

# TEHRAN TIMES

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## Report

### Study sheds light on mosque attacks in UK

New Research by two British Muslim organizations has revealed almost half of Mosques or Islamic institutions in the United Kingdom have experienced religiously motivated attacks over “the last three years”, in another sign of the rising levels of Islamophobia in the country.

According to the data collected by Muslim Census and the Muslim Engagement and development group (MEND) the most common form of attack is vandalism with 51 percent of Mosques who experienced attacks reporting that their holy sites had been vandalized.

Other Mosques reported incidents such as members of the public breaking windows, vandalizing the worshippers' cars, and spraying racist graffiti on the mosque building itself.

Meanwhile, 34 percent of Mosques that have experienced attacks have been the victims of burglary where the perpetrators in the majority of cases steal money from donation boxes.

This was followed by 32 percent of Mosques facing online abuse, which includes threats of physical violence on popular social media platforms as well as general abuse.

The survey also reveals what has been described as the most worrying cases of attack with 17 percent of the Mosques surveyed reporting physical assault directed at their staff or worshippers. One mosque reported that a Muslim cleric was stabbed just outside the front door.

Muslim Census and MEND also found that:

Nearly two-thirds of mosques reported that the attacks had a negative impact on the wider community.

Only one-third of mosques that applied for the government Places of Worship scheme received funding. ► **Page 5**



© File photo

## Beheshti, the Iconic Figure

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## Report

### Superman Hosseini set to call time on a glittering career

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Iranian football defender Jalal Hosseini, nicknamed Superman, is set to call time on a glittering career, including spells with Persepolis, Sepahan, and Iran national team.

Hosseini has confirmed his retirement from football at the age of 40 and vowed to talk about his decision in the coming days.

“I will talk about my official retirement from football soon, and I will answer questions about everything in detail,” he said.

According to the reports, the veteran is set to join the technical staff of Persepolis to work with head coach Yahya Golmohammadi. Hamid Motehari, former assistant coach of Persepolis, parted away with the club to become the Nassaji team's new head coach.

Former Iran defender Hosseini had a brilliant playing career and is considered the most decorated player in the history of the Iranian Professional League (IPL).

“I am thrilled, and I do not know how to thank people,” he showed his excitement because of reaction of football fans to his farewell.

“The football fans, regardless of teams and jerseys, were so kind to me and supported me and it makes me really emotional. It amazes me that after so many years of playing football, people still care about me; I cannot thank them enough,” Hosseini added.

Hosseini played for Malavan, Saipa, Sepahan, Al Ahli, Naft Tehran and Persepolis (two spells) and also won 102 caps for Iran national football team.

Blessed as one of the greatest defenders in the history of Iranian football, he was also renowned for tactical awareness, athleticism, and aggressive playing style.

Hosseini was a crucial player in Persepolis' five successive title-winning campaigns in the IPL between 2016 and 2021.

He also became the IPL's champion with Saipa and Sepahan – in three seasons – and won the Iranian super cup (four times) and Hazfi cup during his glittering career.

Hosseini was named the Persian Gulf Pro League Defender of the Year on six occasions.

### Iran, Tajikistan ink MOU to enhance trade-industrial co-op

TEHRAN - Iran and Tajikistan have signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to expand bilateral cooperation in the fields of trade and industry, Mehr News Agency reported.

The MOU was signed at the end of a meeting between Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Payman-Pak and Tajikistan's Principal Deputy Minister of Industry and New Technologies Bakhtiyor Sharifi.

Under the framework of the mentioned MOU, the two sides have agreed to strengthen and diversify industrial, mining and trade cooperation in accordance with their national laws and international obligations.

Also, the two sides agreed on exchanging specialized trade and marketing delegations especially during specialized exhibitions.

The two sides also reached an agreement

on constructing a stone production plant in Tajikistan, developing cooperation in the field of knowledge-based technologies and reducing tariff duties with the aim of increased bilateral trade, etc.

A Tajik trade delegation, headed by the country's deputy minister of Industry and New Technologies, arrived in Tehran on Saturday to meet with Iran's transport officials and discuss the expansion of ties. ► **Page 4**

### Iran, U.S. resume indirect talks in Doha

TEHRAN — Negotiators from Iran and the United States resumed indirect talks in Doha, Qatar, on Tuesday afternoon.

The Iranian negotiating team is led by Ali Bagheri Kani and the U.S. team by Robert Malley, Joe Biden's special envoy for Iran.

Malley arrived in Doha on Monday. However, Bagheri Kani arrived on Tuesday.

The first day of the talks to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, commonly known as the nuclear deal, began through mediation by the EU team led by Enrique Mora.

Bagheri Kani met Mora in the afternoon to hear and oversee the U.S. proposals.

On Tuesday, Qatar's Foreign Ministry issued a statement on Twitter saying that Doha welcomes hosting indirect talks between Iran and the U.S.

On Tuesday morning, Iran's ambassador to Qatar, Hamid Reza Dehghani, said that Iran's chief negotiator has arrived in Doha, and wished success for the renewed negotiations. ► **Page 2**



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### Enemy has put hopes in our weaknesses: Leader

TEHRAN - The Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said on Tuesday that the enemy has been putting all its hopes on Iran's weaknesses and shortcomings over the past four decades.

“But they've been repeatedly frustrated. Their problem is that they can't understand the reason behind their frustration.” ► **Page 3**

### Neighboring countries main source of Iran tourism, deputy minister says

TEHRAN – Citizens from the neighboring countries have been the main source of tourism for Iran since coronavirus restrictions were eased several months ago, the deputy tourism minister Ali-Asghar Shalbafian has said.

He made the remarks at the World Tourism Industry Conference, which was held in Seoul, South Korea on June 23, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

“A turning point in the country's tourism trend in the post-coronavirus period is the welcoming of

tourists from neighboring countries,” he explained.

Iran's tourism has also experienced a boom in domestic tourism and a large number of Iranian citizens traveling during the Persian new year holiday (Noruz), the increase in incoming tourists following the re-issuance of visas, and the facilitation of the required conditions for tourists in post-coronavirus time, the official added.

A number of executive measures were taken during the pandemic to ensure tourism sur-

vival, including mass vaccination against the coronavirus which lead to reducing the death rate of coronavirus patients, and managing and supporting tourism activists, he noted.

As one focus of the conference was ecotourism, Shalbafian also discussed the activities of Iran's National Committee on Ecotourism, Iran's approach to tourism development using natural resources, and success in establishing eco-lodges across the country. ► **Page 6**

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## Op-ed

### Normalization of Palestinian apartheid is new normal

By Sarah Khan

“The tale of Palestine from the beginning until today is a simple story of colonialism and dispossession, yet the world treats it as a multifaceted and complex story—hard to understand and even harder to solve.” ? Noam Chomsky

The post-World war two era is marked by several bloody conflicts exported by Europeans in former colonial entities. The birth of Israel in the heart of Muslim world depicts one of the oppressive realities of contemporary political order in which a settler-colonial tyrant is catalyzing violent subjugation of once glorious Arab civilization. Statelessness, persecution, torture, humiliation, refugeehood, and resistance have practically become perpetual ingredients of Palestinian lives. Adding insult to injury, regional autocracies, for sake of political expediency and sustained existence, are inadvertently normalizing ties with blood-soaked regional pariah as Israelis would help perpetuate their unpopular rule. Ironically, Zionist hatred towards anything perceived as Arab unravels every year when Nationalist flag march hits Jerusalem in all its ugliness and lunatic Jewish supremacists ecstatically chant “Death to the Arabs”. This thorniest colonial episode poses question mark upon entire edifice of international law since Palestinian victims of Israel's perpetual systematic and murderous violence failed to seek justice. Even, justice for cold-blooded murder of Palestinian journalist Shireen Abu Akleh by the Israeli military in Jenin remains distant possibility. ► **Page 5**

### *Iranian students to participate in IOAA 2022*

TEHRAN – Ten students from Iran will compete in the 15th International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics (IOAA 2022) which will be held at Kutaisi in Georgia from 14-22 August 2022.

Mehdi Ostad-Mohammadi, Sepehr Salamat, Mohammad-Mehdi Abedian, Farhad Azizi-Satri, Yousef Miryousefi, Alireza Alaei, Sahand Akramipour, Arya Qanbari, and Arsam Majd, all from Tehran, and Sahand Esmaeilzadeh from Mashhad comprise the Iranian team, ISNA reported.

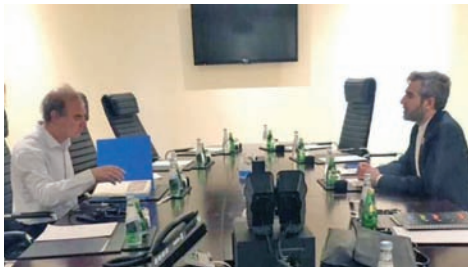
Iranian students grabbed 9 medals, including 2 gold, 5 silver, and 2 bronze medals, and an honorary diploma in the 14th edition of the competition, which was held in Colombia on November 14-21, 2021.

The International Olympiad on Astronomy and Astrophysics is an annual event for highly performed high school students from all around the world. ► **Page 7**





## Iran, U.S. resume indirect talks in Doha



From page 1 ▶ Later, he said on his Twitter page that Bagheri Kani has met with the Secretary-General of the Qatari Foreign Ministry and discussed ways to “make the Doha talks a success.”

While all eyes are glued to Doha, it is not unnatural that Qatar faces some diplomatic traffic jam. On Tuesday afternoon, the United Arab Emirates' National Security Advisor Sheikh Tahnoun bin Zayed visited Doha and held talks with the Qatari foreign ministry officials.

Similarly, the new French Foreign Minister Catherine Colonna held a phone conversation with the Qatari Foreign Minister, Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani.

During the conversation, both sides reviewed the latest developments in the JCPOA revival talks.

## Iranian FM holds talks with Erdogan

TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian met Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in Ankara late on Monday to discuss a variety of issues.

The meeting took place hours after Iran's chief diplomat held talks with his Turkish Counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu.

In the meeting, Amir Abdollahian conveyed the Iranian president's regards to Erdogan and renewed invitation to the Turkish president to visit Tehran to hold a meeting of the High Council of Cooperation between the two countries and attend a meeting of the Joint Economic Cooperation Commission.

The foreign minister then highlighted the promotion of economic and trade relations with Turkey and increasing trade exchanges to the targeted level.

Amir Abdollahian also informed the Turkish leader about the talks intended to lift sanctions against Iran by reviving the 2015 nuclear deal. The chief diplomat stressed that Iran is serious to reach a “good, reliable and lasting agreement, if the American side acts realistically and avoids extravagance.”

The remarks by Amir Abdollahian came one day before the top negotiators from Iran and the U.S. visited Doha, Qatar, to resume talks through a mediation by European Union coordinator Enrique Mora.

Iran's chief diplomat also reiterated Tehran's principled position for a political solution to the Syrian crisis and that it is necessary to avoid any military action in the country, underlining Tehran's readiness to facilitate talks to reduce security concerns on Syria.

Amir Abdollahian also clarified about some provocative moves of the Israeli regime in the region, noting that such moves are synonymous with inciting sedition. He warned that creating insecurity will be a gift to Tel Aviv.

Amir Abdollahian also emphasized Iran's support for the Palestinian cause.

The two chief diplomats also stressed the importance of regional dialogue with Iran and convergence of views between the parties, as the Qatari foreign ministry reported.

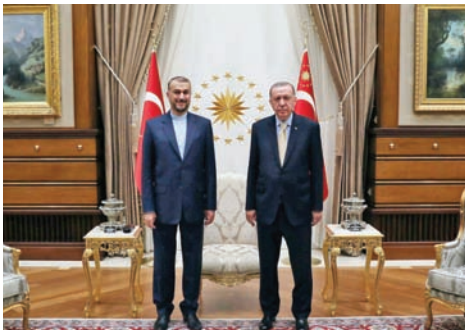
In his last briefing as the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman on Monday, Saeed Khatibzadeh said that Tehran is committed to resolving the few remaining issues as soon as possible, and it hopes that the messages that EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell had brought to Tehran on Saturday will be seen in practice.

“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,” Khatibzadeh remarked.

The talks 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 stated.

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



For his part, President Erdogan greeted the high-ranking Iranian delegation's visit to Ankara and insisted on his government's neighborhood policy and energizing relations with neighbors.

The Turkish leader also emphasized the need to achieve targeted trade exchanges between the two countries.

He then thanked Amir Abdollahian for renewing invitation for his visit to Iran and expressed hope that he would travel to Tehran at the appropriate time to hold the High Council for Cooperation between the two countries.

The Turkish president also expressed hope that the nuclear talks would bear fruit.

He also expressed Ankara's views regarding issues related to Palestine, Jerusalem-al-Quds and Al-Aqsa Mosque, calling Palestine an important issue in the Islamic world and reiterated the unity of the Islamic world in this regard.

Developments in Afghanistan, the situation in Iraq, the Astana process, the two countries' determination to fight terrorism, and the focus on finding a political solution to the region's problems were among other topics featured during Amir Abdollahian's meeting with the Turkish president.

Amir Abdollahian's visit to Turkey took place upon invitation by Cavusoglu.

The foreign minister flew directly from Turkey to Turkmenistan to attend a ministerial meeting of the Caspian Sea littoral states.

Seminary, he traveled to Europe to teach the Iranian students in West Germany. To this day, many refer to him as one of the clerics who was years ahead of his time.

He was also reputed as an astute planner and one of the prominent figures behind Shah's downfall.

On February 3, 1979, Imam Khomeini appointed him a member of the Islamic Revolution Council, and he soon became the council's first secretary. He also became leader of the newly founded Islamic Republican Party (IRP), which was the major bloc in the Islamic Republic's first parliament.

Beheshti played a leading role in drafting the Islamic Republic of Iran's Constitution and was instrumental in the dismissal of Abolhasan Bani Sadr, the first President of the Islamic Republic in June 1981.

Feeling endangered and carrying bitter wounds from Bani Sadr's ouster, the terrorist MKO group detonated the IRP office that martyred Beheshti and over 70 other members of the party, including ministers and parliamentarians.

His last words at the meeting right before the deadly explosion speak volumes. Reportedly, the IRP was supposed to evaluate the country's

# UN chief urges U.S. to lift sanctions based on JCPOA

TEHRAN — In his 13th report submitted to the United Nations Security Council on Monday, UN Secretary General Antonio Guterres urged the United States to lift the sanctions outlined in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

“The Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, which was concluded by China, France, Germany, the Russian Federation, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States of America and the European Union with the Islamic Republic of Iran on 14 July 2015, was the result of tireless diplomatic efforts over several years. On 20 July 2015, the Security Council adopted resolution 2231 (2015), in which the Council endorsed the Plan and called upon all Member States, regional organizations and international organizations to support its implementation,” the report written by the UN chief said.

Guterres also pointed out in his report that it is his steadfast belief that the JCPOA is “the best available option to achieve non-proliferation and regional security, in a manner that delivers tangible economic benefits for the Iranian people.”

“Now more than ever, I am convinced that diplomatic solutions provide the only path to enduring peace and security,” the report reiterated.

He then noted that the importance of restoring the JCPOA should not be underestimated, nor should the positive impact of its restoration on the global non-proliferation architecture.



“I again call upon the United States to also lift or waive its sanctions as outlined in the Plan and to extend the waivers with regard to the trade in oil with the Islamic Republic of Iran,” Guterres highlighted.

According to the UN chief, the international community remains supportive of the JCPOA and UNSCR resolution 2231, issued in 2015.

“In this regard, the ongoing bilateral and regional initiatives to improve relationships with the Islamic Republic of Iran remain key to supporting the Plan and resolution. These initiatives, which should be encouraged and built upon, may help to achieve regional stability, as well as to support the restoration of the Plan. Furthermore, it is important for Member States, and their

economic operators, to engage in trade with the Islamic Republic of Iran using the available trade instruments in order to address ongoing challenges, including those resulting from the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic,” the report added.

Under immense sanctions, Iran is struggling with the United States' sanctionomania. In her visit to Tehran in May, Alena Douhan, UN Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights, observed a plethora of disturbing cases regarding the United States' unilateral sanctions that have affected the daily lives of the ordinary Iranians.

She stressed that unilateral sanctions have endangered the human rights situation in Iran,

and damaged the livelihoods of the people, mostly the vulnerable classes of the society.

Issues such as children diagnosed with cancer, EB patients, thalassemia patients, and chemical warfare victims in Iran must be of critical importance to the global community, but they are not, the UN official lamented.

“Iran have been subjected to unilateral sanctions for a long time. The U.S. has imposed economic and trade sanctions on Iran from 1970s. These expanded in 2000s. The U.S. sanctions now consists Iran's central bank,” Douhan added in her press briefing in Tehran on May 17.

She then highlighted that despite the conclusion of the JCPOA, which is endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231, the U.S. still bans trade and investment in Iran and this is illegal.

“Most foreign international companies have left Iran,” Douhan added, noting that based on her observations, Iran's frozen assets are estimated at \$120 billion.

“I need to mention that the sanctions have affected academic and sports situation, as well as the low-income sector of Iran,” she explained.

“The least of my recommendation to the sanctioning states is to observe the human rights situation in Iran, and adhere to international law,” the UN Special Rapporteur suggested.

Douhan then went on to explain that her task is to show facts, “which sometimes are horrible.”

## Cairo assures Tehran it won't join any alliance against Iran: report

TEHRAN — Informed Egyptian sources have reported the existence of a powerful movement within the Egyptian security entities as well as the army which strongly oppose Egypt's participation in any military coalition against Iran, Al-Araby-Al-Jadeed reported on Tuesday.

The website quoted high-ranking Egyptian sources as saying that several high-ranking Egyptian army commanders had strongly voiced their opposition to any confrontation with Iran in a meeting held at the Egyptian Armed Forces headquarters.

The sources added that the same position has been reiterated at the Egyptian National Security Council meeting.

The sources pointed out that the talks took place after the proposal has been made to form a regional military alliance like NATO with the inclusion of Egypt to counter Iran.

According to sources, one of the main purposes of Egyptian President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's visit to Oman is to send a message of confidence to Iran through Muscat about Egypt's refusal to participate in any confrontation against Iran.

The message will also be conveyed ahead of a meeting of Arab leaders with Joe Biden in Jeddah in mid-July.

Egyptian sources have stressed that opposition to any military confrontation with Iran is both al-Sisi's personal opinion and the opinion of a large movement in the country's military and security institutions, and stems from the idea that there is no reason for any conflict with Iran, because Iran has created no concerns for Egypt.

The sources added that the idea of Egypt joining such a military alliance against Iran is

an idea that some countries in the region and the West are promoting, and recently some Western diplomats have been heard saying that Egypt needs a large army, which should be used against Iran.

In this regard, a former Egyptian diplomat has stressed that al-Sisi may be forced to join a regional military pact under pressure, but joining such an alliance is nothing but Cairo's mere cooperation in the face of direct threats and al-Sisi wants to convey this message to Tehran.

The former diplomat added that the region is probably on the verge of a new conflict in Lebanon, and in any proxy war in the region, Iran will react decisively to its enemies. The source added that since Egypt is well aware of this situation, it does not want to get involved in such issues.

The diplomatic source added that Biden's trip to the region will also reveal a new political development in the region, but it will not cause new tensions with Iran at all, and that Egypt will not make any special commitments against Iran.

Last week, King Abdullah II of Jordan stressed in an interview with CNBC that Jordan supports the formation of a military alliance in West Asia similar to NATO, and that such a move is possible.

He said that after decades of side-by-side war, Jordan considers itself an ally of NATO.

The Jordanian king said that he would be one of the main supporters of such a pact in the region and that such a pact could be formed from neighboring countries

Such a pact should be formed with a clear approach and defining its boundaries,

otherwise it would confuse everyone, the king said.

He added that the formation of the pact also has obstacles, one of which is the issue of the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, which could undermine any planning and cooperation in the region.

King Abdullah II added that the concerns of Iran should also be considered.

Very few details have been made available about the so-called Middle East NATO. The London-based Raialyoum newspaper said it would be less than the existing NATO.

Citing Jordanian sources familiar with the matter, the newspaper said, “The Pentagon is seeking to establish a state of joint coordination between its allies in the Middle East through a special operations room and by unifying the radar systems in air defense so that they are linked to a military room or one operating room.”

The Jordanian king's talk of the need to specify the mission of the new alliance, according to the newspaper, means that its preparations have been done and it will be announced during Biden's visit.

So far, other Arab states, especially the Persian Gulf ones, have been silent about the new development. Their media also remained silent on the issue. But Israeli media magnified the new U.S. initiative and sought to portray it as directed against Iran.

In this case, Iran will certainly oppose this kind of coalition-building effort that integrates Israel and give the U.S., a foreign power, a new foothold in the region. Iran has pushed for a regional foreign policy built around rejecting foreign interference in the region.

cheap tricks worked.

He believed in the core principle of introducing the Islamic Revolution to the outside world. Therefore, he was one of the main advocates of the Tehran Times. He said the Tehran Times “must be the voice of the oppressed all around the world.”

“That the Tehran Times doesn't belong to the government,” clearly reflects his vision of the paper and the mission it must accomplish. Therefore, the Tehran Times is determined to devote its time and energy to reflect the voice of the oppressed all around the world and fight imperialism.

## Beheshti, the iconic figure

TEHRAN — June 28 marks the martyrdom anniversary of Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Hossein Beheshti, one of the great figures behind the victory of the Islamic Revolution. Little is known about him, but he was a cleric who played a key role in establishing the Islamic Republic in 1979.

Beheshti was not an ordinary cleric. That can be understood from his background. When graduated from Qom



# Iran censures ‘economic terrorism’ in annual report on U.S. human rights violation

Foreign Ministry label U.S. “biggest violator of human rights”

TEHRAN - In its annual report on human rights, the Iranian Foreign Ministry has detailed the U.S. government's rights abuses, including its use of “economic terrorism,” labelling the U.S. the “biggest violator of human rights”.

In a statement issued on the occasion of the American Human Rights Review and Exposure Week (June 27–July 3), Iran's Foreign Ministry criticized the United States' political strategy and application of unfair standards toward human rights.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes that U.S. unilateralism and imposition of unilateral economic sanctions with the aim of forcing governments to change their policies is a gross and systematic violation of human rights,” the ministry stated.

“Iran considers the U.S. use of economic means to pressure politically independent countries as a clear example of human rights violations and the use of economic terrorism to achieve political goals, and believes that this has exposed known norms and frameworks of human rights to complex challenges,” it added.

According to the ministry, the Islamic Republic is one of the nations most seriously harmed by the United States' instrumental use of human rights.

“The imposition of unilaterally coercive sanctions by the United States has become a tool for violating the natural and legal rights of the Iranian people,



including the right to life, the right to health, the right to adequate living standards, the right to education and access to knowledge and technology, and the right to development in addition to the gross violation of the rights of women, children, the elderly and people with disabilities,” the ministry continued.

The ministry discussed some of the effects of the sanctions, stating that they had jeopardized food security, resulted in a lack of cooperation from firms that supply Iran with medical and health equipment, and interfered with the acquisition of medications for rare and serious illnesses.

It asserted that as a result of the sanctions, Iranian academics and medical professionals were unable to access the National Library of Medicine's (NLM) and PubMed servers' medical information, particularly at the height of the

coronavirus outbreak.

“Sanctions on the aviation industry and aircraft parts have seriously endangered the safety of Iranian passenger planes, while the lack of access to the international financial system and refusal of foreign companies to accept foreign exchange guarantees issued by Iranian banks have put additional economic pressure on bread-earning Iranian women and led to a decline in purchasing power of the elderly and problems for people with physical and mental disabilities in accessing medicines and medical equipment, adequate care and rehabilitation,” it added.

However, the ministry noted that Iran is not the only country to have been harmed by the United States' hypocrisy and systemic breaches of human rights.

“While the U.S. claims to be an advocate of human rights, there

is no meaningful monitoring of the violations of the rights of minorities such as Muslims and people of color within the United States where hate-mongering is widely pursued by officials and police forces,” the report underlined.

“The U.S. is the biggest supporter of the Israeli occupation regime, which, through its material and non-material support of the regime, provides the basis for the continuation of human rights violations in the occupied territories,” the Foreign Ministry explained.

It also added, “The oppressed and defenseless people of Yemen are targeted daily by American weapons, which are sold to the aggressor and warring countries for financial and commercial purposes, while any end to the crisis in the country is opposed.”

The United States has also physically targeted the greatest heroes of the struggle against terrorism, most notably Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, who was assassinated by the U.S. government in 2020, according to the ministry.

“As highlighted by the UN Human Rights Council's thematic rapporteurs, the assassination of General Soleimani is an arbitrary violation of the right to life and contrary to the provisions of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” the report concluded.

## Enemy has put hopes in our weaknesses: Leader

From Page 1 ▶ They have failed to understand that in the human world, in addition to political calculations and possibilities, there are also other calculations and contingencies, and those are the divine traditions,” Ayatollah Khamenei noted.

The Leader made the remarks on the occasion of the martyrdom anniversary of Ayatollah Mohammad Hossein Beheshti, the first Judiciary chief after the 1979 Islamic Revolution, who was assassinated by the terrorist Mojahedin-E-Khalgh Organization on June 7, 1981.

## Amir Abdollahian says Zionist regime is archenemy of Muslim world

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian praises Turkey for its consistent support for Palestine and asserts that the Zionist regime is the Muslim world's number one foe.

The comments were delivered by Amir Abdollahian during a joint news conference with his Turkish counterpart Mevlut Cavusoglu in Ankara on Monday.

“We consider the fake Israeli regime as the number one enemy of Muslims and the Islamic world,” Iran's top diplomat stated.

Amir Abdollahian praised Turkey's push for liberation of Al-Quds and Al-Aqsa Mosque, stressing, “We are sure that Turkey has never distanced from support of Palestine and liberation of Al-Quds and Al-Aqsa Mosque.”

“We clearly gave voice to our sensitivity and considerations about the Zionist regime's moves and the fact that wherever they went, they have been source of crisis and insecurity,” the foreign minister continued.

In his remarks, the Iranian foreign minister also said he has updated his Turkish counterpart about the recent visit of the EU foreign policy to Iran.

“I briefed my brother Mr. Cavusoglu on the visit to Tehran by Mr. Josep Borrell, the high representative of the European Union's foreign policy and our agreement to continue negotiations on the removal of

anti-Iran sanctions,” he pointed out.

“We hope that in the new round of the negotiations between Iran and the opposite parties we would achieve a final agreement, if the United States and three European countries act realistically,” Amir Abdollahian pointed out.

Borrell, accompanied by four-member team, held talks in Tehran on Sunday with Amir Abdollahian and Iran's Supreme National Security Council Secretary Ali Shamkhani. In a joint press conference Amir Abdollahian and Borrell announced that talks for revival of the 2015 nuclear deal (JCPOA) to remove sanction on Iran will begin soon.

Following the announcement, chief nuclear negotiators from Iran and the U.S. were supposed to start negotiations in Doha, Qatar, on Tuesday with the mediation of EU coordinator Enrique Mora.

He also elaborated on the Iranian government's foreign policy stance with regard to establishing relationship with neighbors and emphasized strengthening connections and safeguarding shared interests.

**Wish to consolidate economic cooperation**

Amir Abdollahian also emphasized Iran's will to activate framework for bilateral relations such as the high cooperation council, the joint economic commission, and the committees for consular, customs, border,

security, and media.

The Iranian minister also underlined the importance of promoting trade, economic cooperation, particularly in the areas of transportation, energy, tourism, agriculture, industry, scientific and technological research, and investment.

He also called for strengthening regional cooperation.

The top Iranian diplomat also stressed the importance of addressing environmental issues, such as dust and sand storms, and sharing of water resources.

Amir Abdollahian also insisted on the two nations' vigilance against the plots of the Zionist regime and the need to improve relations between all Iranian and Turkish political and security entities.

Cavusoglu, for his part, pointed to the benefits of holding the 29th meeting of the joint economic commission as soon as possible to bolster cooperation.

He added, “We don't support the anti-Iran sanctions and don't consider them right.”

The Turkish foreign minister said he hopes the nuclear deal will be put on right track and start “functioning”.

Cavusoglu went on to say that “we also plan to exert more efforts to increase our trade. Moreover, we will continue cooperation to ensure protection of Al-Aqsa and Palestine.”

In addition to developments

in Syria within the Astana format, the two sides also spoke about issues in the Caucasus and coordination within the 3+3 initiative, defending the Palestinian cause and maintaining the Islamic identity of the Holy Quds, ending the war in Ukraine, the illegal U.S. sanctions against Iran, and Turkey's opposition to sanctions.

Amir Abdollahian made an official visit to Ankara to hold talk with Turkish officials about strengthening ties with an emphasis on a roadmap for future collaboration.

The senior Iranian diplomat told reporters upon his arrival in Turkey that the main purpose of his visit is to hold discussions over a plan for long-term cooperation between the two neighboring nations.

Late in November, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi met with his Turkish counterpart on the sidelines of the 15th Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Summit in Ashgabat, the capital of Turkmenistan. In their meeting, the two presidents stressed that the presence of foreign parties in the region does not in any way help resolve regional issues.

“Regional problems must be solved by countries in the region, because presence and interference of foreigners cannot help solve these problems, but further complicate the situation,” President Raisi underscored.

## Skocic to lead Iran at 2022 World Cup: official

TEHRAN – Mirshad Majedi, acting president of Iran football federation, says that they are not going to change the National Team head coach in the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Iran, headed by Dragan Skocic, became the first Asian nation to book their place via the preliminaries in late January by beating neighbors Iraq 1-0 in Tehran.

“I believed in my work from (the) first but many underestimated me and didn't respect me but I'm very happy because I've proved myself,” the Croatian coach said in the post-match news conference.

Skocic is under contract with the Iran football federation until 2023 but he is under pressure after losing 2-1 to Algeria in Doha two weeks ago in a friendly match

The critics say that the National Team need a well-known coach in the 2022 World Cup.

On Tuesday, Majedi said the federation has no enough time to make change to the coaching staff and Skocic will absolutely lead Iran in Qatar.

“We are concentrating on holding a good preparatory camp in September. I've always said Skocic will be Iran's coach in the World Cup,” he said.

Iran have been drawn in Group B along with England, the U.S. and Wales.

Skocic spent eight years working in club football in Iran before taking charge of the national team in February 2020, replacing Marc Wilmots. The Iranians struggled during Wilmots' seven-month tenure, with the former Belgium coach leading the team to losses against Iraq and Bahrain that put progress to the third phase of the preliminaries in peril.

Skocic made an immediate impact, with Iran winning 10 and drawing one of the 11 qualifiers since the 53-year-old's appointment, form that secured their sixth World Cup appearance.

The improvements did not come without some drama, however, with Taremi only returning to the squad for Thursday's game after being dropped for the previous two matches for publicly criticising Skocic.

## Ryan Tafazolli linked with Esteghlal: report

TEHRAN - Wycombe Wanderers defender Ryan Tafazolli has been reportedly linked with a move to Iranian football club Esteghlal.

The ex-Hull City center back has been linked with a move to the Iranian clubs over the past years.

Now, the local media reports suggest that Esteghlal have set their sight on the player. Sepahan and Gol Gohar have reportedly shown their interest in signing Tafazolli.

The 31-year-old player started his playing career in Southampton in 2009.

## President's Cup Group I: Slovakia beat Iran

TEHRAN - Slovakia beat debutants Iran 37-22 in President's Cup Group I on Tuesday.

A draw against Iran would be enough for Slovakia to stay in this position and continue in the 17th place bracket.

Iran had also lost to India 31-30 in its first match in President's Cup.

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

Iran are ranked third in the group with one point, and they were obviously frustrated by a narrow defeat against fellow Asian team India on Sunday.

## Esteghlal complete signing of Hamedifar

TEHRAN - Esteghlal football team completed the signing of Sanat Naft defensive midfielder Omid Hamedifar.

The 21-year-old player has penned a two-year contract with the Blues.

Hamedifar started the footballing career in Sanat Naft in 2019.

He is Esteghlal's second signing in the summer transfer.

The Iranian giants had signed Sajad Shahbazzadeh last week.

## Portuguese team Chaves eye Mehdi Abdi: report

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team striker Mehdi Abdi has been linked with a move to Liga Portugal 2 side Grupo Desportivo de Chaves.

Chaves, nicknamed Flavienses, were founded in 1949.



The 23-year-old forward joined Persepolis in 2018 and has scored 20 goals in 68 matches for the Reds.

Abdi scored seven goals for Persepolis last season.

Persepolis have reportedly reached an agreement with Brazilian striker Cassiano Dias Moreira, simply Cassiano.

The 32-year-old forward currently plays for Portuguese team Vizela.

## Tehran chosen to host 2022 Asian U18 Volleyball Championship

TEHRAN – Tehran, capital of Iran, has been chosen to host the 14th Asian Men's U18 Volleyball Championship.

The competition will serve as qualification tournament for the 2023 FIVB Volleyball Men's U19 World Championship.

Iran are the most decorated volleyball team in the competition.

The Iranian team have won seven titles out of 13 editions.

The Asian Men's U18 Volleyball Championship will be held from Aug. 15 to 22.



## Iran, Tajikistan ink MOU to enhance trade-industrial co-op



TPO Head Alireza Peyman-Pak (R) and Tajikistan's Principal Deputy Minister of Industry and New Technologies Bakhtiyor Sharifi sign MOU documents in Tehran on Monday.

From page 1 ► Upon arrival, the delegation attended a meeting with Deputy Transport Minister Shahriyar Afandizadeh, during which the two sides conferred on the promotion of bilateral and multilateral transport ties via

different transport modes.

They also said that they are determined to increase trade and transit as per mutual interests.

The officials also emphasized the need for using various international corridors in the region, noting that the two countries should advance transit in relations with other involving countries including Turkmenistan and Afghanistan.

Speaking in this meeting, Afandizadeh mentioned Kyrgyzstan-Tajikistan-Afghanistan-Iran (KTAI) and ECO corridors as the most important routes for transit between Iran and Tajikistan, saying that these corridors should be more actively operated.

“Iran is ready for any cooperation in various sectors of transportation, including road, rail, sea, and air,” the deputy minister said.

## Iran, Syria discuss joint investment opportunities

TEHRAN - Secretary of Iran-Syria Economic Relations Development Headquarters Abbas Akbari has met with officials of Syria's Tartus city, to discuss the activation of investment capacities and opportunities as well as the development of Tehran-Tartus economic relations.

Akbari headed an economic delegation to Tartus city of Syria, IRNA reported.

Developing and strengthening economic relations between Iran and Syria and transferring Iran's scientific technology to Syria to develop the Syrian economy were the main purposes of his trip to Tartus, according to Akbari.

In this meeting, Tartus Governor Safwan



Abu Saadi briefed the Iranian side about Tartus province's investment opportunities as well as the possibility of developing economic cooperation between the two countries in order to ensure common interests.

## Operation begins for building over 6,000 National Housing Movement units in Khuzestan

TEHRAN- The executive operation has been started for the construction of 6,179 units of National Housing Movement in Khuzestan province, in the southwest of Iran, a provincial official announced.

Reza Rezaei, the director-general of Khuzestan's Transport and Urban Development Department, said that National Housing Movement has been welcomed most by Ahwaz and Dezful among the cities of province.

As announced in a meeting to review the strategies for organizing the housing market, the first series of National Housing Movement units will be delivered to the applicants in the second half of the present Iranian calendar year (September 23, 2022-March 20, 2023).

The mentioned meeting, held on

June 15, was attended by Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qasemi and Vice President for Economic Affairs Mohsen Rezaei.

On June 11, transport and urban development minister announced that 1.35 million units of National Housing Movement are currently under construction throughout the country and the number is increasing every day.

“With the support of the parliament and the credit provided for the facilities of National Housing Movement, we will proceed according to the schedule”, the minister underlined.

After National Housing Action Plan (started in 2018), National Housing Movement is the government's second major program to provide affordable housing units for the low-income



classes.

The operation for the construction of 209,212 residential units of National Housing Movement began in early February.

The ceremony to begin the mentioned operation and also to launch some development projects in the housing sector was attended by the transport and urban development minister.

National Housing Movement to construct four million housing units in four years is one of the major plans of the current government in the housing sector.

According to the plan, out of

these four million residential units, 3.2 million units will be constructed in cities and 800,000 units in villages, some of these units are currently being constructed after providing lands and preparing the necessary conditions.

Land supply was the first condition for the realization of the national movement plan and housing construction, in this regard, a series of measures were taken by the government and Ministry of Transport and Urban Development. According to the latest statistics, the lands of 2.8 million housing units of National Housing Movement have been provided by the ministry.

Although, studies show that the provision of land and financial resources are two serious obstacles to the construction of this number of residential units.

# Iran's trade with Caspian Sea littoral states rises 10%

TEHRAN- The value of Iran's trade with the Caspian Sea littoral states rose 10 percent during the two-month period from March 21 to May 21, as compared to the same period of time in the previous year, the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Ruhollah Latifi put Iran's trade with the mentioned countries at about 1,200,940 tons valued at over \$897 million in the mentioned two months, Mehr News Agency reported.

During the said period, the

Islamic Republic exported 646,364 tons of goods worth over \$263.19 million to the four Caspian Sea littoral neighbors, which despite a 14 percent decrease in weight, registered a 17 percent increase in value, according to Latifi.

The share of imports from the total trade was 554,576 tons of goods worth \$634.485 million, which increased by 62 percent in weight and 49 percent in value.

Azerbaijan was the first destination of Iranian goods among the Caspian Sea countries in the said two months, importing



121,338 tons of Iranian goods worth \$114.977 million, followed by Russia with 198,663 tons of imports worth \$68.584 million, Turkmenistan with 232,359 tons of goods worth \$58.602 million imported and Kazakhstan with 94,003 tons of purchases worth \$20.854.

As for the imports, Russia was the top source of Iranian imports among the Caspian Sea neighbors, selling 443,681 tons of goods worth \$319.142 million worth of commodities to Iran in the mentioned period.

As previously announced by IRICA,

Iran traded over 22.196 million tons of non-oil products worth \$16.631 billion with other countries in the first two months of the current year.

The value of Iran's export of non-oil products increased 37 percent during the said two months as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Iran exported 17,014 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$8.516 billion in the mentioned time span, also registering a 1.6-percent rise in weight as compared to the first two months of the previous year, the IRICA data indicated.

## 100 agro innovation farms to be set up across Iran

TEHRAN - The head of the Agriculture Ministry's Institute of Education and Extension has said 100 agricultural innovation farms will be set up in the country in the near future, IRIIB reported on Tuesday.

According to Ali-Akbar Moayedi, the mentioned farms are aimed to transform the country's agriculture and expand knowledge in this field.

The official noted that the first agricultural science and technology park in the country has been already launched, and the establishment of 10 agricultural villages is also on the agenda, which can shape a bright future for the country in this field.

“In the current world, food security has a very important place and the annual production of 126 million tons of agricultural products in the country has created a high level of security in this regard,” the official said stressing the significant



of the agricultural sector in the country's economy.

Moayedi added that currently, four percent of the country's knowledge-based companies are active in the agricultural sector, saying: “we are determined to increase this figure to twenty percent so that our agriculture would be based on modern knowledge and technology.”

Latest statistics published by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization

(FAO) show that Iran currently stands among the world's top producers of agricultural products.

Based on the FAO data, the Islamic Republic is the third-largest producer of dates, honey, pistachios, and walnuts in the world.

Iran is also the 12th largest producer of wheat in the world. The country's wheat production in 2020 amounted to 15 million tons. China is the world's largest producer of the strategic grain with 134 million tons, followed by India and Russia.

In the production of tea, Iran is ranked 12th as well with a production of more than 84,000 tons. China topped the list with 2.97 million tons of tea output, followed by India and Kenya.

The Islamic republic is also ranked 13th in barley production, 18th in terms of olive production, and 19th in the production of pears and tomatoes.

## TEDPIX gains 10,360 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), climbed 10,360 points on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

As reported, the index closed at 1.514 million points.

About 8.950 billion securities worth 80.322 trillion rials (about \$289.8 million) were traded at the TSE on the mentioned day.

The first market's index gained 7,436 points, and the second market's index climbed 21,338 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).

## Construction operation of 1,200 National Housing Movement units begins in Zanjan

TEHRAN- The operation has been started for the construction of 1,203 units of National Housing Movement in Zanjan province, a provincial official announced.

Reza Khajeie, the director-general of Zanjan's Housing Foundation, said that 15,834 applicants have registered in National Housing Movement in the province.

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provide affordable housing units for the low-income classes.

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According to the plan, out of these four million residential units, 3.2 million units will be constructed in cities and 800,000 units in villages, some of these units are currently being constructed after providing lands and preparing the necessary conditions.

Land supply was the first condition for the realization of the national movement plan and housing construction, in this regard, a series of measures were taken by the government and Ministry of Transport and Urban Development. According to the latest statistics, the lands of 2.8 million housing units of National Housing Movement have been provided by the ministry.

Although, studies show that the provision of land and financial resources are two serious obstacles to the construction of this number of residential units.

## IMIDRO identifies 16 promising mineral zones in Kermanshah province

TEHRAN- Head of Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) announced that the organization has identified 16 new promising mineral zones in Kermanshah province, in the west of Iran, and intends to complete the next stages of exploration.

Vajihollah Jafari said that IMIDRO has conducted 7600 kilometers of aerial geophysical operations in this province. Among the results were the identification of seven areas with potential for iron ore and poly-metal in Sonqor, Kangavar and Sahne.

Noting that this organization has no restrictions on exploration in the provinces, the IMIDOR head clarified: “Considering the valuable mineral potentials in Kermanshah province, the completion of exploration operations will provide investment opportunities for this province.”

As stated by Head of Iran's Geological Survey and Mineral Explorations Organization (GSI) Alireza Shahidi, there are currently 55 billion tons of proven mineral reserves in the country.

According to Shahidi, increasing the depth and

expanding areas of the exploration operations could add to Iran's current mineral reserves.

“The GSI has been identifying hidden reserves across the country over the past two decades, which means that these reserves have no signs on the surface, so we hope to be able to identify them using aerial geophysics,” Shahidi said.

Back in May, IMIDRO had announced that new mineral reserves worth over \$28.7 billion have been discovered across the country over the past eight years.

Having 81 different types of minerals, Iran is one of the top 10 mineral-rich countries across the globe. In this regard, the Iranian government has been seriously pursuing several programs for promoting the mining sector as a major contributor to the country's economic growth.

Iran's proven iron ore reserves are 2.7 billion tons, while the country's copper reserves are 2.6 billion tons. The country also has 11 million tons of zinc reserves.

The total proven reserves of Iran's mines are expected to reach more than 100 billion tons with the implementation of the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry's exploration programs over



500,000 square kilometers of new mineral zones.

Despite the country's huge potential in this area, due to some issues like the lack of necessary machinery and equipment and the lack of access to financial resources and foreign investment because of the U.S. sanctions, the Iranian mining sector has been struggling to operate at its maximum capacity over the past few years.

So, the government programs for promoting this industry are mainly focused on relying on domestic sources for helping the mining sector overcome its current problems and hit its ideal targets.



# Study sheds light on mosque attacks in UK

From page 1 ► (according to the UK government the scheme provides funding for places of worship and associated faith community centers that are vulnerable to hate crime. The scheme is intended to reduce the risk of a hate crime happening at a place of worship and associated faith community center.)

Overall, 35 percent of mosques experienced a religiously-motivated attack at least once a year.

Despite this, several mosques said they were hesitant about reporting a religiously-motivated attack for several reasons including their loss of confidence in any police action or to mitigate any negative impacts (such as the Muslim community becoming afraid of attending mosques) and a decrease in community cohesion.

When it comes to the police response to such attacks, the survey also found that 55 percent of mosques reported not being satisfied with police responses and 38 percent said no police action was taken.

Muslim Census and MEND say the study's results highlight the need for the further protection of Mosques, their staff, and their worshippers. The "increase in attacks during the height of the Covid-19 pandemic is unsurprising given the Islamophobic nature of some of the social and online discourse that has been reported elsewhere,"

Muslim Census is "an independent organization that gathers data of Muslims living in the UK, to clarify the true sentiments of the Muslim community."

MEND is "a not-for-profit company that helps to empower and encourage British Muslims within local communities"

The report studied data from more than 100 mosques across the country.

Attacks on Muslim places of worship are disturbingly common occurrences in the UK and peaked after the Christchurch terror attack in March 2019, which saw 51 Muslims shot and killed and 40 others shot at and injured in New Zealand.

The chair of Finsbury Park



Mosque in London, which was also the victim of a terrorist attack in 2017, has said anti-Muslim sentiment now is worse than ever.

"Our community still feels the fear and intimidation, and they expect an attack at any time. What happened was not a one off, the situation is even worse than it was five years ago. Islamophobia is on the rise, and no one can deny that," Mohammed Kozbar has been reported as saying.

The attacks on Mosques survey comes against the backdrop of another poll earlier this month that found seven in ten British Muslims have experienced some form of Islamophobia at their place of employment.

The survey, commissioned by Hyphen, "a new online publication focusing on issues important to Muslims across the UK and Europe" conducted by polling company Savanta ComRes showed 69 percent of Muslims currently employed faced some sort of Islamophobic behavior during work-related engagements.

Black British Muslims were found to have experienced higher levels of Islamophobia compared to other British Muslims. While 37 percent of all Muslims said they experienced cases of discrimination during the recruitment stage, the figure sharply rose to 58 percent for Black British Muslims.

Government data for England and Wales show that religiously motivated offenses are at an all-time high. There were a total of 76,884 racially and religiously aggravated offenses recorded in 2021, up 15 percent from 66,742 in 2020.

The Muslim Council of Britain has extensive reports on Islamophobic views in society, Islamophobic hate crimes, Islamophobia in the media, Islamophobia in political parties, and Islamophobia in the workplace as well.

The British government claims to "take a zero-tolerance approach to all forms of hate crime and we are committed to rooting it out wherever it exists."

Despite claiming to have such an approach, a 44,000-word investigative report on Islamophobia in the ruling Conservative party last year infamously concluded with the warning it would "make for very uncomfortable reading" for the ruling party.

The probe analyzed 1,418 complaints in relation to 727 separate incidents as recorded in the ruling Tory party's complaints database between 2015 and 2020. It found that two-thirds of all incidents reported to the complaints team at the Tories' headquarters related to incidents of anti-Muslim discrimination.

The findings read: "judging by the extent of complaints and findings of misconduct by the party itself that relates to anti-Muslim words and conduct, anti-Muslim sentiment remains a problem within the party. This is damaging to the party, and alienates a significant section of society."

Anti-Muslim hate among the conservative government ranks is so high that the inquiry was conducted and published about two years after all five candidates in the 2019 party leadership

contest to replace ex-PM Theresa May - including eventual winner Boris Johnson, committed to an independent investigation into Islamophobia in the Tory party.

Campaigners say they have been battling a decade-long fight to get the Conservatives to take anti-Muslim complaints seriously and root out Islamophobia. The British PM has also been criticized for making a number of anti-Muslim statements.

Critics argue the government cannot tackle the problem or lead by example when it stands accused of promoting and practicing Islamophobia itself. In essence, the government is making matters worse for Muslims who face discrimination in the UK because of their faith.

This is while far-right white fascist groups have been operating with impunity in the country with footage going viral on social media of extremist English mobs storming mosques, marching like hooligans, or intruding the private property of Muslims, essentially taking the law into their own hands, with little to zero punitive action from authorities.

Also, the British parliament passed a controversial law that will give police the powers to ban and heavily penalize protests and protesters who are demonstrating. Experts say the Police, Crime, Sentencing, and Courts Bill will infringe on the rights of people to express their views with police enjoying the power to determine which protests are allowed to be staged and which ones will be prohibited.

### Normalization of Palestinian apartheid is new normal

From page 1 ► Israeli imperial designs have rendered Palestine into an open-air museum of ethnic cleansing. Unraveling Zionist expansionist agenda, an independent commission of inquiry set up by the UN Human Rights Council after the 2021 Israeli assault on the besieged Gaza Strip revealed that Israel is pursuing complete control over the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, by altering the demography through the maintenance of a repressive environment for Palestinians and a favorable environment for Israeli settlers. Earlier this year, Amnesty published a 280-page report on Israeli apartheid entitled "Israel's Apartheid against Palestinians: Cruel System of Domination and Crime against Humanity" which documented Israel's seizures of Palestinian land and property, its unlawful killings, forcible transfer of Palestinian people from their land, drastic movement restrictions, and the denial of nationality and citizenship to Palestinians. Human Rights Watch has equated Israeli policies against Palestinians to apartheid. To understand these bleak dynamics, its cogent to understand that the conflict between Israelis and Palestinians is not raging between two sovereign states. Rather, it is a conflict between colonized people and their colonizer.

Entire neo-liberal apparatus championing fundamental freedoms and democratic ethos is complicit in betrayal of Palestinians. In this complex interdependent world, it's impossible to conceal gory tales of tyranny but global media in connivance with international institutions, local elite and corporate interests has criminally put plight of Palestinians at back-burner. As the conflict in Ukraine rages, global outpour of support for Ukrainians, swift condemnation from a host of countries and subjective media coverage unraveled oriental duplicity. Media pundits, journalists, celebrities, philanthropists and political figures blatantly demonstrated their horrific double standards by

underscoring their shock at horrors of war inflicted upon "civilized" European nation as if Muslim blood mercilessly spilled in global theaters of war is unworthy of sympathy. The dehumanization and dispossession of Palestinians by close ally of "free world" reveals that "Palestinian lives don't matter". Dilating unspeakable ordeal of Palestinians, Richard Falk in his ground-breaking work "Palestine: The Legitimacy of Hope" explained politics of language by arguing that "unlawful Israeli behavior is portrayed as facts which gradually transform into conditions that are treated essentially irreversible for attempted de-facto legalization". He suggested use of strong expository language to better understand assault on Palestinian self-determination by using terms such as "annexation", "ethnic cleansing", "apartheid" and "settler colonialism".

Muslim world is captivated by incredible resistance and enduring perseverance of Palestinians against relentless Israeli atrocities. Palestinian defiance is carving new history of resistance and despite decades of colonization, they can't be conquered. Ibn Khaldun's dictum that "oppression heralds the destruction of a civilization" must be a prescient prediction for downfall of Zionist monopoly. Israel is emboldened by blank cheque policy where it is not held accountable for crimes against humanity and United States is sponsoring its apartheid to cement neo-imperial claws upon Arab world. Edward Said in his work "The question of Palestine" elucidated these dynamics as "all issues surrounding Palestinians involve Great Power politics, regional disputes, class conflict, ideological tension, the animating power of Palestinian resistance is awareness of these simple yet enormously consequential questions".

*The writer is MPhil in international relations from National Defence University Islamabad. She currently works at PTV World, the state broadcaster of Pakistan.*

### Dozens of migrants found dead inside a truck in Texas

SAN ANTONIO — Dozens of migrants were found dead in an abandoned big rig in San Antonio on Monday in what appears to be the deadliest human smuggling case in modern U.S. history.

The bodies of at least 46 people were initially found in the tractor-trailer in the sweltering Texas heat, officials said. Sixteen others, including four children, were hospitalized, San Antonio Fire Chief Charles Hood said.

On Tuesday morning, Mexican President Andrés Manuel López Obrador said the death toll had risen to 50. He said 22 of the dead were Mexican nationals, while seven were from Guatemala and two from Honduras. The nationalities of the remaining 19 people had yet to be confirmed.

López Obrador said the Mexican government would be providing assistance to the family members of the dead.

Three people were taken into custody following the discovery, San Antonio Police Chief William P. McManus said, though he added authorities did not know if they were definitely connected to the incident. He did not expand on their identities.

The grim discovery was made early Monday evening in an undeveloped area of southwest San Antonio near railroad tracks. A person who works in the area reported hearing a cry for help and spotted at least one body, officials said.

"We're not supposed to open up a truck and see stacks of bodies in there," Hood said.

McManus said the survivors lacked water and air conditioning. "The patients that we saw were hot to the touch," he said. "They were suffering from heat stroke, heat exhaustion."

McManus said Homeland Security Investigations had taken over the investigation into the deadly incident. The heat is likely to be a focus, with temperatures climbing to 101 Monday, according to the National Weather Service.

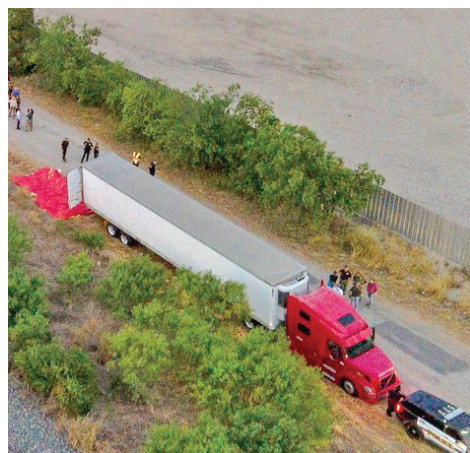
The heat inside the trailer packed with people was likely to have been significantly higher than the outside temperature.

A committee of the National Association of Medical Examiners has recommended that bodies with temperatures of 105 or greater at the time of collapse be certified as heat-related deaths.

San Antonio Mayor Ron Nirenberg said the people who died had "families who were likely trying to find a better life."

"This is nothing short of a horrific human tragedy," he said.

Secretary of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas said he was "heartbroken by the tragic



loss of life today and am praying for those still fighting for their lives."

"Far too many lives have been lost as individuals — including families, women, and children — take this dangerous journey," he said in a tweet.

Noting that Homeland Security Investigations had launched its investigation with the support of the San Antonio Police Department and U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Mayorkas also took aim at human smugglers as "callous individuals who have no regard for the vulnerable people they exploit and endanger in order to make a profit."

Monday's tragedy comes as the number of migrants apprehended at the southern border recently reached record-breaking numbers.

According to CBP data, authorities encountered more than 1 million migrants along the southwest border since January. The number is over six times that of incidents recorded during the same time period in 2020 and more than double the number of cases in 2019, before the coronavirus pandemic began, according to the data.

The agency reported at least 557 deaths on the southwest border in the 12-month period before Sept. 30, representing more than double the 247 deaths reported in the year prior, according to The Associated Press. Most were related to heat exposure.

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott, a Republican, blamed the incident on President Joe Biden's immigration policies.

"These deaths are on Biden," he said in a tweet. "They are a result of his deadly open border policies."

The White House declined to comment on Abbott's tweet, pointing reporters instead to Mayorkas' tweet.

### Britain and allies face '1937 moment': army chief

#### NATO to put 300,000 troops on high alert

Britain and its allies face their "1937 moment" following Russia's invasion of Ukraine and must do everything possible to avert another world war, the new head of the army has said.

The warning emerged as Prime Minister Boris Johnson is expected to announce an uplift in UK defense spending this week, in line with growing security challenges.

General Sir Patrick Sanders, the chief of the general staff, said Russian President Vladimir Putin and his "expansionist ambitions" pose the greatest threat to sovereignty, democracy and the freedom to live without violence that he has ever known.

General Sanders, who took over as chief of the army last month, said his sole focus is "mobilizing the army to meet the new threat we face".

He said the "British Army is not mobilizing to provoke war, it is mobilising to prevent war" in Europe.

He called the scale of the war in Ukraine "unprecedented".

"In all my years in uniform I haven't known such a clear threat to the principals of sovereignty and democracy and the freedom to live without fear of violence as the brutal aggression of President Putin and his expansionist ambitions," he said.

His comments, at an annual army conference in London, were made as Johnson and fellow leaders of the 30-member NATO alliance prepare to meet in Madrid for a landmark summit, dominated by the West's response to

Russia's war.

Asked if we are preparing for war with Russia, the PM said: "I don't think it will come to that, and clearly we are working very hard to make sure that we confine this to Ukraine.

"Putin and the Kremlin are going to try to widen the conflict and try to say that this is something to do between NATO and Russia - and that's not it at all.

"This is about an invasion of an independent, sovereign country. It's about the West and all the friends of Ukraine giving them the support that they need to protect themselves."

However, General Sanders' warnings will be echoed by Defence Secretary Ben Wallace, who is also expected to speak at the army conference before he travels to attend the NATO summit.

Wallace is set to indicate a desire for greater spending on the UK's armed forces from 2025, following what has already been a multi-billion-pound boost to defense spending this parliament.

"The defence secretary is expected to emphasize that now that the threat has changed, governments must be prepared to invest to keep us safe," a defence source said.

Johnson refused to be drawn on reports his defense secretary wants a 20% increase in funding over the next five years for Britain to meet shortfalls in military capabilities.

"When it comes to UK defense spending, clearly we have to respond to the way the threats continue to change," he said.

"We've now got a defence budget that's £24bn bigger under the spending review - the biggest increase in defense spending since the end of the Cold War.

"Last year, the UK was the third biggest defense spender in the world," he added.

With Russia's invasion changing the security landscape in Europe, the head of the NATO alliance has already revealed that allies will significantly increase the size of a high readiness force to more than 300,000 personnel up from around 40,000.

General Sanders gave details of his view on the threat posed by Russia and how his army is adapting, with a greater focus on urban combat and rebuilding costly stockpiles of weapons - allowed to be hollowed out to save money since the end of the Cold War.

It is a move that will require all ranks from general to lance corporal to "get ready, train hard and engage," he said.

"This is our 1937 moment," the army chief said, referring to the crucial period leading up to World War Two.

"We are not at war - but must act rapidly so that we aren't drawn into one through a failure to contain territorial expansion... I will do everything in my power to ensure that the British Army plays its part in averting war."

The challenge means the army must modernize, embracing new technologies such as cyber warfare and long-range missiles, but also retain traditional soldiering skills.



## Neighboring countries main source of Iran tourism, deputy minister says



From page 1 ► Last year the tourism ministry announced that the tourism of the country was growing before the corona outbreak, its revenues reached \$11.7 billion in 2019, which accounted for 2.8% of GDP, nearing the average share of tourism in the world GDP, which was 3.2 percent.

## Iran to set up pavilion at JATA Tourism Expo

TEHRAN – The Islamic Republic of Iran will be taking part in the JATA Tourism Expo Japan, which will be held in the Tokyo International Exhibition Center from September 22 to 25.

A selection of Iranian travel experts, tour operators, exhibitors, and craftspeople will run the country's pavilion at the four-day international fair, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts said in a press release on Monday.

According to organizers, JATA seeks to promote domestic, overseas, and inbound tourism. "Attracting over 150,000 visitors annually (from travel agents to tour operators and embassies), it is an absolute must for all the professionals in the sector."

Furthermore, the event offers seminars, debates, a trade fair (with exhibitors from over 150 countries and regions), and great business opportunities.

A relatively hidden gem, and a backpacker's dream, Iran holds vast potential as a holiday destination with stunning landscapes, numerous World Heritage sites, and above

Iran was ranked as the second fastest-growing country in tourism based on data compiled by the World Tourism Organization.

Experts expect Iran to achieve a tourism boom after the coronavirus is contained, believing its impact would be temporary and short-lived for a country that ranked the third fastest-growing tourism destination in 2019.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.



all, its hospitable people.

The country is often portrayed as "one of the safest to travel" by most visitors who experienced it, particularly solo female travelers and families, and the Lonely Planet calls its people the "friendliest in the world."

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## Sagz Abad pottery culture appears in new book



TEHRAN – Iran's Research Institute for Cultural Heritage and Tourism (RICT) has recently published a book on the prehistoric pottery culture of Sagz Abad, an ancient site in Buin Zahra county, west-central Qazvin province.

Authored by Iranian researcher Mohammad Rahim Saraf, the book explores the collection of painted and simple pottery found during illegal excavations in the ancient area, CHTN reported on Monday.

The historical site of Tepe Sagz Abad is one of the oldest archaeological sites in the whole world. It was mentioned by Venetian explorer and writer Marco Polo in the 13th century; however, it seems the site is much older as several Iron Age relics have been discovered during several excavations in the region.

Once the capital of the Persian Empire under Safavids from 1548-98, Qazvin is currently a major tourist destination with wonderfully restored historical sites, some quirky museums, and a handful of decent eating options.

a memorandum of understanding with the Prisons, Security, and Corrective Measures Organization to create jobs and make income for prisoners.

The MOU also aimed at implementing special educational and promotional programs, identifying talented prisoners, and improving their social status.

The former deputy tourism minister Pouya Mahmoudian said that handicraft products made by prisoners have been displayed in various exhibitions, and the income generated from selling these products has been returned to the prisoners and their families.

With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with

# Iran to launch sea busses in Caspian Sea

TEHRAN – Iran plans to launch a special route for sea busses in the Caspian Sea in the near future, the governor general of the northern Mazandaran province has said.

In addition to transporting domestic passengers, sea busses are possible to offer international voyages from and to the neighboring countries, IRNA quoted Seyyed Mahmoud Hosseini as saying on Tuesday.

In the Caspian Sea, such services are not currently available, but providing them could boost maritime tourism there, he explained.

Sandwiched between the towering Alborz mountain range and the Caspian Sea, Mazandaran has a rich yet turbulent history. An early civilization flourished at the beginning of the first millennium BC in Mazandaran (Tabarestan).

Its insecure eastern and southeastern borders were crossed by Mongol invaders in the



13th and 14th centuries. Cossacks attacked the region in 1668 but were repulsed. It was ceded to the Russian Empire by a treaty in 1723, but the Russians were never secure in their occupation. The area was restored to Iran under the Qajar dynasty.

The northern section of the region consists of lowland alongside the Caspian and upland along the northern slopes of the Alborz Mountains.

Marshy backlands dominate the coastal plain, and extensive gravel fans fringe the mountains. The climate is permanently subtropical and humid, with very hot summers.

### Coastal and maritime tourism

Over the past couple of years, the Islamic Republic has made various efforts to exploit maritime tourism potential by developing hospitality infrastructures, diversifying

sea routes, and drawing private sector investors along its vast southern coasts.

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

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

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

## Iranian crafter wins WCC Seal of Excellence

TEHRAN – Iranian crafter Manijeh Hosseini has won a Seal of Excellence from the World Crafts Council-Asia Pacific Region (WCC-APR).

Hosseini gained the precious honor for her piece of Khos-Duzi, a traditional embroidery mainly practiced in southwest Iran, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

Iranian crafters from 12 provinces along with tens of international fellow craftspeople competed for the honor at the event, which was recently held in Uzbekistan, the report said.

Khos-Duzi consists of sewing thin strips of Khos or Naqdeh on fine and delicate lace fabrics. The strips are arranged to make geometric, cursive, arabesque, "Danehee" and "Kheshti Payeh Boland" motifs and patterns. In addition to lace fabrics, Khos Duzi is applied on velvet, too.

Khos-Duzi is mostly used to decorate lace drapes, lace scarves (Jalbil) and lace Chadors (usually in black), bridal gowns, scarves, covers of Holy Quran, trousers, beddings, covers for cushions, headwear, dresses, and many more.

According to the World Crafts Council, the Seal of Excellence recognizes handicrafts products that are culturally authentic and have been manufactured in a socially-responsible manner with respect for the

environment.

"Each craft is reviewed according to excellence, authenticity, innovation, eco-friendliness, marketability, and social responsibility to ensure the highest level of craft excellence and distinguish a product as a benchmark for craft production."

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

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

Available data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts suggests the value of Iran's handicrafts exports stood at \$120 million during the first eleven months of the past Iranian calendar

## Human skeletons unearthed from historical site northeast Iran

TEHRAN – Two human remains have recently been found in a historical site, in northeast Iran.

Two human skeletons have been discovered in a historical site situated in the town of Kadkan of Torbat-e Heydarieh county in Khorasan Razavi province, Mehr quoted a local tourism official as saying on Monday.

"Preliminary studies suggest that the human remains date from the late Islamic eras," the

official said.

"However, a precise estimate for the age of skeletons will be made following more detailed studies."

Over the past couple of years, Torbat-e Heydarieh and its surroundings have yielded traces of the ancient settlements.

Last year, an archaeological site was exposed on the outskirts of Torbat-e Heydarieh after torrential rains washed the soil



away. The site was accessed to date from the early and middle Islamic eras, according to preliminary studies carried out by

cultural heritage experts.

Based on archaeological studies, Torbat-e Heydarieh is home to several historical caves due to its favorable habitat conditions and traces of habitation from about 40,000 years have been identified in the caves of the region. The history of the area stretches back to the Achaemenian Empire from the 6th to 4th century BC and the Parthian Empire from the 3rd century BC to the 3rd century CE.

## Handicrafts workshop to empower inmates in northern Iran

TEHRAN – Training courses in different fields of handicrafts are planned to be offered in prisons in Talesh county, the northern province of Gilan, Talesh's tourism chief has said.

The courses are aimed to help provide job opportunities for the prisoners after their release as well as providing an income source for the prisoners, Pordel Amirinejad explained on Tuesday.

The courses will mostly be related to the fields of the wood industry, including woodcarving, joinery, carpentry, and marquetry, the official added.

### Tourism ministry helps empower inmates

In October 2020, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts signed

a memorandum of understanding with the Prisons, Security, and Corrective Measures Organization to create jobs and make income for prisoners.

The MOU also aimed at implementing special educational and promotional programs, identifying talented prisoners, and improving their social status.

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Available data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts suggests the value of Iran's handicrafts exports stood at \$120 million during the first eleven months of the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (March 20, 2020 – February 18, 2021), Mehr reported. The country's handicrafts exports slumped during the

mentioned months in comparison to the same period last a year earlier due to the damage the coronavirus pandemic has inflicted on global trade.

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



# Plastic Bag Free Day to be held on July 3

TEHRAN – The Municipality of Tehran has decided to celebrate Plastic Bag Free Day on July 3 this year instead of July 12 in line with the global initiative.

International Plastic Bag Free Day aims to eliminate the use of plastic bags which may seem like a grocery shopping convenience, but they are also a huge strain on the environment. It can take up to 500 years for plastic bags to disintegrate, so they make up a large portion of what stays in our landfills and pollutes our waterways.

“In order to promote the culture of avoiding plastic bags and keeping pace with the international initiative, the department of environment [of the municipality] decided to introduce July 3 [replacing July 12] as Plastic Bag Free Day in the country,” ISNA quoted Adel Khazaei, a municipal official as saying.

In Iran, plastic bags have the highest share of the total 4 million plastic waste generated annually, so that, it is



time to say no to plastic bags.

Plastic bags constitute half a million tons of the whole plastic waste produced in the country annually. Every Iranian consumes an average of three plastic bags a day, 96 percent of which go directly into the trash bin.

According to the World Population Review 2021, Iran is ranked 17th in the production of plastic waste.

The report also claims that approximately 500 billion plastic bags are used worldwide, and plastic pollution is a global catastrophe caused by humans.

Payam Joharchi, head waste management office at the Department of Environment, announced in July 2020 that a bill to reduce the consumption of plastic bags, which is mentioned in 6 articles, has been prepared, focus-

ing on incentive issues such as tax exemptions and aiming to reduce the production of plastic bags by 20 percent annually.

It also takes steps toward the production of renewable bags, given the importance of the issue of employment, it is planned to happen in six years.

Hossein Abiri Golpayegani, an environmental activist, also said that in order to reduce the consumption of plastic bags, it is necessary to implement deterrent policies such as increasing the price of plastic bags and making these items less available to the public.

**In Iran, plastic bags have the highest share in the total 4 million plastic waste generated annually.**

## Japanese envoy highlights environmental cooperation with Iran

TEHRAN – Japanese Ambassador Kazutoshi Aikawa has emphasized the need to broaden cooperation with Iran in the field of environment.

Offering promotional services and providing people with proper education is of importance in environment protection, IRNA quoted the envoy as saying on Tuesday.

He made the remarks in a meeting with West Azarbaijan province governor general Mohammad-Sadeq Motamedian.

**Japan's support for environmental projects**

In February 2021, the Government of Japan contributed \$3 million to help revive Lake Urmia

through the United Nations Development Program (UNDP).

Lake Urmia was once the most extensive permanent hypersaline lake in the world. Unsustainable water management in response to increasing demand together with climatic extremes has given rise to the lake's depletion during the last two decades. The lake's restoration program was established in 2013 and aims to restore the lake within a 10-year program.

The contribution is being implemented as a component of UNDP's ongoing Conservation of Iranian Wetlands Project – a joint project between Iran's Department of Environment and UNDP. This was Japan's eighth contribution to UNDP Iran.

The project aims at better application of sustainability models in Lake Urmia and its adjacent wetlands, promoting local participation in 170 villages around the lake basin as well as enhancing the livelihoods and resilience of local communities through a more integrated approach.

The seven-year cooperation between Iran and Japan in the successful implementation of Lake Urmia revival has made the Japanese government willing to continue environmental cooperation, Ahmad Reza Lahijanzadeh, deputy

chief of the Department of Environment (DOE) for the marine environment, has said.

In July 2021, the Japanese envoy said that good measures have been taken to rehabilitate Lake Urmia and it is gratifying to see that the water body is being revived.

“Good efforts have been made to revitalize Lake Urmia and I am very happy to see that the Lake is being revived and we hope to take more steps in this regard with the sympathy and cooperation of the related bodies.”

Moreover, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) has provided 6 air pollution analysis equipment to Iran within the framework of capacity development on air pollution control in the Tehran Municipality Project.

The Seventh Joint Coordinating Committee (JCC) of the JICA Project for Capacity Development on Air Pollution Control in Tehran Municipality Project was formed.

This project, which started in 2017, is one of the largest and most comprehensive projects in the field of air pollution by the Japanese in collaboration with Iranian experts covers various aspects of air pollution in Tehran, and finally by providing solutions to reduce air pollution for the metropolis of Tehran will end this year.

## Iranian students to participate in IOAA 2022

From page 1 ► Established in Thailand in 2006, it was initiated by five countries including Thailand, Indonesia, Iran, China, and Poland with the aim to proliferate astronomy among high school students, foster friendship among young astronomers at the international level so as to build cooperation in the field of Astronomy in the future among the young scholars.

The main goal of the IOAA is to promote the growing interest in Astronomy and related STEM subjects, especially through the general education of young people, and to enhance the development of international contacts among different countries in promoting

Astronomy and Astrophysics in schools. It is expected that, through events like the IOAA, brighter high-school students will be eager to study astronomy at the university level to become the next generation of astronomy and astrophysics professionals.

Over the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 20, Iranian students won seven gold medals, 11 silver medals, and nine bronze medals at different international Olympiads.

According to the Ministry of Education, Iranian students have won 192 gold medals, 371 silver medals, and 204 bronze medals since 2005, IRNA reported.

**Over the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 20, Iranian students won seven gold medals, 11 silver medals, and nine bronze medals at different international Olympiads.**

In the field of mathematics, they have grabbed 46 gold medals, 99 sil-

ver medals, and 45 bronze medals. In the field of physics, they have grabbed 36 gold medals, 57 silver medals, and 35 bronze medals, and in the field of computers, they have won 27 gold medals, 58 silver medals, and 23 bronze medals.

Moreover, they have gained 37 gold medals, 50 silver medals, and 24 bronze medals in the field of chemistry; 10 gold medals, 47 silver medals, and 27 bronze medals in the field of biology; 30 gold medals, 49 silver medals, and 40 bronze medals in the field of astronomy; and 6 gold medals, 11 silver medals, and 10 bronze medals in the field of astronomy.



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

A country's scientific products are a collection of research, articles, citations, international collaborations, ac-

tivities of researchers, and educational and research institutions of a country.

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

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

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Existing vaccines are effective against mutated coronavirus: Iranian expert

The COVID-19 vaccines, which have been so far produced in the world are also effective on the mutated virus, so people who receive the vaccines will be protected against the new virus strain, Massoud Mardani, a member of the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, has said.

What raised concerns about the newly-produced vaccine was the ineffectiveness against the mutated virus, which fortunately studies show, the mutation of the virus and the chromosomal alteration are not enough to change its general nature, he explained.

According to Mardani, it is possible to detect the new coronavirus in Iran. All British and European passengers are tested at the airport for a quick and PCR test, while so far no case has been confirmed in the country, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

## واکسن کرونا بر روی ویروس جهش یافته هم اثر می کند

مسعود مردانی عضو ستاد ملی مقابله با کرونا می گوید واکسن تولید و تایید شده در دنیا بر روی ویروس جهش یافته هم اثر می کند و افرادی که واکسن تایید شده را بزنند علیه این ویروس هم مصونیت پیدا می کنند.

مردانی روز سه شنبه در گفت وگو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: آنچه نگران آن هستیم این است که واکسن تولید شده برای کووید ۱۹ در دنیا نسبت به ویروس جهش یافته بی اثر باشد که خوشبختانه بررسی ها نشان می دهد، جهش ویروس و تغییر کروموزومی ویروس به قدری نیست که ماهیت کلی آن تغییر کند.

به گفته او، امکان تشخیص ویروس کرونا جهش یافته در ایران وجود دارد. از همه مسافران انگلیس و اروپا در فرودگاه تست سریع و از موارد مشکوک تست دقیق تر «بی سی آر» گرفته و بررسی می شود و تاکنون موردی از این ویروس در ایران تایید نشده است.

## Astrology and astronomy in Iran

Part 3

The few astronomical theories with which his name is associated are Indian; he presumably derived them from Pahlavi books.

4. Ahmad b. Mohammad Nehavandi made astronomical observations at Jondishapur in about 790.

5. Rabban Tabari translated Ptolemy's Almagest from Pahlavi into Arabic, if Abu Mashar is a credible witness.

6. Mohammad b. Musa Kharazmi, who wrote the first work on algebra in Arabic, composed a Zij al-sendhend, based primarily on the versions of Brahmagupta's Brahmasphutasiddhanta due to Fazari and to Yaqub b. Tareq, but in which some elements of the Zij al-shah of Yazdegerd III were included.

Kharazmi's Zij, as modified by Abu'l-Qasem Maslama Majriti and Ebn al-Saffar, was translated into Latin by Adelard of Bath in 1126.

By this translation, and that of the commentary of Ebn al-Motanna by Hugh of Sanctalla, and by the De rationibus tabularum of Abraham b. Ezra, some knowledge of Sasanian astronomy was spread to medieval Europe.

Kharazami's Zij is also the basis of the astronomy of the Samaritans. A number of his minor works on observational instruments and on astronomical problems connected with the Muslim calendar and Islamic religious practices also survive.

7. Yahya b. Abi Mansur, who came from Tabarestan to the court of al-Ma'mun in Baghdad, was the principal author of the al-Zij al-momtahan, which also was in part indebted to the Zij al-shah.

8. Khaled b. Abd-al-Malek from Marv-al-rud was one of the leading astronomical observers under al-Ma'mun.

9. Abu Ma'shar (171-272/787-886) came to Baghdad from Balkh, and began the practice of astrology there in the 820s. In his Ketab al-oluf and Zij al-hazarat, written between 226/840 and 246/860, he combined the Indian, Sasanian, and Greek astronomical traditions to which Islam was heir, and attributed the resulting amalgamation of disparate elements to an antediluvian Persian text that he claimed to have been written in the reign of Tahmurath.

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON JUNE 28

New cases	443
New deaths	0
Total cases	7,237,156
Total deaths	141,386
New hospitalized patients	54
Patients in critical condition	196
Total recovered patients	7,062,198
Diagnostic tests conducted	52,590,198
Doses of vaccine injected	150,352,411



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JUNE 29, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

I wonder at a man who loses hope of salvation when the door of repentance is open for him.  
**Imam Ali (AS)**

Prayer Times » Noon:13:08    Evening: 20:45    Dawn: 4:05 (tomorrow)    Sunrise: 5:52 (tomorrow)

## Jamshid in Persian literature

Part 10

Early scholars usually followed this indigenous tradition; Christian Bartholomae, for instance, rendered the line as “he who, in order to satisfy humans, gave our (men) pieces of meat to eat” and maintained it expressed Zarathustra’s rejection of Yima and his institutions of the bloody sacrifice and the orgiastic festivals connected with it.

Bartholomae, however, assumed that gaush “the bull” (nominative) is for gaosh “of bull” (genitive), that is, “of meat” (a meaning gao- has nowhere else); бага (instrumental of бага- “god”) is the same as бага- “share”; and xaremno (unknown meaning) is the causative of xara- “eat” (which would be xaraiaa-, but is not attested).

Most translations of the passage in the first half of the 20th century followed this interpretation, for instance, Jacques Duchesne-Guillemin, Geo Widengren, who also followed Henrik Samuel Nyberg in regarding the cult of Yima and the use of haoma as typical of the Mannerbund and therefore proscribed by Zarathustra, a notion that has no basis in the sources.

From the 1950s on, when Bartholomae’s (and the Pahlavi translations’) arbitrary grammatical analysis of the passage began to be rejected, new attempts to interpret the strophe were made.

In 1957, Helmut Humbach returned to the literal interpretation of gaush as “cattle,” and, in 1962, Wolfgang Lentz interpreted бага as a form of бага- “god,” referring to the Zoroastrian tradition that Jam regarded himself as god, while also rejecting the notion that the strophe expressed Zarathustra’s disapproval; rather, he used the myths to illustrate his preaching.

Then, in a survey of the sources for bloody sacrifices in Zoroastrianism, Mary Boyce questioned the assumption that Zarathustra rejected the bloody sacrifice (or the haoma), which was practiced by Zoroastrians till recent times.

Helmut Humbach then suggested gaush could be the verb missing in this phrase and a form of gau- “to be deficient, sin,” with relatives in Sogdian and Chorasmian meaning “need.” He also quoted Karl Hoffmann to the effect that xara- could be connected with the Germanic words for swear and oath and simply mean “swear (an oath),” as in New Pers. sowgand khordan, also comparing the legal Pahlavi term xwarestan. In his later translation of the Gatas, Humbach added that gaush could also be from the verb meaning “increase”.

Stanley Insler in his Gata translation rendered the phrase as “he who wanted to satisfy our men (by) swearing: ‘The cow is goddess,’” taking бага as an otherwise unknown feminine of бага. In 1987, Ilya Gershevitch, building on Humbach and Insler’s proposals, suggested that the strophe contained “direct speech uttered by Yima at his trial,” and that бага was used by default by “poor pagan Yima” “to address his divine judge” and proposed various solutions to the problems of Yasht, as well.

Kellens and Pirart in their edition pointed out the impossibility of finding a convincing interpretation and did not translate.

Yima’s time: In the Pahlavi world chronology, the first heroes, Hushang, Tahmuraf, and Jam, belong to the first millennium after the new-born world of the living was attacked by Ahriman and death was introduced by the killing of Gayumard and the first Bull. The story in Videvdat, however, seems to take place before the attack, since, under Yima’s reign, there is, as yet, no old age,

sickness, or death, nor any of the other evils that were introduced by Ahrimen.

When Yima expands the earth, he goes forth “at noon on the road of the sun,” which also suggests a time before the attack, when the sun had not yet started to move, that is, in the Pahlavi scheme of things, while the world of the living (getiy) was still in the world of thought (menuy) or in Ohrmazd’s womb.

Moreover, in the Avesta, the first three heroes are typically said to have “had command over men and daeuuas on the seven-fold earth” or ask for “command over men and daeuuas of all the lands”, which appears to describe a time not covered by the Pahlavi world chronology, the time when the daeuuas walked on earth among men.

The coexistence of men and daeuuas is clear in the Gatas, as well, and the actual presence of daeuuas on earth is suggested by Yasna (“you, daeuuas, have become renowned on one-seventh of the earth”), and a formerly different status is suggested by Yasna, where the poet asks whether daeuuas really once had good rule.

Since Zarathustra was the one who drove the daeuuas underground and so put an end to the time of man-daeuua mixture and since he is also featured in the vara, the Zarathustra myth belongs to this early stage of the world, as well, but he was also the first to sacrifice to Ahura Mazda and first representative of the three classes in the world of the living.

The myth of the early heroes may therefore reflect a stage of the mythical prehistory before the daeuuas were demoted with the sharpening of cosmological dualism (after this, they, like everybody else, had to make a choice, but made the wrong choice).

The Yima/Jam myths even suggest the demotion was connected with Yima. The Videvdat story may then describe the world after the disappearance of the daeuuas.

The “chronological” scheme of the Young Avesta, although different from that of the later tradition, does not contradict such a possibility, since it is demonstrably the transformation of several older myths.

That the chronological indications in the Avesta puzzled the Sassanid priests, however, is clear from the Pahlavi commentary on Videvdat, where some commentator found it necessary to spell out the standard teaching of the twelve trimillennia adducing an otherwise lost Avestan passage on the duration of the world of thought and that of living beings.

A different interpretation of Yasna may be attempted if we compare the succession of ages in the Iranian mythoepic tradition with the Greek myth of the ages of the world described by Hesiod in his Works and Days.

Hesiod’s age of gold was, like that of Yima, free from all kinds of worries, including old age. The earth bore abundant and inexhaustible (aphthonon) fruits, and people dwelt in peace with abundant flocks.

The similarity with Yima’s age of gold is obvious, including waters and plants not drying out with inexhaustible (ajiamna) tasty foods. After this age came to an end, its inhabitants became spirits roaming all over the earth. The men of the silver age were short-lived and characterized by hybrís, which led them to sin by refusing to sacrifice and give honor to the gods. As this age, too, came to an end, its inhabitants became spirits (daimones) dwelling beneath the earth.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica  
To be continued

# “A Soup for the Reconciliation Party” tastes good at Hamedan children’s theater festival

TEHRAN – “A Soup for the Reconciliation Party” won the best theater award at the 27th edition of Iran’s International Theater Festival for Children and Young Adults on Monday in Hamedan.

Director Mohammad Jahanpa received the award in the Young Adults Theater competition during the closing ceremony of the festival, which was attended by the elites of young adult and children’s theater in Iran.

The story of the play directed by Mohammad Jahanpa is set in a nowhere village named “Ashabad”, literally means soup-village, where Sara has been separated from her brother Sina due to an ethnic difference between their grandparents, who are living in the two different parts of the village. However, Sara and Sina start making a concerted effort to bring about reconciliation between the two parts of their village.

Set designer Mehdi Sharifi and music composer Omid-Sanjar Musavi were awarded for their collaboration in this play.

The award for best actor was given to Ali Tarimi for his role in

Director Mohammad Jahanpa accepts the award for his play “A Soup for the Reconciliation Party” at the 27th of Iran’s International Theater Festival for Children and Young Adults in Hamedan on June 27, 2022. (ISNA/Puria Pakizeh)

“Geppetto” directed by Oshan Mahmudi.

The play has been inspired by Geppetto, the Italian fictional character in the 1883 novel “The Adventures of Pinocchio” by Carlo Collodi.

In this play, Pinocchio is never a wooden puppet, even Geppetto is not a woodcarver or puppet

maker too. He is an ordinary man with a special habit.

The play also brought Azin Nazeri the award for best actress. In addition, Shahab Mahmudi won the award for best costume designer for his collaboration in this production.

In the Children’s Theater competition, the award for best

play was given to “Playing Room” directed by Arian Nasserimehr.

The play tells the story of a little boy and his little sister who decide to initiate a game with their own waste during a boring evening.

Director and writer Sharaeh Tayyar’s troupe received the special jury award for their performance “Everybody in On Frame”.

In this educational play, a monkey, a porcupine and an elephant befriend a giraffe. They picnic every day, having great adventures with each other, but, the giraffe learns to say no cordially to his friends sometimes.

Tayyar was also picked as best playwright for writing the play, for which Amir-Hossein Ensafi won the award for best actor.

Fatemeh Khodbandelu was selected as best actress for her role in “Ding, Ding, Dang”, which brought the award for best set designer to Hamed Zahmatkesh.

In the Street Theater category, “A Certain Day” directed by Mehdi Habibi was picked as best play and its star Hurad Habibi won the special jury award.

## “The Musician’s Way” led to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – A Persian translation of Gerald Klickstein’s book “The Musician’s Way: A Guide to Practice, Performance, and Wellness” has come to the Iranian bookstores by way of the Mahur publishing house.

Originally published in 2009, the book has been translated by Siamak Gholami.

In “The Musician’s Way”, veteran performer and educator Klickstein combines the latest research with his 30 years of professional experience to provide aspiring musicians with a roadmap to artistic excellence.

Part I, Artful Practice, describes strategies to interpret and memorize compositions, fuel motivation, collaborate and more.

Part II, Fearless Performance, lifts the lid on the hidden causes of nervousness and shows how musicians can become confident performers.

Part III, Lifelong Creativity, surveys tactics to prevent music-related injuries and equips

musicians to tap their own innate creativity.

Written in a conversational style, “The Musician’s Way” presents an inclusive system for all instrumentalists and vocalists to advance their musical abilities and succeed as performing artists.

Klickstein has earned an international reputation for his integrated approach to artistic and professional development for musicians.

He has served on the music faculties of multiple U.S. universities, was a longtime member of the distinguished artist-faculty of the University of North Carolina School of the Arts, and was the founder and director of the Music Entrepreneurship & Career Center at the Peabody Conservatory.

Now working as a consultant and writer, he lectures internationally and writes about topics of interest to diverse musicians, educators and arts organizations.

Front cover of the Persian edition of Gerald Klickstein’s book “The Musician’s Way”.

## Asghar Farhadi’s “A Hero” nominated for Humanitas Prize

TEHRAN – “A Hero” directed by two-time Oscar winner Asghar Farhadi has received a nomination at the 2022 Humanitas Prizes.

The film is competing in the Drama Feature Film category with the deaf family drama “CODA” written by Sian Heder, “Nine Days” written by Edson Oda and “The Starling” written by Matt Harris.

The Humanitas Prizes are awarded to honor film and television writers whose work explores the human condition in a nuanced, meaningful way. Prizes are presented in nine categories at an annual event in Beverly Hills, CA, where winners receive a trophy and a cash prize.

“A Hero” by Asghar Farhadi.

Winners will receive their trophies on September 9 during an in-person ceremony after a two-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Humanitas Prizes are presented by the Human Family Educational and Cultural Institute – Humanitas, which is a nonprofit organization with no

religious affiliations.

“A Hero”, which is a co-production between Iran and France, follows Rahim, who is in prison because he was unable to pay a debt. During a two-day leave of absence from prison, he attempts to have his creditor withdraw his complaint over

part of the sum owed. But things don’t go as planned.

“A Hero”, the winner of the Grand Prix (ex aequo) at Cannes 2021, was shortlisted in the international feature film category of the 2022 Oscars. However, it failed to won an award.

The film scored an award for Farhadi at the 1st edition of the Iran Screen Directors Celebration, which has been initiated by the Directors Guild of Iran to select the best directors of the year in cinema and home video network productions.

Farhadi was also picked as best director at the 14th Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA) for the film in November.

## Abu Baran

### An interview with Mustafa Najib

The memories of Mustafa Najib, an Afghan warrior who guarded the holy shrine of Zaynab bint Ali (AS) in Syria, are contained in Zahra Sabeti’s book “Abu Baran.”

He was the deputy commander of the Fatemiyoun Brigade and has spent many days in Syria.

**\* The narrator’s honesty in his stories is one of the book’s strengths. Were there any parts of your life you didn’t talk about?**

I assumed they wanted me to talk about martyrs at first, but when I realized they wanted my personal narrative, I was surprised! I made an effort to talk them out of it, but they were insistent. I had no idea

what to say or not to say. As a result, I narrate all I can remember so that they can either edit or keep anything that is unimportant. So, I didn’t have any trouble telling my life and memories.

**\* You only went to Syria after seeing a picture. Have you ever considered that moment and whether you would make the same decision if you saw the same picture again?**

It was the best decision of my life, and if I could go back in time, I would still pursue the same path. I had the best days and nights of my life in Syria. Only those who have been there may understand what I’m saying.

**\* How much support did your family give you during this challenging journey?**

The two people that showed the most support were my mother and then my wife. Since the day I asked my wife to marry me, she has always been my biggest supporter. She accepted all of my conditions, including my mission in Syria, despite the fact that her parents were not very supportive of our marriage. She was always encouraging, and I will be eternally thankful to her.

**\* Did you picture ISIS’ total annihilation during the war with them? Had you found it unreachable?**

We have always believed that ISIL will be destroyed, and I had a true sense of assurance in this regard even when ISIL occupied 50% of Syrian territory.