

Straight Truth

# TEHRAN TIMES



TEHRAN – With the first ten days of Muharram rolling around, millions of Shia Muslims in Iran and beyond prepare to commemorate the anniversary of the tragic martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions.

Muharram religious rituals, which culminate in Ashura (literally meaning 10 as the battle of Karbala took place on the 10th day of the month), are held annually with special arrangements. During these ten days, mourners gather in settings called “Majlis Aza’a,” which means a mourning gathering and often includes two parts: the first part is held inside a mosque or Hussainiya and features a cleric reciting the virtues of the Imam while the second part features a panegyrist reciting poems to a chest-beating crowd of mourners. ▶ Page 3

## World Prepares for the Big Day

Report 

### Biden faces headache as U.S. economy enters “recession”

The U.S. economy has officially shrunk for two consecutive quarters which technically signals the start of a recession. The news is making headlines across the states, its a major setback for President Joe Biden's administration and has left Americans asking where their money is being spent.

The topic has triggered a massive debate as economists express opposing views as to whether a recession has begun in America yet. The commonly used definition is two quarters in a row of shrinking gross domestic product (GDP). And that's exactly what the U.S. commerce department has announced for the first half of this year.

In the first three months of the year, it was reported that GDP declined at an annual rate of 1.6 percent. And now the commerce department has announced that GDP shrank again by an annual rate of 0.9 percent for the second three months of the year.

But for a recession to the officially declared, the National Bureau of Economic Research (NBER), the official authority in the U.S. that decides when recessions start and finish has to announce it, which is why some are saying the U.S. has entered an “unofficial recession”.

The GDP figures will be closely observed for the NBER's final verdict, but it will also look at a more wider range of economic factors, including the jobs market, and is expected to take some time before NBER's team of “experts” announces its decision.

No matter which way you interpret it, the American economy and it's future outlook doesn't appear to be in the best of shape. The figures are bleak and will no doubt affect the Biden administration as it campaigns for a difficult midterm election in November.

Republicans have bounced on the report saying it shows the “Democrats’ reckless economic policies are destroying our economy”. ▶ Page 5

### Knowledge-based firms to play main role in reviving oil wells

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN– By continuous production of a hydrocarbon reservoir, the reservoir pressure and production rate decreases.

Production decline is a normal part of reservoir flow, but when the decline doesn't match realistic expectations, the operator can choose from technologies that help it improve or restore well productivity.

Report 

### Western media should reserve judgments on JCPOA for now

TEHRAN— As both Tehran and Washington are busy reviewing a proposed draft put on the negotiation table by the European Union, the Western media is busy doing what it always does: early judgment.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell exchanged views over the latest developments surrounding the sanctions-removal talks during a phone conversation on Wednesday evening.

Amir Abdollahian reportedly thanked Borrell and his deputy Enrique Mora for their efforts and said there is no doubt that Iran is determined to reach a good, robust and lasting deal.

Iran's top diplomat noted that if the United States moves realistically toward finding a solution and reaching a deal, a good agreement will be at hand for all parties. ▶ Page 2

### In Takht-e Soleyman, where inner peace meets outer beauty

TEHRAN—Nestled in a lonely bowl of mountains, ringed by 1500-year-old walls in north-west Iran, the UNESCO-listed Takht-e Soleyman was once a principal fire temple of the Zoroastrian faith in ancient Persia.

Takht-e Soleyman is now a major travel destination for domestic and foreign travelers who want, even for minutes, to experience its peaceful atmosphere. Important to learn is what exists Today is only fragments. This way,

Production improvement technologies revive oil or gas reservoir, and enable operators to get more from declining oil and gas fields in order to maximize revenues.

In Iran, where the role of oil production and export is undeniable in the country's economy, oil production enhancement is attached some high significance.

In this due, in line with implementing the policies of the country's Resistance Economy for the

### Floods in 17 provinces leave 32 dead, 25 missing

TEHRAN – Flash flooding in 17 provinces of the country has so far claimed 32 lives and left 25 people missing.

The provinces include Sistan-Baluchestan, Tehran, Fars, Kerman, Hormozgan, Qom, Semnan, Mazandaran, Yazd, East Azarbaijan, South Khorasan, Golestan, Isfahan, Bushehr, Kohgiluyeh-Boyer Ahmad, Markazi, and Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society aid workers, including 560 teams, provided relief and rescue services to 14,000 people in flood-affected areas, offering emergency accommodation to 2,239 flood victims, and relocating 1,220 to safe areas, Mehdi Valipour, head of the IRCS Relief and Rescue Organization, said.

Additionally, water was pumped out of 610 flooded houses, and food items were distributed among the flood victims, he added.

There are five deaths in Sistan-Baluchestan Province, eight deaths in Tehran, ▶ Page 7

enhancement of production in the hydrocarbon reservoirs, reviving the flagging and shut-in oil wells is on the agenda.

And as the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21) is named Year of Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating Production, reviving the flagging and shut-in wells benefitting from the capabilities of knowledge-based firms is a major project of Oil Ministry. ▶ Page 4

### Iranian girls win two golds at World Taekwondo Cadet Championships

TEHRAN - Iran won two gold medals and one silver on the opening day of the World Taekwondo Cadet Championships in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Baran Jamal Livani seized a gold medal in the under-29kg, courtesy of a win over Yarina Pugantsova of Kazakhstan.

Nigorakhon Azamjonova of Uzbekistan and Serbian Arijana Ivanovic won bronze medals.

In the under-51kg category, gold also went to Iran's Sayna Alipour who defeated Magdalini Klakala of Greece in straight rounds.

Bronze medals went to Rozalina Talibjanova of Uzbekistan and Yara Hamzeh of Germany.

In the boys' category, Mohammaderfan Zare of Iran lost to South Korean Dongmin Kang in the under-65 kilograms.

The competition has brought 669 taekwondo practitioners from 90 countries together.

man-made and spectacular natural setting.

They established the ensemble in a geologically anomalous location where the base of the temple complex sits on an oval mound roughly 350 by 550 meters. It encompasses a lake roughly 80 by 120 meters and a Sassanid-era Zoroastrian temple complex dedicated to Anahita, an ancient goddess of fertility, parts of which were rebuilt in the 13th century during the Ilkhanid era. ▶ Page 6

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Op-ed 

### Iran and Russia: Moving towards anti-West coalitions

By Dr. Vaishali Krishna

Having a long history of physical, productive, and socio-political interplay, the relationship between Iran and Russia goes back to 1521 when the first envoy was sent to Russia from Iran by Safavid Shah Ismail I to the Tsar Vasili III. This event marked the first diplomatic contacts between the two nations. As the time passed, they shared a 2000-km borderline well before the Soviet disintegration in 1991. However, during most of the past two centuries Iran-Russia relations had been uneasy as Russia meddled with Iranian domestic affairs. But the emerging scenario indicates that in spite of not being geographical neighbors the two countries still have their own reasons and intentions to come together. Iran considers Russia not only as a source of ▶ Page 5



## Iran appoints new envoy to IAEA



TEHRAN — After 9 months, Iran has appointed a permanent representative to the international organizations, including the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), in Vienna.

Mohsen Naziri Asl, a veteran diplomat has been selected by Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian to take on the Vienna mission, replacing Mohammad Reza Ghaebi who served as the acting representative.

Previously, Kazem Gharibabadi was Iran's permanent representative in Vienna. He was appointed as Iran's human rights chief in November.

Naziri Asl's selection was endorsed by President Ebrahim Raisi on Friday. He would be heading to the United Nations office in Vienna soon.

On the eve of his departure to Vienna, the diplomat presented his agenda in a meeting with

Amir Abdollahian on Friday and was briefed on the recommendations of the foreign minister.

The diplomat has a doctorate in international law. He previously served as Iran's ambassador to the United Nations headquarters in Geneva. He also has the experience of attending conferences of international organizations in his resume.

On Friday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani wished success for Naziri Asl.

"I wish success for the experienced diplomat of our country, Dr. Mohsen Naziri Asl, in his new role as the ambassador and permanent representative of Iran at the UN office in Vienna, as well as the representative of our country at the International Atomic Energy Agency. His appointment coincides with July 29, the anniversary of the establishment of the Agency in 1957," Kanaani wrote on his Twitter account.

"According to the Agency's statutes, it is expected that promoting the peaceful use and non-deviation of the peaceful goals of nuclear energy, without discrimination, would be the concern of the Agency and its director general," Kanaani continued.

"The advanced nuclear military program of the apartheid Israeli regime and the regime's continued objection to placing its nuclear facilities under comprehensive Safeguards and not joining the Non-Proliferation Treaty is a serious threat to international security and the non-proliferation regime. The Agency is expected to fulfill its responsibility in this field according to its statute," he concluded.

## Ambassador: Israel seeking interference, sedition in other countries

TEHRAN— Iran's envoy to Baku has warned against the conspiracies of the enemies against Tehran-Baku friendly relations.

Speaking to national TV on Thursday, Seyyed Abbas Mousavi said, "Every time the relations between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan become closer, third parties intensify conspiracies and provocations."

Yet, he added, they fail horribly every time.

"Iran and Azerbaijan are two friendly, brotherly and Muslim countries. They have always been satisfied with having interactions, and they always respect each other," he reiterated.

The diplomat also said visits by the officials of the two countries, parliamentary delegations and other efforts are intended to improve relations.

Elsewhere, Mousavi pointed to the

## Iran to respond to countries backing terror groups: intelligence chief

TEHRAN – The Iranian Minister of Intelligence Seyyed Esmail Khatib has issued a warning to countries supporting groups that carry out terrorist operations inside Iran, saying they must wait for a response, according to Al Alam.

"The countries that support the enemies of the Iranian people must wait for a response," Khatib asserted, addressing a local security council meeting in Sanandaj, capital of the western province of Kurdistan.

The counter-revolutionary group Komala/PJAK conducts terrorist acts once in a while in western Iran. It is supported by the Zionist regime of Israel.

The intelligence minister said such anti-revolutionary forces are working for Israel. "The Komala faction acts as a mercenary for the Zionist entity," he remarked.

Khatib went on to describe the current war against the Islamic Republic of Iran as a hybrid war. "America, by using the soft war and the unjust sanctions measures, sought to revive its declining hegemony in the region, but it failed to do so," the intelligence chief remarked.

The minister stressed that it is necessary to use the capabilities of the national media, cultural figures and virtual space to expose

recent tweet of George Deek, the Israeli regime's envoy to Baku, saying that the Israeli regime seeks interference, sedition and division in the affairs of countries.

On July 20, Deek posted a picture of himself holding a book titled "Mysterious Tales of Tabriz", captioning it, "I'm learning so much about Azerbaijani history and culture in Tabriz in this great book I was recently presented. What are you guys reading these days?"

The controversial tweet was immediately circulated on social media. Various people took pictures with the book and posted it online.

In this regard, Sina Toosi, a prominent foreign policy analyst wrote on his Twitter, "The message being sent by these hawks (who are emulating an Israeli ambassador) is that Iran's territorial integrity must be challenged.

These are the same people who claim to care about Iranians' human rights, while sanctioning them to death and trying to tear their country apart."

But Deek did not stop here. On Thursday, July 28, he posted another picture, captioning it, "Can't wait to read this beautiful book about the works of the great Azerbaijani poet & philosopher Nizami Ganjavi, which I received from the Nizami Ganjavi International Council."

Replying to the outrageous tweet, Ali Ahmadi, senior fellow at the Geneva Center for Security Policy, wrote on Friday, "The Israelis' outpost in Baku has taken a new tact of trolling Iranians about Azerbaijan's secessionist ambitions regarding Tabriz and aspects of Iranian culture Baku wants to claim.

They're literally reading work translated to Azeri from Persian and claiming it's from an 'Azerbaijani poet.'"

the crimes of the counter-revolutionary factions, as well as to explain the country's services and successes.

The security and intelligence services are well aware of any movements of the enemy and that offensive measures are on the agenda of the work of the security services, the intelligence chief stressed.

"The enemy is trying to exploit ethnic groups and religions as a challenge to the Iranian people, but the steadfastness and vigilance of the people thwarted these plots," he pointed out.

Earlier last week, Khatib said the Islamic Republic is facing all-out wars waged by its enemies but it is capable of winning due to its capabilities.

He stressed that today Iran, as a major and decisive power in the region, is able to mobilize all its energies and forces to achieve victory in this confrontation.

The minister pointed to the enemy's frantic attempts to launch comprehensive wars against the Islamic Republic through military, cultural, political, and terrorist and sabotage alliances, in addition to virtual space.

In early June, Khatib said the enemy has focused on stirring popular protests and terrorist acts in Iran.

from drawing water directly from the Helmand River.

Afghanistan and Iran have been involved in a prolonged dispute for many years over water sharing. In a 1973 agreement on water sharing, the two parties agreed that Afghanistan would provide Iran with an average of 820 million cubic meters of water annually.

The Islamic Republic has chastised Afghanistan for breaking the deal on several occasions.

The development of many hydroelectric projects on the river,

most notably the Kamal Khan dam in Nimrouz province and the Kajaki dam located 100 miles (160 kilometers) northwest of Kandahar province, has exacerbated the situation.

On Wednesday, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi urged serious action on Iran's water rights from Helmand.

Raisi gave the go-ahead for the issue to be addressed by the nation's foreign and energy ministries, stating that "a popular government would, under no pretexts, back down from pursuing the nation's rights."

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

# Western media should reserve judgments on JCPOA for now

From page 1 ► According to Amir Abdollahian, Tehran has shown good faith and serious determination to reach a deal since the beginning of the talks.

He then brought up the topic of the draft proposed recently by Borrell, underscoring that Iran welcomes the continuation of diplomacy.

The Iranian foreign minister said the U.S. has always claimed that it wants a deal, so this must exist in the wording of the agreement and also in practice.

For his part, Borrell said the Iranian side has so far shown positive and serious determination during the negotiations and time is now that the talks produce good results, according to the Iranian foreign ministry readout.

Borrell once again declared that he and his deputy are ready to facilitate and speed up this trend through communications and consultations with all parties.

Meanwhile, an Elysee Palace official said on Thursday that there is still time to save the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, but the ball remains in Tehran's court, Reuters reported.

This came ahead of talks between Emmanuel Macron and Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

However, Laurence Norman, a Wall Street Journal correspondent had an entirely different opinion.

"What is written above is nonsense.



There has been zero progress in last couple of weeks. If anything, we are now further from possibility of talks resuming than two weeks ago," Norman said on Twitter on Friday.

While the U.S. State Department spokesperson Ned Price said on Tuesday night that the White House is reviewing the draft.

The Wall Street Journal staff seem to have gotten into the old habit of early judgment.

"What I can say is that we are reviewing the draft understanding on mutual return to full implementation with the JCPOA that the high representative shared with us, as well as with Iran and the other JCPOA participants. We will share reactions we have directly with the EU," Price told a news briefing late Tuesday.

Price went on to note that the EU draft is based on the draft which was written

in March.

"We understand that this new text that Mr. Borrell referred to, it's the basis for – its basis is that draft that has been on the table since March. We are studying the changes that have been proposed by the EU; we'll respond to them in short order," he added.

Nevertheless, the Wall Street Journal has openly welcomed the failure of the talks.

In an opinion piece on July 25, Walter Russell Mead, the James Clarke Chace professor of foreign affairs and humanities at Bard College and editor at large for The American Interest, also compared the JCPOA to Schrodinger's cat.

"No matter what you call it, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action—JCPOA for short or "Iran nuclear deal" for convenience—is in trouble. Since Donald Trump pulled the U.S. out

of Barack Obama's agreement that ended economic sanctions on Iran in exchange for temporary limits on Iran's nuclear activities, the deal has been the Schrodinger's cat of diplomacy—sealed in a box, neither dead nor alive but in some indeterminate state," he wrote in the article titled "The Iran Nuclear Deal's Convulsive Death".

Schrodinger's cat, which is named after the scientist who experimented the hypothesis, is a hypothetical cat in a box that may be considered simultaneously both alive and dead as a result of its fate being linked to a random subatomic event that may or may not occur.

This comes as Tehran and Washington have had "constructive exchanges" over the past week, according to Iran's top negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani.

"Had serious and constructive exchanges with other sides in the course of the past week on Vienna negotiations. The Coordinator has shared his ideas to conclude the negotiations. We, too, have our own ideas, both in substance and form, to conclude the negotiations which would be shared," Bagheri Kani tweeted late on Tuesday.

There is no doubt that critical days are ahead of Tehran and Washington in the negotiations. The fate of the Schrodinger's cat cannot be decided now, unlike what the U.S. media is trying to portray. Early judgments will further complicate the negotiations.

## Iran succeeded to develop precision-strike ballistic missiles under sanctions: general

TEHRAN – Iran mastered the technology to build ballistic missiles and drones with pinpoint accuracy while under crippling sanctions, the commander-in-chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) has said.

Speaking at a student gathering in Mashhad, General Hossein Salami said, "With this technology, a drone can travel a distance of more than 2,000 kilometers from any point and strike a moving target or a certain point."

He added, "We achieved even stronger technologies. Today, we are not behind others in quantum technology."

Such sanctions that have been imposed on Iran would have dismantled any other country, IRNA quoted the top general as saying.

He added, "We know that there are problems but we also know that climbing summits is a difficult job."

According to General Salami, the enemy has taken many measures to counter Iran's revolution including economic sanctions, maximum pressure, psycho ops, media warfare, cultural aggression, and a plot to disrupt internal stability.

# Crime with the flavor of America's profit

## A brief look at Saudi's criminal actions against Yemen and the U.S. support behind it.

- 1 Saudi Arabia's crimes in Yemen
- 2 From 2015 to 2019, there were 17500 dead and injured.
- 3 A quarter of dead civilians consist of women and children.
- 4 Twenty million Yemenis face food insecurity.
- 5 Of which 10 million are on the brink of starvation.
- 6 More than 20100 airstrikes have been conducted.
- 7 There are 12 assaults on Yemen every day.
- 8 The U.S. military aid to the Saudi Kingdom
- 9 From 2015 to %73 ,2019 of Saudi's arms imports belonged to the U.S.
- 10 From 2015 to 2020, the United States agreed to 64.1 billion dollars in arms sales to Riyadh, 10.7 billion dollars every year on average.



## Tehran asks Taliban to remove hurdles to Iran's water rights

TEHRAN- The Taliban government in Afghanistan has been urged by Iran's foreign minister to eliminate the artificial hurdles so that the Islamic Republic's water rights from the Helmand River are realized.

Hossein Amir Abdollahian made the comments during a phone conversation on Thursday with Amir Khan Muttaqi, the acting Afghan foreign minister.

According to the Iranian official, a high-ranking delegation from Iran's Ministry of Energy will visit Afghanistan to work on removing any remaining barriers that prevent Iran



# Amir Abdollahian reiterates Iran seeking good, strong deal

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has reiterated once again that Iran seeks a good and strong deal in the indirect nuclear negotiations with the United States.

Addressing a gathering of Iran's cultural attachés on Thursday, the foreign minister pointed out that the diplomatic apparatus will continue the negotiations, but Iran wants to reach a good, strong and robust agreement, according to Al Alam.

Amir Abdollahian added, "Politics, economy, security and culture are interconnected links that are capable of achieving the goals of the establishment abroad."

The foreign minister considered the cultural transformation, the need for more and more coordination between the institutions of the Islamic Republic of Iran abroad in cultural affairs and compliance with the regulations of the mission countries as three important principles for advancing cultural goals abroad.

Referring to the high capabilities of the Iranian community abroad and the need to pay attention to them, Amir Abdollahian considered facilitating consular, cultural and social affairs as much as possible, and expanding the Persian language as one of the peculiarities of the joint work of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations.

The foreign minister described Ayatollah Raisi's assertion and the current government's focus on drafting



a comprehensive law for Iranians living abroad as among the most important measures in this regard

Amir Abdollahian pointed out that the foreign ministry's special interest in economic diplomacy in the past ten months is another very important issue on the agenda of the foreign policy apparatus.

The minister of foreign affairs called for paying more attention to the status of the Persian language, which has a special contribution to the formation of the identity of Iranians abroad by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Organization of Culture and Islamic Relations.

In his meeting with the cultural attaches, the head of the Iranian diplomatic corps reviewed the latest developments related to the nuclear talks to lift sanctions, saying, "We in the diplomatic corps will continue the negotiations, but we want to reach a good, strong and firm agreement."

The foreign minister spoke over the phone with Josep Borrell, the European Union's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy, on Wednesday evening. They exchanged views over the latest state of sanctions removal talks.

In the conversation, Amir Abdollahian thanked Borrell and his deputy Enrique Mora for their efforts and said there is "no doubt that Iran is determined to reach a good, robust and lasting deal."

He said if the U.S. moves realistically toward finding a solution and reaching a deal, a good agreement will be at hand for all parties.

Amir Abdollahian said the Islamic Republic of Iran has shown good faith and serious determination to reach a deal since the start of the talks.

He further referred to a draft proposed recently by Borrell, underscoring that Iran welcomes the continuation of diplomacy and talks.

The Iranian foreign minister said the

U.S. has always claimed that it wants a deal, so this must exist in the wording of the agreement and also in practice.

For his part, the EU's high representative for foreign affairs and security policy said the Iranian side has so far shown positive and serious determination during the negotiations and now is the time that the talks produce good results.

Borrell once again declared that he and his deputy are ready to facilitate and speed up this trend through communications and consultations with all parties.

In the telephone conversation, Amir Abdollahian and Borrell exchanged views about how to move forward.

The chief EU diplomat has recently urged Iran to accept the draft deal reached during eight rounds of indirect talks in an opinion piece for the Financial Times. "It is now time for swift political decisions to conclude the Vienna negotiations on the basis of my proposed text and to immediately return to a fully implemented JCPOA. The deal serves the cause of non-proliferation in return for sanctions lifting, showing that in turbulent times balanced international agreements are still possible," he said.

The chief Iranian negotiator has responded by saying that Iran has some ideas about the talks and will present them. Earlier, Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi told his French counterpart in a telephone conversation that the ball is in the U.S.'s court to revive the 2015 nuclear deal.

## World prepares for the big day

From Page 1 ► The Day of Ashura marks the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the grandson of the Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) who got martyred in the Battle of Karbala on October 10, 680 (Muharram 10, 61 AH), nearly 14 centuries ago.

Although centuries have passed since that event, it continues to inspire countless numbers of Shia Muslims and even non-Muslims around the world to borrow a page from Imam Hussein's altruistic book in their quest for freedom and emancipation. Imam Hussein (AS) was a renowned Muslim figure in Medina who was known for piety and virtue. Around the same time, a succession was taking place in Damascus, the seat of the Umayyad caliphate, which resulted in Mu'awiyah naming Yazid the next caliph, a move that sent shockwaves across the Muslim world as Yazid wasn't qualified for assuming the leadership of the nascent Islamic government.

What made things even worse was Yazid's insistence on making Imam Hussein pledge allegiance to his illegitimate rule. Imam Hussein

refused to do so and left Media for Mecca and then for Kufa in Iraq where he ultimately was heartbreakingly martyred by the army of Yazid.

His martyrdom inspired many uprisings against unjust rulers throughout Islamic history, the most recent of which was the 1979 Islamic revolution in Iran that brought down the oppressive Shah regime.

Also, Imam Hussein's martyrdom has been inspiring to many resistance groups in the West Asia region. "We learned perseverance and steadfastness in our own path from Imam Hussein (AS), his companions, and the martyrs of Karbala," said Seyed Hassan Nasrallah, secretary-general of Lebanon's Hezbollah, in 2021. "If we are killed and burned a million times, we will never abandon Imam Hussein (AS)," he added.

In the same speech, that was delivered on the occasion of Ashura of 2021, the secretary-general of Hezbollah summarized how Ashura has inspired them. "The event of Karbala taught us not to be

impartial in helping the right and countering the wrong. This is a lesson that the Islamic resistance has learned," he said.

The leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, has also underlined the need for today's youth to follow in the footsteps of Imam Hussein. Ayatollah Khamenei has said that this path is one of success.

"The path of Imam Hussein is a blessed path; it is a sweet, successful path. It is a path that definitely gives results. God willing, you will be able to be inspired by Hussein's movement and Hussein's teachings and bring this country to the peak of spiritual and material felicity in the true sense of the word. This is the way. This is the path. The right way is to move in the light of the guidance of Hussein, the Imams (peace be upon them), the Qur'an and the Holy Prophet's Household," he said in a speech delivered on September 27, 2021, at the end of a mourning ceremony for Arbreen.

## IRAN IN FOCUS

JULY 30, 2022

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## SPORTS

### Iran U23 football team to play Persepolis, Paykan

TEHRAN – Iran U23 football team will play two friendly matches with Persepolis and Paykan teams.

The match will be held as part of preparation for the 2021 Solidarity Games.

Mehdi Mahdavia's team will met Persepolis on Sunday and meet Paykan a day later.

Iran U23 team have been drawn in Group B along with Morocco, Saudi Arabia and Azerbaijan.

Hosts Turkey, Senegal, Algeria and Cameroon are in Group A.

The 2021 Islamic Solidarity Games will be 5th edition of the event scheduled to be held from August 9 to 18, 2022 at Konya, Turkey under the aegis of Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation (ISSF).

### Iran runners-up at Asia Pacific Goalball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran lost to Japan 8-7 in the final match of the International Blind Sports Federation (IBSA) 2022 Goalball Asia Pacific Championships.

The competition took place at ISA Sport City in Bahrain from July 20 to 29.

Iran's women's team also won the bronze medal in the competition.

Brazil are the reigning men's champions and Russia the current women's world champions, following victories at the last Goalball World Championships in Malmö in Sweden in 2018.

The world championships will be held in Matosinhos, Portugal from Dec. 5 to 17.

### World Cup Trophy to arrive in Tehran on Sept. 1

TEHRAN – The FIFA World Cup Trophy Tour by Coca-Cola, which kicked off on May 12 in Dubai, will arrive in Tehran on Sept. 1.

Former FIFA World Cup winners Iker Casillas and Kaká have come together to send the original FIFA World Cup Trophy on its journey around the world ahead of the tournament later this year.

The trophy will tour all 32 countries that have qualified for the World Cup including Iran.

The trophy tour ends in November just before the start of the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

The FIFA World Cup Trophy Tour by is an extraordinary opportunity for people to take in a piece of football history and share their passion for the sport with each other.

The emotions of seeing the original FIFA World Cup™ Trophy will stay in football fans' memories forever.

The 2022 World Cup will be held in Qatar from Nov. 21 to Dec. 18.

Iran are in Group B along with England, the U.S. and Wales.

### Brazilian Renato Palm da Silva signs for Sepahan

TEHRAN – Iranian football club Sepahan completed the signing of Brazilian Renato Palm da Silva.

The 30-year-old defender has penned a two-year deal with Sepahan.

Renato has joined the Isfahan-based football club from Vila Nova Futebol Clube.

Sepahan are headed by Portuguese coach Jose Morais.

### Iran wins GR team title at U17 world

TEHRAN – Iran Greco-Roman wrestling team claimed the title of the U17 World Championship Wednesday night.

Iranian wrestlers won one gold medal, two silvers and four bronzes in the competition held in Rome, Italy.

Ali Ahmadi Vafa defeated Indian Ronit Sharma in the final bout of 48kg.

Mohammadreza Gholami lost to Uzbekistan's Aytjan Khalmakhanov in the 51kg final bout.

Ahura Bouveiri Piani also seized a silver after losing to American wrestler Joel Richard Adams in the 65kg final.

Payam Ahmadi Balootaki in the 45kg, Reza Azarshab in the 80kg, Hamidreza Keshtkar in the 92kg and Mohammad Shahram Jahangiri in the 110kg won four bronze medals for Iran.

Iran won the top honors with 135 points while Europe's best team Azerbaijan finished second with 130 points.

Georgia failed to defend its team title and finished third with 121 points.

### Iran to play Uzbekistan in 2022 IHF Women's Youth World C'ship opener

TEHRAN – Iranian handball team will play Uzbekistan in the opening match of the 2022 IHF Women's Youth World Championship on Saturday.

The championship will be held from 30 July to 10 August in North Macedonia under the aegis of International Handball Federation (IHF).

Iran have been drawn in Group B along with North Macedonia, Uzbekistan and Senegal.

### Sina Asadbeigi joins Persepolis

TEHRAN – Zob Ahan football team defensive midfielder Sina Asadbeigi joined Persepolis.

The 25-year-old player has penned a three-year deal with Persepolis.

Asadbeigi started his playing career in 2018 in Paykan and has also played Havadar and Zob Ahan.

After parting company with Reza Asadi, Persepolis have completed the signing Asadbeigi.

### Jahanbakhsh scores in pre-season friendly against NAC Breda

TEHRAN – Feyenoord won a big pre-season victory over first division side NAC, with a final score of 6-1.

With newcomer Sebastian Szymanski in the starting line-up for the first time, Arne Slot's team led 3-0 against the Brabanders at the half.

Patrik Walemark, Stef de Wijs (own goal), and Alireza Jahanbakhsh also were on target.

After the break, Feyenoord increased the scoreline to 6-0 through Lennard Hartjes, Cole Bassett, and Mohamed Taabouni.

The visitors managed a consolation in the final phase via Sabir Agougil.

### Mes Rafsanjan complete signing of Brazilian Jeferson

TEHRAN – Jeferson Silva dos Santos, known as Jeferson Bahia or just Jeferson, joined Iranian club Mes Rafsanjan.

The 30-year-old defender, who started his playing career in Palmeiras B, joined Mes from Brazilian club Água Santa.

Jeferson has also played in Bolivian and Portuguese teams.

Mes Rafsanjan are headed by Mohammad Rabiei.



**AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY**

**INVITATION TO ONE STEP INTERNATIONAL TENDER**

**Second Announcement**

**55/1/10625**

**07/28/2022**



**Ministry of Jihad-e-Agriculture**

**AGRICULTURAL SUPPORT SERVICES COMPANY**

Agricultural Support Services Company, hereinafter will be referred as ASSC, a subsidiary of the Ministry of Agricultural Jihad of I.R. of Iran, is considering the purchase of 2×40000±5% MTS of Granular Di Ammonium Phosphate (GDAP) through one step international tender.

All of the qualified and interested companies are invited to receive tender documents from **Wednesday** dated **27/7/2022** until **Saturday** dated **6/8/2022** (7 working days) from our purchasing committee (located at the 9<sup>th</sup> floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

The bidders are requested to submit their letters of introduction, along with remittance bill of Iranian Rial 1,200,000 to ASSC's account no. 4001039704005791 with SHEBA no. IR250100004001039704005791 at the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran through payment order of SATNA or PAYA with the 30 character identification code of 3580397822635006500000000000006.

The bidders are required to submit their sealed and stamped envelopes containing offers latest on **Monday** dated **5/9/2022** (during official working hours) to our security office, located on the 8<sup>th</sup> floor. Meanwhile the meeting for the opening of the envelops will be on **Tuesday** dated **6/9/2022** at 15:00 with the presence of bidders' representatives in our purchasing committee (9<sup>th</sup> floor, no. 1, fourth alley, Gandhi St., Tehran, Iran).

- The bid bond value should be at **€ 587648** or in equal value of that in any other foreign currencies, except US dollars, based on Telegraphic Transfer rate in Sana rate website, [www.sanarate.ir](http://www.sanarate.ir). It should be noted that this site lists the Currency Transactions, executed in Integrate Currency Transactions System [Nima website] on 16/7/2022 for each lot of 40000 MTS ± 5% in bank guarantee.

— The bidders are permitted to submit the bid bond in Iranian Rial. Therefore, the value of bid bond for each lot of 40000 MTS ± 5% will be **IR 156256000000** which must be only submitted by the bidders.

- After approval of ASSC's Financial Manager, the bidders are permitted to use their previous and definite outstanding claims as the bid bond.

**For more information, you may refer to our website [www.assc.ir](http://www.assc.ir), and <http://iets.mporg.ir> or contact us by phone no. 00982188776325.**

**PR & Intel Affairs Dept. of Agricultural Support Services Company (ASSC)**

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## Knowledge-based firms to play main role in reviving oil wells



From page 1 ► A review of the experiences of countries and oil companies in the world in the implementation of such project shows that this plan can be quite attractive from an economic point of view in the era of decreasing oil revenues and increasing the risk of new discoveries and developments.

So, given Iran's current limitation for making investment in the development of oil fields and implementing production recovery and enhancement, benefitting from the knowledge-based is a necessity.

As stated by Oil Minister Javad Oji, implementation of the plan to revive the flagging and shut-in wells can add 80 million barrels to the country's oil production per annum.

Back in last November, saying that the ministry's new plan for boosting oil and gas production would focus on wells (rather than reservoirs), the minister had reiterated, "We believe that through the capability of knowledge-based companies and institutes, we could enhance the production of 700 flagging and shut-in wells in a shorter time, as digging new wells take one and half years, and at a lower cost."

The lowest cost of reviving wells rather than

digging the new wells should be highly considered, as it makes the related plan economically viable noticeably.

While the cost of digging a development onshore or offshore well in Iran is about \$7 million-\$11 million, the studies show that the cost of reviving a well is one fifth of the cost for digging a new well.

As stated by the chairman of Iran's Petro Park, production of oil through digging a new well needs an average investment of \$10 million, while reviving a well requires just \$1 million, which is 90 percent lower.

Mohammad-Esmail Kefayati said that reviving the flagging and shut-in wells is a leading and pivotal plan; it has been approved in the Economics Council and is in its final stages, so that the contracts will be made with the knowledge-based companies in the next [Iranian calendar] month (starts on August 23).

"Then the task will be started, and it will be the first time in the country's oil industry that the knowledge-based companies' capabilities will be used in the upstream sector in such a way", he noted.

According to Kefayati, Economics Council has allocated \$700 million to revive 750-850 flagging and shut-in wells for the annual production of 80 million barrels of oil.

The project to revive the oil wells is very important as preserving and boosting crude oil production has been one of the concerns of the country and an important and strategic necessities in the national energy sector and macroeconomics in recent years, so using up-to-date technologies in order to maximize oil extraction from reservoirs and reduce production costs is an essential need.

## Quarterly sponge iron export stands at 96,000 tons

TEHRAN- Iran exported 96,000 tons of sponge iron during the first quarter of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-June 21), Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) reported.

The country's sponge iron export has fallen 70 percent in the first quarter of his year from the first quarter of the previous year when the export stood at 321,000 tons.

As IMIDRO has previously announced, Iran's export of sponge iron increased 25 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), from its preceding year.

The IMIDRO's data put the country's sponge iron export at 1,055 million tons in 1400, and at 843,000 tons in 1399.

Direct reduced iron (DRI), also called sponge iron, is produced from the direct reduction of iron ore (in the form of lumps, pellets, or fines) into iron by a reducing gas or elemental carbon produced from natural gas or coal. Many ores are suitable for direct reduction.

While Iran is fighting the U.S. severe sanctions on its economy, and the country's different industrial and economic sectors have been affected by the limitations and difficulties caused by the sanctions condition, the country's mining sector is moving forward noticeably, overcoming such barriers.

Among the mining sector's different products, sponge iron is an outstanding example, as the production of this item is rising more and more in the country.

Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization, Iran's largest metals and mining holding, has stated that one of the most important reasons for the increase in sponge iron production in Iran is the establishment of new sponge iron plants, adding that in recent years, with its new strategy and with the participation of the private sector, the organization has been able to launch several projects to produce sponge iron.

Meanwhile, in last July, IMIDRO reported that Iran's Mines and Metals Company (MME) has established China's first gas-based sponge iron production unit using the Persian Direct Reduction (PERED) technology.

"As the world's first manufacturer of gas-based sponge iron, Iran is now transferring the technology to the world's biggest steel producer", IMIDRO announced at the time.

The deal for the construction of the first gas-based sponge iron plant was concluded between China's CSTM Company and MME Company from Iran as the license owner of PERED technology.

With a capacity of 300,000 tons, the plant has been launched in China's Taiyuan city.

## Over \$1.2b invested in free trade zones in a year

TEHRAN- As announced by the secretary of Iran's Free Zones High Council, 360 trillion rials (about \$1.285 billion) of investment has been made in the country's free trade zones in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20).

Saeed Mohammad also announced that 60 trillion rials (about \$214 million) of investment was made in the free zones during the first quarter of the current Iranian year (March 21-June 21).

He said 2,500 industrial units are currently active in the free zones of the country.

Establishment of free trade zones (FTZs) in Iran dates back to Iranian calendar year 1368 (March 1989 - March 1990) following the fall in the country's oil income in the preceding year which prompted the government to promote the non-oil exports.

The first two free trade zones of Iran were established in the south of country. The first one was Kish Free Trade Zone established in 1368 on Kish Island in the Persian Gulf and the second one was Qeshm Free Trade Zone established the year after on Qeshm Island in the Strait of Hormuz.



Some five other free trade zones have been also established in the country since then, including Chabahar in southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan Province, Arvand in southwestern Khuzestan Province, Anzali in northern Gilan Province, Aras in East-Azerbaijan Province and Maku in West-Azerbaijan Province, both in the northwest of the country.

Development of existing free trade zones and establishment of new FTZs has become one of the major economic approaches of Iranian government.

# Iran, Belarus hold 15th Joint Economic Committee meeting

TEHRAN - The 15th Iran-Belarus Joint Economic Committee meeting was held on Thursday in Minsk, the Iranian Industry Ministry portal Shata reported.

The meeting was co-chaired by Iranian Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Reza Fatemi-Amin and Minister of Industry of the Republic of Belarus Parkhomchik Petr Aleksandrovich.

Strengthening and expanding mutual cooperation between the two countries in the fields of commerce and industry, agriculture, investment, geology and water resources, health and pharmaceuticals, transportation, as well as the cooperation between the two sides' chambers of commerce were among the subjects discussed in this event.

Holding the joint economic committee meeting on a regular basis, increasing the volume of bilateral exchanges, expanding the range of traded goods, increasing the share of high-tech goods with higher added value in trade, and providing equal conditions for the participation of the trade organizations of the two sides in each other's international tenders were among the agreements made in the meeting.

### Establishing a roadmap for trade

Speaking at the meeting, the Iranian industry minister stressed the need for developing a roadmap for the expansion of trade relations between the two



countries, stating that there are many capacities for joint investment between the two sides.

Fatemi-Amin said that the two countries should form specialized working groups to define and create and pursue the mentioned roadmap.

Mentioning Iran's capacities in various fields including oil, gas, environment, industry, and mining, the official noted: "Complementary to Iran's capacities in various fields, Belarus also has good potential in the food industry, microelectronics, and industrial machinery."

He stated that the two sides should see their relations mutually beneficial, saying: "When the interests of the two countries are tied together, multilateral opportunities will be created. Therefore, a road map must be drawn for the development of interactions."

### Iran to dispatch commercial attaché to Minsk soon

After the joint economic committee meeting, Fatemi-Amin attended a meeting with Iranian traders and businessmen working in Belarus to discuss the challenges and opportunities of trade with the East European country.

In this gathering, the minister stressed the importance of establishing an Association of Iranian traders in Belarus and announced that soon a commercial attaché will be stationed in Minsk.

He underlined the importance of the experiences that the businessmen working in Belarus have gained over the years and said: "Safeguarding investments and businesses of Iranians in Belarus, presence in Eurasian Economic Union and Iran's membership in the union are among the important issues that we have been focusing on in our

interactions with Belarusian government officials."

"The two countries' economic development and transit of goods through Belarus are also among the important issues being followed up," Fatemi-Amin said.

He further mentioned the plans for joint cooperation between Iranian mining companies and Belarusian heavy and semi-heavy machinery manufacturing companies for joint production of mining machinery.

### Iran-Belarus trade exchanges to be 10-folded

The spokesman of the Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry also announced on Thursday that Iran and Belarus plan to increase their mutual trade first by 10 times in the near future and then by 20 times in the long term.

Omid Qalibaf said in line with the Iranian government's dynamic trade diplomacy, the ministry has prepared a detailed roadmap for increasing bilateral trade ties between the two countries.

He noted that the important point of focus in Iran's bilateral trade with Belarus is exporting knowledge-based companies' medical facilities to the country.

According to the official, the government has targeted exporting five million dollars of such equipment to Belarus annually.

The 14th Iran-Belarus joint economic commission was held in Tehran five years ago.

## Iran inks 2 agreements with China to facilitate agricultural exports

TEHRAN - Iranian Agriculture Ministry has signed two cooperation documents with China's General Administration of Customs to facilitate the access of Iranian exporters to the Chinese markets, IRIB reported.

The documents were signed by Iranian Agriculture Minister Javad Sadati-Nejad and Head of China's General Administration of Customs Yu Jianhua in an online ceremony on Thursday.

According to Sadati-Nejad, the first document was regarding the health requirements for the export of fresh citrus fruits from Iran to China, which is very important considering the annual production of 5.5 million tons of citrus fruits in the country.

The second document was regarding Iranian honey exports to China, the official explained.

Stating that 130,000 tons of honey is produced in Iran every year, he said: "The honey market in China is prosperous and attractive and by signing this document we will also access this market."

Iran currently exports about \$500,000 worth of agricultural products to China every year, and with the signing of these two documents the volume and value of exports will increase, according to the minister.

The value of Iran's non-oil exports to China



reached \$4.081 billion in the first six months of 2022, registering a 31-percent rise year on year, according to the data released by China's customs administration.

The Islamic Republic exported \$3116 billion worth of goods to China in January-June 2021, IRNA reported.

Based on the mentioned data, Iran and China traded \$8.263 billion worth of commodities in the mentioned six months to register a 23 percent increase compared to the same period in 2021 in which the figure stood at \$6.722 billion.

China's exports to Iran in the first six months of 2022 also grew by 16 percent compared to the previous year to reach \$4.182 billion. The Asian country had exported \$3.606 billion worth of goods to Iran in the same period of the previous year.

## Govt. should diversify privatization methods: IPO head

TEHRAN - Hossein Qorbanzadeh, head of the Iranian Privatization Organization (IPO), has said in order to get better outcomes from the privatization programs, government must diversify methods for handing over state-owned companies to the private sector.

Speaking to IRNA on Friday, Qorbanzadeh said the previous government did not pay enough attention to reforming the structure of previously implemented privatization programs, and the companies were not also properly prepared for the transfer.

The official noted that IPO is currently considering 35 government-owned companies for privatization for which the necessary considerations will be made.

"In the last decade, more than 900 companies have

been handed over to the private sector; and although some have not performed well, most of them have been very successful," he said.

"The capital market is the best proof for this fact; companies such as steel, copper and petrochemicals which belonged to the government [and were handed over to the private sector] have been among the most profitable companies," the IPO head added.

According to Qorbanzadeh, the status of privatized companies should be examined case by case and component by component.

"What we need to do now is to entrust unprofitable companies that are managed in an unfavorable way to capable managers and then when the entity reaches a stage of efficiency and productivity, increase the

role of the private sector in the management," he explained.

The head of the privatization organization further noted that the government cannot be indifferent to the companies that have been handed over to the private sector; Rather, these entities should be carefully watched over in the direction they will move in the future.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Qorbanzadeh said that based on the national budget bill for the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21), the government is expected to gain 710 trillion rials (about \$2.5 billion) from selling assets directly, while 13 quadrillion rials (about \$4.65 billion) is going to be gained from transferring shares to various organizations.

## President Raisi visits Hamedan in 30th provincial trip

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi traveled to Hamedan in Western Iran in his 30th provincial visit on Thursday, IRNA reported.

Upon arrival at Hamedan Airport,

the president told the press that the province has great capacities, especially in the agriculture, tourism and mining sectors, saying: "some of these sectors are currently facing obstacles and problems that can be solved considering the efficient and young human resources in the province."

Investigations have been carried out

in this regard and we have reached good conclusions to take positive measures for Hamedan, the president said.

During the visit, President Raisi was accompanied by some of the members of his cabinet who traveled to various cities on behalf of the government to meet with local officials and discuss the challenges and issues of the province.

Since the beginning of his administration in August 2021, President Raisi has traveled to 30 provinces to interact with people up close and get informed about the issues of various provinces.

Earlier this month, Raisi had wrapped up his 29th provincial visit to Markazi Province.



# Iran and Russia: Moving towards anti-West coalitions

From page 1 ► arms but also as a diplomatic link to counter the U.S. Russia concentrated on Iran more than the states of Central Asia and Transcaucasia because of Iran being a major player in the region owing to its strategic position in the Persian Gulf. Relationship, however, is slow but steady since they are sailing on the same boat considering the role played by the West against both the nations. Russia's relations with the West have further deteriorated due to Russo-Ukrainian war.

Recently, Russia has upgraded its relations with Iran in order to buy more drones because Iran is a leading drone inventor and Russian drones have been destroyed by heavy military equipment supplied by the West to Ukraine in the war. Russian officials have been seen visiting Iran five times in a row in recent times which denotes that there is immense inclination of Russia to take its relationship with Iran forward from partnership to strategic allies. In fact, both are willing to perform as strategic and economic partners to one another as both countries are under sanctions by much of the Western world. Eventually, they have now come closer so much so

“In fact, both (Russia and Iran) are willing to perform as strategic and economic partners to one another as both countries are under sanctions by much of the Western world.”

his best to improve Russian image amongst the Iranians. In addition to their trade and cooperation in hydrocarbons, Iran and Russia have also expanded trade ties in many non-energy sectors of the economy, including a large agriculture agreement. They also have the same reason to limit the political influence of the U.S. in Central Asia which they can

that energy cooperation appears to be an important agenda of their bilateral relations. In addition, much of the military weapons are coming from Iran to Russia and in return Iran also purchases military hardware from Russia. As a result, Russia has shown a degree of willingness to ally with Iran militarily also.

Amid a thaw in Iran-Russia relationship, there has also been criticism of the U.S. to put allegations on Iran for supplying military equipment to Ukraine or Russia. But, on the other hand, Iran in fact has passed a statement to bring peace in two nations, i.e., Ukraine and Russia in order to make Iranian views clear on war without taking side of anyone of them. Both Iran and Russia are constantly making efforts to build up relations on the ground of history to earn good economic relations. Putin has been trying



do by using the SCO platform where Russia is a member while Iran has an observer status. The International North-South Transport Corridor (INSTC) which is the largest multi-billion agreement signed by Russia's Gazprom with Iran worth billions and is Iran's new route for Russian supplies.

Yet, they will have to play cautiously since political relations are very much dependent on economic relations and for that they will have to respect each other's interest separately and also in an entity. The new Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi who was elected in 2021 proposed a draft for 20 years cooperation agreement between the two countries in order to negate the West. There is a potential for robust relations in terms of economy and the political will goes hand in hand through the INSTC which has both the rail and sea routes that link India, Russia and Iran. On a positive note, with 81% hike in business between Iran and Russia it is obvious that both the nations can show an alternative for them to bank upon against the Western sanctions. Russia is foreseeing Iran as a potential trade and military partner as well as an

associate targeted with severe sanctions. Iran, on the other hand, has welcomed Putin with the red carpet in order to get political support at both international and regional levels at a time when the U.S. is trying to isolate Iran and also pressurizing its Western allies to do the same.

Russia's support to Iran in building nuclear power stations, sale of weapons and assisting Tehran with new technologies which were denied by other countries only point to the fact that both the countries now try to make a move towards anti-Western coalitions. Finding a way in such a manner that brings both of them on the same footing to tackle the repercussions of the Western sanctions is the need of the hour. This will also create ripples and will captivate the attention of the world to the Russian and Iranian geopolitical aspirations which, in turn, will showcase the importance of the two nations in the mainstream global affairs.

*Vaishali Krishna is assistant professor at Centre for Russian and Central Asian Studies School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi (India).*

“Iran in fact has passed a statement to bring peace in two nations, i.e., Ukraine and Russia in order to make Iranian views clear on war without taking side of anyone of them.”

## Biden faces headache as U.S. economy enters “recession”

From page 1 ► Republicans argue the Democrats' climate, healthcare, and tax plan, formerly known as “Build Back Better” and recast as the “Inflation Reduction Act”, would only cause further financial hardship, especially after they passed a \$1.9 trillion coronavirus relief package last year.

Republican congressman Vern Gale Buchanan of Florida denounced the democratic party's proposed bill saying on social media “the definition of insanity? Doing the same thing over and over and expecting different results,”

“Yet here we are now entering a recession and Democrats are trying to spend hundreds of billions of dollars on Green New Deal priorities and raise taxes on America's job creators.”

Last month, nearly 70 percent of leading academic economists polled by the British daily, the Financial Times, predicted the U.S. economy will tip into a recession.

Ahead of the commerce department's announcement, Biden declared that America is not going to enter a recession. However many reports mocked the U.S. President for trying to change the definition of the word. Other White House officials also tried to deflect talk of a recession by claiming that other parts of the economy are doing well, something which has also sparked major debate across the country.

But the evidence on the ground is clear and in stark contrast with last year when the economy grew by 6.9 percent (an annual increase in GDP recorded in the final three months of 2021 as the economy grew back after Covid shutdowns.)

The warning shots had already come from International Monetary Fund (IMF) just a day or two after Biden boasted about not entering a recession.

The IMF says “baseline growth in the United States is revised down by 1.4 percentage points and 1.3 percentage points in 2022 and 2023, respectively, reflecting weaker than expected growth in the first two quarters of 2022.”

The IMF added “several shocks have hit a world economy already weakened by the pandemic: higher than expected inflation especially in the United States and major European economies, triggering tighter financial conditions,” it added that there will be “further negative spillovers from the war in Ukraine.”

Again the IMF states the conflict in Ukraine



will add to the economic woes of major Western economies and high inflation may take longer than expected to come down depending on how situation in Ukraine unfolds.

It said inflation is generally expected to return to near pre-pandemic levels by the end of 2024. However, the IMF adds that “several factors could cause it to maintain momentum and raise longer-term expectations.”

The main factor cited is that “further supply-related shocks to food and energy prices from the war in Ukraine could sharply increase headline inflation”

In the meantime, pressure is mounting on the Biden administration. Surveys show consumer confidence is falling as recession fears grow further and Biden's overall and economic approval poll numbers are at their lowest levels during his presidency to date.

In a statement, Biden had pledged to “come through this transition stronger and more secure,” but judging by his approval ratings, voters don't appear convinced.

The latest GDP figures came a day after the Federal Reserve announced another percentage point increase in its interest rates as it also fights to tackle rising inflation.

Prices rose at an annual rate of 9.1 percent in the year to June, driven up by a spike in costs for fuel and food among other things.

The housing market is also in disarray with GDP data showing residential investment had fallen 14 percent in the second quarter, just as higher interest rates began pulling up mortgage rates. Further increases will pose more challenges for the housing sector.

While mismanagement over the Covid pandemic continues to play havoc, experts say the fighting in Ukraine also triggered by the

Biden administration has backfired by pushing up energy prices.

The highest inflation in forty years is taking its toll on families, with three-quarters of middle-income Americans stating their earnings are not enough to pay for the cost of living, according to a survey.

Americans with an annual earning of \$30,000 to \$100,000 are now under more financial pressure than they were at the start of the pandemic, says Primerica, which polled almost 1,400 people, in that income bracket, last month with regards to their financial views. The research group also says more Americans in this category are turning to credit cards and that more Americans are getting into debt to survive.

If middle-class Americans are saying their income is insufficient to keep up with the rising cost of living, then what about the lower and poorer classes of society? What has the Biden White House even offered to both of these categories in order for them to live a comfortable life? Critics say zero to nothing; cash handouts that didn't mean anything substantial.

This is while the U.S. administration continues to make announcements over the billions of dollars it is pumping into a war zone in Eastern Europe, instead of seeking a peace settlement there.

The reality is the U.S. is in massive debt, it has spent billions of dollars sending weapons to Eastern Europe. A war that was instigated by the U.S.-led NATO military alliance to essentially destabilize Russia.

That was has backfired spectacularly on Washington but also the cost of living crisis has worsened. The cost of food in America and other vital services, in particular gas prices at the pumps, have skyrocketed as a result of another U.S.-led foreign policy blunder.

The crisis in Ukraine and the suffering of Ukrainians as well as Russians has backfired on the American economy, which has contracted for two consecutive quarters now.

The ripple effects of that is being felt in Western Europe, where governments are scrambling to find sufficient gas supplies, ahead of winter, as Russian imports of the commodity has significantly dropped.

## China's economy showing resilience and potentials amid headwinds

By Chang Hua, Chinese Ambassador to Iran

Since the beginning of this year, the increasingly complicated international environment and weakened global economic recovery, as well as sporadic but multiple local outbreak of COVID-19 pandemic caused harsh impacts on China's economic development. Affected by both domestic and external unfavorable factors, China's economic performance in the second quarter was less ideal than expected, which has resulted in some negative rhetoric against China's economy on some media. In this case, I would like to share some views on China's economy and its prospects:

First, China's economy managed to grow in the second quarter despite downward pressure. In the second quarter of this year, the impacts from a new round of COVID flare-ups and other unexpected factors steeply increased the downward pressure on China's economy, and major economic indicators tumbled in April. However, the Chinese government responded with resolute and swift actions. We put stable growth higher on the agenda, held ground against a massive stimulus, worked to front-load the policies set, and introduced and implemented a policy package for stabilizing the economy. The effects emerged immediately. In May, the decline in major economic indicators slowed. In June, the economy stabilized and rebounded. Major indicators picked up fairly fast and returned to the positive territory. As a result, the economy registered a positive growth in the second quarter. The gross domestic product (GDP) of China in the first half year was 56,264.2 billion yuan, up by 2.5% year on year at constant prices. In terms of specific economic indicators, industrial production was steadily recovered and the total value added of industrial enterprises above designated size grew by 3.9% year on year in June which is 3.2% higher than in May. The service industry production index also increased from -5.1% to 1.3%. The total retail sales of consumer goods bounced back from -6.7% to 3.1% in June demonstrating market sales improvement and fast growth in retail sales of goods for basic living. Exports went up by 22% which is 6.7% higher than the previous month. By ensuring supply and price stability in the market, focusing on grain and energy production, and overcoming the impacts of imported inflation, the consumer price is also generally stable and the employment improved.

Second, China's economy is expected to recover gradually and maintain steady growth. The risk of stagflation in the global economy is on the rise these days, thus raising the concerns of instability and uncertainty in China's economic growth. However, China's economy has strong resilience and great potentials and the fundamentals sustaining China's long-term economic growth remain unchanged. With the implementation of a series of policies and measures to stabilize growth, China's economic performance is expected to gradually improve. First, a major economy like China always has enormous resilience. We should be aware of the considerably large scale of China's economy and its advantages for having a solid material foundation and a huge domestic market. Second, the potentials of demand recovery are significant. Chinese government is determined to stabilize investment, accelerate the issuance and use of special-purpose bonds, speed up major projects construction, and encourage infrastructure investment. We expect to see further consumption recovery as the offline consumer services are reviving and the government policies to boost consumption are coming into effect. Moreover, China's foreign trade sustained great resilience. In May, China's total import and export volume increased by 9.5% year-on-year, 9.4% higher than the previous month; and 14.3% in June, 4.8% higher than that in May. Third, there is a concrete foundation for production to rebound. Following the steady recovery of production, the industrial and supply chains have been gradually smoothed, and the promoting effects of



key industries such as automobiles and electronics will further strengthen. And the service industry turned from a decline to an increase in June as the pandemic situation improved. In addition, the promising recovery of transportation industry will also be of great help for the further production boost. Fourth, innovation will provide new momentum for economic growth. Under the pandemic, traditional industries have accelerated their transition and expansion towards digitization and intelligentization, meanwhile new industries continue to develop steadily and rapidly. Fifth, China's macroeconomic policies are consistent and precise. The positive effects of policies such as large-scale tax refunds, issuance and use of special-purpose bonds, and increased financial support for the production will emerge, which will contribute to the steady recovery and growth of the economy.

Third, China's economy has been deeply integrated into the global economy, and opening-up is one of China's fundamental national policies. China cannot develop in isolation from the world, and the world also needs China for its development. Affected by factors such as the COVID-19 pandemic and the Ukraine crisis, the global industrial chain and supply chain are disturbed. As a result, many countries are stuck in multiple crises in terms of food and energy. Rising prices have forced major economies to tighten their economic policies, and pushed the world economy into the substantial risk of stagflation. China, as the largest developing country in the world, has profound developmental potentials and can certainly provide a strong impetus for the global economic recovery. China will deepen high-level opening-up, stay committed to free trade and fair trade, and help keep the two wheels of multilateral and regional trade cooperation running in parallel. Continued efforts will be made to foster a market-oriented, world-class business environment governed by a sound legal framework, and ensure foreign enterprises' equal access to unlimited sectors in accordance with law in order to realize mutual benefit amid fair competition. China is ready to strengthen international cooperation against COVID-19 and willing to make its COVID control measures more targeted and well-calibrated under the premise of ensuring safety against the pandemic. We will steadily optimize the visa issuance and COVID testing policies and keep resuming and increasing international passenger flights in an orderly manner, and prudently advance overseas commerce and cross-border travel for labor services, so as to better promote personnel exchanges and China's cooperation with the world.

In the first half of this year, the bilateral trade between China and Iran increased dramatically, consolidating China's position as the top trading partner of Iran. We are sure that the steady recovery and growth of China's economy will provide more opportunities for countries around the world including Iran. In the second half of this year, China will hold a number of exhibitions like the 7th China-Eurasia Expo, the 22nd China International Fair of Investment and Trade, the 132nd Canton Fair, and the 5th China International Import Expo which are great chances for Iranian merchants to learn more about China's market and conduct cooperation with China. China will actively implement the Global Development Initiative and all countries around the world, including Iran, are welcome to benefit from China's economic development, promote high-quality Belt and Road cooperation through greater openness and cooperation in trade, investment and other fields. In this way, we will be able to collectively build a community with a shared future for mankind.



## Archaeologists search for lost traces of Ilkhanid settlements in Ojan

TEHRAN - Archaeologists have begun searching for more traces of the Ilkhanid heritage in the ancient city of Ojan in northwestern Iran.

A team from the University of Tehran is trying to fill the gaps between the written records and archaeological findings in the ancient city, which is located in the Bostanabad district of East Azarbaijan province.

“This is the fifth archaeological season conducted in Ojan... In this season, we will excavate the historic castle of Ojan and remove the debris from it,” IRNA quoted a local official as saying on Thursday.

Early buildings in Ojan date back to the 5th-6th centuries AH and coincided with the Seljuks. Later, the city was an administrative center of the Ilkhanids in the 7th-8th AH centuries and experienced its heyday until the late Safavid period.

Surviving architectural structures include square-shaped battlements, a government castle, some surveillance towers, enclosed walls, incised underglaze clays, underglaze paintings, and local clays without glaze from the 6th-8th centuries.

The Ilkhanid dynasty, also called Il-Khanid, was a Mongol dynasty that ruled Iran from 1256 to 1335. Il-Khan is Persian for “subordinate khan”.

Hulegu, a grandson of Genghis Khan, received orders from the supreme Mongol chieftain Mongke to conquer Iran. Hulegu set out around 1253 with a Mongol army of about 130,000 men. He founded the Il-Khanid dynasty in 1256 and conquered Baghdad and all of Iran by 1258, according to Britannica.

## National Museum publishes second issue of its Iran journal



TEHRAN - The National Museum of Iran has recently published the second issue of its prestigious journal, which includes scientific studies and articles on archaeology, museum management and restoration.

According to Jebrael Nokandeh, the museum’s director general, the second issue of the online journal provides a platform for publishing articles on topics related to archaeology, museum management, restoration and related theoretical studies based on research on museum collections either at the National Museum of Iran or other museums inside or outside Iran.

The large museum consists of the Iran-Bastan Museum (Ancient Iran) and the Museum



The Il-Khanids consolidated their position in Iran and unified the region as a political and territorial entity after several centuries of fragmented rule by small dynasties. During the reign of the Il-Khanid Maumud Ghuzun (r. 1295-1304), the Il-Khanids lost all contact with the remaining Mongol chiefs in China. Mahmud Ghuzun himself embraced Sunni Islam, and his reign was a time of Iranian cultural renaissance in Iran, with scholars such as Rashid al-Din flourishing under his patronage.

Ghazan's brother Oljeitu (r. 1304-16) converted to Shia Islam in 1310. Oljeitu's conversion caused great unrest, and when he died in 1316, the civil war was imminent. His son and successor, Abu Sa'id (r. 1317-35), converted to Sunni Islam and was thus able to prevent a war.

During Abu Sa'id's reign, however, factional disputes and internal unrest continued to spread. Abu Sa'id died without leaving an heir, and with his death, the unity of the dynasty was broken. Thereafter, various Il-Khanid princes ruled parts of the dynasty's former territory until 1353.

of Islamic Archaeology and Art of Iran, as well as eight research departments, the conservation department, the library, and the archives.

The research departments are organised according to specific archaeological and historical periods and themes. In addition, the National Museum of Iran houses the largest collection of archaeological objects in the country.

The collections range from the Palaeolithic to the late Islamic period and represent more than a million years of human settlement and cultural achievements in Iran. The personal jewellery from the Palaeolithic, clay and human figurines from early village communities, the earliest evidence of administrative technology and writing from the 4th millennium BC, Stone reliefs and capitals from Persepolis, the Parthian life-size bronze statue of “Shami Man”, the natural mummy of a man called “Salt Man”, the Ilkhanid mihrab (prayer niche) of Dar-e Behesht, and the pen and ink paintings (Siah Qalam) of Reza Abbasi from the Safavid period are among the important objects in the museum.

## ‘World pottery capital’ needs global branding

TEHRAN—The city of Lalejin as the ‘world pottery capital’ needs global branding, the deputy tourism minister has said.

A global brand of Lalejin pottery should be established and efforts should be made to make this city's pottery known all over the world CHTN quoted Maryam Jalali as saying on Thursday.

It is also expected that Lalejin has pottery stores in most parts of the world in addition to the country, the official added.

Located in Hamedan province,

west-central Iran, Lalejin is one of the most essential centers for the production of earthenware and ceramics in the country, which held an 80 percent share of the province's exports.

Lalejin celebrated its registration as the world pottery capital in 2016, a privilege given by jurors of the UNESCO-affiliated World Crafts Council.

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

From page 1 ▶ They say Takht-e Soleyman's name isn't based on real historical links to the Old Testament King Solomon but was a cunning 7th-century invention by the temple's Persian guardians in the face of the Arab invasion.

In the 13th century, Takht-e Soleyman became a summer retreat for the Mongol Ilkhanid khans. The remnants of their hunting palace are now covered with a discordant modern roof forming a storeroom (often locked) for amphorae, unlabelled column fragments, photos, and a couple of ceramic sections of those ancient gas pipes.

According to Britannica Encyclopedia, its surrounding landscape was probably first inhabited sometime in the 1st millennium BC. Some construction on the mound itself dates from the early Achaemenian dynasty (559–330 BC), and there are traces of settlement activity from the Parthian period.

### Under tourists' eyes

In what follows, a selection of comments that foreign visitors have already posted to TripAdvisor, a fairly popular travel website, has been given:

### 'It was worth the whole journey to Iran'

Takht-e Soleyman is an incredible place as well as Zendan Soleyman. Moreover, there is a small village between the two from where you can hike to the archaeological site (Takht-e Soleyman) and the mountain/volcano (Zendan-e Soleyman). I have spent four hours all together between the two sites and the village and would love to come back soon. You can also sleep in the village in a recently refurbished traditional house. Strongly recommended! (Eugenio\_ G694 from Milan, Italy)

### 'Very interesting'

This is an interesting site to visit with a lot of the structures still visible. It is in a stunning location surrounded by beautiful mountains. The lake within the site is large and with a guide to explain the various structures, the whole complex comes to life an\$ you begin to appreciate what a magical place



## In Takht-e Soleyman, where inner peace meets outer beauty

this is. (Sus1952 from Palmerston North, New Zealand)

### 'An inspiring site, together for the mysteries of the earth and for the history of men'

This place is far from everything. On our trip, as well as on most visitors' journeys, Takht-e Soleyman required at least three hours' drive from our previous stop, Maragheh, and after our departure, three hours more for our next stop, Sanandaj. Yet it would be foolish not to stop here, as long as possible

In fact, this is one of the not many places in the world where you can “breathe” equally the mystery of nature and the charm of the millennial history of men.

The mystery of nature, because the water saturated with calcium flowing here after tens of thousands of years, and that finally created the hill of about 60 m. on which stands the site, along with the pond that crowns the hill's summit (about 60 m deep as well, for a diameter of 70 m, therefore astoundingly deep), reminds us of the thrilling charm of the land that hosts us all; it makes us think of what is hidden under the landscapes we usually see.

The fascination of human history

also appears evident, because the mythical thought of our ancestors couldn't be struck by this evidence of the “chthonic” powers, that is, of the restless depths of the earth; as it did for the “Phlegraean Fields” near Naples, or the Bromo volcano on Java island. In fact, even in this case, the ancient inhabitants have built a mythology around some natural phenomena, the mythology that makes this spot not just one of the sacred places of Zoroastrianism, but “the” most sacred place.

It is therefore required for this visit, even more than for other sights in Iran, to enter the spirit of the civilizations that have interacted with the environment, and to fully understand it. Otherwise, you will be bewildered by the almost undecipherable complex of the ruins that are included between the pond and the walls of the Sassanid era.

If you have the time, walk up for a few hundred meters on the hill overlooking the ticket office and the rest area: you will have the most gorgeous view of the site.

One last observation: when I visited this site I was reading “The Valleys of the Assassins” by Freya Stark. From this book, I learned

that “Takht-e Soleyman” (that is, “Throne of Solomon”) is also the name of a summit of the Alborz Mountains, northwest of Tehran. And I later found that another mountain of this name is found in Pakistan (Balochistan region). Discovering that the king and prophet Solomon in the Islamic tradition has a reputation as a great traveler, builder, and “tamer of monsters” (see the “Zendan-e Soleyman”, a few hundred meters from the pond) has set up for me a further reason of charm in this visit. (Brun066 from Florence, Italy)

### 'Off the beaten track but worth it as long as the weather holds!'

Very few Western tourists venture this far, but this Zoroastrian fire temple sits in an amazing landscape. The few buildings that are left are ruins, but the site is surrounded by an ancient wall and has amazing backdrops of snowcapped mountains.

The weather is very changeable, so wrap up warm when the sun goes in. (rdella from the UK)

### 'A UNESCO site not to be missed'

What an incredible historic site. Sassanids warriors and kings, Zoroastrian fire, and Anahita water goddess worshipers all co-existed here. Even when the Mongols appeared, they did not destroy it but appreciated its deep Crater Lake and volcanoes around.

It is amazing that it is so well preserved after so long... (Miriahm D. from Colorado, the U.S.)

### 'This is amazing'

The site is on a volcanic vent combined with an artesian well. It was covered in silt from various discharges over the centuries until the early last century. The pool of water is very deep and fissures, the source of the water, go even deeper. The high mineral content helps fertilize the surrounding orchards. Intriguingly, the site was important for the Persians and then also the later Ilkhanid Mongol invaders, who modified it. The on-site guide was excellent and brought it all to life (including the 12 fortresses which surround it). This is a compelling visit, especially when you consider the full context. (PeterC489 from London, England)

## Tehran meeting discusses investment capacities of Kermanshah

TEHRAN - Investment capacities and opportunities in the western province of Kermanshah were discussed at a meeting held in Tehran's Milad Tower on Thursday, CHTN reported.

For investors in the tourism sector, Kermanshah offers a great opportunity to develop tourism infrastructure, the provincial tourism chief said during the meeting.

As Kermanshah faces shortages in tourism infrastructure, especially in the field of entertainment such as amusement parks, water parks, and recreation centers, investment is urgently needed, Mohammadreza Soheili added.

A unique opportunity awaits investors who invest in Kermanshah as one of the most important tourism destinations in the west of the country, he explained.

Back in June, the official stated that tourism has the greatest potential impact on the development

of all the capacities available in Kermanshah.

The official added that important steps must be taken to attract investment in the tourism sector.

“An important goal of the provincial tourism directorate should be to attract new and effective investment in the province's tourism sector and encourage major investors from the private sector to do so.”

For the benefit of tourists, it is necessary to give priority to the development of tourism infrastructure and the use of historical monuments and tourist attractions, he said.

Kermanshah has many impressive historical sites such as Taq-e Bostan and Bisotun, to name a few.

Kermanshah was founded in the 4th century CE by Bahram IV of the Sassanid dynasty. After the Arab conquest in 640, the city was named



Qirmasin (Qirmashin). Under the Seljuk rule in the 11th century, it was the most important city of Kordestan. The Safavids (ruled 1501-1736) fortified the city, and the Qajars repelled an attack by the Turks during the reign of Fath Ali Shah (1797-1834). During World War I, the city was occupied by the Turkish army in 1915 and evacuated in 1917. The construction of a road in the 1950s, crossing the old Khorasan route, contributed significantly to the importance of the city.

## Abandoned cistern being revived in northern Iran

TEHRAN - Saqai Ab-Anbar, an abandoned cistern in Behshahr, northern Mazandaran province, is being restored and revived, the provincial tourism chief has said.

A budget of 700 million rials (\$2,400) has been allocated to the project, Mehdi Izadi said on Thursday.

The Safavid-era (1501-1736) structure is planned to become a tourist attraction of the region, he noted.

The cistern has been inscribed on the national heritage list.

The term Ab-Anbar is common throughout Iran as a designation for roofed underground water cisterns. It associates with water management systems in arid areas that are reliant on permanent springs or seasonal rainwater.

Such underground reservoirs or Ab-Anbars are parts of the iconic qanat systems, which rely on snow-fed streams flowing down from surrounding mountains.

Qanats, according to UNESCO, provide exceptional testimony to cultural traditions

and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate.

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.



# Organ donation up by 30% in month

TEHRAN – Organ donation has increased by 30 percent over the past month (June 22-July 22) compared to the same period last year, Saeed Karimi, deputy minister of health, has said.

Over the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year which began on March 21, donating organs has raised by 20 percent compared to the same period last year, he noted, IRNA reported on Thursday.

So, over the past four months, 356 people donated organs, which has increased significantly, he stated, adding, while, last year, the organ donation ratio per million people was 12.8, while at the same time in 1399 (March 2020-2021) and 1400 (March 2021-2022), it was recorded 5.4 and 10.2, respectively.

According to the Iranian Society of Organ Donation, there are two types of death in the medical world; Heart death (common death), which accounts for 99 percent of deaths worldwide, and brain death, which accounts for one percent of deaths.

In Iran, about 5,000 to 8,000 people die each year from brain death, half of whom, or about



3,000, have transplanted organs. Unfortunately, 1,000 families, or one-third, are satisfied with organ donation.

However, there are over 25,000 patients in need of transplants on the waiting lists for various organs, but unfortunately, 7 to 10 of them die every day due to the lack of a transplanted organ, accounting for over 3,000 a year.

Considering that 7,000 transplant recipients are buried annually due to family dissatisfaction and 3,000 needy patients die, on the other hand, it can be considered that if only half of the buried organs could save the lives of all

Organ donation is an altruistic decision that can be made by the family members after brain death. Although many organizations and medical centers have implemented various interventions and training courses to increase satisfaction with organ donation, a lack of organs for donation still is a serious problem in the world.

**Iran tops Asian countries in organ donation**

Mehdi Shadnough, head of the Health Ministry's center for transplantation and disease management, announced in June 2020 that Iran is ranked first for organ donation among Asian countries.

"The country's organ donation rate is 14.34 per one million people," he noted.

In February 2019, Shadnough said that the organ donation rate has increased by 60 times over the past 18 years. Although Iran ranks 26 in organ donation in the world.

Organ donation of brain death has reached up to 60 percent, he said, lamenting that the country ranks 21st regarding organ donation from brain dead patients in the world while ranking 14th regarding organ transplant from alive patients.

According to the figures revealed by the International Registry in Organ Donation and Transplantation (IRODaT), Spain leads the world in organ donation.

**A total of 356 people donated organs over the past four months, a significant rise compared with the same period last year.**

## Floods in 17 provinces leave 32 dead, 25 missing

From page 1 ► and one in Markazi province. Some 11 people, including seven people in Tehran and four in Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, are also missing, and the search for them continues.

On July 23, a devastating flood in the city of Estahban, southern Fars province, left 22 people dead.

Twenty percent of areas across Iran are highly prone to flooding, Khosro Shahbazi, former head of the Forests, Range, and Watershed Management Organization, said in



January 2020.

According to statistics, the average rainfall in the country in the last 50 years has been 270 mm, which has decreased by 230 mm, in other words, over the past 5 decades, the average rainfall has dropped by 40 mm.

According to the World Meteorological Organization's multiannual forecast, in the next five years, Iran's average rainfall will decline by 75 percent, and the temperature rises by 50-75 percent compared to the long-term average.

## 50% of rural houses retrofitted

TEHRAN – Some 50 percent of houses in rural areas of the country have so far been retrofitted, Akbar Nikzad, head of the Housing Foundation of the Islamic Revolution, has said.

According to the plan, 200,000 houses are to be retrofitted annually, and in this regard, by the end of this year (March 2023), we will celebrate the end of the retrofitting of rural housing in the country, Nikzad added.

**A total of 31 trillion rials (nearly 103\$ million) has been approved for eradication of deprivation in villages.**

He also announced the preparation of the first phase of the Andimeshk National Housing Action Plan, including 220 units, by the next 10 months, IRIB reported on Friday.

The Action Plan is being implemented in 2 phases with an area of eight hectares. A total of 500 houses will be built in Khuzestan province.

**\$103m for rural development**

A total of 31 trillion rials (nearly \$103 million) for eradication of deprivation in rural areas was approved by the Majlis (Iranian Parliament) in the budget bill for the current Iranian calendar year (March 2022- March 2023).

The comprehensive development plans aim to develop rural areas in line with cultural, economic, and social conditions, as well as housing provision for the rural residents and improving environmental services.

There are around 40,000 villages in the country with more than 20 households, for all of which comprehensive development plans have been approved every 10 years.

**Development of rural areas**

Currently, 26 percent of the country's population lives in villages, around 39,000 villages have more than 20 households and 23,000 villages have less than 20 households.

Thus, more than 97 percent of the country's rural population lives in villages with over 20,000 households.

In Iran, where villages account for generating 20-23 percent of the value-added in the country, the development of rural areas has been always a top agenda of the government's activities.

Many efforts have been made over the past couple of years by the government to support villagers



and slow down the trend of migration from rural areas to cities.

Rural tourism, agritourism, religious tourism, and ecotourism are alternatives or complementary economic activities that could further stimulate rural development while decreasing rural community dependency on one main economic sector (agriculture, forestry, energy, or mining).

Since 2003, some 37,919 village administration offices have been established nationwide, offering services to about 95 percent of the country's rural population.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### Excessive use of renewable water in southeastern Iran worrisome

Excessive withdrawal of renewable water, equaling 123 percent of the current volume, in the southeastern province of Kerman, has raised great concerns while posing a serious threat to the life of residents and region's biodiversity.

"Currently, there are 5.5 billion cubic meters of renewable water in Kerman province, but 6.8 billion cubic meters equivalent to 123 percent of renewable water resources is being used," IRNA quoted Reza Jazinizadeh, the head of Kerman province's department of environment, as saying on Thursday.

In the [13]40s (falling on 1960s), concurrent with the establishment of the Ministry of Energy, renewable water resources measured at 90 million cubic meters, and some 50 million cubic meters out of this amount was withdrawn, Jazinizadeh explained.

### برداشت ۱۲۳ درصد آبهای تجدیدپذیر در کرمان نگران کننده است

مدیرکل حفاظت محیط زیست استان کرمان گفت: برداشت ۱۲۳ درصد از آبهای تجدیدپذیر در این استان که حیات انسانی و جانوری را با تهدید جدی مواجه کرده، نگران کننده است.

وی تصریح کرد: در حال حاضر در استان کرمان ۵.۵ میلیارد متر مکعب آب تجدیدپذیر داریم که ۶.۸ میلیارد مترمکعب معادل ۱۲۳درصد آبهای تجدید پذیر برداشت و مورد استفاده قرار می گیرد.

رضا جزینی زاده روز پنجشنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: در دهه ۱۳۴۰ با تشکیل وزارت نیرو در کشور میزان برداشت آب از سفره های زیرزمینی مورد بررسی قرار گرفت و مشخص شد که در کشور ۹۰ میلیون مترمکعب آب تجدید پذیر وجود دارد و از این میزان ۵۰ میلیون مترمکعب برداشت می شود.

## Over 2,400 prisoners released in four months

TEHRAN - A total of 2,415 prisoners of unintentional crimes have been released across the country since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21).

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei donated 10 billion rials (about \$33,000) to help free prisoners, IRIB quoted the head of the Blood Money Organization, Asadollah Joulaei, as saying.

President Ebrahim Raisi donated 5 billion rials (about \$16,000), Joulaei said, adding that Parliament Speaker Mohammad-Baqer Qalibaf and Judiciary Chief Gholam-Hossein Mohseni Ejei made also contributions.

The Blood Money Organization was founded in 1990. Since then, it has paved the way for releasing more than 150,000 prisoners of unintentional crimes.

Within the framework of online campaigns, 2,294 male prisoners and 121 female prisoners were released, he noted.

He went on to say that 10,686 prisoners of unintentional crimes are still in jail.

Freeing prisoners of involuntary crimes is



done in three ways. The first way is granting prisoners leave and the second way is providing a number of them with loans to be paid inside the prison.

The third way of assistance is the release of unintentional convicts by paying their debt.

A total of 7,956 prisoners of unintentional crimes have been released over the past [Iranian calendar] year (March 2021-March 2022), according to the head of the Blood Money Organization.

## Scientific challenge: predicting earthquakes or avoiding them?

### Part 3

But what will be the economic and social effect of this prediction in the next year? It is likely that many people will be evacuated, businesses will be closed, and the economy will suffer, so with such a forecast, the economic and social cost to the assumed city will be very high, and may actually be more than the cost of the earthquake itself. This is made worse when we consider that the forecast cannot be 100% reliable - in fact, it is far from that - meaning that it could be a false warning, or it could very well be an overestimate.

And by the way, it is the place where the mistake was predicted. So if the economic and social effects of a very long-term forecast are problematic, what about short-term forecasts? It can be predicted that the same earthquake will occur in the given city in 24 hours. This avoids long-term economic and social effects but allows for a high level of preparedness. Again, buildings can be evacuated, hospitals prepared, schools closed, etc.

This is attractive, but the practical problem again lies in the uncertainty in the prediction. Suppose this prediction is completely correct in time and magnitude but mispredicts the location by 200 km. If the population is moved from the forecast area to the actual epicenter, this can have catastrophic consequences. This work can make the destruction of the earthquake much more serious than when no prediction was made!

Meanwhile, suppose that the location and magnitude of the earthquake are exactly right, but three days later than predicted! There is a high probability that the population will begin to return to the affected area and become more vulnerable than previously anticipated.

In fact, the mechanism of earthquakes

makes them more difficult to predict. Some people think that a tectonic earthquake is like a bomb that explodes at a point underground, and energy waves travel away from that point. But the mechanism of real earthquakes is different.

In fact, an earthquake occurs as a result of the movement of two blocks on the surface of a fault, an underground surface that is usually so deep that it is not accessible - except by seismology - and waves of energy are emitted from every point of that rupture surface.

In fact, an earthquake begins with a rupture event that causes slip and then propagates along the fault plane over a period of time, usually seconds to minutes. In this sense, it has nothing in common with the model understood by non-experts (in the form of an underground bomb).

Note that non-specialists include educated people who have attained high scientific degrees in different specialized fields and have general scientific knowledge, but they do not understand the phenomenon of earthquakes and geological processes of stress concentration in the crust and deformation.

Many of the efforts of this group of researchers also lead to the production of pseudo-scientific content and results, which of course create bigger problems! Many people do not have the possibility to distinguish and separate the specialized areas, and judging this type of activity leads to a dignified confrontation with the provider of this type of prediction and faces a challenge.

In the scientific studies of earthquake prediction, in addition to the studies of seismic waves, other fields also play a role in the prediction of earthquakes through the science of seismology.

To be contd.

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON JULY 29

New cases	7,849
New deaths	54
Total cases	7,376,794
Total deaths	141,891
New hospitalized patients	1,263
Patients in critical condition	1,169
Total recovered patients	7,078,102
Diagnostic tests conducted	53,156,064
Doses of vaccine injected	153,111,234



TEHRAN TIMES



[www.tehrantimes.com](http://www.tehrantimes.com)

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Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430  
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807  
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



Tehrantimes79

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

JULY 30, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

When you get ill do not get nervous about it and try as much as possible to be hopeful.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:13:11    Evening: 20:33    Dawn: 4:31 (tomorrow)    Sunrise: 6:09 (tomorrow)

## What’s in Tehran art galleries

A collection of paintings by Shahu Babai is on display in an exhibition at Mah Gallery.

The exhibit will be running until August 13 at the gallery located at 26 Golestan Blvd., Africa Ave.

An exhibition of paintings by Sima Hayati is currently underway at Atbin Gallery.

Entitled “After the Illusions”, the exhibit will run until August 12 at the gallery that can be found at 42 Khakzad Alley, Vali-e Asr Ave. near the Parkway Intersection.

An exhibition hanging paintings by a group of child laborers is underway at the Zemestan Gallery of the Iranian Artists Forum.

Entitled “The Little Black Fish”, the exhibit runs until August 5 at the gallery located in Abbas Musavi St. off Taleqani Ave.

A group of painters, including Mahbubeh Hedayati, Sahar Najafi, Neda Ghaffarzadeh, Behnaz Amini and Sima Eshqi, are showcasing their latest works in an exhibition at Naqshe Jahan Gallery.

The exhibit will run until August 3 at the gallery located at 9 Ayatollah Mahmudi St. in the Niavaran neighborhood.

Sculptures by Amin Abbasi are currently on view in an exhibition at Aliha Gallery.

The exhibit will run until August 3 at the gallery located at No. 31, Ahmadi-Moqaddam Alley, near Quds Square, Shariati Ave.

Artworks in different media by Leila Zarrabi, Narjes Izadi, Shiva Sepehr and several other artists are on display in an exhibition at Ehsan Gallery.

The exhibit will run until August 2 at the gallery located at No. 22, East 14th St. in the Ajudanieh neighborhood.

Painting  
\* Leila Eskandari and Hanieh Farhadinik are showcasing their latest paintings in an exhibition at Mohsen Gallery.

The exhibit runs until August 6 at the gallery located at 42 East Mina Blvd., Naji St., off Zafar St.

Hoor Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Mehdi Seifi.

The exhibition will be running until August 19 at the gallery located at 12 Naeimi Alley, North Mirza Shirazi St., off Motahhari Ave.

An exhibition of paintings by Sima Hayati is currently underway at Atbin Gallery.

Entitled “After the Illusions”, the exhibit will run until August 12 at the gallery that can be found at 42 Khakzad Alley, Vali-e Asr Ave. near the Parkway Intersection.

Zarna Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Ehteram Tavassoli.

The exhibit will continue until August 3 at 10 Esko Alley near Daneshgah St. and Enqelab Ave.

An exhibition hanging paintings by a group of child laborers is underway at the Zemestan Gallery of the Iranian Artists Forum.

Entitled “The Little Black Fish”, the exhibit runs until August 5 at the gallery located in Abbas Musavi St. off Taleqani Ave.

Paintings by Jamshid Samavatian are on view in an exhibition at Negar Gallery.

The exhibit will be running until August 10 at the gallery located at 33 Delaram Alley, East Roshanai St. in the Qeitarieh neighborhood.

A group of painters, including Mahbubeh Hedayati, Sahar Najafi, Neda Ghaffarzadeh, Behnaz Amini and Sima Eshqi, are showcasing their latest works in an exhibition at Naqshe Jahan Gallery.

The exhibit will run until August 3 at the gallery located at 9 Ayatollah Mahmudi St. in the Niavaran neighborhood.

A collection of paintings by Marzieh Mirjafari is currently being shown in an exhibition at Saless Gallery.

Entitled “There Is Nobody Here”, the exhibit will be running until August 10 at the gallery that can be found at 148 Karim Khan Ave.

Artworks in different media by Leila Zarrabi, Narjes Izadi, Shiva Sepehr and several other artists are on display in an exhibition at Ehsan Gallery.

The exhibit will run until August 2 at the gallery located at No. 22, East 14th St. in the Ajudanieh neighborhood.

# Ashura tragedy to come to life as teahouse painting

TEHRAN – Another image of the Ashura tragedy will be put on canvas in an art project beginning Saturday evening at Tehran’s Resaneh Cultural Center.

Mohammadreza Mohammad-Hosseini, a student of the Iranian teahouse painting master Abbas Bolukifar, plans to recreate the image live in a huge oil painting.

Titled “That My Peace of Soul Is Going”, the art project will be done before the people in the courtyard of the cultural center over ten days, during which Shia Muslims perform mourning rituals in memory of the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions.

The painting will be put on sale in an auction to raise funds for building a school in a deprived city in the country.

Mohammad-Hosseini has previously created over 20 teahouse paintings exclusive to centers for seasonal Islamic rituals such as Tajrish Tekyeh in Tehran. He has also showcased his works in over 10 solo exhibitions in the city.

This is the second edition of the

A poster for the second edition of the art project “That My Peace of Soul Is Going”.

art project “That My Peace of Soul Is Going”, the first of which was carried out at the center in 2020.

Shia Muslims commemorate the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS) and his companions with rituals that begin

every year from the first day of Muharram.

The rituals reach their climax on Ashura, the 10th day of Muharram, the day upon which the Imam and his companions were martyred in Karbala as a result of their valiant stand

against the injustices of the oppressive Umayyad dynasty in 680 CE.

Numerous stories about the battle of Ashura have been illustrated by Iranian teahouse painters over the past two decades.

The teahouse has had various functions in different eras during its 400-year history in Iran. Teahouses used to be places where people gathered to spend their leisure time listening to a naqqal, an Iranian traditional storyteller, narrating stories from Ferdowsi’s Shahnameh. People talked and exchanged views, and along with lutis, wise and generous people, helped poor people.

Teahouse painters emerged in such an atmosphere. They listened to the discussions and tales, using them as subjects for the paintings they drew on the walls, tiles, stones and canvases. Sometimes, teahouse owners commissioned the painters to draw the stories.

With their own unique perspective not used in other styles, teahouse painters drew motifs entirely based on their imagination. The themes of such paintings are epics, traditions and religion.

## Leader offers condolences over death of artist Habibollah Sadeqi

A painting by Habibollah Sadeqi.

TEHRAN – Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei has offered his condolences over the death of Habibollah Sadeqi, an Iranian artist who died of heart failure last Wednesday.

In a message published by Iranian media, Ayatollah Khamenei said, “I would like to extend my heartfelt condolences over the demise of the outstanding revolutionary artist, Mr. Habibollah Sadeqi, to his friends, colleagues and especially to his respected family; may God bless him.”

## Russ Shafer-Landau’s “Living Ethics” published in Persian

TEHRAN – American philosopher Russ Shafer-Landau’s book “Living Ethics: An Introduction with Readings” has been published in Persian.

Published by Soroush-e Molana Institute, the book has been rendered into Persian by Abolqasem Fanai and Iman Abbasinejad.

“Living Ethics: An Introduction with Readings” is an ideal all-in-one resource for courses in introduction to ethics and contemporary moral problems.

In this hybrid textbook/reader, Russ Shafer-Landau brings moral theory and contemporary moral issues to life with a comprehensive and balanced set of readings, uniquely engaging explanations, and a clear analysis of arguments.

In Part 1, the book balances

Front cover of the Persian edition of Russ Shafer-Landau’s book “Living Ethics”

coverage of moral reasoning with highly relevant contemporary moral problems.

Part 2 features a rich collection of pedagogical tools to help students understand and think critically about

the various contemporary moral issues discussed:

“Just the Facts” provides students with relevant factual material, offering the necessary background for the book’s ethical investigations.

“Argument Analysis” reconstructs and critically assesses a battery of arguments on the topics of the chapter.

“Essential Concepts” are key terms that are placed in boldface type on first mention in the text, and are also available in the glossary.

“Stat Shots” includes visual presentations of quantitative data that provide additional context for the chapter’s subject matter.

“Cases for Critical Thinking” presents exercises that are designed to invite deeper reflection on issues

related to the chapter topic

59-year-old Shafer-Landau is a professor of philosophy at the University of Wisconsin, Madison.

He is a leading defender of non-naturalistic moral realism, holding that moral statements are not reducible to natural terms.

He is also the author of the books “Whatever Happened to Good and Evil?” and “The Fundamentals of Ethics”. Besides editing the annual Oxford Studies in Metaethics, he also has co-edited “Reason and Responsibility: Readings in Some Basic Problems of Philosophy”, an anthology covering many aspects of ethics with the late Joel Feinberg and two Blackwell anthologies, “Foundations of Ethics” and “Ethical Theory”.

## The author of the book “This is My Son”: The audience rejects the stereotypes

An interview with Neda Rasouli

Neda Rasouli, who studied laboratory chemistry, was born in 1982. She decided to study math and physics in high school, but she also developed an interest in literature. She wrote her first short story a little later and decided to take story writing more seriously. Her newest book, “This is My Son,” which is about the memory of martyrs Mahdi and Rasul Jafari, was recently published.

**\* Why did you choose this topic? What sort of challenges did you encounter throughout the process?**

I had no idea that I would be writing a documentary about a martyr’s life until Khat Moghaddam Publishing House recommended this project to me. The interviews were the hardest part for me. This book tells the story of

two martyrs, a father and a son, the son being killed before the father.

**\* What were the pleasant moments and good feelings while writing this book?**

Short stories and novels were how I first began to write stories. Writing is generally difficult, breath-taking, and enjoyable. In addition to the difficult process of writing this novel, I enjoyed it when I got to the historical sections because I felt like I was building a universe where some of the events actually did take place in an area of my country.

**\* What rules should be followed when writing about the war and the martyrs?**

It is essential for the author to conduct studies before writing in this field. The martyr’s life events and personality are both covered in this study. To be able to accurately portray

the martyr’s characteristics in a story for the readers, the author must first become familiar with those characteristics. On the other hand, writing about what actually happened will be extremely important in documentary work. Writing stereotypical words, making the martyrs unreachable people, or sanctifying them will not properly present the martyrs to the audience; rather, it may drive some of the audience away and cause them to lose faith.