

# Pelosi Taiwan Visit Reveals U.S. Decline

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## China says U.S. should lift sanctions on Iran

TEHRAN- Fu Cong, director-general of the Department of Arms Control of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, has said that the United States should remove all kinds of illegal sanctions it had imposed on Iran.

Addressing the 10th Review Conference of the Parties to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons (NPT) on Tuesday, the Chinese official underlined the need for all parties to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), to remain committed to reviving the deal.

He said all parties concerned should stay committed to bringing the deal back on track at an early date through diplomatic negotiations, and reject the practices of pressure through sanctions and threat of force, according to Xinhua.

"We need to adhere to the direction of political settlement in addressing the challenges of nuclear-proliferation. All parties concerned should stay committed to bringing the JCPOA back on track at an early date through diplomatic negotiations, and reject the practices of pressuring with sanctions and threat of force. The U.S. should completely lift its relevant illegal sanctions on Iran and long-arm jurisdiction measures on third parties. On that basis, Iran should return to full compliance with its nuclear commitments," Cong said.

China has voiced support for building a consensus in the stalled nuclear talks over the JCPOA. Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesperson Zhao Lijian said on Monday, "The negotiations on resuming compliance with the JCPOA are now at a critical juncture. Parties concerned should stay committed to the direction of dialogue and negotiation and step up diplomatic efforts to strive for consensus on outstanding issues." Page 3

## Merikhi steals the show in World Handball Championship

TEHRAN - Fatemeh Merikhi has been one of the players to watch in the IHF Women's Youth (U18) World Championship. Not only that she scored the largest amount of goals in the competition (28), she was also a provider, earning five assists throughout the first three games in the preliminary round.

"I was thinking about being the top player on the court, but, most importantly, Iran winning as many matches as possible was the objective for myself and for the whole team here, in North Macedonia," Merikhi told ihf.info.

"Personally, my objective was to play good and be the best player on the court in every game, especially against European sides, who are dominating the competition. I really dreamt of this moment, to represent my country, and I will not lie, I really knew in my bones that I can score many goals. I almost predicted it," she said. Page 3

**Dear readers,**  
The next issue of the Tehran Times will be published on Tuesday, August 9.



The role of American intelligence in the Ukraine conflict is under the spotlight after Russia accused the U.S. of providing the military intelligence for long-range missile strikes while Washington announces a fresh multi-million dollar military package for Kyiv.

Russia's defense ministry said Washington

was "directly involved" in the conflict, and had passed on intelligence that had led to the "mass deaths of civilians". The U.S. has been responsible for missile attacks on populated civilian areas in the eastern Donbas and in other regions, it said.

The ministry has accused the Pentagon of

providing the coordinates for the launching of missile strikes by U.S.-made HIMARS systems.

"The supply of weapons is accompanied not only by instructions on its use but in this case they perform the function of gunners in their purest form." Page 5

## TPO inks co-op MOU with major Russian trade organization

TEHRAN - Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with All-Russia Business Association "Delovaya Rossiya" (Business Russia) for cooperation in facilitating trade between the two countries.

The MOU was signed by TPO Head Alireza Pey-

man-Pak and President of Business Russia Alexey Repik in an online ceremony, the TPO portal reported on Wednesday.

Russian Ambassador to Iran Levan Dzhagaryan and Reza Maleki, the representative of Iran's Embassy in Russia, were also present in this virtual ceremony.



## Muharram, a way to discover your true self

TEHRAN — Muslims begin their New Year by mourning for Imam Hussein (AS), the third Imam and the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH). However, this is not just mourning for an Imam's martyrdom.

This is grieving for the loss of justice, liberty, and righteousness, because the arrogance wanted to kill off all these moral values through martyring Imam Hussein. Page 2

## 3,000-year-old earthenware discovered in southern Iran

TEHRAN - Local people in a southern Iranian village have accidentally discovered two pieces of earthenware, estimated to date from the Proto-Elamite period, some 3,000 years ago.

The relics were unearthed when people were digging the ground to install curbs for a sidewalk in the village of Golmakan, Marvdasht county.

"According to cultural heritage experts, the clay objects date from the Old Elam (Banash)," CHTN quoted Marvdasht's tourism chief, Moham-

mad-Taqi Qalenoee, as saying on Wednesday.

"These objects comprise a clay bowl with geometric designs in the form of a triangle on the edge with a height of about 10 cm, and a simple pot, which was probably used to store spices and special liquids," the official explained.

Having a rich history, Marvdasht has been settled for a long time during various eras, including the Elamite, Achaemenid, Sassanid, and Islamic periods... and it embraces important archaeolog-

ical sites such as Persepolis, Naqsh-e Rostam, Naqsh-e Rajab, Tal-e Bakun, Mian Roud, and Ashkeft Gavi to name a few, he said.

According to Iranica, the archeological use of the term Elam is based on a loose unity recognizable in the material cultures of the period 3400-525 BC. Elamite culture can be traced in Susa, which is situated in Khuzestan, in Anshan of Fars, and sites in adjacent areas of the Zagros mountains, particularly in the modern provinces of Lorestan, Kordestan, and Kerman. Page 6

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## Fresh round of nuclear talks to kick off in Vienna

TEHRAN — In light of a new draft proposed by the European Union to save the 2015 Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the EU's Enrique Mora left for Vienna on Wednesday.

"On my way to Vienna to discuss #JCPOA back to full implementation on the basis of the coordinator's text tabled on 20 July. #ViennaTalks. Extremely grateful to Austrian authorities," Mora tweeted on Wednesday.

According to the Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani, Ali Bagheri Kani, Iran's top negotiator also headed to Vienna on Wednesday.

Barak Ravid, a reporter for the Axios website said on Wednesday a new round of talks will be conducted in Vienna on Thursday.

"In the framework of the policy of lifting the coercive sanctions against our country, the negotiating team of the Islamic Republic of Iran headed by Dr. Ali Bagheri, the chief negotiator of the Islamic Republic of Iran, will leave for Vienna in a few hours," Kanaani said.

According to Kanaani, in this round the talks will focus on the ideas presented by the parties, including the initiatives presented by Iran, which were submitted to the other side this week.

Reiterating Tehran's determination to reach a stable agreement that would secure the rights and interests of the Iranian people, the Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed hope that the opposite parties take the necessary decisions and seriously focus on solving the remaining issues. Page 2

## "Mokhtarnameh" director Davud Mirbaqeri writing big screen "Immortal" on Ashura tragedy

TEHRAN - Director and writer Davud Mirbaqeri is writing a screen adaptation of the bestselling novel "The Immortal" on the tragedy of Ashura.

Mirbaqeri is best known for religious TV series such as "Imam Ali (AS)" and "Mokhtarnameh"; the latter was about an uprising organized by Mokhtar Saqafi after the events of Ashura, the 10th of Muharram, to take revenge against the killers of Imam Hussein (AS).

Written by Sadeq Karamyar, "The Immortal" was published in two editions, one in the form of a novel and the other in the form of a screenplay, which was never changed into a film.

Speaking in a press release published on Wednesday, producer Mohsen Ali-Akbari said that Mirbaqeri is writing his own script based on the novel, and Shahriar Bahrani, the director of the acclaimed movies "Saint Mary" and "The Kingdom of Solomon", will make the film.

"Despite his immersion in the TV series 'Salman Farsi' master Mirbaqeri agreed to write the screenplay due to his love of Imam Hussein (AS)," he noted. Page 8







# Pelosi Taiwan visit reveals U.S. decline

TEHRAN – Despite China's rare threats and warnings, Nancy Pelosi, the speaker of the United States House of Representatives, visited Taiwan, a move that laid bare the new global alliances that are taking shape in a world where America is no longer the only superpower.

Pelosi paid a short visit to Taiwan on Wednesday and met with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen and members of Taiwan's parliament. She assured them the continued U.S. support for their independence. "Make no mistake: America remains unwavering in our commitment to the people of Taiwan– now & for decades to come," Pelosi said on Twitter shortly before leaving the self-ruled island.

The visit infuriated Beijing because it contravened the principle of one-China, which establishes that Taiwan is part of China, not an independent country. China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi described the visit as a violation of China's "sovereignty under the guise of so-called 'democracy,'" according to Al Jazeera.

He pledged a strong response against Taiwan and the U.S.

"Taiwan's Tsai Ing-wen and her ilk are clinging to the US and turning their backs on national justice. These behaviors that go against the trend of times will not change the international



consensus of one-China and will not change the historic trend that Taiwan will inevitably return to the motherland," he said.

"Those who play with fire will not come to a good end, and those who offend China will be punished."

The Taiwan drama also revealed the new alignments taking shape in what some scientists call the transition period in the world order. Iran, Russia, and China denounced the U.S. provocative move in unison. Russia dismissed Pelosi's visit as "provocative" and Iran denounced it as interference in China's internal affairs.

Dmitry Peskov, spokesman for the Kremlin, said Pelosi's trip to Taiwan was a flagrant provocative move, adding that foreign policy goals can't be achieved this way.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said

Iran supports the one-China principle and that Pelosi's visit was a violation of China's territorial integrity.

China appreciated Iran's support and made remarks in support of Iran regarding the 2015 nuclear deal, formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Fu Cong, director-general of the Department of Arms Control of the Chinese Foreign Ministry, has said that the United States should remove all kinds of illegal sanctions it had imposed on Iran.

"The U.S. should completely lift its relevant illegal sanctions on Iran and long-arm jurisdiction measures on third parties. On that basis, Iran should return to full compliance with its nuclear commitments," Cong said.

Similarly, Chinese Foreign

Ministry Spokesperson Zhao Lijian said on Monday, "The US, as the one who started the Iranian nuclear crisis, should fully rectify its erroneous policy of 'maximum pressure' and respond positively to Iran's legitimate and reasonable demands, which will help to enable the negotiations to produce results at an early date."

Russia has voiced similar support. And it seems that Iran, Russia, and China are now on the same page when it comes to global issues.

Pelosi's Taiwan visit showed the emerging alliance between the three countries is expanding. Through its policies and measures against these three countries, the U.S. has given rise to a new bloc of power.

Reza Zabib, an assistant to Iran's foreign minister, said Pelosi's visit was a turning point in U.S.-China relations which will affect international relations.

"Pelosi's visit to Taiwan is a turning point in relations between China and the U.S. regime and with the waves it creates, it will impact international relations. Until the Second Cold War is established, international relations will go through great shocks. Exploiting the upcoming opportunities requires a great deal of agility and smartness," Zabib said on Twitter.

## Israel infiltration into the region endangers peace: ambassador

TEHRAN – Tehran's ambassador to Kuwait, Mohammad Irani, has said that Iran does not interfere in the internal affairs of the regional countries and adheres to the policy of cooperation and soothing tensions.

Irani said what destabilizes the security of the region is the interference of foreign countries and the penetration of Israel into the region which will endanger the security and stability in the region.

In remarks to Kuwaiti newspaper Al Rai,

the Iranian diplomat pointed to the growing contacts between the Raisi administration and the Kuwait government.

The ambassador added that Iran considers it necessary to exchange opinions and consult with its regional friends on important regional and international issues, especially since bilateral relations also enjoy an important place in these contacts.

Commenting on Western accusations that Iran

interferes in the region, the ambassador said, "These statements are not new, and fortunately, the officials and the peoples of the region are well aware that the goal of these statements is to sow division, difference and intimidation from Iran."

He added that Iran does not interfere in the region and it promotes cooperation. "What destabilizes the security of the region is the interference of foreign countries and the penetration of the Zionist entity into our region, which threatens peace and stability."

## Feeding gas to centrifuges a response to U.S. sanctions: nuclear chief

TEHRAN- The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), Mohammad Eslami, said on Wednesday that Iran's move to inject gas into a new batch of advanced centrifuges was a response to recent U.S. sanctions against Iran.

Speaking to reporters on the sidelines of a cabinet session, Eslami said the move came within the framework of a nuclear law known as the strategic action law and a response to the recent oil sanctions imposed by the U.S.

"Americans regularly admit the failure of the policy of maximum pressure and have no hope for this policy. However, we are witnessing the dual and multiple behaviors of America and the false accusation that they attribute to the country for 20 years," he said, according to IRNA.

Eslami said that the West used allegations made by Israel and anti-revolutionary forces to exert



pressure on Iran.

"In different circumstances, Iran has reduced its rights and accepted restrictions and intensified monitoring so that these accusations and claims are dropped, no excuses are invented and sanctions are canceled and they allow the conditions to continue with the agreed pattern. But unfortunately, they did not fulfill these commitments and every day they bring new excuses and repeat the accusations in an intensified form," the nuclear chief remarked.

"In line with the implementation of the strategic law to lift the sanctions, and in response to the sanctions, we are now injecting gas into the advanced centrifuges

in order to show the Americans that Iran's will is a strong will to lift the sanctions and we will spare no action to secure the interests of the Iranian nation," he stated.

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian also said on Tuesday that Iran injected hexafluoride gas into hundreds of new generation centrifuges on Monday night in response to the new U.S. coercive actions against the Islamic Republic.

Speaking on the sidelines of an Islamic human rights and human dignity ceremony, Amir Abdollahian also said in the past weeks, while Iran was preparing for a new round of negotiations, the American side suddenly proposed a censure resolution against Iran at the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors with the aim of gaining concessions from Iran at the negotiating table.

"We were surprised that

while during those days we were constantly receiving messages from Joe Biden through intermediaries that the U.S. has good intentions and is serious about returning to the (nuclear) agreement," they crafted the resolution, the minister lamented.

However, he added, "We gave our decisive answer to the American side."

The foreign minister also said that Iran was ready for making a deal. "I want to reiterate once again that we are serious about reaching a good, strong, and lasting deal. If the American side behaves realistically and shows the necessary flexibility in the possible negotiations, reaching a deal will not be out of reach," he said, according to Fars News.

And Iran's chief negotiator, Ali Bagheri Kani, has said Iran is ready to conclude the talks in a short period of time if the U.S. is ready to reciprocate.

## China says U.S. should lift sanctions on Iran

From Page 1 ► He added, "The U.S., as the one who started the Iranian nuclear crisis, should fully rectify its erroneous policy of 'maximum pressure' and respond positively to Iran's legitimate and reasonable demands, which will help to enable the negotiations to produce results at an early date."

The nuclear talks have come to a halt after disagreement over who should make a political decision to conclude them. Iran says the U.S. has refrained from making such a decision. The U.S. has recently imposed new sanctions against Iran allegedly targeting foreign firms facilitating Iranian oil sales.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian announced on Monday that Iran was ready for making a deal. "I want to reiterate once again that we are serious about reaching a good, strong, and lasting deal. If the American side behaves realistically and shows the necessary flexibility in the possible negotiations, reaching a deal will not be out of reach," he said, according to Fars News.

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Kani, has said Iran is ready to conclude the talks in a short period of time if the U.S. is ready to reciprocate.

Amir Abdollahian said the U.S. can't get concessions at the negotiating table by imposing sanctions.

"The Americans should not think that they can get concessions at the negotiating table with these measures. They should abandon their excessive demands and if they continue to pursue such demands, we will never sit idly by," he said.

Amir Abdollahian said Iran responded to the new sanctions by injecting uranium gas into hundreds of advanced centrifuges. "We are witnessing the madness of imposing sanctions, which of course is just a show and has no tangible impact on the ground. In response to this American action, we inject gas into hundreds of new generation centrifuges," he said.

Iran started injecting hexafluoride gas into 500 new advanced IR-6 centrifuges on Monday.

Behrouz Kamalvandi, the spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), said this is in line with the plan to make 190,000 SWUs (separative work units) operational in the nuclear industry.

Talking to the national TV late on Monday, Kamalvandi said the order to install new centrifuges was issued on Monday.

The nuclear spokesman said Iran has informed the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) of its decision.

## Merikhi steals the show in World Handball Championship

From Page 1 ► Her summer has been nothing short of amazing, as this is the second major tournament she takes part in over the last month. The left back was also selected for the 2022 IHF Women's Junior World Championship, where she was Iran's top scorer with 38 goals, finishing in 19th place overall in the top scorer standings.

"The Junior World Championship was a very good experience for me and even though we didn't get a good result, it really helped us. For myself, it really helped me develop, learn some very important things against good opponents, so I am very happy that I could be part of the team," adds the 17-year-old Iran player.

"I totally fell in love with handball after I saw some games from the national team. I started in the second league in Iran and later, I was able to go to higher category competitions. Being selected for the national team really made everything worth it.

## Shiri wins gold at World Junior Taekwondo Championship

TEHRAN – Sogand Shiri of Iran claimed a gold medal at the 2022 World Junior Taekwondo Championship Tuesday night.

Shiri defeated Turkey's Hayrunnisa Gurbuz in the final match of the women's -42kg. The first round ended 7-7 but Shiri was awarded the round due to the manner of the points she landed.

In the second round, the score tied at 11-11 with just 45 seconds remaining. However, Shiri proved too strong and won the round and the match.

Iran's Parnia Salmani also claimed a silver medal in the women's -44kg. She lost to Natkamon Wassana from Thailand in the final match.

More than 1,250 athletes from 90 countries plus a refugee team will compete in Sofia, Bulgaria during the World Championships.

## Hubert Jerzy Wagner's fixture announced

TEHRAN – Iran national volleyball team's fixture in the Memorial of Hubert Jerzy Wagner has been released.

2022 Volleyball Nations League bronze medalist Poland, 2021 Asian champions Iran, 2022 Olympic bronze medal winner Argentina and Serbia will participate in the tournament scheduled for August 18 to 20.

Iran will take on Poland on Aug. 18 while Argentina face Serbia.

Behrouz Ataei's men will play Serbia on Aug. 19 and hosts Poland meet Argentina.

In the third and final day, Iran will play Argentina and Poland face Serbia.

The Memorial of Hubert Jerzy Wagner is a friendly tournament for the national teams, currently held every year and organized by the Hubert Wagner Foundation.

The first Memorial was held in 2003. The competition has been held every year since, except 2020 due to COVID-19 pandemic.

## Mohammad Mohebi close to joining Esteghlal

TEHRAN – Santa Clara winger Mohammad Mohebi is close to joining Iranian outfit Esteghlal.

The Portuguese media have reported that the two clubs have reached an agreement on the transfer.

The 24-year-old player joined Santa Clara from Sepahan last year.

He had previously been linked with a move to another Iranian football club Persepolis.

## Iran's first delegation head to Turkey for Islamic Solidarity Games

TEHRAN – Iran's first delegation departed Tehran Wednesday morning for Konya to participate at the 2022 Islamic Solidarity Games.

Cycling, men's and women's handball, men's volleyball, men's women's taekwondo, athletic, men's and women's table tennis and Para swimming teams traveled to Turkey.

The second delegation will travel to Kunya on Sunday.

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

It will be the first time in history that the event will be organized by the Turkish Olympic Committee.

## Sepahan to participate in Iraqi football tournament

TEHRAN – Iran's Sepahan will take part in a four-team football tournament in Iraq.

Al-Ahed of Lebanon and Iraqi teams Al-Najaf and Karbalaa will also compete in the event.

The tournament will be held in the southern Iraqi city of Najaf.

Sepahan, headed by Portuguese coach Jose Morais, will participate in the tournament as part of preparation for the 2022-23 Iran Professional League (IPL).

The Isfahan-based team is scheduled to take on Esteghlal in Matchweek 1 of the IPL.

## Jürgen Locadia linked with Persepolis: report

TEHRAN – VfL Bochum forward Jürgen Leonardo Locadia has been linked with a move to Iranian club Persepolis.

The local media reports suggest that the 28-year-old striker has reached an agreement with Persepolis to join the team.

Locadia started his playing career in PSV in 2011 and joined English side Brighton & Hove Albion after seven years.

The Dutch footballer has played in all Netherlands age groups.

## Khakpour: self-belief can take Iran through at Qatar 2022

TEHRAN – Former Iran national football team defender Mohammad Khakpour says that Team Melli has a chance to book a place in the 2022 FIFA World Cup second round with self-belief.

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

"It was a great opportunity for us and at the same time it was very surprising because we had never seen some of the stuff that we did in 1998," Khakpour tells the AFC.com about his nation's qualification for the FIFA World Cup.

"My advice to the team is they shouldn't think about the past, because this United States is not the United States we played in 1998. They are much better, with more experience," he said.

"I believe these kids have to go to the World Cup and be themselves. It's going to be difficult for them but they have experience and they know most of those players, they've probably played against them in the countries they're playing in right now. We just have to see what's going to happen.

"If you take England away, the other three teams have the same potential to go through to the second round. If the management can handle them better than others then they can go to the second round," Khakpour said.



## TPO inks co-op MOU with major Russian trade organization

From page 1 ► Underlining the positive relationship between Iranian businesses and Business Russia, he added: "The signing of the cooperation MOU between Trade Promotion Organization and Business Russia will help regulate and develop the collaborations between the two sides."

Repik in his address stated that the signing of this memorandum can play an effective role in the development of trade relations between the two countries.

"Today's meeting shows the confidence and determination of the two countries to increase business cooperation. In fact, the most important part and a key element in this memorandum is the creation of a business platform that we hope will help the development of cooperation between Iranian and Russian companies," the official said.

Further in the meeting, Dzhagaryan pointed to the favorable economic cooperation between the two countries and announced that the signing of this memorandum will greatly help to increase the interactions and cooperation between the two countries' small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs).

Maleki, for his part, stated that there are very good relations between the leaders of Iran and Russia, and said: "In the last year, the visit of the president of Iran and also the head of Trade Promotion Organization to Russia have created great momentum among the



TPO Head Alireza Peyman-Pak

private sectors of the two countries."

He noted that during the visit of Russian President Vladimir Putin to Iran and the meeting with the Leader of the Islamic Republic Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, detailed and constructive negotiations were held in order to expand the relations between the two countries.

"In recent months, many high-ranking officials from Iran have visited Russia and the favorable negotiations of the representatives of the two countries will certainly lay the foundation for the expansion of relations and cooperation in the future," Maleki added.

All-Russia Business Association "Delovaya Rossiya" (Business Russia) is an independent non-profit organization representing interests of Russian SMEs, doing business mainly in non-commodity sectors of the Russian economy.

## Iran exports commodities worth over \$2b to Turkey in 4 months

TEHRAN- Iran exported non-oil products valued at \$2.06 billion to Turkey in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), according to the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA).

Based on the IRICA data, Turkey was Iran's fourth main export destination in the four-month period.

Iran has also imported goods worth with \$1.787 billion from Turkey in the first four months of this year.

Turkey was Iran's second source of imports in the mentioned time span.

Increasing non-oil exports to the neighboring countries is one of the major plans that the Iranian government has been pursuing in recent years.

Turkey was Iran's second trade partner in the first quarter of the present year.

During a webinar, held in March, on trade relations between Iran and Turkey, which was held through cooperation between Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) and Istanbul Chamber of Commerce (ICOC), and attended by officials from both chambers and a group of entrepreneurs, ways to develop economic relations between the two countries and some problems in this due were examined.

In this virtual conference, which was attended by more than 250 entrepreneurs from Iran and Turkey, the opportunities for cooperation between the two countries were examined and the two sides emphasized the development of cooperation.

## Processing capacity of Iran's petro-refineries to reach 3m bpd by 2026

TEHRAN - Iran's Expediency Discernment Council has obliged Oil Ministry to take the necessary measures for increasing the capacity of the country's petro-refineries to at least three million barrels per day (bpd) in the Seventh Five-Year National Development Plan (2021-2026).

The decision was made in an extraordinary meeting of the council on Tuesday which was held under the chairmanship of Sadeqh Amoli-Larijani and with the presence of the secretary and the majority of the members of the council, Shana reported.

In this meeting, the assembly continued to discuss and review the general policies of the Seventh Five-Year National Development Plan.

The assembly was also attended by Oil

Minister Javad Oji and his deputies, the head and deputy head of the Planning and Budget Organization (PBO), the head of the Parliament's Economic Committee, the head of the Research Center of the Parliament, and the head of Department of Environment.

The decision came as the attendees of the gathering emphasized that the sales of crude oil and gas should be reduced and the crude oil and gas should be refined to produce products with more added value.

Iran has been following new strategies to build more petro-refineries across the country and even to turn the country's existing refineries into petro-refineries, since due to the country's benefit from oil and gas resources, the development of petro-refineries is much easier and relatively cheaper in Iran than other

countries in the world, and the country can play a role in regulating the price of petrochemical products in the world due to its proximity to energy sources and its capacity for the development of petro-refineries.

Earlier this week, major Iranian banks signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) with domestic companies to provide \$17.8 billion for the construction of a large-scale refinery and a petro-refinery in southern Iran.

The MOUs for the funding of Morvarid Makran Refinery and Shahid Ghasem Soleimani Petro-refinery, each with a total processing capacity of 300,000 barrels per day (bpd), were signed by the representatives of the mentioned entities on Monday, in a ceremony attended by Oji and President Ebrahim Raisi.

to increase again, IRNA reported.

In late June, Energy Ministry announced that daily electricity consumption in the country was expected to exceed 68,000 MW in the coming month.

Over the past decade, constant temperature rising and the significant decrease in rainfalls across Iran have put the country in a hard situation regarding electricity supply during peak consumption periods.

In the past two years, however, new

deteriorating factors like severe drought and the decline in the country's water resources as well as a new wave of illegal cryptocurrency mining across the country have also worsened the situation.

Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (Known as Tavanir) has previously announced that the company is implementing a variety of programs for managing the situation and preventing blackouts in the country.

## TEDPIX rises 7,300 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 7,338 points on Wednesday.

As reported, TEPIX closed at 1,437 million points, as

over 5,772 billion securities worth 36,061 trillion rials (about \$129.7 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 5,497 points, and the

second market's index gained 14,403 points.

TSE is on the four Iranian stock exchanges, the other three ones are

Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

# Knowledge-based firms fully supported in developing gas storage facilities

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- The current Iranian calendar year 1401 (began on March 21) is titled "Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating Production".

In line with materializing the motto of the year, Oil Ministry and all of its subsidiaries have announced strong determination and prepared plans to this end.

National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC), as one of the four major subsidiaries of Oil Ministry, plays an important part in materialization this slogan.

As Majid Chegeni, the managing director of the company, has said, the activity of the gas industry is directly related to the issues of production and employment; because almost all industries in the country are dependent on gas energy, so the role of the NIGC personnel is highlighted in this due.

Emphasizing that supporting the knowledge-based companies is a main policy of the NIGC, the official has recently said, "We must use the knowledge-based and efficient capacities of the country's science and technology sector for domestic development and progress. The fact is that our country does not need anything from outside and we can provide many of our needs internally".

NIGC is one of the executive organizations that has taken good actions in the field of creating added value and using new technologies, and this important thing will continue with the cooperation of knowledge-based companies, he reiterated.

One important area of the NIGC's



activities is related to development of the country's underground gas storages (UGS).

Iran currently has two major natural gas storage facilities in Sarajeh and Shourijeh, in which every year the National Iranian Gas Company stores the gas received from gas refineries all over the country to be used in the colder months of the year.

As announced in late June by the managing director of Iran Gas Engineering and Development Company (IGEDC), 14 gas storage facility development projects are currently underway across the country.

Reza Noshadi also informed that about 25 percent of the gas needed inside the country will be supplied from the underground gas storage (UGS) facilities by the next five years.

According to the official, in addition to the geographical distribution of the mentioned projects all around the country, they also have unique features in terms of the required technology and

complexity of operations.

Storage in a salt dome and water reservoir are two of the mentioned projects which are being conducted for the first time in the country, he added.

"The development of such fields significantly improves the skills of Iranian engineers and leads to the integration of knowledge and technology in the country, so we need to attract experts and experienced engineers to manage and implement these strategic projects," Noshadi stated.

Following the development of the South Pars gas field and the increase in the country's gas production capacity, the construction and development of the country's natural gas storage facilities have become a top priority.

In this regard, Oil Ministry has been following a comprehensive plan to increase the country's natural gas storage capacity to 6.5 billion cubic meters (bcm) by the Iranian calendar year 1402 (starts in March 2023). The country's current gas storage capacity

stands at 3.25 bcm.

To materialize the goal of increasing the country's natural gas storage capacity and also the motto of this year, the NIGC has put benefiting from the capabilities of the knowledge-based companies in this field on agenda.

As stated on Tuesday by the operator of the project to store gas in Shourijeh UGS (in the northeastern Khorasan Razavi province), Iran Gas Engineering and Development Company, in continuing to support knowledge-based companies, considers trust in domestic manufacturers to be the essential element in the domestic production of strategic equipment, and by planning and implementing targeted programs, it is determined to domestically produce the equipment needed in the Shourijeh project.

Referring to the all-round support of the IGEDC to the country's knowledge-based companies and technological capacities, Saeed Rajabzadeh said: "Three Ukrainian turbocompressors were used in the first phase of Shourijeh UGS, but in the development phase, we intend to manufacture the three required machines and these turbocompressors inside the country by relying on domestic technical-industrial capacities."

Stating that advanced compressors are used in this project, which have not been produced in such a volume in the country, he clarified that if the plans are realized and the manufacturing is successful, the country will not need to import these sensitive and advanced equipment in future projects.

## Iran calls for establishing technical-engineering consortiums with CIS members

TEHRAN - Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qasemi met with Director of the Intergovernmental Council of the Roads Management of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) Bouri Karimov in Tehran on Tuesday to discuss the expansion of transportation ties among CIS members.

In the meeting, Karimov invited Iranian companies to participate in transportation projects of CIS member countries and Qasemi called for establishing consortiums comprised of the CIS states' technical-engineering companies to collaborate in such projects, IRNA reported.

The exchange of capacities and capabilities of the CIS members in the field of transportation and

transit were also emphasized in the talks.

Karimov arrived in Tehran on Monday, aiming to hold talks with senior Iranian officials to explore ways of expanding ties between CIS countries and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Upon arrival, he met with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mahdi Safari and reviewed transportation and transit ties between Iran and the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Safari and Karimov discussed different dimensions of multi-faceted economic and transportation cooperation.

During this meeting, Karimov pointed to the potential of the CIS Intergovernmental Council of the Roads Management and underlined the need

for the exchange of experiences among member companies and their Iranian counterparts.

Commonwealth of Independent States, also known as the CIS, was formed in 1991 after the collapse of the Soviet Union and is comprised of Armenia, the Azerbaijan Republic, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

The development of economic relations with the CIS member countries has been one of Iran's major priorities in recent years, and cooperation in the field of transportation and transit with these countries, especially after the recent geopolitical developments, has become more important for both sides.

### IN HIS EXALTED NAME

### Second Announcement

Jajarm Power & Steam Co-generation Project, on EPC (Full Turnkey) Basis

(Located in Northern Khorasan)

### INVITATION TO PREQUALIFICATION

In respect to the implementation of Memorandum No. 172246/60 dated 11/10/2021 between the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade and Ministry of Energy and in order to provide stable electricity for Jajarm alumina and aluminum factories, Iran Alumina Company intends to award construction of the 1st phase of Jajarm Power & Steam Co-generation Plant (the "Project"), including all ancillary and auxiliary equipment, common systems, with 90 MW (±5%) electrical capacity (at Site Conditions) and 72 Ton/hr. steam capacity (at worst conditions), at a site in Jajarm Alumina complex, next to Jajarm city, to a qualified and competent contractor through an international bid .

In this respect, Iran Alumina Company (the "Company") will prepare a short list of bidders possessing the necessary qualifications via this invitation to prequalification after the required process and evaluation. The Company will then select an eligible contractor (successful bidder) possessing the required financial and technical capabilities and will award the engineering, procurement and construction of the Project to the aforementioned contractor (the "Contractor") based on a full turnkey contract .

Lia Niroo Asia (LNA) is Project's consultant.

Applicants are hereby invited to obtain prequalification documents, up to seven (7) calendar days after the second posting of this invitation notice, in one of the following ways:

- A representative of the applicant, carrying a valid proxy letter, may refer in person to: No. 100, After the Intersection of Mofateh, Somayyeh St., Tehran, Islamic Republic of Iran Postal code: 1581875711 Tel:021-86073066, Fax: 021-86073092
- Applicants may refer to the following website: <http://iets.mporg.ir>

It is mandatory for applicants to have a valid certificate of qualification type 1 of industrial design and construction from the Plan and Budget Organization, and they must have implemented at least two similar or higher capacity power plant projects on EPC basis.

Deadline for submitting the completed prequalification documents is twenty (20) calendar days after the deadline of obtaining the Prequalification Questionnaire as indicated in second posting of this invitation notice.

Public Relations of Iran Alumina Company



Iran Alumina



# Ayman al-Zawahri: Surgeon-turned militant

Ayman al-Zawahri, the Egyptian-born surgeon-turned-jihadist who assumed the leadership of Al Qaeda after the killing of Osama bin Laden and who died at 71 in a drone strike in Kabul, Afghanistan, over the weekend, according to U.S. officials, led a life of secrecy, betrayal, conspiracy and violence, most murderously in the Sept. 11 attacks against the United States in 2001.

While Bin Laden, who was killed by an American raid in 2011, was widely seen as the terrorist mastermind of those attacks, many counterterrorism experts considered Zawahri more responsible, New York Times reported.

With his white turban and gray beard, Zawahri had little of Bin Laden's charisma and none of his access to fabled family wealth. But he was widely depicted as the intellectual spine of Al Qaeda — its chief operating officer, its public relations executive and a profound influence who helped the Saudi-born Bin Laden grow from a charismatic preacher into a deadly terrorist with global reach.

In an interview in May 2011 with the Investigative Project on Terrorism, a research group, Tawfik Hamid, a former militant who now studies the subject, said that of the two men, Zawahri was a more influential leader. “When you listen to him, you can tell clearly that he has the ambition and is dedicated 100 percent to achieve this mission,” Hamid said.

During Zawahri's leadership of Al Qaeda, the organization's global influence waned as the IS rose. But the group remained a threat, with affiliates in several countries carrying out attacks. And Zawahri, to whom they all swore allegiance, was still one of the world's most-wanted terrorists at his death.

From his teenage years in an affluent suburb of Cairo, Zawahri led a cat-and-mouse life, serving prison terms in Egypt and Russia and hunted by adversaries, including U.S. counterterrorism authorities, who placed a \$25 million bounty on his head.

Yet he seemed always to stay one step ahead, hiding out in the craggy redoubts of Afghanistan and Pakistan's tribal areas.

Over time, his aims and ideology evolved from a visceral hatred of secular rule in Egypt, where he was among those tried for conspiracy in the 1981 assassination of President Anwar Sadat, to a virulent campaign to strike at the so-called “far enemy,” the United States, Al Qaeda's target of preference.

The group's tactical strength lay in its ability to launch spectacular assaults, starting with the simultaneous attacks on the American embassies in Tanzania and Kenya in 1998 and the suicide bombing of the American destroyer Cole in Yemen in 2000, and culminating in the attacks on New York and Washington in 2001 that led to the American invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq.

In the following decade, American counterterrorism authorities pursued Bin Laden and Zawahri, his deputy and chosen successor. Drone strikes decimated Al Qaeda's leadership in a sustained effort to degrade the organization and avenge the Sept. 11 attacks. On at least one occasion, Zawahri was said to have died, only to resurface in the sporadic video and audiotapes that spread his message.

In May 2011, a Navy SEAL team killed Bin Laden in a raid on his compound in Abbottabad, Pakistan. For a more than a month, Al Qaeda was silent on its future leadership.

Then Zawahri put out a 28-minute video of himself. With a rifle in the background and making a chopping motion with his hand, he promised that Bin Laden would continue to “terrify” America after his death.

“Blood for blood,” he said.

### Arising competitor

By that time, a newer generation of jihadists had grown, first in the chaos of Iraq after the American invasion, and then spreading to Syria after civil war broke out there in 2011.

In the ensuing mayhem, the IS rose to prominence as a new beacon of jihadist zeal, attracting tens of thousands of followers with its media-savvy, internet-age messages, its slick videos of beheadings and its capture of huge swaths of territory in which it declared a new caliphate for the world's Muslims.

Shorn of its iconic leader, Al Qaeda, by contrast, had been forced to abandon its centralized command structure while its affiliates, particularly in Yemen and Syria, pledged allegiance to Zawahri in a sharpening and bloody feud with the IS, which, paradoxically, had begun as an offshoot of Al Qaeda in Iraq.

Both groups were rooted in Sunni Muslim extremism. But the distinctions between them were legion. While the IS sought hegemony among jihadist groups and thirsted for territorial expansion, Al Qaeda's affiliates showed increasing readiness to cooperate with other groups and little appetite for occupation.

Zawahri castigated the IS and its leaders for their practice of killing Shiite Muslim civilians, fearing that such killings would tant the jihadist cause among Muslims. And while IS disciples reinforced the group's reputation for brutality through videos of the decapitations of Western hostages and other acts of savagery, Zawahri opposed such displays, apparently to avoid alienating potential supporters.

Sajjan M. Gohel, a specialist in international terrorism based in London, wrote that Zawahri was happy to let the IS face attacks by U.S.-backed coalition forces in Iraq and Syria, giving Al Qaeda the space to “reconstitute its infrastructure and networks across



the Islamic world” and revive its long-term goal of striking targets in the West.

In 2015, Zawahri played what he calculated would be a winning card in his group's revival, introducing to followers Hamza bin Laden, a son of the Al Qaeda founder, and describing him in an audio recording as a “lion from Al Qaeda's den.” In the broadcast, Hamza bin Laden exhorted jihadists to carry out “the highest number of attacks” on Western cities. A year later, in a message aimed at America titled “We are all Osama,” Hamza bin Laden issued a personal appeal to avenge his father.

“Yours will be a harsh reckoning,” he said. “We are a nation that does not rest over injustice.”

According to Gohel, Hamza bin Laden had at least two wives, including a daughter of Zawahri's who bore two children, linking the two families in a “strategic marriage alliance.”

Hamza bin Laden was killed in a counterterrorism operation in Afghanistan sometime in 2017 or 2018, American officials said.

Zawahri's deputies were also picked off. Abu al-Khayr al-Masri was killed by a U.S. drone strike in Syria in 2017.

In 2021, nearly 20 years after the United States invaded Afghanistan to drive Al Qaeda out, the Taliban retook control of the country and gave its ally, Al Qaeda, safe haven. Zawahri duly returned.

### A prominent family

Ayman Muhammad Rabie Zawahri, one of five children, was born on June 19, 1951, in Maadi, a Cairo suburb. His father was a pharmacology professor whose uncle had been grand imam of Al Azhar, a 1,000-year-old university that is a center of Islamic learning.

His mother's father was president of Cairo University, founder and director of King Saud University in Riyadh and an ambassador to Saudi Arabia and other countries. Another of her relatives was the first secretary general of the Arab League.

Despite its prominence, the family displayed little evident prosperity and never owned a car until Ayman was grown. Lawrence Wright, in his book “The Looming Tower: Al Qaeda and the Road to 9/11” (2006), said that the Zawahris' reclusive, conservative, even backward ways caused them to be perceived as “hicks.”

Zawahri was a brilliant student when he was not daydreaming and opposed contact sports as inhumane. He began reading Islamist literature at an early age. One enormous influence was Sayyid Qutb, an Islamic thinker who saw the world diametrically divided between believers and infidels. (He included moderate Muslims among the infidels.) Qutb was imprisoned and tortured in Egypt and hanged there in 1966.

“In Zawahri's eyes, Sayyid Qutb's words struck young Muslims more deeply than those of his contemporaries because his words eventually led to his execution,” Montasser al-Zayyat, an Islamic radical and lawyer, wrote in “The Road to Al Qaeda: The Story of Bin Laden's Right-Hand Man” (2004).

Another influence was the humiliating defeat the Arab countries suffered at the hands of Israel in 1967. It turned many young people away from the Pan-Arab socialism pursued by President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt and toward anti-Western forms of Islam.

In 1966, Zawahri helped form an underground militant cell dedicated to replacing Egypt's secular government with an Islamic one. He was 15.

At first there were five members. By 1974 there were 40. Zawahri kept his involvement secret from even his family while he attended medical school at Cairo University. He graduated in 1974, served three years in the army and earned a master's degree in surgery in 1978.

Through his and her families, Zawahri met Azza Nowair, who, Wright wrote, came from a well-off background. He suggested that in another time she might have been a professional or a socialite. But she had become deeply religious, wore a veil and spent whole nights reading the Quran.

When they were married in 1979, Zawahri had seen her face exactly once. At the ceremony, there were men's and women's sections. At the bride's request, there was no music or photography.

In October 2001, soon after the attacks on America, Azza Zawahri and at least one of their children were killed by bombardments in Afghanistan. Wounded, she had refused to be pulled from the rubble, news accounts of the bombardment said, for fear that rescuers would see her face — an offense against Islamic modesty. Published reports have said that they had four daughters and a son.

Zawahri was working in a clinic in Egypt in 1980 when he seized an opportunity to go to Peshawar, Pakistan, for the Red Crescent, the Muslim correlate of the Red Cross, to treat refugees fleeing Afghanistan after the Soviet invasion. He visited Afghanistan and recognized it as a good place to launch a jihad, returning many times.

When he was arrested in 1981 for conspiring to murder Sadat, he was slapped by the chief of police. Zawahri slapped him back.

At his trial, along with hundreds of others, he was convicted only of gun possession. But as the trial proceeded for nearly three years, he was repeatedly tortured in prison. Under interrogation, he revealed the name, activities and whereabouts of one of his collaborators, a soldier, which led to the man's arrest.

In an interview with The New Yorker in 2002, Zayyat, the lawyer for many Islamist activists, suggested that the guilt Zawahri felt over this betrayal was a major reason for his leaving Egypt after he was released in 1984.

His journey took him to Saudi Arabia and then, in 1986, back to Peshawar, where Bin Laden sometimes lectured at the hospital where Zawahri worked. Zawahri became Bin Laden's personal physician, set up a security force around him and helped the Saudi begin thinking about specific ways to hurt the Western powers and the Middle Eastern governments they supported.

“When Ayman met Bin Laden, he created a revolution inside of him,” Zayyat told The New Yorker. The deal was straightforward: Zawahri would supply the political acumen and an educated leadership cadre to turn Bin Laden's loose coalition, and his own unformed impulses, into an instrument of mass murder. Bin Laden provided money and prestige.

Zayyat, who once shared an Egyptian prison cell with Zawahri, wrote that he was convinced that Zawahri was more responsible than Bin Laden for the attacks on the United States, a view shared by other counterterrorism experts.

### Deviating from Islam

In 1998, Zawahri wrote a document intended to unite militant groups in the common cause of killing Americans anywhere, not just in the Middle East. In 2001, his organization, Egyptian Islamic Jihad, officially merged with Bin Laden's Qaeda network to create Qaeda al Jihad.

Zawahri had the delicate task of explaining Al Qaeda's deviation from Islamic teachings that prohibit killing innocent people, particularly Muslims, and that bar suicide. He maintained that a martyr's true faith reversed these prohibitions.

“According to him the majority of Muslims around the world are not Muslim,” Azzam Tamimi, director of the Institute of Islamic Political Thought in London, told Time magazine. “His ideas negate the existence of common ground with others, irrespective of religion.”

Zawahri became familiar to the world as the man sitting at Bin Laden's side in videos, and, later, by himself.

His turn of phrase shone in his greeting to President Barack Obama in 2008: “Be aware that the dogs of Afghanistan have found the flesh of your soldiers to be delicious, so send thousands after thousands to them.”

But he could also counsel moderation, if public relations required it. In 2005, he wrote Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, the leader of Al Qaeda in Iraq, that he should stop attacking mosques and making videos of beheadings. In 2003, he scrubbed a plan to flood New York subway tunnels with cyanide because, he said, it “was not sufficiently inspiring.”

By 1990, Islamist guerrillas, backed by Pakistan and the CIA, had forced the Soviets out of Afghanistan, and the Arabs who had come to fight the Soviets were leaving. Sudan's government invited Bin Laden there. He and Zawahri bought farms in Sudan and converted them into military training bases. They also established camps in Yemen.

Zawahri organized several terrorist acts, including an assassination attempt on the Egyptian prime minister. The bomb missed its target, but 21 people were wounded and a 12-year-old schoolgirl was killed.

In November 1995, Zawahri dispatched suicide bombers to blow up the Egyptian Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan. After they succeeded, Egyptian intelligence blackmailed two teenage boys and used them to plant listening devices in homes of Islamic Jihad members. One boy was supposed to leave a suitcase full of explosives near Zawahri.

But the Sudanese authorities arrested both boys. Zawahri persuaded the authorities to release them so that he could interrogate them. He then tried them for treason, convicted them and killed them, before circulating a tape of their confessions.

Many Islamists turned against Zawahri, and Sudan expelled him and his organization. The Arab radicals returned to Afghanistan.

In 1996, Zawahri smuggled himself into the Russian republic of Chechnya, but was apprehended at the border and detained, according to a memo obtained by The Wall Street Journal. The Russians failed to identify him and released him.

In 1995 and 1996, a series of bombings in Saudi Arabia killed Americans. In 1998, Zawahri commissioned a study on Jewish influence in the United States; it led to the United States' being formally placed on Islamic Jihad's list of acceptable targets. Bin Laden was so pleased that he raised Islamic Jihad's annual budget from \$300,000 to \$500,000.

As a result of the founding document written by Zawahri, the International Islamic Front for Jihad on the Jews and Crusaders was formed in February 1998, combining the organizations of Bin Laden and Zawahri. Its goal: kill Americans everywhere.

## U.S. “directly” involved in Ukraine fighting

From page 1 ▶ “All this undeniably proves that Washington, contrary to White House and Pentagon claims, is directly involved in the conflict in Ukraine,” the defense ministry said in a statement.

The White House or the Pentagon have declined to make any remarks on the Russian accusation.

The Russian military has announced on several occasions that it had destroyed six U.S.-made HIMARS rocket systems since the conflict in Ukraine kicked off on February 24. Moscow has regularly said it has struck Western weapons and other depots containing sophisticated and advanced Western weapon systems.

The U.S. has provided Ukraine 16 Himars systems so far. This week four more arrived.

The accuracy and long range of the missile systems provided by the West were allegedly intended to reduce Russia's artillery advantage, but Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky, while welcoming the supplies, has been cited as saying that his country's forces could not yet overcome Russian advantages in heavy guns and manpower.

Russia has accused NATO of waging a “proxy war” against it by arming Ukraine and imposing unprecedented sanctions on Moscow while trying to expand the U.S.-led military alliance eastwards



toward Russian borders triggering the conflict in the first place.

U.S. President Joe Biden has said he wants Ukraine to defeat Russia and has supplied military assistance to Kyiv to the tune of almost nine billion dollars now but American officials claim they do not want a direct confrontation between U.S. and Russian soldiers.

This week, the U.S. announced it will send another \$550 million in new weapons to Ukraine, the White House said, further increasing the total American investment in the fighting.

The new package will comprise rocket launchers and ammunition along with the HIMARS which has gained a lot of attention over the past few months.

The U.S. National Security Council spokesperson John Kirby said that the latest weapons package will “include more ammunition for the high mobility advanced rocket systems otherwise known as HIMARS, as well as ammunition” for artillery.

According to the official statement, the package is worth around \$550 million, and it will include around 75,000 rounds of 155 mm artillery ammunition along with other weapons.

“To meet its evolving battlefield requirements, the United States will continue to work with its allies and partners to provide Ukraine with key capabilities,” the statement said.

The total military assistance provided by the U.S. to Ukraine currently stands at \$8.8 billion since the fighting broke out in late February 2022.

The former UK Labour opposition party leader Jeremy Corbyn has called on western countries to stop arming Ukraine.

“Pouring arms in isn't going to bring about a solution, it's only going to prolong and exaggerate this war,” Corbyn said. “We might be in for years and years of a war in Ukraine.”

“What I find disappointing is that hardly any of the world's leaders use the word peace; they always use the language of more war and more bellicose war.”

Speaking to Al Mayadeen news channel he pointed out that “expanding NATO isn't going to bring about a longer-term peace, [but it] will only bring about greater, greater strain and greater stress.”

“Then the world woke up and suddenly realized that Russia and Ukraine are the world's biggest

grain exporters and something has to be done. So they came to an agreement, and I hope it holds, to export grain through Odessa and through the Bosphorus to the rest of the world. That is a good move, but at the same time, putting more and more arms into Ukraine isn't going to bring about it [peace].”

Corbyn continued, “Ukrainians are dying, Ukrainians are going into exile here; Thousands and thousands. And Russian soldiers are dying, conscripted. Young Russian soldiers are dying. This war is disastrous for the people of Ukraine, for the people of Russia, and for the safety and security of the whole world. And therefore, there has to be much more effort put into peace.”

The ex-Labour party leader called for the United Nations to be “much more center stage”, and suggested involving other international bodies such as the African Union or the League of Arab States if the UN were unable to help negotiate a ceasefire.

Corbyn also touched on the double standards of European policy toward refugees saying “Europe has been very welcoming of Ukrainian refugees, and that's good, that's right. Sadly, they're not so welcoming and not so enabling of refugees coming from Yemen or anywhere else.”

Meanwhile, a July 22 UN-brokered deal to unblock the export of Ukrainian grain has had initial success. Turkey said that the first loaded ship since Russia's military operation more than five months ago was safely anchored off the Turkish coast.

The vessel, the Sierra Leone-flagged Razoni was at the entrance of the Bosphorus Strait, which connects the Black Sea to world markets, around 1800 GMT on Tuesday, some 36 hours after leaving the Ukrainian port of Odesa.

Turkey's Defense Ministry says a delegation from the Joint Coordination Centre (JCC) in Istanbul, where Russian, Ukrainian, Turkish, and UN personnel work, is set to inspect the ship on Wednesday. It was loaded with up to 26,527 tons of corn.

UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric told reporters in New York “we hope that there will be some more outbound movement tomorrow”. He said there were about 27 ships in the three Ukrainian ports covered by the export deal that were ready to go.

The exports from one of the world's top grain producers are intended to help ease the global food crisis.

“Our goal now is to have an orderly schedule so when one ship leaves port there should be other vessels – both those loading and those approaching the port,” Zelensky said.

Russia has hailed the Razoni's departure as “very positive” news. It rejected Western accusations of responsibility for the food crisis, saying Western sanctions have slowed its exports. This week, the U.S. Treasury Department expanded the sanctions against Russia.

The former German chancellor Gerhard Schroeder says the deal between Moscow and Kyiv to unblock grain exports may offer a way forward to a possible ceasefire.

“The good news is that the Kremlin wants a negotiated solution,” Schroeder told the media, adding he had met Putin in Moscow last week.

“A first success is the grain deal, perhaps that can be slowly expanded to a ceasefire.”

The ex-German chancellor added that solutions to crucial problems could be found over time, “maybe not over 99 years, like Hong Kong, but in the next generation”. He said an alternative to NATO membership for Ukraine could be Kyiv being armed neutrality, like Austria.



## Colorful destinations: what to do in every season in Iran?

TEHRAN - If you're thinking about traveling to Iran whenever the coronavirus is finally behind us, you might wonder what time of year is best.

Iran is known for being a destination to fall in love with as its mesmerizing traditional architecture, serene deserts, jagged mountains, emerald jungles, and above all, its hospitable people are all fascinating.

It is one of the countries in the world which has four seasons at one time; while the north is covered with snow, in the south you can experience pleasant tropical weather. In the winter, you can go skiing on the northern slopes of Tehran, and a day later you can head south to Kashan to experience the warmth of sands at appealing deserts such as Maranjab or Mesr deserts.

Let's dive into some tips on what to do depending on the time of year you visit:

### Spring

Spring is a pleasant season to visit the ancient land and the high season for traveling to the country starts in March and continues to the end of May. Why? Because you'll avoid searing heat and severe winter cold. As long as you are prepared to dress for the heat/chill, June and October offer slightly better deals.

May is a much better time to visit the country and still enjoy the clement spring weather. This month is perfect for enjoying nature, as all the greens have covered the fields, the flowers have bloomed, and the weather is ideal for hiking activities.

Cat-tail-like Eremurus flowers light up the landscapes, along with pretty, bell-shaped crown imperials. And if you have ever planned to go to the Netherlands to visit some tulips, you should know that tulips are the national flower of Iran. So many international tourists visit Iran in May and April, and most of them visit places in the central Iranian plateau, such as Shiraz, Isfahan, and Yazd. The weather is nice and the attractions unlimited!

### Summer

Summer begins with a slight decrease in precipitation. From June to August, the number of foreign tourists declines and there will be good discounts on tours and experiences because the temperatures increase all across the country and you should be able to withstand the heat to travel to cities like Shiraz, Yazd, and Kashan.

Touring and walking could be very exhausting. This is doubly unpleasant as shorts and t-shirts are a no-no, and women must wear headscarves. But the northwest

of the country and also the seaside areas of the north (Caspian Sea) are still fine during summer, and both are the main destinations of domestic travelers.

Ardabil and Gilan in northwestern Iran, Kurdistan in the west, and Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari in the south are provinces whose rural towns host many travelers in the summer.

### Fall

Autumn brings rains to the country and the highest amount of precipitation occurs in October. October temperature ranges between 22 and 25 °C; thus the weather is pleasant for a perfect journey all over Iran in a season when you can easily avoid crowds of travelers. Yet, as November begins the weather starts to get colder.

So fall is probably a fine time to visit central Iran, particularly Isfahan and Shiraz; two incredibly historical cities with several World Heritage sites in or around them.

Other great times to visit Iran are September and October. It rarely rains, the temperature decreases, and the weather generally gets cooler, especially in October and early November.

The prices are lower than in April and May. You can easily find public transportation including flights and trains because there are almost few non-business domestic travels in this period. The deserts in the provinces of Kerman, Yazd, and South Khorasan are particularly interesting locations to visit in autumn, especially for stargazers who want to get a clean look at the Milky Way. Autumn gives you a real-time adventure in the desert.

This period is the shoulder season to visit Iran when you can expect a drop in accommodation prices and your flight tickets. The rush would have worn off, and you can enjoy the country without irritating crowds. Generally, autumn is a great time to visit Iran.

### Winter

Winter is an excellent time to travel to the Persian Gulf islands of Kish and Qeshm, both of which are free trade zones and are attracting a lot of attention from investors as Iran's trying to develop their tourism potential.

Western and northwestern areas get a decent amount of snowfall. Some intercity routes are occasionally closed due to massive snowfall or the risk of avalanches in those areas. If you are a big fan of skiing, visit Iran, particularly Tehran and Ardabil, in wintertime.

## Ancient relics recovered in northern Iranian town



TEHRAN - Police have recovered 45 ancient coins and tens of other historical objects from a smuggler in Torbat-e Heydarieh, northeast Iran.

Apart from the coins, over 200 other objects such as rings, pates, bracelets, and a fake rhyton were found by the police while controlling passing cars, the report said.

According to cultural heritage experts, the coins date from the Sassanid era to the Qajar epoch, Mehr reported on Wednesday.

In about 220 CE the Sasanian dynasty of Iran introduced the concept of thin flan coins, issues that were struck in relief on both sides. In order not to produce intolerable stresses in the dies, since the thinner the material the more force necessary to make it flow into the recesses of the die's design, the depth of relief on such coins was of necessity much shallower than with earlier currency. Such techniques spread by way of Byzantium to northern Europe, where the emperor Charlemagne struck thin flan deniers

(small silver coins), or pennies, which became characteristic of both his own and neighboring kingdoms.

In many ways, Iran under Sassanian rule witnessed tremendous achievements of Persian civilization. Experts say that the art and architecture of the nation experienced a general renaissance during Sassanid rule. In that era, crafts such as metalwork and gem-engraving grew highly sophisticated, as scholarship was encouraged by the state; many works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the official language of the Sassanians.

The Muslim conquest of Persia, also known as the Arab conquest of Iran, led to the fall of the Sasanian Empire of Iran (Persia) in ca. 651 and the eventual decline of the Zoroastrian religion. The rise of Muslims coincided with an unprecedented political, social, economic, and military weakness in Persia.

The conquering Muslims at first mimicked the coinage of their predecessors. In the western provinces, they issued gold and copper pieces imitated from contemporary Byzantine coins, modifying the cross on the reverse of the latter somewhat to suit Muslim sensibilities. In the eastern provinces, the Arab governors issued silver dirhams that were copies of late Sasanian coins (mostly of those of Khosrow II; with the addition of short Arabic inscriptions on the margin and often the name of the Arab governor in Pahlavi; even the crude representation of the fire altar was retained.

# 3,000-year-old earthenware discovered in southern Iran

From page 1 ► Experts believe that Elam was distinct from the contemporary civilizations of Sumer and the Indus valley in the episodic cultural and political integration of large expanses of geographically diverse territory. The lines of communication between Susa and Anshan, the largest cities of Elam, as well as with other, more distant mountain regions, were limited in number and generally difficult, owing to the rugged topography.

Proto-Elamite (Susa III/Banesh) period, ca. 3400/3200-2800 BC was characterized by a distinctive assemblage of artifacts and an artistic style distributed from

Lorestan in the west to Kerman in the east.

Furthermore, the establishment of a city at Anshan during the Proto-Elamite period and smaller outposts at Tepe Sialk and Tepe Yahya in the eastern highlands suggest that the foundations of the union between lowland and highland regions characteristic of later Elam were first laid in the late 4th millennium.

The ecosystem of the Marvdasht plain, which was once the seat of power for the Achaemenid Persian Empire (c. 550 – 330 BC), has been one of the most important factors in the creation and development of several thousand years of



civilization in this region. That is why the remains of different settlements and cultures have been discovered during many excavations carried out in ancient hills and historical sites of the plain, cultural heritage expert Hamid Fadaei says.

The ancient region, known as Pars (Fars), or Persis, was the heart of the Achaemenid Empire founded by Cyrus the Great and had its capital at Pasargadae. Darius I the Great moved the capital to nearby Persepolis in the late 6th or early 5th century BC. Alexander the Great defeated the Achaemenian army at Arbela in 331 and burned Persepolis, apparently as revenge

on the Persians, because it seems the Persian King Xerxes had burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 years earlier.

Persis became part of the Seleucid kingdom in 312 after Alexander's death. The Parthian empire (247 BC– 224 CE) of the Arsacids (corresponding roughly to the modern Khorasan in Iran) replaced the Seleucids' rule in the Persis during 170–138 BC. The Sasanid Empire (224 CE–651) had its capital at Istakhr. Not until the 18th century, under the Zand dynasty (1750–79) of southern Iran, did Fars again become the heart of an empire, with its capital at Shiraz.

## Under-restoration citadel of Bam untouched by torrential downpours

TEHRAN – The UNESCO-registered citadel of Bam, whose restoration is still underway after a devastating earthquake in 2003, was unaffected by the recent torrential rains that hit many parts of the Iranian soil.

“No harm inflicted to the citadel of Bam by the recent torrential downpours,” ILNA quoted Kerman province's tourism chief as saying on Wednesday.

We don't have any problem in Arg-e (the citadel of) Bam. Even restoration workshops are active in the citadel. Currently, 12 restoration workshops are working in the adobe fortress...,” the official said.

Moreover, the official said the first phase of an anthropology museum will be launched within the next four months.

Situated in a vast desert plateau in the southern reaches of Iran, the citadel rises like a phoenix again from the intimidating earthquake after being almost entirely leveled in 2003.

Tracing its origins back to the 6th century BC in the Achaemenid period, the oasis town and citadel of Bam didn't experience its golden era until much later in the 7th till 11th centuries when it was one of the key stops on the Silk Route transporting goods between



Asia, Europe, and West Asia.

Thanks to a series of underground irrigation canals, life was able to flourish in this inhospitable environment and Bam thrived as a trading center – resulting in the Arg-e Bam, the citadel which today is the best (and most photogenic) example of a medieval fortified town built using mud layers.

After the devastating earthquake, heritage experts from within Iran and abroad have worked tirelessly to restore the cultural landscape of Bam including orchards, cisterns, and many ancient buildings – around 23,000 hectares – of which the Bam Citadel is only one small part.

Today, some 99% of the project to save Bam is complete and the citadel is back ready to accept visitors.

## Hand-dug tunnel to undergo restoration for tourism

TEHRAN—Gilan's tourism chief has said a hand-dug passageway, accidentally discovered in the northern province, is set to be restored to become a tourist destination.

“The discovery of this tunnel is important in terms of history and tourism, and so far the studies of experts have brought good results,” Vali Jahani said on Tuesday.

A team of experts has commenced work to document, excavate, restore and meanwhile conduct further studies in the

underground tunnel, Jahani said.

According to the official, further research and analysis should be conducted to answer questions such as the exact construction time of the tunnel, its usage in certain periods, as well as the way that construction materials and water were provided (by the original builders/users).

Having an approximate length of 700 meters, the tunnel is situated in Gol Sarak village. It is equipped with underground stairs, ammunition slums, soldiers' rooms, etc., is stretched



in the north-south direction, and it probably dates from the Qajar era (1794–1925).

Bounded by the Caspian Sea and the Republic of Azerbaijan on the north, Gilan, in the far past, was within the sphere of influence of the successive

Achaemenid, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE.

Sophisticated Rasht, the provincial capital, has long been a weekend escape for residents of Tehran who are looking to sample the famous local cuisine and hoping for some pluvial action—it's the largest, and wettest town in the northern region. Gilan is divided into a coastal plain, including the large delta of Sefid Rud and adjacent parts of the Alborz mountain range.

## Iranian handicrafts: Varni-bafi of Ardabil

TEHRAN –Varni-bafi is an art of weaving a traditional and popular flooring cover in Ardabil province. It is currently being practiced in an area called Dasht-e Moghan, which lies in northwestern Iran.

Varni is a delicate kilim also known as a Sumak. Many experts consider the Varni that is double-sided, as something between carpets and kilims. It requires a skilled weaver with years of experience to produce a Varni.

Varni is woven using “Pudpichi”. This is a method of making kilims, where an additional thin thread is woven into the weft and warp yarns. Weft yarns are then inserted and then thin weft is added before they are combed together. The extra weft strengthens the connection between the yarns and creates a stronger weave.

Kilims of this quality are considered to be the most durable in the world. Another weave that is very similar to Varni is Shirkipich, which is a product of Kerman. The only difference is in the motifs and patterns. Noah's ark is said



to have landed in Azarbaijan, explaining why animal motifs are so popular.

Varni is a nomadic hand-woven art and stems from an ancient tribe known as the Shahsavan in the past, according to Visit Iran.

The famed Safavid king, Shah Abbas I (1571-1629) named the Shahsavan, which was formed by merging fifty tribes into one, after ordering them to settle in the Azarbaijan region as a defense against the Ottoman Empire. Shahsavan is now known as Ilsavan.

Varani is made more frequently in the

winter season since the nomads have settled in one place and have the time. Wool and silk are used for the yarn. Handspun wool or silk yarns serve as wefts, while cotton, wool, or silk yarns are used as wraps.

The Ardabil nomads use Varni to make saddlebags and horse covers that, in terms of style, motifs (birds and animals), and color palettes, are among the best in Iran. A large saddlebag, which is used to carry the utensils of nomads, is adorned with motifs that are inspired by prehistoric potteries from this area.

Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, Ardabil is well-known for having lush natural beauties, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition. It is also home to the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and Shrine Ensemble.

The province is very cold in winter and mild in summer, attracting thousands every year. The capital city of Ardabil is usually recorded as one of the coldest cities in the country in winter.



# Women hold 42% share of charity foundation's job-creating plans

TEHRAN – Some 42 percent of job-creating plans launched by Bareket Charity Foundation are related to women entrepreneurs, Mohammad Torkamaneh, the CEO of the Foundation, said on Wednesday.

Bareket Foundation has put the priority on breadwinners and vulnerable women for implementing its job-creating plans, IRNA quoted Torkamaneh as saying.

From a total of 203,000 society-based job-creating plans which have been so far launched across rural and less developed areas of the country, 42 percent, equaling 85,000 plans, have been allocated to women entrepreneurs, he explained.

To date, 203,000 job-creating plans have been implemented in less developed areas of the country, creating jobs for 610,000 persons, directly and indirectly, he added.



Some 23 trillion rials (about \$75 million) have been invested in launching the plans, he noted.

Barekat Charity Foundation, affiliated with the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, was established in 2007. Socio-economic empowerment of communities by encouraging

entrepreneurship prioritizing breadwinner women, developing infrastructures such as water supply and power grids, building roads, constructing schools and increasing educational spaces, promoting health for all, and granting non-repayable loans and insurance, especially in less developed areas and regions

most affected by natural disasters are of the priorities of the charity foundation.

In June, Torkamaneh said building more than 8,000 houses, 200 schools, 200 mosques, cultural and religious centers, as well as 30 health centers, implementing 700 water supply projects, and reviving 600 qanats are on the agenda.

To date, 203,000 job-creating plans have been implemented in less developed areas of the country, creating jobs for 610,000 persons directly and indirectly.

## Water donation campaign to begin within days

TEHRAN – A water donation campaign will be launched in the next few days aiming to supply water and provide healthcare services to people in drought-affected areas, Vahid Salimi, the head of the Iranian Red Crescent Society's Volunteers Organization, has said.

The campaign, called Nazr-e Ab (literally meaning water donation), was launched four years ago, following the drought crisis in the southern and southeastern provinces of the country, with the aim of supplying fresh water to deprived areas with the help of the people and the IRCS.

It was first held in August 2018, in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan which went into trouble after the Hamoun wetland drained and the rainless sky left many in dire need of drinking water.

The campaign has two main aspects; the first one centers on water supply issues including desalination of water, rehabilitation of qanats, improving wells and water quality, and filtering and sanitation of reservoirs. And the second aspect focuses on health issues including health care services, free diagnosis, and providing food packages to the deprived.

The phenomenon of drought is hitting the country, especially in the southern and southeastern provinces, and naturally, its complications, including the lack of access to clean and sufficient drinking water, the faster proliferation of environmental bacteria, etc., can seriously affect the health of residents, and even cause the outbreak of contagious and infectious diseases, Salimi explained.

Through the fifth phase of the campaign, volunteer doctors and paramedics of the Red Crescent groups are dispatched to 100 identified areas in the provinces of

Hormozgan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Kerman, and South Khorasan to provide preventive training as well as healthcare services to deal with food-borne or infectious diseases caused by the water crisis.

Since ancient times, Iran has been constantly struggling with water shortage, which caused the creation of qanats, so that people actually accepted that water is scarce in the country.

But for several years, along with the industrial and agricultural development, it seems that the available water resources have been used unbridled, and the result is being on the verge of a water crisis.

### 4.8m people at medium to high risk

The amount of rainfall in Iran's main river basins from September 2020 to July 2021 was, in most places, substantially lower compared with the year-earlier period. Iran experiences frequent droughts and faces the prospect of more extreme conditions brought about by climate change.

According to current assessments, parts of Iran are facing a rainfall anomaly which has had an observed impact on vegetation and agriculture. Of particular concern is that these drought impacts have been observed in northeastern Iran in areas bordering Afghanistan.

The Iranian Red Crescent Society estimates that 4.8 million people are at medium to high risk of drought-related impacts, mostly in remote and rural areas of the provinces.

It reports that 29 of 31 provinces, and especially seven – South Khorasan, Kerman, Sistan-Baluchestan, Hormozgan, Khuzestan, Isfahan, and Khorasan Razavi – have been severely affected by the drought. The



lack of safe and sufficient water supply for drinking, hygiene, agriculture, animal husbandry, and electrical power is having a devastating and increasingly unsustainable strain on households' health, and income in addition to encouraging negative social trends and coping mechanisms.

Drought has so far incurred a loss of 28 trillion rials (about \$107 million) to the environment, Hassan Akbari, deputy head of natural environment and biodiversity of the Department of Environment, has said.

Unfortunately, over 70 percent of the country is suffering from severe drought. The severity of the drought is devastating in areas such as the Zagros, which is both a source of water and natural habitats, he lamented.

### Droughts may affect three-quarters of the world by 2050

The United Nations has warned that droughts may affect over three-quarters of the world's population by 2050.

Droughts are among the greatest threats to sustainable development, especially in developing countries, but increasingly so in developed nations too.

The number and duration of droughts have increased by 29 percent since 2000, as compared to the two previous decades (WMO 2021). When more than 2.3 billion people already face water stress, this is a huge problem. More and more of us will be living in areas with extreme water shortages, including an estimated one in four children by 2040 (UNICEF). No country is immune to drought (UN-Water 2021).

## SOCIETY

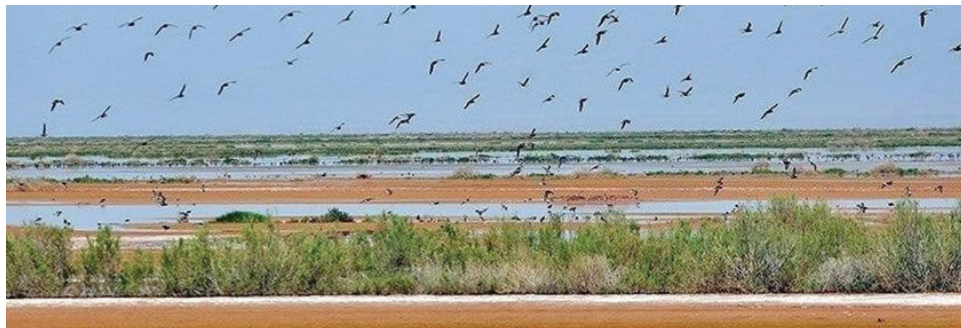
AUGUST 4, 2022

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

## Which wetlands refilled in flooding?



From page 1 ► Firooz Qasemzadeh, the spokesperson of the country's water industry, said that these rains brought about 250 to 260 million cubic meters of water into the country's dams, which is not a significant number, while its effect on the aquifers will be determined in a period of 12 months.

In provinces involved in the monsoon rain system, especially the southern ones, the water entered the river beds and moistened the dry soil of wetlands, and watered several wetlands, aquifers, and dams, he noted.

### Gavkhuni Wetland

Stretching 47,000 hectares, Gavkhuni is a salt marsh with an average depth of about 1 m. which is located in the terminal basin of the Zayandehrud river.

It is the 19th wetland in Iran designated as a Wetland of International Importance on the Ramsar list, which as defined by the Ramsar Convention for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, recognizes the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value.

Gavkhuni wetland, which is considered to be home to various species of migratory birds in the east of Isfahan province, has been facing water scarcity and declining water levels over the past decade, with recent surveys showing that the number of migratory birds in the wetland has declined significantly.

Although it was hoped that the recent rains would revive this wetland, according to the Isfahan department of environment, the share of this wetland from the recent rains is small and less than one percent of the minimum annual water requirement of the wetland, so there are no floods and runoff. Water from the Zayandehrud river has not entered the lagoon.

### Jazmourian Wetland

Nestled between the provinces of Kerman and Sistan-Baluchestan, Jazmourian is one of the two major wetlands in southeast Iran, which is on the knife-edge of complete desiccation as a result of climate change, excessive dam construction, and the depletion of groundwater resources.

The area of Hamoon and Jazmourian basin stretches to 69,600 square kilometers, with the western part of 35,600 square kilometers in Kerman province and the eastern part of 34,000 square kilometers in Sistan-Balu-

chestan province.

In January, heavy rainfalls have led the Jazmourian wetland to be filled by 100 percent. However, it dried up once again in June and turned into a dust storm hotspot.

According to the investigations of local groups in the province and the analysis of satellite maps, 20 percent of the Jazmourian wetland has been filled during the recent rains, which is expected to increase in the coming days with the arrival of flood water.

### Morreh Wetland

This wetland, which is located in the central desert of Iran and about 65 km from the city of Qom on the Qom-Garmsar highway, has an area of more than 33,000 hectares and has been declared a prohibited hunting area since 2018.

As a result of the recent floods, the dry wetlands of Qom once again filled with water.

## Recent rainfalls brought about 250 to 260 million cubic meters of water into the country's dams.

Qom province has 6 seasonal and permanent wetlands, including Morreh Wetland, Howz-e Soltan Salt Lake, Behesht-e Masoumeh Wetland, Koh-e Namak, Ghadir, and Salt Lake, with a total area of about 100,000 hectares.

### Other wetlands and dams

The recent rains hit a record high in Bakhtegan city of Fars province, which caused the waterlogging of Zashk and Bakhtegan lakes.

In Tehran, water entered the seasonal wetland of Band Alikhan after a long time of dryness.

Bandalikhan seasonal meadows and wetlands with an area of 196,000 hectares are located between the three provinces of Tehran, Qom, and Semnan.

Shadegan wetland was also filled with water, which depicted one of the most bitter pictures of drought in Iran over recent years.

Shadegan wetland covers 530,000 hectares, 400,000 hectares of which have been designated as a Ramsar site (defined by the Ramsar Convention for the conservation and sustainable use of wetlands, recognizing the fundamental ecological functions of wetlands and their economic, cultural, scientific, and recreational value).

The wetland feeds on Marun and Karun rivers both crossing Kohgiluyeh-Boyer-Ahmad province, but after dam construction over the Karun river, the wetland went dry not receiving its water right.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## 81% of bus drivers responsible for fatal accidents in 2 months

The number of public transport fleet accidents has increased significantly over the last two months, and 81% of bus drivers were to blame for fatal road crashes, Traffic Police chief has announced.

Over 90 percent of the whole transfers across the country are done by ground transport system, while air, rail and sea transportation hold a small share, Mehr quoted Seyed Kamal Hadianfar as saying on Tuesday.

Last year, 19 million rides have been delivered transferring over 290 million passengers, mostly through the bus transportation fleet under the Municipalities supervision, he stated.

He went on to say that bus drivers spend more time driving exceeding standard hour due to low income, which increases the risk of road crashes.

## ۸۱ درصد رانندگان اتوبوس در تصادفات فوتی دو ماه گذشته مقصر بوده اند

رئیس پلیس راهور ناجا، گفت: در ۲ ماهه اخیر تعداد تصادفات ناوگان حمل مسافر افزایش قابل توجهی داشته و در تصادفات منجر به فوت و جرح ناوگان عمومی حمل مسافر، ۸۱ درصد رانندگان اتوبوس مقصر بوده اند.

سردار سیدکمال هادیانفر، افزود: بیش از ۹۰ درصد از جابجایی ها در سطح کشور از طریق زمینی صورت می پذیرد و درصد کمی را حمل و نقل های هوایی، ریلی و دریایی تشکیل می دهد. در طول سال ۹۷، ۱۹ میلیون سفر با ۲۹۰ میلیون مسافر صورت پذیرفته است که عمده آن از طریق پایانه هایی صورت پذیرفته که مدیریت آن بر عهده شهرداری هاست.

رئیس پلیس راهور ناجا افزود: رانندگان به علت میزان درآمدشان بیش از ساعت مقرر رانندگی می کنند که ریسک تصادف را بالا می برد.

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON AUGUST 3

New cases	8,840
New deaths	75
Total cases	7,418,615
Total deaths	142,209
New hospitalized patients	1,477
Patients in critical condition	1,372
Total recovered patients	7,087,278
Diagnostic tests conducted	53,295,945
Doses of vaccine injected	153,291,172



