics studies that can only be undertaken in the Southern Hemisphere, NASA says.

The launch was also the first in Australia in more than 25 years.

The rocket is NASA’s first of three to blast off from the newly constructed Arnhem Space Centre on the edge of the Northern Territory.

Scientists hope it will help them study the impact of a star’s light on the habitability of nearby planets.

Onlookers who travelled to the remote site glimpsed the rocket for only about 10 seconds before it entered the Earth’s atmosphere.

“It was in the blink of an eye, but to me, it was like it was in slow motion because the whole area just lit up,” Yirrkal School co-principal Merrkiyawuy Ganambarr-Stubbs told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation.

“It went up, and then the sound, it was just like a rumbling boom, like nothing I’ve ever heard. And I just shook with amazement.”



The sounding rocket’s tenure in space was similarly short - the 13m-long projectile fell back to Earth after a planned 15 minutes.

But the data gathered in that time will help illuminate the secrets of star constellations 430 million light years away, says the chief executive of Equatorial Launch Australia, which runs the space Centre.

“Without getting too deep into the science, it was effectively a large X-ray camera looking at various astrological phenomenon and trying to capture parts of boulders in the Milky Way and particularly the star cluster of Alpha Centauri,” Michael Jones told the local





## Tehran, Rome to resume flights after four-year hiatus



TEHRAN – Direct flights between Tehran and Rome are scheduled to resume on July 14 following a four-year suspension, IRNA reported on Monday.

Iran's flag carrier Homa, known internationally as IranAir, will operate the

service between Rome and Tehran.

During a recent meeting between the Iranian head of the Civil Aviation Organization (CAO), Mohammad Mohammadi-Bakhsh, and the Director-General of the Italian Civil Aviation Authority (ENAC), Alessio Quaranta, the re-launch of the flight was approved.

A revised version of the Iran-Italy aviation cooperation agreement was also signed during the meeting by the two sides.

As part of the meeting, the two sides emphasized the importance of increasing flights between the two countries in order to boost tourism and economic cooperation.

## Restoration projects begin on Shushtar mansions

TEHRAN – Restoration projects have commenced on 15 aging mansions in the ancient town of Shushtar, the town's tourism chief has said.

The projects are being carried out in collaboration with the private sector, CHTN quoted Ali-Mohammad Chaharmahali as saying on Monday.

The restoration of some of the mansions are expected to be completed by the end of the current Iranian year (ends on March 21, 2023), the official added.

Last December, the official announced that nearly all historical sites and monuments in the city and its outskirts needed restoration work.

Situated in southwest Iran, Shushtar is home to numerous sites dating from prehistorical times onwards, he noted.

Since last summer, more than eight monuments, including houses and sabats, have been restored using government funds, the official said, adding some others are also being overhauled by private investors.

The town is also famed for being home to the UNESCO-registered Shushtar Historical



Hydraulic System, known as a “masterpiece of creative genius”. The ensemble comprises bridges, weirs, tunnels, canals, and a series of ancient watermills powered by human-made waterfalls. It is named after an ancient city of the same name with its history dating back to the time of Darius the Great, the Achaemenid king.

Inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list in 2009, the Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System may testify to the heritage and the synthesis of earlier Elamite and Mesopotamian knowhow. According to UNESCO, the ensemble was probably influenced by the Petra dam and tunnel and by Roman civil engineering.

## Moveable properties in West Azarbaijan approved as national heritage

TEHRAN- A selection of 24 historical objects being kept in West Azarbaijan province has recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

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

Clay bowls and jars, gravestones, and a minbar (pulpit), where the imam stands to deliver sermons in a mosque, were among the properties added to the prestigious list.

The provincial capital of

Urmia, also spelled Orumiyeh, lies just west of Lake Urmia on a large fertile plain that yields grains, fruits, tobacco, and other crops. The population is mainly Azeri Turkish, with Kurdish, Assyrian Christian, and Armenian minorities. The remains of ancient settlements are scattered over the plain, as are traces of the ancient kingdom of Urartu.

West Azarbaijan embraces a variety of lush natural sceneries, cultural heritage sites, and museums including the UNESCO sites of Takht-e Soleyman and Qareh Klise (St. Thaddeus Monastery), Teppe Hasanlu, and the ruined Bastam Citadel.

The region has been the seat of several ancient civilizations. It formed part of Urartu and later of Media. In the 4th century BC, it was conquered by Alexander the Great and was named Atropatene after one of Alexander's generals, Atropates, who established a small kingdom there. The area returned to the Persian (Iranian) rule under the Sasanians in the 3rd century CE.

The Arabs controlled Azarbaijan from the 7th century until Turkish nomads overran it in the 11th century. Thenceforth the inhabitants of the region were Turkish speakers. The region was overrun by the Mongols in the 13th century, and, under the



made it their capital, it was when the famous Blue Mosque was built in Tabriz.

The city retained its administrative status under the Safavid dynasty until 1548 when Shah Tahmasp I relocated his capital westward to Qazvin. During the next two centuries, Tabriz changed hands several times between Persia and Ottoman Empire. During World War I, the city was temporarily occupied by Turkish and then Soviet troops.

The ancient city was declared a world craft city of carpet weaving by the World Craft in 2016. It also bore the title of 2018 Islamic Tourism Capital.

# Hormozgan to boost tourism sector

From page 1 ▶ “A total of 3,436,853 trippers visited the southern province during the two-week period”, Banavand explained.

He also noted that some 100 handicrafts markets were launched across the province during the mentioned time to introduce local traditional arts to the tourists and visitors.

Earlier in March, the province's governor has announced up to five million travelers are estimated to visit the province in Noruz.

Bordering the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman on the

south and bounded by Bushehr and Fars provinces on the west and northwest, Kerman on the east and northeast, and Sistan-Baluchestan on the southeast, Hormozgan is widely renowned for having incredible culture and heritage, stunning sceneries, and above all its warm and hospitable people.

It embraces arrays of islands among which Kish, Hormuz, Hengam, and Qeshm are the most popular ones and top tourist destinations in the southernmost parts of the country.

Over the past couple of



decades, the coral Kish Island has become a beach resort where visitors can swim, shop, and sample a laid-back and relatively liberated local lifestyle. It is home to free-trade-zone status, with ever-growing hotels, shopping centers, apartment blocks, and retail complexes.

Hormuz, which is mostly barren and hilly, is situated some eight kilometers off the coast of the Strait of Hormuz, which attracts many tourists by its colorful mountains, silver sand shores, and great local people.

Hengam Island has scenery

rocky shores, serene sunset, and kind natives, which can attract travelers who enjoy a relaxing trip by spending time on this tranquil island.

Qeshm Island is a heaven for eco-tourists as it embraces wide-ranging attractions such as the Hara marine forests and about 60 villages dotted mostly across its rocky coastlines. The island also features geologically eye-catching canyons, hills, caves, and valleys, most of which are protected as part of the UNESCO-tagged Qeshm Island Geopark, itself a haven for nature-lovers.

## Stunning handmade leatherwork on show at tourism ministry

TEHRAN- A collection of exquisite handmade leatherwork has been put on display at the headquarters of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts in Tehran.

The exhibit, which was inaugurated on Saturday, showcases various handmade leatherworks crafted by Iranian artisan Masoumeh Aminifard, CHTN reported on Monday.

Almost all of the products featured at this exhibition are made from natural leather including cow, buffalo, goat, sheep, camel, and ostrich leather.

With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next. For instance, Shiraz is named a “world city of [diverse] handicrafts”, Malayer is a global hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture, while Zanjan has gained the title of a “world city of filigree”.



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

Available data compiled by the Ministry of

## Historical sites in Kerman unaffected by quake

TEHRAN – A medium-sized 5.4 magnitude earthquake that struck Ravar county, southern Kerman province, on Sunday, caused no damage to historical sites across the province.

Based on field visits conducted by the cultural heritage experts, no serious damage to historical relics and monuments has been reported so far, the deputy provincial tourism chief Mojtaba Shafiei said on Monday.

However, experts are on standby to inspect the possible harm to historical sites and aging structures of the region, the official added.

The big and sprawling province has been a cultural melting pot since antiquity, blending Persians with subcontinental tribe dwellers. It is home to myriad historical sites and scenic landscapes such as Bazaar-e Sartasari, Jabalieh Dome, Ganjali Khan Bathhouse, Malek Jameh Mosque, and Shahdad Desert to name



a few.

Kerman is bounded by the provinces of Fars on the west, Yazd on the north, South Khorasan on the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan on the east, and Hormozgan on the south. It includes the southern part of the central Iranian desert, the Dasht-e Lut.

## Illegal diggers arrested in northwest Iran

TEHRAN – Iranian police have recently arrested five illegal excavators in Tabriz, northwestern East Azarbaijan province, a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage has announced.

The accused people were traced and finally arrested after police received reports from cultural heritage aficionados and local people about their misdeeds, CHTN quoted Kazem Dadashi as saying on Monday.

Some digging tools were seized from the culprits, who were handed over to the judicial system for further investigation, the official added.

Soaked in history and culture for millennia, Tabriz embraces several historical and religious sites, including the Jameh Mosque of Tabriz and Arg of Tabriz, and UNESCO-registered Tabriz Historic Bazaar Complex to name a few. The city became the capital of the Mongol Il-Khan Mahmud Gazan (1295–1304) and his successor. Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, took it in 1392. Some decades later the Kara Koyunlu Turkmen

## Iranian handicrafts: Toreutics

TEHRAN – Toreutics is considered to be a form of handicrafts and artistic metalworking in Iran. In spite of the lack of a clear history concerning its background, some archaeologists and art historians believe it dates back to the pre-Achaemenid era when there were nomadic Iranians known as the Scythians or Sakas.

There is evidence of the art's origin in carving on mountains and building stones of royal palaces and historical monuments as well as even in the era of cavemen; then, it developed into engraving, and, finally, toreutics.

In other words, toreutics is the practice of decorating metal objects with beautiful and exquisite engravings and pictures by hammering or engraving them with burins.

The softness and flexibility of copper make it the most popular of the metals used in this type of artistic metalworking.



Artists have been drawn to toreutics or engraving on metals with burins due to the material's long lifespan and consistency compared to other objects.

To reduce the sounds of hammers or burins and to reduce the risk of coin penetrations, contemporary artists or craftsmen in this field coat the inner

or below part of the metal dish or tray with tar and plaster solution. They then draw the pattern on the dish and choose the appropriate burin and hammer the end of the burin to form the grooves and patterns on the dish with differing intensities of hammer strikes.

Toreutic patterns have always been influenced by ideological and cultural changes throughout the various historical and cultural periods, and have had their own unique historical evolutions based on social conditions. There are several styles of toreutics, including relief, mid-relief, engraving, and latticework.

Another perspective has it that Iranian toreutics have two main styles: the Isfahan Style and the Tabriz Style. The Tabriz Style uses motion and pressure of the wrist for engraving, while the Isfahan Style uses hammering. Tabriz burins are flat and shallow, while Isfahan burins are deeper.



# UNODC ready to provide practical assistance to Iran

TEHRAN – The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime attaches special importance to the regional and global role of Iran in the fight against narcotics and, as a leading United Nations agency, wishes to provide practical assistance to the Government of the Islamic Republic, Alexander Fedulov, UNODC Iran Country Representative, said.

He made the remarks at the World Anti-Narcotics Day Ceremony held in Tehran on Sunday.

The UNODC Office attaches special importance to the regional and global role of the Islamic Republic in the fight against narcotics, and the discovery of narcotics by the law-enforcement forces of Iran shows the country's efforts with the United Nations beyond the regional level, he explained.

“UNODC's current counter-narcotics program includes “Border Management and Trafficking”, “Drug Prevention, Treatment, Rehabilitation, and HIV Care” and “Alternative Development and Sustainable Livelihoods”, ISNA reported.

The second area of our cooperation is reducing the demand for drugs. I should mention that the areas of cooperation include increasing the capacities of service providers, piloting a capable family program; implementing a bio-dynamic plan prevention program, and establishing a regional center for the treatment of drug addicts.

UNODC has also provided items, including body scanners, installed at Imam Khomeini International Airport to help detect drugs,” he stated.



Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi also said that some 11 percent of the GDP is involved in narcotics issues, and Iran has sacrificed more than 3,800 martyrs in the fight against narcotics and has made 15,000 tons of narcotics discoveries.

In recent years, it has been proven that the Islamic Republic of Iran is alone in the fight against drugs. Because those countries who have to fight for themselves are in fact encouraging; But the fight against drugs in Iran is very serious and is being done diligently, he highlighted.

By resolution 42/112 of 7 December 1987, the General Assembly decided to observe June 26 as the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking as an expression of its determination to strengthen action and cooperation to achieve the goal of an international society free of drug abuse.

The World Narcotics Day theme for 2022 is “Addressing drug challenges in health and humanitarian crises” with the objective of responding to transnational

challenges generated by crisis situations.

## World record of narcotics seizure

Iran holds the record for narcotics confiscation in the world, Eskandar Momeni, the director of anti-narcotics police headquarters said in December 2021.

However, great achievements in the field of countermeasures have been gained, and the United Nations has officially announced that 90 percent of opium, 70 percent of morphine, and 20 percent of world heroin have been discovered by Iran.

In the Iranian calendar year ended in March 2021, about 1,200 tons of drugs were discovered, which was the highest rate of discovery in the world.

According to figures released by the United Nations in 2000, Afghanistan produced about 200 tons of narcotics, but in 2018, it has grown to 9,500 tons.

In other words, the production of narcotics has increased fifty times, which has doubled the need for prevention efforts, he highlighted.

Despite the conditions caused by the coronavirus outbreak and the imposition of harsh sanctions against the country, fortunately, with the efforts of anti-narcotics police in 2020, drug detection increased by 41 percent.

After the Islamic Revolution (in 1979), 3,800 were martyred, and 12,000 were wounded and disabled in the fight against drug trafficking.

The UNODC has praised Iran's efforts to fight against narcotics trafficking on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The organization also officially announced that the world's first place in the discovery of opium, heroin, and morphine belongs to Iran.

According to UNODC, Iran remains one of the major transit routes for drug trafficking from Afghanistan to European countries and has had a leading role at the global level in drug-control campaigns.

UNODC World Drug Report 2020 estimates that in 2018, 91 percent of world opium, 48 percent of the world morphine, and 26 percent of the world heroin were seized by Iran.

## The UNODC attaches special importance to the regional and global role of the Islamic Republic in the fight against narcotics.

## Leiden Ranking: 44 Iranian universities among world's top

From page 1 ► Shahid Beheshti University of Medical Sciences, Amirkabir University of Science and Technology, Sharif University of Science and Technology, Iran University of Science and Technology, Tabriz University, Isfahan University of Science and Technology, Islamic Azad University were the first ten top universities from Iran.

### Academic quality

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

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

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

The Webometrics Ranking of World Universities 2022 has ranked 694 Iranian institutions among 30,000 top universities across the world.

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

The Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) Graduate Em-



ployability Rankings 2022 list has been released, which included three Iranian universities out of a total of 550 institutes worldwide that highlighted graduate employment processes.

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

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

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

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

## Astrology and astronomy in Iran

### Part 2

But there existed a more professional astronomical literature in the Royal Tables (Zig i shahryaran), which are known to us only from citations in Arabic treatises, especially those of Biruni.

These allow us to distinguish three such Royal Tables. The first, composed in about 450, was dependent for the one parameter that we know to have been in it on the Brahmapaksa of Indian astronomy.

The second was composed in 556, under Khosrow I Anoshiravan, on the basis of an Indian Zij al-arkand, which evidently belonged to the Ardharatrikapaksa; for some unknown reason Khosrow's astronomers preferred this work to Ptolemy's, which they also consulted.

This version of the Royal Tables was used by Mashaallah (q.v.) in his Ketab fi'l-qeranat wa'l-adyan wa'l-melal, written about 810; from this we can see that it rejected the Indian method of finding the mean longitudes of the planets by means of their integer rotations in a yuga (world period), but retained many of their methods and parameters for correcting these mean longitudes to the true ones.

The last set of Royal Tables was written under Yazdegerd III in the 630s or 640s and was translated into Arabic by Tamimi; we have only fragments of this translation.

From these it appears that the planetary equations were computed by means of the Indian model employing a double epicycle and that the dimensions of these epicycles were mostly taken from the Ardharatrikapaksa.

### The early Abbasid period

The Sasanian tradition of astronomy apparently stayed alive until the middle of the ninth century. For many of the eighth and ninth-century Islamic astronomers, though they wrote in Arabic, came from Iran and used Pahlavi works on astronomy and astrology.

The most important of these scientists:

1. Mashaallah b. Atari from Basra, was one of the leading astrologers in the Abbasid caliphate from the founding of Baghdad in 145/762 (he helped to cast the city's horoscope) until his death in about 200/815.

Besides preserving valuable information about Khosrow's Royal Tables he wrote a work on astronomy, translated into Latin as the De elementis et orbibus coelestibus.

This work contains a unique exposition of a Syrian planetary theory that combines Aristotelian and Ptolemaic theories with what appear to be Indian ones transmitted through Sasanian Iran.

2. Nowbakht Hakim was an astrologer from Iran contemporaneous with Mashaallah; his son, Abu Sahl Fazl, also an astrologer, was one of the leading intellectuals in the Baghdad of Harun al-Rashid.

3. Abu Hafs Omar b. Farrokhan Tabari was an astrologer from Tabarestan who translated Pahlavi works into Arabic (for example, the five books on astrology by Dorotheus of Sidon) and paraphrased Ptolemy's Apotelesmatica (Tetrabiblos Ar. Ketab al-arbaa) in 812.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

## Iran's decent services to refugees are commendable: UNHCR

TEHRAN – Iran's efforts and activities in the last 40 years have been commendable to refugees, and in the past year, after the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan, has reached its peak, Maha Kashour, head of the Office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees in Mashhad, has stated.

Visiting an exhibition on Sunday that showcased the achievements of Afghan refugees and asylum seekers in Iran on the occasion of World Refugee Day, Kashour commended Iran for its supportive role.

Iran has so far been able to provide decent

services to refugees in the fields of health, livelihood, and vocational training in cooperation with UNHCR, she noted.

### Refugees in Iran

As the number one destination for Afghan refugees, Iran alone, more than any other European or Western country in times of crisis, has opened its arms to accept asylum seekers from its eastern neighbor.

The number of Afghan immigrants living in Iran has exceeded four million. After entering Iran, Afghan immigrants had the highest presence in the provinces of Khorasan Razavi, South Khorasan, and Sistan-Baluchestan.

President Ebrahim Raisi has said despite the fact that the Europeans have made many claims about supporting the Afghans, but have not provided them with any assistance, contrary to their comments, today more than four million Afghans are guests of the Islamic Republic.

In light of the pandemic, all refugees, even those undocumented, benefited from access to free primary health services and free



COVID-19-related testing, treatment, and hospitalization, just like Iranian nationals.

The same happened for the vaccination when the country has generously considered refugees for vaccination against coronavirus.

António Guterres, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, has praised Iran's generosity which – for decades – has hosted millions of Afghans in need.

I will never forget the generosity of countries like Pakistan and Iran, which – for decades – have hosted millions of Afghans in need,” Guterres said in a statement released on January 26 to the Security Council on Afghanistan.

## 20% of areas in Iran at high risk of flood

Twenty percent of areas across Iran are highly prone to flooding, Khosro Shahbazi, head of the Forests, Range, and Watershed Management Organization (FRWMO), has said.

“Precipitation in Iran is one-third of the world's average, as the country is located in a dry and fragile region where we experience 11 millimeters decrease in precipitation each 10 years and an increase in evaporation of more than 50 millimeters every year,” he explained, ISNA reported.

Rainfall fluctuations usually lead to flood and devastation, so a comprehensive planning for watershed management and flood control is required, he noted.

Since most of the water supply is extracted from groundwater resources, the country is in a critical condition in terms of groundwater resources, he stated, highlighting, because perception is less than water withdrawal from the aquifers, so the best way to store rainwater is watershed and aquifer projects.

## بیست درصد ایران جزو مناطق با خطر سیل خیزی بالاست

سرپرست سازمان جنگلها، مراتع و آبخیزداری می گوید ۲۰ درصد ایران جزو مناطق با خطر سیل خیزی بالاست.

به گزارش روز جمعه ایسنا، خسرو شهبازی افزود: میزان بارش در کشور ما یک سوم متوسط آن در دنیا است و از نظر جغرافیایی در منطقه ای خشک و شکننده واقع شده‌ایم که هر ۱۰ سال با ۱۱ میلیمتر کاهش بارش و بیش از ۵۰ میلیمتر افزایش تبخیر و تعرق مواجه هستیم که همه منجر به این شده که بارش‌ها در منطقه ما سیلابی و ویرانگر باشد، به همین خاطر نیازمند برنامه ریزی جامع برای مدیریت حوضه‌های آبخیز و کنترل سیلاب‌ها هستیم. به گفته شهبازی از آنجایی که بیشتر آب مورد استفاده در کشور از آبهای زیرزمینی تامین می‌شود جزو کشورهای بحرانی و فوق بحرانی از نظر منابع آب زیرزمینی بوده و چون برداشت ما از سفره‌ها بیش از ورودی آب به آنهاست و بهترین راهکار برای ذخیره این آب‌ها انجام پروژه‌های آبخیزداری و آبخوانداری است.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON JUNE 27

New cases	352
New deaths	1
Total cases	7,236,713
Total deaths	141,386
New hospitalized patients	54
Patients in critical condition	204
Total recovered patients	7,061,961
Diagnostic tests conducted	52,580,810
Doses of vaccine injected	150,336,482



