

# EU Gamble in Vienna Could Jeopardize Talks

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## Report

## U.S. allegations are perfect for children's story books

TEHRAN— On Wednesday, the U.S. Department of Justice released a ridiculous statement claiming that Iran was plotting to “eliminate” John Bolton, the former White House national security advisor.

“An Iranian national and member of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) was charged by complaint, unsealed today in the District of Columbia, with use of interstate commerce facilities in the commission of murder-for-hire and with providing and attempting to provide material support to a transnational murder plot,” the statement by the Department of Justice read.

The mythological statement went on to note that according to court documents, beginning in October 2021, Shahram Poursafi, also known as Mehdi Rezaei, 45, from Tehran “attempted to arrange the murder of former National Security Advisor John Bolton, likely in retaliation for the January 2020 death of Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps – Qods Force (IRGC-QF) commander Qasem Soleimani. Poursafi, working on behalf of the IRGC-QF, attempted to pay individuals in the United States \$300,000 to carry out the murder in Washington, D.C. or Maryland.”

The allegations were so far-fetched that Iran did not even bother to react more than a tweet. The Iranian Foreign Ministry's spokesman warned that the United States' constant propaganda and media frenzy will turn it into a true pariah state.

Nasser Kanaani made the remarks in Farsi, Arabic, and English on Friday.

He called the U.S. fabrications on a bankrupt political element, infamous terrorist, and coup plotter against sovereign countries and governments as a “forward escape” in an attempt to avoid taking responsibility for a worldwide crime. ► Page 2

## Weightlifter Basami wins bronze at Islamic Solidarity Games

TEHRAN – Iranian woman weightlifter Poupak Basami won a bronze medal in the 2021 Islamic Solidarity Games on Friday.

She lifted 71kg in the snatch and 94kg in the clean and jerk. Basami finished in third place for a total of 165kg in the -55kg weight class.

Gold medal went to Indonesian weightlifter Natasya Beteyob with (84-111-195) and Turkmenistan's Kristina ?ermetowa (89-105-194) won the silver medal.

Basami had previously written her name into the history book as the first woman who represented Iran in the 2019 Asian Weightlifting Championships.

The 2021 Islamic Solidarity Games are being held in Konya, Turkey, from August 09 to 18, 2022. It is a multinational, multi-sport event that is played between the athletes from the nations of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

With an exception of the 2010 Games, it has taken place every four years since its debut in 2005 at Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

The Islamic Solidarity Games are organized and directed by the Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation and the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation, but for the first time in history, the event is organized by the Turkish Olympic Committee.

## Child killing Israeli machine “alarms” UN



© Los Angeles Times

The United Nations Human Rights Chief, Michelle Bachelet, has strongly censured Israel's “unconscionable” massacre of Palestinian children following the apartheid regime's latest indiscriminate attack on the besieged Gaza Strip.

Despite the “disturbing” figures docu-

mented by the international body, Israel has once again escaped any punitive measures as the West continues to shield the regime from its victims facing justice.

“Inflicting hurt on any child during the course of conflict is deeply disturbing, and the killing and maiming of so many children

this year is unconscionable,” the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights said.

Bachelet expressed her alarm at the high number of Palestinians, including children, killed and injured in the occupied Palestinian territories this year. ► Page 5

## ICCIMA hosts business forum with Russian, Tajik private sectors

TEHRAN – Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) hosted a joint business forum with the representatives of Russia and Tajikistan's private sectors on Thursday.

As the ICCIMA portal reported, in this joint meeting which was attended by trade delegations from Tajikistan and Russia, solutions for facilitating the trade and

transit between Iran and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) were discussed and opinions were exchanged. The business forum was attended by ICCIMA board members and officials from the mentioned countries, including Head of the CIS Secretariat of the Intergovernmental Council of Road Workers Buri Karimov.

After the talks between the parties, the attendees

decided to cooperate in various areas including the development of transit routes and transportation infrastructure, promoting scientific interactions and exchanging students in the field of transportation, reducing toll fees for cooperating countries, following up on the cancellation of visas with relevant countries, and participation in international conventions.

## Report

## Iran determined to develop space technology

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – Hassan Salarieh, the head of the Iranian Space Agency, has emphasized the country's determination to develop space technology.

The Iranian Space Agency launched a satellite called “Khayyam” with a wide range of environmental functions at 10:22 local time on Tuesday. It was put into orbit by a Russian Soyuz rocket from the Baikonur space station in Kazakhstan.

In the past years, the country has made good achievements in the fields of remote sensing, and in order to operationalize the discovered knowledge, we needed to have a high-tech satellite, Salarieh said in a press conference on Wednesday. ► Page 7



© ISNA / Alireza Masoumi

## Iran volleyball ready for world championship

TEHRAN – Iran national volleyball team prepare for the 2022 FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship.

The competition will be held from Aug. 26 to Sept. 11 in Poland and Slovenia.

Iran are pitted against Argentina, Egypt and the Netherlands in Pool F.

## Safavid processional standard to go on view in Tehran

TEHRAN—A Safavid-era (1501-1736) Alam (literally meaning processional standard), which is considered the oldest of its kind in Iran, will go on display in an exhibition at the UNESCO-registered Golestan Palace in Tehran.

Alam is a symbol of standards carried in Karbala, which is shouldered by some mourners during Muharram's ceremonies.

The historical object will be unveiled at the “Night's Sun” exhibition, which will be inaugurat-

ed on Saturday, the director of the World Heritage site Afarin Emami said on Thursday.

The exhibit will showcase a selection of 60 ritual and religious works including two paintings by Mohammad Ghaffari (1848-1940), better known as Kamal al-Molk, teahouse paintings, rare Quran manuscripts, and some objects related to tazieh, Iranian passion play, the official explained.

The exhibit will run until September 27, she added.

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## Leader: Usurping regime is getting weaker

TEHRAN— In a letter published on Thursday, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Khamenei responded to a letter sent by Ziyad Nakhalah, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) chief.

In the letter, the Leader praised the PIJ efforts during the recent round of wars with the Israeli regime, indicating that the usurping regime is getting weaker, while the resistance is getting stronger.

Below is the text of the letter:

“The hardworking brother, Mr. Ziyad Al-Nakhlah, Hello,

I received your wise and graceful letter. May God reward you well and bring the final victory of the proud and oppressed Palestinian nation sooner.

The recent incident doubled the honors of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement and elevated the position of the Islamic Jihad in the glorious resistance movement of the Palestinian nation. With your brave resistance, you thwarted the deceitful policy of the usurping regime. You have proven that each part of the resistance complex alone can destroy the enemy. By linking the efforts in Gaza with the (West) Bank, and other resistance forces with their support for the jihad movement, you were able to show the integrity of the Palestinian nation's unity against the evil and deceitful enemy. All the efforts of the Palestinian groups in all the land of Palestine should be aimed to maintain this unity. The usurping enemy is getting weaker and the Palestinian resistance is getting stronger, and there is no power but God. We are still with you. Peace be upon you.”

On Friday, Israel launched three days of military attacks on the Gaza Strip, which is under siege. Air strikes on the seaside enclave resulted in the deaths of 46 individuals, including 16 children. ► Page 2

## Croatian adventurer Ivan Dogic's book on Iranian children published

TEHRAN – Croatian adventurer Ivan Dogic's pictorial book on Iranian children has recently been published in Zagreb, Croatia.

Dogic visited Iran in 2016 for the first time. On his second trip to the country, he met Iranian tour guide Fariba Fadai, whom he married, and together they now live in the central Iranian city of Isfahan.

“Children of Iran” (“Djeca Irana”) has been published by Kreativna Mreza in collaboration with the Croatian-Iranian Society – Irandustan, a non-governmental society founded in 2016 to promote all-round cooperation between Croatian and Iranian people.

The graphic and artistic design of the book is done by Aleksandra Nina Knezevic, who worked on the cover art for the Bosnian edition of the Harry Potter series.

“Children of Iran” is one of the books from the Kreativna book series “Window to the World”. It also features studies about children of Egypt, Central Asia and several other regions. ► Page 8



## Leader: Usurping regime is getting weaker



From page 1 ► In response, the Islamic Jihad movement fired hundreds of rockets at the occupied lands, forcing Israelis in Tel Aviv and other southern occupied regions to seek shelter.

At 11:30 p.m. local time (20:30 GMT) on Sunday, a ceasefire between Israel and the PIJ movement in Gaza was negotiated by Egyptian mediators. However, the movement stated that it “reserves the right to respond to any Zionist aggression.”

## U.S. allegations are perfect for children’s story books

From page 1 ► If the U.S. continues to promote the media hype, the country will become a true pariah in the eyes of Iranians and others throughout the world, he added.

U.S. propaganda tactics have long been out of date. Using fabrications and myths to portray a positive image of themselves in the global community or to defend their activities is an outdated tradition that must be abandoned.

In 2002, George W. Bush used a similar tactic against Iraq. Bush stated in October 2002 that Saddam Hussein has a “massive stockpile” of bioweapons. However, as CIA Director George Tenet stated in early 2004, the CIA had “no particular knowledge on the types or quantities of WMD agents or stocks at Baghdad’s disposal.” The phrase “huge stockpile” was completely made up. They eventually admitted that their allegation was a brazen lie.

Years later in 2019, Ari Fleischer, the White House Press Secretary at the time, said the slogan sung by the Left “Bush lied, people died” is itself a lie, but fact checkers say something else.

Fleischer’s deputy at the time, Scott McClellan, put it this way in his own memoir, “What Happened”.

“In the fall of 2002, Bush and his White House were engaging in a carefully orchestrated campaign to shape and manipulate sources of public approval to our advantage. ... Our lack of candor and honesty in making the case for war would later provoke a partisan response from our opponents that, in its own way, further distorted and obscured a more nuanced reality,” he wrote.

However, standing by his claims, Fleischer said, “The allegation that ‘Bush lied. People died’ is a liberal myth created to politically target President Bush.”

The same goes for the gibberish “Iran wants to kill me” John Bolton story. It may serve well for a children’s book helping parents to put them into bed, but it won’t justify the U.S. administration spending millions of dollars of the taxpayers’ money to protect Bolton, Mike Pompeo, the former Secretary of State, and Mark Esper, the former Secretary of Defense.

# Diplomat: Iran needs assurances on political claims regarding Safeguards

TEHRAN— Iran is reviewing the amended proposals put forward by the European Union, a diplomat familiar with the Vienna talks told IRNA on Friday.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran is reviewing the proposals received to ensure that its demands are fulfilled,” stated the diplomat who refused to be named.

The diplomat went on to note that EU’s proposals are acceptable if they provide Iran with assurance in various issues, including political claims related to the Safeguards issues.

The source also said that the issues of sanctions and guarantees for a lasting agreement are under study.

In a report published late on Thursday, the Wall Street Journal, quoting a European diplomat, claimed that the EU had made proposals on the issue of Safeguards, but the Iranian diplomat said this proposal should be reassuring for Iran on the one hand and it must cover all the topics discussed in Vienna on the other.

In line with this issue, Mohammad Jamshidi, the political director of the



president’s office said that an agreement can be reached provided the claims about the Safeguards would be resolved once and for all.

Writing on Twitter, Jamshidi referred to the recent consultations between Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and some leaders whose countries are still party to the nuclear deal, saying, “In all the phone conversations of Mr. Raisi with the presidents of France, Russia and China, his decisive position was that only when the claims regarding the Safeguards are settled, the final agreement can be reached.”

Twitter suspended Jamshidi’s account after this tweet.

the negotiations, and relative progress was made on some subjects.

Enrique Mora, the EU coordinator for the talks, provided some recommendations to all parties on the final day of negotiations. Iran provided an initial response, stating that a full response would be feasible only after a thorough assessment of the suggestions.

“Such matters require comprehensive investigation, and we will provide our final response to the facilitator of the Vienna talks and other parties,” the Iranian Foreign Ministry official pointed out.

While certain problems remained unresolved, Borrell announced the end of negotiations, raising concerns in Tehran and elsewhere.

“What can be negotiated has been negotiated, and it’s now in a final text. However, behind every technical issue and every paragraph lies a political decision that needs to be taken in the capitals,” Borrell said on Twitter on Monday.

He added, “If these answers are positive, then we can sign this deal.”

## Raisi says Iran doesn’t accept any change to its border with Armenia



TEHRAN –President Ebrahim Raisi has reiterated Iran’s position that the Islamic Republic will not accept any change to the geographical map of the Caucasus region.

Raisi made the remarks in a telephone conversation with Armenian Prime Minister Nikol Pashinyan late on Wednesday.

Pointing to the statements of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei in his separate meetings with Russian and Turkish presidents in Tehran on July 19 in which he said Iran will not “tolerate” any change in its geographical borders with Armenia, Raisi said, “Iran will not accept any change to the political geography of the region.”

The president also said Iran is ready to use all its influence to establish peace and

stability in the Caucasus.

For his part, Pashinyan presented a detailed report about the recent clashes between Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Prime Minister Pashinyan also expressed happiness about the growing ties between Yerevan and Tehran. He also said his country is ready to facilitate transit of goods between the two neighbors.

The Armenian prime minister who initiated the telephone conversation also insisted on cooperation in areas of infrastructure, such as transport and electricity.

## Recently-launched satellite successfully stabilized: Iranian government

TEHRAN- Ali Bahadori Jahromi, the spokesman for the Iranian government, said on Thursday that the nation’s freshly launched satellite, called Khayyam, had successfully orbited the Earth.

“The stabilization of satellite ‘Khayyam’ was successfully done,” Bahadori Jahromi said on Twitter.

On Tuesday, a Russian rocket carrying the high-resolution Iranian satellite was safely launched into orbit from a facility in Kazakhstan. The initial telemetry data from the satellite was received by Iran’s ground stations, according to confirmation from the Iranian Ministry of Information and Communications Technology.

Jahromi went on to say that the data and photos gathered from the Khayyam satellite would be used by Iranian knowledge-based businesses in a variety of industries.

He was reiterating statements made recently by Minister of Communications and Information Technology Issa Zarepour who emphasized that Moscow and Tehran are determined to construct fresh versions of the Khayyam satellite.

Zarepour informed the media on Wednesday that preparations were being

made to begin a collaborative manufacturing line between Iran and Russia to manufacture three precise upgrades of the remote sensing satellite.

Based on the confirmation from the Iranian Ministry of Information and Communications Technology, the first telemetry data from the satellite was received at Iran’s ground stations.

According to Zarepour, the signals were picked up “three or four times” at Iran’s Mahdasht station outside Tehran.

The satellite’s full system is working well, according to the Iranian Space Agency (ISA). Based on the early evaluations of specialists at the station, every system of the satellite is operating perfectly. It was determined after examining the telemetric data from the satellite that all of its systems are operating exactly as intended and that its orbit is optimal, ISA said.

The Khayyam satellite’s imagery will be used to monitor Iran’s borders and advance the nation’s management and planning capacities in the areas of agriculture, natural resources, environment, mining and disaster management.

Despite U.S. sanctions, Iran has made

enormous technological and scientific advancements.

Early in June, ISA revealed that preparations were being made to launch seven additional satellites into orbit.

Iran conducted a second test of its homegrown Zuljanah hybrid-propellant satellite carrier rocket in late June for “predetermined research purposes.” In February 2021, the Zuljanah satellite carrier was first launched into orbit by the Iranian Defense Ministry.

Ebrahim Raisi, the president of Iran, has emphasized the need to continue efforts to enhance space technology.

He stated in mid-March that “the obtainment of this technology is among the manifestations of national might, which was made possible with the efforts of the Armed Forces – especially the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Communications Ministry – and must continue with greater force.”

President Raisi also stated on Wednesday that new achievements in aerospace industries will be revealed in the future. He emphasized the government’s serious commitment to advancing space technology.

## Iran rebuffs baseless myths by U.S. Judiciary

TEHRAN— In a statement released late on Wednesday, Iran’s Foreign Ministry responded to the “endless” United States accusations against the Islamic Republic.

These accusations are being made without presenting any “valid evidence,” said the statement issued by Nasser Kanaani, spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Kanaani added, “U.S. judicial authorities have raised accusations without providing valid evidence and necessary documents in a new fiction in the continuation of the country’s endless accusations against the Islamic Republic of Iran and in the continuation of their failed Iranophobic policy.”

Such baseless claims are made with political goals and motives, the diplomat asserted.

“And in fact, it is an escape forward, propaganda, and especially evading the responsibility for numerous terrorist crimes either the U.S. government has been involved in, like the cowardly assassination of Martyr General Soleimani, or they have been carried out with the support and backing of the United States, such as the terrorist crimes of the Zionist regime and terrorist groups such as Daesh,” the spokesman added.

The spokesperson of the Iranian diplomatic apparatus stated, “Fabricating threadbare and baseless myths is turning into a repeated

procedure in the U.S. judicial and propaganda system, and this time around, scenarios in connection with politically bankrupt and worthless elements like (former national security advisor of the United States John) Bolton have been used to advance the process.”

“The Islamic Republic of Iran strongly warns against any action against Iranian citizens under the pretext of such ridiculous accusations and emphasizes that it reserves the right to take any action within the framework of international law to defend the rights of the government and citizens of the Islamic Republic of Iran,” the spokesman concluded.

# CHILD KILLER REGIME

Three days of Israeli bombardment in Gaza killed at least 44 Palestinians, including 15 children.

Since 2008, Israel has waged four wars on the Palestinian territory, killing nearly 4,000 people – one-quarter of them children.



Here are the names and faces of the 15 children aged 18 and under killed by Israeli air strikes over the past three days:



# EU gamble in Vienna could jeopardize talks

TEHRAN – While Iran has just started reviewing the proposals put forth by the European Union in the Vienna talks, Western diplomatic circles doubled down on their propaganda and even set deadlines for Iran to provide a response to the proposals.

The talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 nuclear deal, formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), have taken a new turn on Monday when the EU coordinator for the talks, in a maverick move, announced the end of negotiations.

While negotiators were in the process of returning to capitals for further consultations on the EU proposals, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said the negotiations have come to an end and that his proposals are a “final text” on which Iran should give a clear-cut answer.

“What can be negotiated has been negotiated, and it’s now in a final text. However, behind every technical issue and every paragraph lies a political decision that needs to be taken in the capitals,” Borrell said on Twitter on Monday.

He added, “If these answers are positive, then we can sign this deal.”

Borrell’s tweet was met with suspicion in Tehran and beyond as the EU text should not have been



portrayed as a final text. Pundits believe that the EU has gone further than his role as coordinator.

Iran made it clear that the text presented by Borrell was “proposals”, not a final text. However, Iran started reviewing the EU proposals. Nour News, a website close to Iran’s Supreme National Security Council, says Iran has begun studying the EU text at the expert level.

While Iran was busy studying the text, Western media went so far as to set a deadline for Iran. The Wall Street Journal has said that the West expects Iran to give an answer by August 15, a move that could further complicate the situation.

On Friday, an Iranian diplomat told Iran’s state news agency IRNA that Iran is weighing the European

Union’s proposals on the three thorny issues currently under discussion in Vienna: Safeguards, sanctions, and assurances.

The diplomat said Iran would accept the European proposals only if they provided assurances to Iran in the forgoing issues, including the political allegations linked to the safeguards, sanctions, and guarantees.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran is reviewing the received proposals to make sure that its demands are met,” the diplomat said.

The remarks came after the Wall Street Journal reported that the European Union has presented proposals in relation to the safeguards. But the Iranian diplomat said the EU proposals should provide assurances to Iran

and encompass all the issues under discussion in Vienna.

Whether Iran would agree with the proposals remains to be seen. But the kerfuffle over the EU proposals could put the talks in danger. Because Iran seems to have some reservations over the EU ideas and, therefore, they could need to be discussed in Vienna.

This may be why some Vienna partners were cautious in dealing with the EU gamble. Russia, for instance, said that the EU was not in a position to determine whether Iran should accept or reject the current text in the talks.

“The Russian #MFA: according to the #EU spokesman the participants in the #ViennaTalks face a choice– either to accept the current text or to recognize that the talks failed. The Joint Commission of the #JCPOA didn’t authorize the EU Coordinator to make statements like that,” Mikhail Ulyanov, Russia’s Permanent Representative to the Vienna-based International Organizations, said on Twitter on Thursday.

Some believe that the EU should stick to its coordinative role and refrain from setting deadlines that would complicate the situation.

## Islamic Jihad one of the most effective resistance groups in Palestine: speaker

TEHRAN – Speaker of the Iranian Parliament Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf has spoken over the phone with Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ) secretary general Ziyad al-Nakhalah.

In the conversation, Qalibaf congratulated the Palestinian leader on the recent victory achieved by the Palestinian Islamic resistance against Israel.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran stands by the Palestinian nation and the Palestinian Islamic resistance under all circumstances and with all its might,” Qalibaf told al-Nakhalah, according to Iran’s state news agency IRNA.

Expressing regret over the martyrdom of the commanders of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement in the recent battle with Israel, Qalibaf said, “The Palestinian Islamic Jihad is one of the most effective resistance movements of the Palestinian people against the occupying regime of Jerusalem, which plays an important role in confronting this regime.”

The speaker of the Iranian parliament emphasized the comprehensive support of the Islamic Republic of Iran to the Palestinian people in order to achieve their rights for freedom of the occupied territories.

Al-Nakhalah, for his part, expressed appreciation for the continuous support of the Iranian Parliament and speaker Qalibaf to the struggles of the Palestinian people.

“In the recent battle with the Islamic Jihad movement, the Zionist regime was forced to request a ceasefire and accept the conditions of the Islamic Jihad,” he told Qalibaf.

Al-Nakhalah considered the great achievement of the recent battle to be the unity of the resistance groups inside and outside Palestine against the occupying regime.

“In the recent battle, the Islamic Jihad of Palestine showed that it can stand up to the occupying regime in a big and long-term war and inflict strong blows on them,” he said.

The Palestinian leader added, “Resistance missiles hit this occupying regime deep in the occupied territories.”

During its recent three-day aggression against the Gaza Strip, Israel killed more than 40



Palestinian civilians, including 16 children. After three days of unprovoked aggression against the Gaza Strip, Israel accepted an Egyptian-brokered ceasefire that put an end to its bombing of civilian homes.

The recent flare-up began when Israel started aggression against Gaza with the purpose of eliminating the Islamic Jihad movement in Palestine.

The movement agreed to the ceasefire. It underlined in a statement its right to respond to any Israeli aggression.

Speaking at a press conference held after the announcement of the ceasefire, al-Nakhalah said Israel failed to achieve the goals it set for its recent aggression which is to eliminate the leaders of the resistance movement.

“The Palestinian resistance in the Gaza Strip scored an achievement, led by the Islamic Jihad movement... the enemy raised a specific slogan, which is the liquidation of the Islamic Jihad movement and its military arm, but the movement today is stronger than ever,” he said, adding that the resistance movement had the upper hand during the flare-up evidenced by its ability to shower Israeli targets with missiles.

Al-Nakhalah has recently sent a letter to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

In his letter, al-Nakhalah confirmed the widespread presence of Palestinian Resistance fighters, particularly from the Islamic Jihad and the military branch of Saraya al-Quds, in all of Palestine, especially in Gaza and the West Bank, according to khamenei.ir. He said, “Due to the presence of the troops of Jihad Resistance, not

a single day passes without clashes taking place with the Zionist regime in the West Bank.”

In describing the situation that exists in Gaza, the Secretary General of the Islamic Jihad Movement spoke of the strong Resistance in this region that is confronting the occupying regime. Furthermore, with regards to the three days of clashes, he said, “We have called these clashes Wahdat al-Sahat (Unity of the Fields) to emphasize the unity that exists in our nation when they are confronting the enemy, which is working with all its strength and which schemes to try to abolish this unity.”

The Leader responded to the letter of al-Nakhalah. In his reply, Ayatollah Khamenei stated that he considered the Islamic Jihad’s courageous resistance to be the reason for both the elevation of the movement’s position and their ability to nullify the Zionist regime’s deception while crushing them.

“I received your honorable, promising letter with its good news. May God reward you and hurry the ultimate victory of the admirable and oppressed Palestinian nation. The recent event has added to the honors of the Palestinian Islamic Jihad movement and elevated the status of Islamic Jihad in the magnificent Resistance movement of the Palestinian nation. With your courageous Resistance, you have nullified the policy of deception of the usurping regime,” the Leader said, according to khamenei.ir.

Ayatollah Khamenei added, “You have proven that each section of the Resistance is able to crush the enemy. By connecting the fight in Gaza with the West Bank and other forces of the Resistance with their support for the Jihad movement, you have been able to demonstrate the solidarity of the Palestinian nation’s jihad to the malicious, deceptive enemy. All of the efforts of the Palestinian groups in all of the Palestinian lands should be directed at protecting this solidarity.”

He stated, “The usurping enemy is becoming weaker, while Palestinian Resistance is becoming stronger. There is no power or strength except from God. We continue to stand with you. May God’s greetings be upon you, and our agreements are still in place..”

Israeli regime has afforded to run its un-safeguarded nuclear facilities at which it produces plutonium for its underground nuclear weapons program.”

The statement said, “In addition, it is a matter of deep concern that certain States Parties continue to impose unilateral and arbitrary restrictions beyond the IAEA safeguards on the transfer of nuclear materials, equipment, and technology for peaceful purposes. Regrettably, such restrictions are applied to NPT States Parties where non-parties to the Treaty with nuclear weapons arsenal benefit from nuclear cooperation by certain nuclear-weapon States.”

## IRAN IN FOCUS

AUGUST 13, 2022

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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## SPORTS

### Iranian table tennis teams win Golds: ISG 2021

TEHRAN – Iran’s men’s and women’s table tennis teams claimed gold medals in the 2021 Islamic Solidarity Games.

Men’s team Noshad Alamian, Afshin Norouzi and Nima Alamian defeated Saudi Arabian team Ali Alkhadrawi, Turki Almutairi and Khalid Alshareif in the final match.

Women’s team Neda Shahsavari, Shima Safaei and Mahshid Ashtari beat Turkey in the final to win the gold.

The 2021 Islamic Solidarity Games are being held in Konya, Turkey, from August 09 to 18, 2022. It is a multinational, multi-sport event that is played between the athletes from the nations of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

With an exception of the 2010 Games, it has taken place every four years since its debut in 2005 at Mecca, Saudi Arabia.

The Islamic Solidarity Games are organized and directed by the Islamic Solidarity Sports Federation and the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation, but for the first time in history, the event is organized by the Turkish Olympic Committee.

### Women’s hockey victorious over Chinese Taipei at 2022 Indoor Asia Cup

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Chinese Taipei 5-2 on the 5th day of the 2022 Indoor Asia Cup Bangkok on Friday.

Nasim Mirzaei scored four goals and Elham Daei was on target for Iran in the match.

Iran had previously lost to Indonesia and Kazakhstan in Group B and defeated Pakistan.

The 2022 Women’s Indoor Hockey Asia Cup is the eighth edition of the Women’s Indoor Hockey Asia Cup, the biennial international women’s indoor hockey championship of Asia organized by the Asian Hockey Federation.

### Mohammad Mousavi withdraws from Iran volleyball team

TEHRAN – Mohammad Mousavi, who had been invited to Iran volleyball team for the first time since 2020 Olympic Games, withdrew from the National Team.

The middle blocker has made the shock decision in protest to Iran volleyball federation’s poor facilities.

Iran volleyball team prepare for the Memorial of Hubert Jerzy Wagner, where the Persians will meet Poland on Aug. 18.

Argentina and Serbia will be Iran’s next opponents in the prestigious tournament.

Behrouz Ataei had invited Mousavi for the 2022 FIVB Volleyball Men’s World Championship, which will be held from Aug. 26 to Sept. 11 in Poland and Slovenia.

### Iran U20 fall short against China in 2022 AVC Cup

TEHRAN – China overcame a sturdy challenge from Iran U20 to rally past the tough rivals in hard-fought four-set thriller in their last match in the round of the last eight teams in Pool F in the 2022 AVC Cup for Men at the Nakhon Pathom Provincial Gymnasium here on Friday.

The dramatic 25-19, 25-22, 21-25, 25-16 victory not only put China on the top of Pool F, but also handed them semifinal berth. Joining them in the semifinals are Bahrain, with the Iranians relegated to classification round for 5th-8th places.

Zhang Jingyin scored a team-high 19 points including 15 attacks and 3 blocks, while Amir Mohammad Golzadeh similarly contributed 19 points including 18 attacks for Iran.

At the completion of the round-robin Pool F, unbeaten China topped the pool with nine points from three straight wins, followed by Bahrain with six points from two wins against one loss. Iran came in third

position with three points from one win against two losses and winless Pakistan finished fourth.

China and Bahrain booked their semifinal berths, while Iran and Pakistan had been relegated to classification round for 5th-8th places.

### Eskandari registers for Iran Olympic Committee’s vice presidency

TEHRAN – Hashem Eskandari, head of Bowling, Billiard and Boules Federation of Iran, has registered for vice presidency election of the Iran’s National Olympic Committee (NOC).

The National Olympic Committee presidential election will be held on Sept. 6.

Hadi Saei, Arash Miresmaeili, Mehdi Alinejad, Mahmoud Khosravi Vafa, Fazlollah Bagherzadeh, Bahram Gadimi and Majid Shayesteh have registered for the presidency.

Fazlollah Bagherzadeh, Gholamreza Norouzi, Majid Keyhani, Mahin Farhadizad, Hassan Rangarz, Mehrali Baran Cheshme and Hashem Eskandari have registered for vice presidency.

### Ex- PSV forward Locadia signs for Persepolis

TEHRAN – Former PSV Eindhoven forward Jürgen Locadia has officially joined Iranian club Persepolis.

Locadia has penned a one-year contract with Persepolis for an undisclosed fee.

The Dutch player is Persepolis’s second foreign player in the 2022/23 Iran league after Georgian defender Giorgi Gvelesiani.

The 28-year-old striker was a member of VfL Bochum last season.

Locadia scored 45 goals in 127 matches for PSV from 2011 to 2018.

Persepolis are scheduled to play Zob Ahan on Saturday in their opening match.

### Mehdi Ghaedi joins Esteghlal on loan

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football club completed the signing of Al-Ahli of the UAE winger Mehdi Ghaedi on Friday.

Ghaedi signed for Shabab Al-Ahli in August 2021 on a five-year contract.

The 24-year-old player has joined Esteghlal on a one-year loan deal from the Emirati side.

Esteghlal is defending champion of Iran Professional League.

### ISG 2021: Iranian wrestlers collect five gold medals

TEHRAN – Iranian freestyle wrestlers claimed five gold medals in the 2021 Islamic Solidarity Games in Turkey.

Ali Savadkouhi defeated Turkey’s Muhammet Akdeniz in the final match of the 79 kg.

Ahmad Bazri emerged victorious over Erhan Yaylaci of Turkey in the final bout of 92 kg.

And Mehdi Hashemi took a gold medal in the 125 kg after defeating Turkey’s Salim Ercan.

Alireza Karimi in 86 kg and Mojtaba Goleij in 97 kg had previously won two gold medals for Iran.

### Iran volleyball B team sweep Pakistan

TEHRAN – Iran volleyball B team beat Pakistan in straight sets (25-18, 28-26, 25-18) in the 2021 Islamic Solidarity Games (ISG).

Iran, who started the competition with a 3-0 win over Qatar in Pool B, will face Turkey on Saturday.

The Republic of Azerbaijan, Sudan, Morocco and Cameroon are in Pool A.



## Over 55m tons of goods loaded, unloaded in ports in 5.5 months



TEHRAN- As announced by Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), 55.44 million tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded in the ports of country during the 5.5 months since the beginning of current Iranian calendar year (March 21).

The mentioned amount of goods, which were loaded and unloaded in 22 ports, comprised 850,000 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) weighing 9.54 million tons, 16.31 million tons of dry bulk, 1.12 million tons of liquid bulk, 8.11 million tons of general cargo (general and miscellaneous goods) and 20.36 million tons of oil products.

It should be noted that, compared to the same period last year, the amount of unloading and loading operations increased by 4.6 percent in the container sector, 1.1 percent in the dry bulk sector, and 2.6 percent in the general cargo sector.

As previously announced by the PMO, the Loading, and unloading of goods in the ports of the country increased seven percent in the first quarter of the current Iranian year (March 21-June 21), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

The PMO reported that 51,661,306 tons of commodities were loaded and unloaded in the ports during the three-month period.

Based on the data previously released by Transport and Urban Development Ministry, the loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran rose 17 percent during the previous Iranian calendar

year 1400 (ended on March 20), as compared to the preceding year.

The ministry's data show that the loading and unloading of goods in the country's ports reached 152.91 million tons in the previous Iranian calendar year, while the figure stood at 130.69 million tons in the preceding year.

During the said year, loading and unloading operations in the container sector reached 2.1 million TEUs with a weight of 24.57 million tons, which was 13.5 percent more than the 1.85 million TEUs in the Iranian calendar year 1399, the report said.

The loading and unloading of goods during the previous year also grew by 12.8 percent in the dry bulk sector, while in the liquid bulk sector the figure increased by 12.6 percent, in the general cargo sector rose by 13.1 percent, and in the oil sector grew by 22.5 percent.

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition, to facilitate loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

It is worth mentioning that Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization has defined a high number of projects to develop and improve the country's ports, as the country aims to double the capacity of its ports in a course of five years.

According to the PMO, the capacity of the country's ports has increased from 180 million tons in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (ended in March 2014) to 250 million tons in 1399 (ended in March 2021).

## President Raisi visits Kerman in 31st provincial trip

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi traveled to central Kerman in his 31st provincial visit on Thursday, IRNA reported.

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

Upon arrival at Kerman Airport, the president told the press that the government is determined to eradicate poverty in the province.

On the first day of the visit, Raisi met with Kerman Province's businessmen and private sector representatives and discussed economic issues with them.

Speaking in this meeting, the president noted that since the beginning of his government's administration, it has taken positive steps to facilitate foreign trade and remove the barriers in

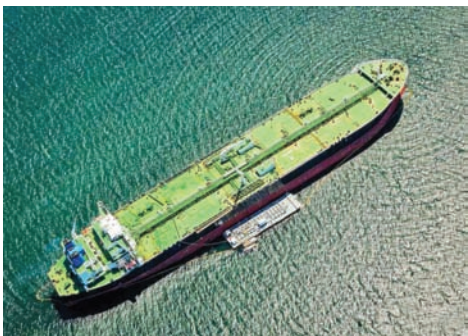


the way of trade exchanges in order to develop the country's economy.

Since the beginning of his administration in August 2021, President Raisi has traveled to 31 provinces to interact with people up close and get informed about the issues of various provinces.

Back in July, Raisi had wrapped up his 30th provincial visit to Hamedan Province.

## NITC's efforts appreciated by IMMS



TEHRAN- Iranian Merchant Mariners Syndicate (IMMS) appreciated the efforts made in National Iranian Tanker Company and honored the company's Managing Director Hossein Shiva for making constructive changes and removing many human resources problems in this company.

IMMS as a selected group of mariners under the supervision of the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare and a specialized group and partner of the International Transport Workers' Federation (ITF), within the framework of its mission and supporting the demands of the seafarers and creating an

interactive environment in solving the problems of the maritime trade sector and the shipping industry, honors the competent maritime managers who have played an effective role in strengthening and developing human resources and the demands of the shipping trade sector, by awarding a "Long Service Trophy".

The mentioned trophy, awarded to the NITC's managing director in a ceremony participated by the board members of NITC and IMMS, was previously awarded to only one marine manager.

The performance of the National Iranian Tanker Company and the round-the-clock efforts of the sailors of the company's fleet in transporting oil and oil products have been at the center of attention of the country's authorities over the past few months, as it has also been appreciated by the Oil Minister Javad Oji and other members of the cabinet.

Back in March, Oji praised the performance of National Iranian Tanker Company Head Hossein Shiva in a cabinet meeting.

The minister admired the actions and performance of the NITC in supporting and helping to continue the export of oil and oil products.

TEHRAN - Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak met with Kyrgyzstan's Ambassador to Tehran Turdakun Sydykov on Wednesday to discuss ways of expanding economic ties between the two countries.

In this meeting, the officials stressed the need for exchanging trade delegations and holding special exhibitions in the two countries as positive steps toward boosting the volume of mutual trade, the TPO portal reported.

Speaking at the meeting, Sydykov expressed appreciation for the favorable cooperation made by Iran's Trade Promotion Organization with the Kyrgyz Embassy and businessmen of this country in Iran and said: "The Kyrgyz Embassy in Iran has a comprehensive plan for the development and promotion of joint investment and economic cooperation between the two countries."

"This year, which marks the 30th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries, the presidents of Iran and Kyrgyzstan have exchanged congratulatory messages. In this regard, special cultural programs and events are going to be held, all of which will be

# Iran, Kyrgyzstan stress expansion of trade ties



TPO Head Alireza Peyman-Pak (R) and Kyrgyz Ambassador to Tehran Turdakun Sydykov

effective in improving the relations between the two countries," Sydykov said.

The official mentioned the development of tourism cooperation and the establishment

of direct flights between the two countries, especially the city of Bishkek to Mashhad or Tehran, as other important steps that should be taken for the promotion of economic cooperation between the

two sides.

"I hope that holding international exhibitions and the establishment of the joint economic committee between the two countries will provide the basis for increasing business interactions and boosting economic relations," he added.

Welcoming the suggestions made by the Kyrgyz ambassador in Iran, Peyman-Pak for his part said: "Regarding the exchange of business delegations and the holding of Iran's exhibition in Kyrgyzstan, we are negotiating with the general managers of the Industry Ministry to hold international exhibitions and to send specialized business delegations to Kyrgyzstan to carry out the necessary coordination."

He expressed TPO's full support for dispatching business delegations to Kyrgyzstan and added: "In order to develop the business capabilities of the two countries, we are ready to accept business delegations from Kyrgyzstan to hold joint B2B meetings and visit industrial capabilities."

Specific areas of cooperation should be defined so that the businessmen of the two countries could focus on their strong points to get better results, Peyman-Pak said.

## Astarachay bridge to enhance Iran-Azerbaijan economic co-op

TEHRAN - Iranian Ambassador to Baku Abbas Mousavi has said that completing the bridge over the Astarachay border river is going to diversify the modes of transportation between Iran and Azerbaijan and improve economic cooperation between the two countries, IRNA reported.

"The completion of the bridge between Iran and Azerbaijan will boost business in both countries and result in diverse transportation (both railway and automobile) between the two sides," Mousavi said on Wednesday on the sidelines of a visit to the bridge construction site.

Having a length of 89 meters and a width of 30 meters, this bridge aims to connect the international transit highways of the two countries (Baku-Rasht-Qazvin highways), the official explained.

According to the official, the transport ministers of the two countries are going to meet soon to discuss such joint projects and ways of expensing transportation and transit cooperation.

"Also, a tripartite meeting between Iran, Azerbaijan and Russia will be held in the near future to review issues related to transit, customs, and the development of the North-South corridor," Mousavi added.

Iran and Azerbaijan signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) in late January for cooperation in constructing the bridge over the Astarachay border river.

The MOU was signed by Iranian Deputy Transport and Urban Development Minister Kheirollah Khademi and Azerbaijan's Deputy Minister of Digital Development and Transport Rahman Hummatov in Baku on January 26.

The two neighbors had earlier announced the total investment made in the project to be 4.7 million euros.

Speaking in the signing ceremony of the mentioned MOU, Azeri Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev said the construction of the bridge is scheduled to be completed by the end of 2022.

"The president and the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan attach special importance to the development of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and the presidents of Iran and Azerbaijan expressed interest in further developing relations between the two countries in a cordial meeting in Ashgabat," the official said.

Noting that Azerbaijan and Iran have established



Iranian Ambassador to Azerbaijan Abbas Mousavi (2nd R) visit the construction site of Astarachay bridge on the border of the two countries.

deep relations in various areas including trade, economy, energy, customs, and investment, he said: "There are good opportunities between the two countries to implement joint projects in these fields."

Iranian Transport Minister Rostam Qasemi for his part called Azerbaijan the closest neighbor to Iran and said: "We hope that after the meeting of the presidents of the two countries, relations between the two nations will develop as much as possible."

## Free Zones High Council inks co-op MOU with NPC

TEHRAN - Iran's Free Zones High Council and National Petrochemical Company (NPC) have signed a cooperation memorandum of understanding (MOU) with the aim of balanced development of the country's petrochemical industry in all regions.

The MOU was signed by NPC Head Morteza Shah-Mirzaei and Secretary of Iran's Free Zones High Council Saeid Mohammad, Shana reported on Wednesday.

As reported, this memorandum is aimed to provide a roadmap for the cooperation between the two entities to attract investment for the development of downstream petrochemical industries in free and special economic zones in order to produce products with higher added value and increase exports.



NPC Head Morteza Shah-Mirzaei (R) and Secretary of Iran's Free Zones High Council Saeid Mohammad exchange signed MOU documents

Speaking at the signing ceremony, Shah-Mirzaei said Iran's Free Zones High Council is considered a strategic partner of the petrochemical industry, and considering the existing capacities mutual cooperation can be developed between the two sides.

He pointed to the MOU as the beginning of a new page in the development of the country's petrochemical industry, saying: "Due to the vast oil and gas reserves in the country, there is a great scope for the development of the petrochemical industry, especially in the southern coasts of the country. Now the ground has been paved for the creation of infrastructures to develop the petrochemical industry on the coasts of Makran."

Stating that the petrochemical industry is developing rapidly and completing the value chain as a strategy is being strongly pursued by the NPC, the official said: "This memorandum will determine the framework of future activities at free zones...and we can benefit from these

cooperation capacities more than in the past."

He further noted that the demand for petrochemical products in the world doubles every 20 years, adding: "Fortunately, considering the 13th government's determination, the production capacity of Iran's petrochemical industry will double in the next 10 years, and there will be no need to import many petrochemical products."

Elsewhere in the ceremony, Mohammad in his turn pointed out the important role of the petrochemical industry in the development of the country and said: "Today, the importance of the petrochemical industry is not hidden from anyone and petrochemical industry is the driving force of the country's economy."

## 'Petro-refineries can safeguard Iran against sanctions'

TEHRAN- A member of the Energy Committee of the Islamic Assembly considered the construction of petro-refineries as one of the defense tools to fight the sanctions, and said: "Directing liquidity towards production is achieved by investing in national economic projects."

Speaking to Shana, Hadi Beiginejad stated that construction of refineries and petro-refineries is a very good defense tool to fight against sanctions, and said: "Refinery construction leads to the development of downstream industries and production of petrochemical products and helps to strengthen hard currency resources."

This member of the Energy Committee of the Islamic Assembly stated: "In addition to its advantages, the establishment of petro-refineries also facilitates the entry of the private sector into the refining industry."

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 August 2 which was held under the chairmanship of Sadeq Amoli-Larijani and with the presence of the secretary and the majority of the members of the council.

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 month, 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.



# Complicated relations mutually benefit Erdogan and Putin

In a commentary on August 11, the New York Times writes Turkey needs Russian cash, gas and business while Moscow needs friends to try to evade Western sanctions.

Following is the text of the commentary headlined “Erdogan and Putin: Complicated Relations With Mutual Benefits”.

Following is the text of the article:

Turkey’s mercurial president, Recep Tayyip Erdogan, is in political difficulty before elections next year, with his economy imploding, a central bank nearly out of foreign exchange and volcanic inflation running at about 80 percent annually.

President Vladimir V. Putin of Russia has his own troubles, with the war in Ukraine bogging down and tough economic sanctions hitting Russia’s industry and broader economy.

The mutual challenges have pushed the two men closer together than ever. They have met twice in the last three weeks, most recently last weekend in Sochi, Russia, hoping to lessen their vulnerabilities by expanding their partnership and agreeing, Mr. Erdogan said, on economic cooperation that he hoped would total \$100 billion.

It is a relationship that raises the hackles of Mr. Erdogan’s NATO allies, as he provides Mr. Putin a sizable hole in the dam of sanctions the West has tried hard to build in its effort to stymie Mr. Putin’s war in Ukraine. Some wonder where Mr. Erdogan’s real loyalties lie, beyond his own self-interest.

There is little doubt that, for now, the bond is proving to be mutually beneficial, as details of their negotiations emerge in the aftermath. For Mr. Putin, the benefits include energy and arms sales, investment and a close connection to a member of NATO, which is trying to isolate him and help Ukraine defeat his invading army.

Turkey, which is not a member of the European Union, has refused to apply Western sanctions against Russia. It is exploring ways to work with otherwise sanctioned Russian banks and accept payments through Russian credit cards. Russian gas flows unimpeded through the TurkStream pipeline. There are also reports that Russia is seeking Turkish help in providing “subsystems” for its weapons, which can no longer source Western components directly.

For Mr. Erdogan, the benefits involve cash infusions into the central bank, cheap energy, global importance, a large export market, renewed Russian tourism and, crucially, apparent Russian acquiescence to his politically popular efforts to crush Kurdish separatism in Syria, where Russia supports the Syrian government of



Bashar al-Assad.

But the two leaders remain first-order frenemies, each a prickly strongman who has gathered up extraordinary powers to himself and keeps his own counsel. When they met in Tehran last month, Mr. Erdogan left Mr. Putin standing alone for nearly a minute, as the Russian leader, notorious himself for the waiting-game trick, shifted uncomfortably in front of whirring cameras.

The move was interpreted as a subtle reminder of the altering power balance between the them — Mr. Putin had kept Mr. Erdogan waiting before — as they work together, even while trying to maintain the upper hand. Increasingly, relations between the two countries come down to relations between the two men. The discussions between the two presidents are also closely held, with the Turkish Foreign Ministry, let alone the public, largely kept in the dark.

“Turkish foreign policy has entered a very dangerous period,” said Ilhan Uzgel, a political scientist who taught international relations at Ankara University before being fired by presidential decree. “The two leaders come together and make a negotiation. But only the two leaders sitting in the palace alongside a few other people, a very small group, know the content of these negotiations.”

Mr. Erdogan has bought sophisticated Russian anti-aircraft missiles that undermine NATO security and single-handedly moved to block NATO membership for Sweden and Finland, lifting his objections for now, but with the expectation that there will be more drama to come before the Turkish Parliament votes on whether to ratify their accession sometime this autumn.

The obstructionism could only delight Mr. Putin, who has long warned against the Nordic states joining the alliance.

Washington is watching carefully, stating officially that “we have urged Turkey to not become a safe haven for illicit Russian assets or transactions,” and urging Turkey

to reduce its energy dependence on Russia. The statement also noted that Turkey supports Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity, and that Mr. Erdogan has called the Russian invasion “unacceptable.”

Indeed, Turkey has opposed the Russian invasion of Ukraine, blocked Russian warships from entering the Black Sea and sold weapons to Kyiv, including sophisticated drones that have helped kill Russian soldiers.

For the West, Mr. Erdogan’s ability to deal with Mr. Putin has not been all bad. Turkey has kept close diplomatic ties to Moscow and is acting as the main mediator between Russia and Ukraine for grain deliveries and possible peace talks. Mr. Erdogan or his top aides speak to Mr. Putin and President Volodymyr Zelensky of Ukraine several times a week.

“Erdogan is keeping all his options open, which is what countries tend to do when they think only of their own self-interest, which is not what allies do,” said Ivo Daalder, a former U.S. ambassador to NATO. “He’s figured out a way to play his game, but he’s doing it at the expense of an alliance which is key to his own security.”

Having a NATO ally with good lines of communication to Mr. Putin is a good thing, Mr. Daalder added, “so long as he’s saying the right things, trying to resolve issues coherent with the goals of the alliance and not undermining it.”

Mr. Erdogan’s main goal, Turkish analysts agree, is his own re-election, and he is looking for help with both the economy and his effort to fight what he considers to be Kurdish terrorism in Syria and at home.

“The objective of the Erdogan government isn’t to relieve Putin, it’s to create the right conditions for itself on the way to the elections,” Professor Uzgel said.

“Erdogan has three worries,” he said. “One, to tell the West that he can do business with Putin. Second, he’s expecting the cash coming in from Russia to temporarily relieve the currency rates. Third, he wants to be on the same page with Russia for a possible incursion he wants to carry

out inside Syria.”

Mr. Erdogan is doing badly in opinion polls with elections due by June next year. His major vulnerabilities stem from the ruinous economy and from popular exhaustion and resentment with the millions of refugees it hosts.

“On both issues Putin holds enormous leverage over Erdogan,” said Asli Aydintasbas of the European Council on Foreign Relations. Russia is a source of hard currency, cheap energy and jobs, she said, while it would take only a few Russian bombing runs over northern Syria to flood another two million refugees across the border into Turkey.

Regional security threats, which include a tentative peace settlement in the fight over Nagorno-Karabakh — Turkey supports Azerbaijan, while Russia intervened to save Armenia — mean that any Turkish government would want a balanced working relationship with Russia, said Sinan Ulgen, director of EDAM, a Turkish research institution.

“Turkey needs a diplomatic partnership with Russia in our neighborhood, given crisis areas like Syria or Nagorno-Karabakh, so it doesn’t have the luxury of isolating Russia,” Mr. Ulgen said.

Mr. Erdogan’s ability to bring Russian and Ukrainian foreign ministers together and to mediate the deal to get Ukrainian (and Russian) grain out of the blockaded Black Sea “validates Turkey’s balanced approach to Russia,” Mr. Ulgen said. “Turkey has been pro-Ukraine without being anti-Russia.”

Turkish officials, he said, “are also aware of the thin line between not implementing sanctions and giving the perception or acting as the country that helps Russia evade sanctions.”

The Putin-Erdogan relationship is a strange one, with both countries “openly cooperating but also fighting proxy wars” in Syria and Libya, while Turkey needs Russian acquiescence to go after Syrian Kurds and preserve the tenuous cease-fire between Armenia and Azerbaijan, said Ms. Aydintasbas.

“No one in Ankara is happy that Russia is controlling parts of Turkey’s northern flank on the Black Sea and parts of its southern flank with Syria, but they understand they have to negotiate a relationship with Russia and establish a *modus vivendi*,” she said. “The only alternative is fighting.”

Returning Friday from his meeting with Mr. Putin in Sochi, Mr. Erdogan told reporters: “Mr. Putin holds a fair attitude toward Turkey.”

He added: “The mutual understanding we have built with Mr. Putin on trust and respect assures our relations.”

## Child killing Israeli machine “alarms” UN

From page 1 ▶ The top UN official was particularly appalled by the unprovoked Israeli attack on the besieged Gaza Strip last week that triggered a three-day battle with the Palestinian resistance.

According to the UN Human Rights Office, the Israeli military killed 19 Palestinian children in the occupied territories, taking the death toll since the start of the year to 37 children.

It says Israel killed 17 children during its attack on the Gaza Strip from August 5 to 7 and murdered another two on August 9 during military raids in the occupied West Bank.

The UN Human Rights Office added it has verified that among the 48 Palestinians Israel killed from August 5 to 7, there were at least 22 civilians, including 17 children and four women. This is while “the status of 22 fatalities remains undetermined.”

In another chilling assessment, of the 360 Palestinians, Israel injured, “nearly two-thirds were civilians, including 151 children, 58 women, and 19 older people.”

And in another sign of the regime’s indiscriminate bombing of the Gaza Strip last week, the UN says “in a number of incidents, children were the majority of casualties.”

The UN rights office goes on to say it documented Israeli attacks in the coastal enclave that were “civilian objects” at first sight, “causing civilian casualties and damage to civilian objects.”



“International humanitarian law is clear. Launching an attack which may be expected to incidentally kill or injure civilians, or damage civilian objects, in a disproportionate manner to the concrete and direct military advantage anticipated, is prohibited. Such attacks must stop,” Bachelet said.

While the Palestinian resistance successfully forced Israel into accepting the terms of a ceasefire in Gaza, tensions remain very high in the occupied West Bank, where the regime is conducting deadly military raids across the occupied territories.

Bachelet has slammed “the widespread use of live ammunition” by Israeli regime forces saying it has also led to an alarming increase in Palestinian fatalities in 2022. The UN Human Rights Office in the occupied West Bank has documented the killing of 74 Palestinians, including 20 children so far this year.

In many incidents Israeli forces used lethal force in a manner that appeared to be in violation of international human rights law, Bachelet added.

The High Commissioner has called for prompt, independent, impartial, thorough and transparent investigations into all incidents where any Palestinian was killed or injured.

She censured the “almost total lack of accountability” and “disproportionate use of force,” saying “this climate of impunity, along with the long-standing violations, drives the cycle of violence and the recurrence of violations.”

“The situation in Palestine is extremely fragile, and events such as in Nablu risk igniting further hostilities in Gaza. The utmost restraint is necessary to prevent further bloodshed, including by ensuring that firearms are used strictly in compliance with international standards,” the High Commissioner added.

Her comments come just days after the UN special rapporteur on the occupied Palestinian territories said Israeli air raids on the besieged Gaza Strip “not only are illegal but irresponsible.”

Francesca Albanese told Al Jazeera “the situation in Gaza is on the verge of a humanitarian crisis, the only way to secure the wellness of Palestinians wherever they are is to lift the siege and allow aid to enter.”

“I believe lack of accountability strengthens Israel,” he added, “I see ending occupation as the solution.”

The call has however fallen on death ears with the United States and Europe displaying what many experts have described as disgusting double standards towards a child-killing regime.

These are the names and ages of the Palestinian kids which Israel murdered following its attack on the Gaza Strip from 5th to 7th August, as has been widely documented by organizations, rights groups, and the media.

Alaa Qaddoum was among the first casualties following Israel’s unprovoked decision to launch air raids on the besieged Gaza Strip. She died on 5 August while she was playing with friends outside her home in the Shujaiya neighborhood in the northern Gaza Strip. Her seven-year-old brother and father were injured in the strike.

Momen al-Nairab, five, was killed in an Israeli attack on the Jabalia refugee camp in the northern Gaza Strip. The camp is one of the most densely populated places on Earth and houses more than 114,000 people.

According to documentation collected by Defence for Children International, Hazem Salem, nine, was among the four children in an explosion in the Jabalia refugee camp.

Ahmed al-Nairab, 11, was among the four children killed when Israeli warplanes are believed to have struck the Jabalia refugee camp.

Ahmed al-Farram, 16, was also killed when

## Arctic warming is happening faster than described, analysis shows

The rapid warming of the Arctic, a definitive sign of climate change, is occurring even faster than previously described, researchers in Finland said Thursday.

Over the past four decades the region has been heating up four times faster than the global average, not the two to three times that has commonly been reported. And some parts of the region, notably the Barents Sea north of Norway and Russia, are warming up to seven times faster, they said.

One result of rapid Arctic warming is faster melting of the Greenland ice sheet, which adds to sea-level rise. But the impacts extend far beyond the Arctic, reaching down to influence weather like extreme rainfall and heat waves in North America and elsewhere. By altering the temperature difference between the North Pole and the Equator, the warming Arctic appears to have affected storm tracks and wind speed in North America.

Manvendra K. Dubey, an atmospheric scientist at Los Alamos National Laboratory and an author of an earlier study with similar findings, said the faster rate of warming of the Arctic was worrisome, and points to the need to closely monitor the region.

“One has to measure it much better, and all the time, because we are at the precipice of many

tipping points,” like the complete loss of Arctic sea ice in summers, he said.

The two studies serve as a sharp reminder that humans continue to burn fossil fuels and pump greenhouse gases into the atmosphere at rates that are dangerously heating the planet and unleashing extreme weather.

Just weeks after a deadly heat wave clamped down on European capitals, shattering records in Britain, extreme temperatures are again engulfing western Europe this week. The heaviest rainfall in decades inundated Seoul, South Korea, killing at least nine and damaging nearly 3,000 structures. And the McKinney wildfire continues to rage in Northern California, destroying 60,000 acres, killing four people and triggering a mass fish kill.

If the rate of warming in the Arctic continues to speed up, the influence on weather could worsen, one of the researchers said. And projections of future climate impacts might need to be adjusted, said Mika Rantanen, a researcher at the Finnish Meteorological Institute in Helsinki.

Even as Congress is on the cusp of passing historic climate legislation, the United States is still far from its goal to stop adding carbon dioxide to the atmosphere by 2050. That’s the target all major economies must meet, scientists say, for the planet to constrain average

global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 degrees Fahrenheit) above preindustrial levels. Beyond that threshold, the likelihood increases significantly of catastrophic droughts, floods, wildfires and heat waves. The planet has already warmed an average of about 1.1 degrees Celsius.

While scientists have long known that average temperatures in the Arctic are increasing faster than the rest of the planet, the rate has been a source of confusion. Studies and news accounts have estimated it is two to three times faster than the global average.

Dr. Rantanen said he and his colleagues decided to look at the issue in the summer of 2020, when intense heat waves in the Siberian Arctic drew a lot of attention.

“We were frustrated by the fact that there’s this saying that the Arctic is warming twice as fast as the globe,” he said. “But when you look at the data, you can easily see that it is close to four.”

Their study was published Thursday in the journal Communications Earth and Environment.

The findings are bolstered by the earlier study, by Dr. Dubey and others at Los Alamos and elsewhere, which found similar rates of warming, although over a different time span.

(Source: nytimes.com)



## Iran explores ways to facilitate traveling for Iraqi nationals



TEHRAN —A special working group held talks on Wednesday as Iran explores ways to facilitate traveling for Iraqi nationals.

The working group seeks to simplify overland and sea routes for Iraqi travelers, which once constituted the main source of tourism for the Islamic Republic.

Organized by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts, the meeting was attended by officials from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; Road Maintenance & Transportation Organization; Ports and Maritime Organization; and the Touring & Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran, IRNA reported.

Issues such as facilitating the transportation of Iraqi tourists by creating regular overland services and the formation of sea transportation lines were among the issues raised in the meeting.

Iraqi nationals mainly opt to travel to their eastern neighbor for pilgrimage, sightseeing, and medical tourism, the report said.

Each month, thousands of Iraqi pilgrims visit Mashhad, Iran's holiest and second-largest city, which embraces the shrine complex of Imam Reza (AS), the eighth Shia Imam.

Before the coronavirus pandemic, Iraqi constituted Iran's largest source of tourists. In return, hundreds of thousands of Iranian pilgrims head for the holy Iraqi cities of Najaf and Karbala each year to attend

the Arbæen pilgrimage, aka the Arbæen trek, to mark an end to the 40-day mourning period following the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

According to the deputy tourism minister Ali-Asghar Shalbafian, a total of 715,519 foreign travelers, mainly from Iraq, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, toured Iran during the first three months of the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21).

Iran's tourism industry has tremendously suffered from the international coronavirus restrictions, so the number of foreign arrivals in 1399 decreased by more than 94% in comparison to the year 1398, the official said.

"Citizens from the neighboring countries have been the main source of tourism for Iran since coronavirus restrictions were eased several months ago," Shalbafian said.

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

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

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

Iran seeks to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

TEHRAN —Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts has set up a special committee to oversee fresh restoration work to be conducted on the UNESCO-registered Imam Mosque of Isfahan.

Arrays of faulty tiles, which are now pledged to be replaced with flawless ones, were revealed earlier this year when scaffolding was partly taken down from the dome of the majestic mosque after years of restoration.

Isfahan's tourism chief has said defective and problematic tiles that cause unevenness on the surface of the dome of the Imam Mosque will be removed, and new tiles will be installed instead.

"After the removal of a part of the scaffolding from the dome of the Imam Mosque, defects and problems in terms of unevenness were observed in some parts of it, especially in the 15th and 16th sections, and we promise the people and those interested in a cultural heritage that these issues will be resolved with care, specialized and compassionate work," Alireza Izadi explained.

The issue was highly highlighted in July when pictures posted on social networks brought reactions about the restoration of the 17th-century dome.

Mudbrick buildings are generally more sensitive than stone structures, Izadi said. "Brick domes such as ones on Imam Mosque or Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque are not an exception to this rule, and its conditions should be fully investigated from a scientific and professional point of view."

"When a historical building, for example, a dome, is (wholly) surrounded by scaffolding, we cannot visually identify if it is uneven... it cannot be recognized correctly."

A masterpiece of Islamic architecture, Imam Mosque stands tall at the southern end of UNESCO-



## Imam Mosque restoration: tourism ministry forms special committee to correct faults

registered Naghsh-e Jahan Sq. (Imam Square) in Isfahan, central Iran. The majestic place of worship is impressive because of its sheer size and incredible decoration.

Originally named Masjed Shah ("the Shah Mosque"), its construction began in 1611 during the rule of the Safavid King Shah Abbas the Great, who reigned from 1588 to 1629. The mosque's topmost dome was completed in the last year of his sovereignty.

Its interior and exterior walls are fully decorated with a polychrome, mostly dark blue, glazed tile revetment above a continuous marble dado. A very scenic huge entrance portal leads visitors to Imam Mosque, whose courtyard walls feature sunken porches framed by seven-colored tiles of deep blue and yellow. Each iwan leads into a vaulted sanctuary covered with particularly fine floral motifs on a blue background. Some

visitors say each part of the Imam Mosque is a masterpiece that leaves a lasting impression.

Many believe each of the mosque's parts is a work of genius that leaves a lasting impression. This palace of devotion owes its splendor mostly due to being covered with seven-color mosaic tiles and symmetrical calligraphic inscriptions.

Half the world?

Soaked in a colorful history, Isfahan was once been a crossroads of international trade and diplomacy in Iran and now it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons. It is filled with many architectural wonders, such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards. It's a city for walking, getting lost in its amazing bazaars, dozing in beautiful gardens, and meeting people.

Isfahan is renowned not only for the abundance of great historical bridges but also for its 'life-giving river', the Zayandeh-Rood, which has long bestowed the city an original beauty and fertility.

The city has long been nicknamed as Nesf-e-Jahan, which is translated into "half the world"; meaning seeing it is relevant to see half the world. In its heyday, it was also one of the largest cities in the region with a population of nearly one million. The cool blue tiles of Isfahan's Islamic buildings, and the city's majestic bridges, contrast perfectly with the encircling hot, dry Iranian countryside.

Imam Square is hemmed on four sides by magnificent buildings: to the east, the Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque; to the west, the palace of Ali Qapu; to the north, the portico of Qeysarieh; and to the south, the eminent Imam Mosque.

"The square was at the heart of the Safavid capital's culture, economy, religion, social power, government, and politics. Its vast sandy esplanade was used for celebrations, promenades, and public executions, for playing polo and for assembling troops," according to the UNESCO website.

Right at the northern limit of the Imam Square, one will find "Qeysarieh Gate", which leads to the unique and unforgettable "Grand Bazaar of Isfahan." This vaulted marketplace is one of the largest and most labyrinthine bazaars in the country. Shops offer handicrafts, souvenirs, jewelry, silverware, traditional ceramics, and authentic Persian carpets.

Modern Isfahan is now home to some heavy industry, including steel factories and a nuclear facility on its outskirts. However, its inner core wants to be preserved as a priceless gem. The city is also home to a gigantic, professional, and state-of-the-art healthcare city, which is a major destination in the realm of medical tourism.

## Eco-lodge units to come on stream in Gilan

TEHRAN —New eco-lodge units will be added to the traditional hospitality sector of the northern province of Gilan, the provincial tourism chief has said.

A total of 84 eco-lodge units are currently under construction, 50 percent of which are expected to be inaugurated by the end of the current Iranian year 1401 (ends on March 21, 2023), CHTN quoted Vali Jahani as saying on Friday.

750 direct and 1300 indirect job opportunities have been created so far by 130 eco-lodges, which are currently operational across the province, the official added.

The establishment of new eco-lodges could result in reverse migration, more jobs, and the revival of old cultures and traditions, he noted.

Gilan is well-known for its rich Iron Age cemeteries such as Marlik that have been excavated over the past century. It was once within

the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenian, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE. The subsequent Arab conquest of Iran led to the rise of many local dynasties, and Gilan acquired an independent status that continued until 1567.

Sophisticated Rasht, the capital of Gilan province, 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.

As a four-season country with pristine and beautiful nature in different parts of the country, Iran has a lot to offer nature lovers and eco-tourists. Eco-lodge units in rural areas and the heart of nature,



away from the hustle and bustle of the city, smoke, and pollution, could free people from the chaos and turmoil of modern life.

In recent years, several historical mansions and rural houses across the country have been repurposed into eco-lodge units to attract more domestic and foreign tourists.

The houses represent the indigenous culture, local customs, traditions, and stories, while the guests are served delicious food with local ingredients.

The growing tendency of tourists to experience indigenous and local cultures has made them want to

get closer to natural and indigenous living conditions, experiencing the old-fashioned way of life, considering that staying in these eco-lodge units is much cheaper than other accommodation centers.

Iran's tourism body said in 2018 that 2,000 eco-lodges will be constructed nationwide until 2021. Experts say each eco-lodge unit generates jobs for seven to eight people on average, so the scheme could create 160,000 jobs.

Having a very diverse natural setting, Iran offers varied excursions to nature lovers. Sightseers may live with a nomad or rural family or enjoy an independent stay. The country is home to abundant historical mansions, caravanserais, bathhouses, madrasas, and other massive monuments, which can buttress its budding tourism and hospitality sectors if managed appropriately and refurbished properly.

## Tourism projects to be inaugurated in northwest Iran

TEHRAN —On the occasion of Government Week (August 24-30), a total of nine tourism-related projects are scheduled to come on stream in West Azarbaijan province, northwest Iran, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The projects include a hotel, traditional accommodation center, travel agency, tourist complex, and hydrotherapy center in different cities across the province, Jalil Jabari said on Thursday.

The projects are estimated to generate 70 job opportunities upon their completion, the

official added.

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

The region was home to several ancient civilizations. According to Britannica, it was conquered by Alexander the Great in the 4th century BC and was named Atropatene after one of Alexander's generals, Atropates, who



and places.

There are illustrations on a large canvas named parde, and a person called pardekhan (storyteller or minstrel) stands before the crowd, points to an illustration with a stick, and narrates its story. This was a kind of street art and people, mostly children, and teenagers would gather in a square, where pardekhan would tell his stories. With a long wooden stick, he would show the images and at the same time would tell the story of each majlis (act).

established a small kingdom there. Ultimately, the area returned to Persian (Iranian) rule under the Sasanians in the 3rd century CE.

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

## Safavid processional standard to go on view in Tehran

From page 1 ► Following extensions and additions, it received its most characteristic features in the 19th century, when the palace complex was selected as the royal residence and seat of power by the Qajar ruling family (1789-1925). At present, the Golestan Palace complex consists of eight key

palace structures mostly used as museums and the eponymous gardens, a green shared center of the complex, surrounded by an outer wall with gates.

The palace contains numerous ornaments dating from the 19th century, which are one of its distinguishing features. Palace visitors are impressed by

the palace's lavish decoration: paintings, murals, frescos, marble carvings, mirror mosaic, and stained glass.

Talar-e Salam, or the reception room, is perhaps the most famous hall in the palace and is where the kings welcomed foreign guests arriving in Iran. Beautiful mirrorwork by Iranian

masters decorates the ceilings and walls of this hall, and marble mosaics cover the floors.

UNESCO has it that the complex exemplifies architectural and artistic achievements of the Qajar era including the introduction of European motifs and styles into Persian arts.

## Qajar-era mansion in Qazvin undergoes restoration

TEHRAN—A restoration work has commenced on the Qajar-era (1789-1925) Sadr al-Olama Mansion in the central province of Qazvin, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

The project is being carried out in collaboration with the mansion's owner under the supervision of cultural heritage experts and experienced restorers, Ehsan Nurani explained on Friday.

Repairing the rooftop, walls, and basement and restoring the stairs and balcony are parts of the project, the official added.

The historical structure has been inscribed on the national heritage list.

Qazvin was once the capital of the mighty Persian Empire, under Safavids, from 1548 to 98. It is a major tourist destination with a wonderfully restored caravanserai-turned-arts precinct, some quirky museums, and a handful of decent eating options. For most travelers, Qazvin is also primarily the staging point for excursions to the famous castles of the Assassins and trekking in the sensational Alamut Valley.

Also known as the castle of the Assassins, the



12th-century Alamut Castle is nestled on top of a peak. It was once a shelter for the followers of Hasan-e Sabbah (1070-1124), who was a spiritual leader of an Islamic sect. In the early 1930s, British-Italian explorer and travel writer Freya Stark described her exploration of the place in her book "The Valleys of the Assassins."

Qazvin is also home to one of the biggest roofed caravanserais in the country, Sa'd-al Saltaneh caravanserai. Dating back to the Qajar era, it's a place for discovering tens of Hojreh or shops, cafes, yards, and a stunning mosque. It's a place for visitors who want to experience the culture, cuisine, and hospitality of Iran.



# Let’s cherish our unique Caspian Sea

**By Mehdi Garshasbi**

TEHRAN – The Caspian Sea is a unique natural reservoir on our planet. It is the world’s largest land-locked body of water, measuring around 392,600 square kilometers.

The Caspian basin has been isolated for over two million years and hosts a unique ecological system as a result.

The Caspian sturgeon and the rare fresh water seal are among the most famous of the over 400 species that are endemic to the Caspian Sea. The vast river system and extensive wetlands attract millions of migrating birds and are the habitat of diverse flora and fauna.

The Caspian basin is also rich in oil and gas. So, the need for joint protection and management of the Caspian environment and its resources has been an ongoing issue for the Caspian littoral states.

Unfortunately, the Sea’s marine environment suffers from an enormous burden of pollution from oil extraction and refining, offshore oil fields, and huge volumes of untreated sewage and industrial waste.

Waste management in the Caspian Sea is on the verge of crisis and seriously threatens the Sea’s environment.

In addition to waste, leachate enters the sea through rivers or rainfall, and because the severity of leachate pollution is very high, it imposes a serious threat to the ma-



rine environment.

According to the Department of Environment, the Caspian Sea is in “critical condition” with oil tankers alone dumping over 120,000 tons of pollutants annually. Sewage from cities bordering the sea exacerbates pollution.

### Tehran Convention

In 2003, the Caspian littoral states, comprising the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Republic of Azerbaijan, the Republic of Kazakhstan, the Russian Federation, and Turkmenistan, signed the (Tehran) Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea.

Following ratification by all five Governments of the Caspian littoral states, the Tehran Convention entered into force on the 12th of August 2006.

The objective of this Convention

is the protection of the Caspian environment from all sources of pollution including the protection, preservation, restoration, and sustainable and rational use of the biological resources of the Caspian Sea.

The Tehran Convention serves as an umbrella legal instrument that not only aims at protecting the Caspian environment from all sources of pollution but also targets the preservation, restoration, and protection of the Caspian Sea species and habitats.

The Convention includes provisions on the sustainable and rational use of living resources of the Caspian Sea, environmental impact assessment and environmental monitoring, as well as research and development.

Further to the general obligations of the Tehran Convention, the littoral States are required to take

all appropriate measures to achieve these objectives individually or jointly and to cooperate with international organizations to that end.

On the sidelines of the 6th summit of the Caspian Sea littoral states which was held in Ashgabat on June 29, President Ebrahim Raisi said the interaction of the Islamic Republic of Iran with its friends and neighbors is original, and this interaction and cooperation not only will lead to economic prosperity and increase the welfare of our nations, but also strengthen regional peace and stability and solve the problems of the Caspian Sea zone merely through its coastal countries.

This major strategy of the Islamic Republic of Iran will continue, regardless of international developments.

**In 2003, the Caspian littoral states signed the Tehran Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea, which entered into force on the 12th of August 2006.**

## Vessel carrying 277,000 liters of smuggled fuel seized in Persian Gulf

TEHRAN – The Iranian authorities seized a vessel carrying 277,000 liters of smuggled fuel in the waters around Qeshm Island in the Persian Gulf.

The smugglers intended to transfer the consignment to one of the Persian Gulf littoral states, IRIB reported on Wednesday.

Twelve crew members of the vessel have been detained for further investigation. The smuggled fuel is worth 61 billion rials (about \$200,000), the report added.

Jalal Amini, head of the anti-trafficking police, said in July that smuggled goods worth 2 trillion rials (nearly \$71 million) have been confiscated across the country through the third stage of the plan to combat the smuggling of goods and currency.

In order to help domestic production, the fight against smuggling is underway continuously through monitoring of goods (origin and destination), implementation of plans, periodic and intermittent inspections of roads, etc. are on the agenda by the anti-trafficking police throughout the country, he explained.

The smuggled goods include basic goods, home appliances, electronic and medical equipment, car, cosmetics, clothes, and currencies, IRIB reported.



He went on to say that 1,037 accused were arrested and presented to judicial authorities, and 622 vehicles were seized.

Every year, \$20-25 billion worth of goods are smuggled in and out of the country, which, if stopped, will create hundreds of thousands of jobs, MP Hassan Norouzi has said.

Mohammad Hassan Nejad, a member of the Majlis (the Iranian parliament) energy committee, says the smuggled fuel amounts to 22 million liters per day. With a 50 cent per liter profit, the total daily income adds up to 400 trillion rials annually or \$3.3 billion, nearly the same as the country’s annual development budget.

In June 2020, the first phase of the national anti-smuggling plan was implemented with the priority of customs, tobacco, and transit goods nationwide.

**Every year, \$20-25 billion worth of goods are smuggled in and out of the country.**

## Organ donation rises to 12.8 per million population

TEHRAN – The number of organ donors in Iran has increased from 10.2 per million population (PMP) to 12.8 in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22).

Over the four-month period, 356 persons have received transplanted organs, while the figure was 283 and 151 in the same period last year and its preceding year, respectively, the head of the Health Ministry’s center for transplantation and disease management, Amirhesam Alirezaei, said on Friday.

So, the organ donation PMP index was 10.2 and 5.4 respectively in the years ending March 2022 and March 2021, he added, ISNA reported.

In the fourth calendar month (June 22-July 22), the organ donation PMP index grew by 30 percent year on year, he noted.

Organ donation is an altruistic decision that can be made by the family members after brain death.

Although many organizations and medical centers have implemented various inter-



ventions and training courses to increase satisfaction with organ donation, a lack of organs for donation still is a serious problem in the world.

In Iran, about 5,000 to 8,000 people die each year from brain death, half of whom, or about 3,000, have transplanted organs.

Unfortunately, 1,000 families, or one-third, are satisfied with organ donation.

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

**In the fourth calendar month (June 22-July 22), the organ donation PMP index grew by 30 percent year on year**

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON AUGUST 12

New cases	6,404
New deaths	68
Total cases	7,465,579
Total deaths	142,806
New hospitalized patients	1,238
Patients in critical condition	1,484
Total recovered patients	7,150,869
Diagnostic tests conducted	53,477,204
Doses of vaccine injected	153,350,372

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Hospital beds capacity rises to improve medical system

Health Minister Saeed Namaki inaugurated 23 health centers, including 201 hospital beds, in Lorestan, Kermanshah, and Khuzestan provinces on Tuesday.

Built on 26,935 square meters area, the centers were constructed with a budget of 2.9 trillion rials (nearly \$70 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials).

The Ministry of Health is scheduled to add 10,600 hospital beds to the capacity of the country’s medical system within the next 7 months.

Two years ago, there were a total of 140,859 beds in the country, which means 1.7 hospital beds per 1,000 population.

## افزایش ظرفیت تخت های بیمارستانی

سعید نمکی وزیر بهداشت امروز به صورت مجازی ۲۳ مرکز بهداشتی و درمانی را شامل ۲۰۱ تخت بیمارستانی در استان های لرستان، کرمانشاه و خوزستان افتتاح کرد.

به گزارش ایرنا، این مراکز در زیربنای ۲۶ هزار و ۹۳۵ مترمربع و با اعتباری بالغ بر ۲۹۸۰ میلیارد ریال ساخته شده است. وزارت بهداشت قرار است تا ۱۲ فروردین سال ۱۴۰۰، ۱۰ هزار و ۶۰۰ تخت بیمارستانی به ظرفیت بیمارستان های کشور اضافه کند. در انتهای سال ۱۳۹۷ مجموعاً ۱۴۰ هزار و ۸۵۹ تخت فعال در کشور فعال بود که اگر این میزان را به ازای جمعیت محاسبه کنیم، ضریب تعداد جمعیت به تخت‌مان، ۱.۷ تخت به ازای هر ۱۰۰۰ نفر است.



