

# Praise for Strategic and Effective Law

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*Leader: Parliament's Strategic Action law saved the country from quandary on nuclear issue*

## Nuclear activities under IAEA rules: nuclear chief

TEHRAN – Iran's senior nuclear official stated on Wednesday that the country's nuclear operations comply with IAEA rules and safeguards agreements, despite accusations by Zionist-affiliated media that Iran has constructed additional nuclear facilities.

Talking to reporters after a cabinet meeting, Mohammad Eslami asserted that the Zionists have attempting to spread false information about Iran for years.

Eslami, head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), referred to these campaigns as “psychological warfare by the enemy” and maintained that the Zionists always accuse Iran of such actions whenever they are at a standstill or under pressure as a result of their failures in the region.

In a report on Monday, the Associated Press claimed near a peak of ► Page 2

## Op-ed

## Iranian women show indescribable courage in Sacred Defense

By Sara Atta

TEHRAN – Inspired by Islamic teachings, Iranian women with indescribable courage and bravery appeared in various scenes, even on the battlefields during the eight years of Sacred Defense (Iraqi imposed war against Iran in 1980-1988).

Following the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran and the fall of the Pahlavi government in 1979 and the subsequent major changes in America's position in the region, the relations between Iran and Iraq also changed.

On September 17, 1980, the former Iraqi president, Saddam Hussein, tore up the 1975 Algerian agreement [An agreement between Iran and Iraq to settle any disputes and conflicts concerning their common border (such as the Shatt al-Arab, known as Arvand Rud in Iran)] by appearing in front of Iraqi television cameras. ► Page 7

## Iran taking new measures to de-dollarize transactions among ACU members

TEHRAN – Governor of the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has been holding talks with senior banking officials from various Asian countries on the sideline of the 51st Asian Clearing Union (ACU) summit in order to encourage getting new members and de-dollarize the economic transactions among ACU members.

As reported by the CBI portal, Mohammad-Reza Farzin met and held talks with Governor of the Central Bank of Russia Elvira Nabiullina, Governor of the State Bank of Pakistan Jameel Ahmed, Deputy Head of the Monetary Policy and Economic Analysis Directorate of the National Bank of the Republic of

Belarus Sergey Kalechits on the sidelines of the summit which was held in Tehran during May 23-24.

In the meeting with Nabiullina, the two sides emphasized strengthening trade exchanges and using the national currencies of the two countries in bilateral trade.

During the talks with the Belarusian delegation, Farzin said strengthening relations through bilateral and multilateral monetary agreements is a model that can play an important role in the development of trade relations between two countries. ► Page 4

## MPs praise accomplishments of 86th flotilla

TEHRAN- Iranian parliamentarians have praised the nation's 86th naval fleet, which arrived home last week after a round of the globe, saying the Navy is a source of national pride.

Iran's Navy brought great honor to the nation both during the 8-year imposed war against the country and for years afterwards, 220 lawmakers said in a statement on Tuesday.

“The Navy is a source of pride for the honorable nation of Iran,” they added.

The parliamentarians pointed out that Iranian navy troops have demonstrated via their tremendous effort that they fully

comprehend the directives of the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, who underlined, “Don't be satisfied with the status quo and move forward.”

The lawmakers also thanked the families of the 86th flotilla crew for bearing the pains of being apart from their loved ones and praised the honest efforts of the fleet's commanders, officials, and staff members.

The flotilla, comprised of a domestically-manufactured Dena destroyer and Makran forward base ship, set sail from Iran's southern port of Bandar Abbas on ► Page 2



Ebrahim Raisi attended the Independence Mosque in Jakarta on the last day of his trip to Indonesia on May 24, 2023.

## Strong Tehran-Jakarta ties will benefit Islamic world, Raisi says

TEHRAN- Strengthening ties between Iran and Indonesia would benefit the Islamic world, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi says.

Raisi made the comments in a meeting with Indonesia's People's Consultative Assembly (MPR) speaker Bambang Soesatyo on Tuesday in the country's capital Jakarta.

Indonesia is a significant country with an excellent position in Southeast Asia, Raisi highlighted, adding that “the expansion of relations between the two countries is in the interest of the Islamic world and Muslims.” ► Page 2

## Report

## Americans anxiously await debt ceiling deadline

By Ali Karbalaee

TEHRAN – A U.S. default on its debt is looming and failure to reach a deal will have far-reaching consequences.

The administration of U.S. President Joe Biden has less than a week to strike a deal with Republicans, otherwise it will run out of money to pay millions of workers including American soldiers, but the ripple effects will be felt across the world and in particular Washington's Western allies.

The current cap on the U.S. federal debt is \$31.4 trillion dollars. That's how much the world's strongest economy has borrowed this year to pay off its bills.

The White House and the Republican-controlled House of Representatives are stalling on talks to reach an agreement to raise the amount of money the U.S. can borrow.

The main bone of contention being argued in public between the two sides is that Biden wants to increase the amount of money Washington can borrow, while Republican House Speaker Kevin McCarthy wants to see some spending cuts first before raising the debt ceiling. ► Page 5

## ‘Meaningful collaboration is only way to ensure global health goals’

TEHRAN – Iranian Health Minister Bahram Einollahi has said the only way to ensure the global health goals, including “saving people and ensuring health for all,” is to increase opportunities for meaningful international collaboration and partnership.

“The World Health Organization recently declared the end of Covid-19 as a global health emergency. I would like to take this opportunity to express my deep appreciation for the tireless efforts of all the dedicated health workers involved in responding to this pandemic.”

Einollahi made the remarks at the seventy-sixth World Health Assembly which is being held in Geneva, Switzerland, on May 21-30 with the theme of WHO at 75: Saving lives, driving health for all.

Based on Islamic teachings whoever saves one – it is as if he had saved mankind entirely, he highlighted. ► Page 7

## Tehran Papers

*In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in the yesterday's Iranian newspapers.*

## Indonesia is island of opportunities

In a note, Vatan-e-Emrooz addressed the president's visit to Indonesia and relations between the two countries. It wrote: ► Page 2

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## TEHRAN PAPERS

## Indonesia is island of opportunities

*In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in the yesterday's Iranian newspapers.*

In a note, Vatan-e-Emrooz addressed the president's visit to Indonesia and relations between the two countries. It wrote: This country is now progressing based on the Vision 2045 document, which is supposed to bring this Muslim country to the group of advanced countries in the 100th year of its independence and set it in the fifth place in world economy. In such a situation Tehran and Jakarta can serve as a "miracle" of strategic relations in the Islamic world. As founders of the Non-Aligned Movement, they can solidify their political and economic relationship. Since the Islamic revolution in Iran, Tehran has established religious and cultural interactions with Indonesia. Iran has also worked on proximity of religions in the Southeast Asian country. Also, their cooperation in international organizations such as the United Nations, the Non-Aligned Movement, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation and DB has been friendly. Iran has commercial and economic relations with the Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), which Indonesia is a member, and has always encouraged the expansion of relationship between ECO and ASEAN and actively participated in the joint meetings of the two unions.

#### Arman-e-Melli: Duties and challenges of the new security chief

In a commentary, Arman-e-Melli discussed the duties and responsibilities of the new secretary of the Supreme National Security Council. It said Admiral Ali Akbar Ahmadian faces a vital test in his post. The council should pay due attention to distribution of power and wealth in the country and make a distinction between private and public sector. In addition, he should pay special attention to resolving problems that Iran is facing globally and regionally. To promote national security, he should also help give priority to the production sector which would help strengthen the social capital. This is not possible except by gathering an enormous group of elites to ensure protection of national security and the interests of the people, and also push the society to the rule of law.

#### Sobh-e-No: Meaningful vote of representatives for Qalibaf

Sobh-e-No wrote about the election of the speaker of the Parliament and said: The most important point in the re-election of Qalibaf in the fourth year of the Islamic Consultative Assembly

is that the vote actually shows that the members of the parliament are satisfied with the management of the parliament by Qalibaf, and this contrasts fake news by some radical media outlets and individuals related to this current. Qalibaf has been able to manage the parliament in these years through proper interaction with the representatives. Despite slanders by some media outlet against the speaker of the Parliament in the past few months, which was promoted by radical personalities, we notice that not only this degree of defamation did not have an effect on the reduction of votes for him, but also compared to last year there was a significant increase in votes. As a result, not only the smear campaigns have not worked in these years, but Qalibaf's competent performance in managing the parliament and focusing on the main issues have raised his credibility among the representatives.

#### Farhikhtegan: Competition versus participation

In a commentary, Farhikhtegan discussed political competitions in the parliament. It wrote: Intensification of political tensions in the final year of the parliament, will have an electoral agenda rather than a reformative function. Non-technical labeling and will not have any achievements except creating disappointment in the social atmosphere. Such political and factional confrontations may be able to reduce the power of competitors and provide a situation to win seats in the parliament, but they are all against national interests and will reduce voter turnout by creating disappointment.

#### Resalat: Khorramshahr was stepping stone to confront imposed order

Resalat devoted its editorial to the anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr. It wrote: The liberation of Khorramshahr was the starting point of Iran's movement towards the new world order by confronting an imposed order. The imposed war was only a tool in the hands of the imposed order to return Iran to the previously controllable conditions and stabilize the old order. Iran's first "no" to this order was the situation that Iran proved that it is going to move against the world's river and not to lose a single part of its soil. Iran will succeed to completely turn the tide when the fighters of Islam record a permanent frame next to the dome of Al-Aqsa Mosque like the image of the fighters on top of Khorramshahr Mosque.

and has achieved capabilities that have created good capacities for development of relations between the two countries," Raisi stressed.

The Iranian president expressed appreciation for Indonesia's position in support the oppressed peoples of Afghanistan and Palestine, saying, "The development of relations is in line with the interests of the two countries, the people of the region, and Muslims."

"There are no obstacles in the way of developing relations between the two countries," Raisi said, pointing to the documents and agreements reached with Indonesian authorities in the domains of energy, medicine, and science and technology.

For her part, Maharani voiced the Indonesian Representative Council's support for the agreements made during Raisi's visit and said, "I am confident that the relations between the two countries will develop not only in the political field, but also in the fields of economy and medicine, especially in pharmaceutical products."

#### ASEAN announces plans to deepen relations with Iran

During a meeting with Raisi on Wednesday, the secretary general of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Kao Kim Hourn underscored on the need of ASEAN to speed up its collaboration with Iran.

Iran's position and importance in the region were underlined by the ASEAN secretary general, who also provided an update on the association's initiatives to increase interactions with Iran.

The Iranian president, for his part, stated that regional organizations play an important role in countries' economic growth.

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

# Nuclear activities under IAEA rules: nuclear chief

From page 1 ► the Zagros Mountains in central Iran, workers are building a nuclear facility so deep in the earth that it is likely beyond the range of a last-ditch United States weapon designed to destroy such sites.

It said the photos and videos from Planet Labs PBC show Iran has been digging tunnels in the mountain near the Natanz nuclear site.

#### Official calls threats against Iran's nuclear sector pointless

The domestication of the nuclear sector has rendered threats against Iran's nuclear program utterly useless, the AEOI spokesman said on Wednesday.

Behrouz Kamalvandi made the remarks while addressing a meeting of the heads of Iranian diplomatic missions at the Foreign Ministry.

Even foes have recognized that Iran's nuclear capabilities have reached a point where they cannot be eliminated, Kamalvandi asserted.

Noting that the country's nuclear capabilities have become deeply ingrained and indigenous, Kamalvandi further emphasized that the nuclear industry is a driving force in different industries and is not limited to a specific field.

He went on to say that Iran can provide one million patients with radiopharmaceuticals.

## Iranian diplomat cautions of ramifications of unilateral sanctions

TEHRAN- An Iranian diplomat on Tuesday called for an end to unilateral sanctions on nations, warning of the dire effects on people, particularly women and children.

Zahra Ershadi, Iran's deputy permanent representative to the UN, said that lifting unilateral sanctions would allow the international community to provide prompt, appropriate, and effective humanitarian responses.

She made the remarks before a UN Security Council meeting on the protection of civilians and ensuring their security and dignity in times of conflict.

What follows is the text of her statement:

We commend Switzerland's Presidency for initiating this open debate, and we thank the Secretary-General and other briefers for their incisive briefings.

Protecting civilians during conflicts is critical since it has a devastating impact on their life.

Under international humanitarian law, all parties to a conflict are required to ensure that civilians have access to essential goods and services, including food and medical care. They are also prohibited from attacking civilian objects such as food supplies, water sources, and hospitals.

Despite the obligations outlined in international humanitarian law, the Secretary-General's report (S/2023/345) indicates that armed conflicts in 2022 resulted in a significant number of casualties, including deaths, injuries, enforced disappearances, and immense suffering. The United Nations documented a concerning increase in civilian deaths, with at least 16,988 recorded across 12 conflicts, marking a 53 percent rise compared to the previous year.

The report also highpoints the persistent and devastating effects of armed conflicts on food security, leading to continued hunger in many regions. The disruption of agriculture and trade exacerbates the situation, causing shortages of essential supplies and agricultural products.

These alarming statistics underline the urgent



The spokesman also pointed to U.S. sanctions against Iran, saying the U.S. had claimed that medicines were not subject to sanctions, "but the truth was something else."

#### "The nuclear fuel cycle of Iran cannot be disputed"

Eslami also spoke at the same event in which he emphasized Iran's nuclear achievements, notably the development of heavy water technology.

He said multiple organizations from various countries are interested in purchasing Iranian heavy water and its derivatives.

"Today, the whole nuclear fuel cycle, namely exploration, extraction, processing from mines, conversion, enrichment, and pro-

duction of fuel and its use in reactors, is being carried out by our young and hardworking experts and scientists," Eslami explained.

Additionally, he declared that Iran's nuclear fuel cycle capabilities "cannot be negated."

The nuclear chief said that Iran would not have been able to develop radiopharmaceuticals to counter the effects of sanctions that put the lives of many people in peril if its reactors had not been operating or lacked the nuclear fuel cycle.

By signing a nuclear agreement with six major countries (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council plus Germany) in 2015, Iran proved to the world the benign nature of its nuclear program.

However, Washington unilaterally withdrew from the agreement, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in May 2018 and re-imposed sanctions against Tehran.

In April 2021, talks between the deal's parties began in Vienna with the goal to bring the U.S. back into the agreement and ending its "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran.

However, because of Washington's insistence on not removing all of the anti-Iran sanctions and providing the requisite assurances that it won't quit the agreement again, the negotiations have remained inactive since September 2022.



need for concerted efforts to address the impact of armed conflicts on food security and protect civilian populations.

Yet, in the Middle East, our critical region, terrorism, occupation, illegal unilateral acts, and the presence of illegal foreign forces continue to wreak havoc on civilians and their infrastructure.

In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Israeli regime continues its oppressive, expansionist, and apartheid practices, systematically violating the human rights of Palestinians. The UN report underlines that last year witnessed the highest number of Palestinian civilian fatalities in the West Bank since 2005. Furthermore, the situation in Gaza is deeply distressing as it has effectively become the world's largest prison. The destruction of vital infrastructure compounds the already dire humanitarian situation, leaving the people of Gaza in a state of extreme vulnerability.

In the Syrian Arab Republic, the persistence of unilateral sanctions imposed by the US and EU, as well as the plundering of Syrian natural resources by illegal foreign forces, have had a negative impact on the humanitarian situation in Syria, exacerbating the challenges faced by the Syrian people and impeding the Syrian government's ability to provide essential services to those in need.

Furthermore, the Israeli regime continues its aggressions and terrorist attacks against Syria's sovereignty and territorial integrity with impunity and no repercussions from the international community.

We strongly condemn these heinous crimes

## MPs praise accomplishments of 86th flotilla



From page 1 ►September 20, 2022 in a voyage around the world. Dena and Makran together weigh more than 122,000 tons. They

sailed around the world, passing through important ports, seas and oceans. They ultimately returned home on Saturday and were wel-

comed by Iran's military and civilian officials.

The 86th flotilla broke the record for the distance an Iranian flotilla has sailed in international waters.

It completed a lengthy cruise around the world and sailed across the Indian, Pacific, and Atlantic oceans without needing assistance from the land for the first time in Iran's naval history.

On September 20, 2022, it departed from Bandar Abbas, a port city on the Persian Gulf. It finally anchored at Oman's Salalah harbor on the 236th day of its journey.

The flotilla traveled 63,000 kilometers and four times crossed the equator.

The flotilla's "360 degrees" mission included the deployment of Iranian vessels to the Antarctic as one of its key objectives.

With 70 active research institutes spread over 30 nations, Antarctica is one of the most crucial strategic places on earth.

An idea has been promoted in recent years that the Islamic Republic of Iran plans to build a permanent facility at the South Pole to strengthen its strategic position.



# Praise for Strategic and Effective Law

*Leader: Parliament’s Strategic Action law saved the country from quandary on nuclear issue*

TEHRAN - In a meeting with the speaker and members of Iran’s 11th Consultative Assembly, Iranian Parliament, on May 24, 2023, the Leader praised the parliament for the important measures it has taken by passing the “Strategic Action” law, underling that it has saved the country from a state of quandary in the nuclear issue.

During the meeting, which coincided with the anniversary of the Liberation of Khorramshahr (24th of May, 1982), the Leader honored the greatness and position of the Iranian Parliament and considered the legislative status of the Parliament to be much greater and more important than its supervisory position.

“Legislation is like building a railroad or more precisely, it is like building a road that determines the direction of movement of the other branches of government,” he said.

Imam Khamenei considered some of the bills that have been approved by the current parliament as strategic. “The Strategic Action Plan to lift sanctions was a fundamental and important resolution that saved the country from a state of quandary with regards to the nuclear issue. We can even see the results of its implementation on a global scale.”

Imam Khamenei described the Family and Youth Protection Act as very important, while underlining that the knowledge-based production leap law is one of Parliament’s strategic enactments.

In describing the characteristics and performance of the 11th Consultative Assembly, the Leader of the Revolution stated, “After three years, I still consider this parliament to be revolutionary, young and dynamic. Of course, this is a general view that does not take into account the exceptions that



may exist in the parliament.”

Recognizing the country’s problems and passing legislation to solve them was another characteristic that he described with regards to the current Parliament.

“Most of the laws to fight corruption, to eliminate discrimination and monopolization and to improve the business environment have been approved with decisiveness and clarity,” he added.

The Leader of the Revolution considered “having a simple life, avoiding aristocratic behavior or looking down at people” as the characteristics of many of the representatives of the 11th Parliament.

He also strictly urged the members of the parliament to refrain from being influenced by the enemies’ propaganda, adding that factional considerations and groupings should definitely not play a role in the evaluation and approval of bills.

Imam Khamenei remarked that, “Because of different tastes, groupings have always existed in

parliament, but we should not let it turn into a bipolarity. We should not let it take the place of justice and prudence while making decisions on legislative matters.”

In the final part of his speech, Imam Khamenei provided the members of the parliament with some important recommendations.

While outlining his first word of advice, he referred to the duality of “rapprochement or destruction” in the parliament’s relationship with other branches of government, especially the executive branch. “In the destructive view, both parties see each other as rivals with the aim of uprooting each other. This view is dangerous and problematic for both the government and the parliament.”

Combining piety and honesty with freedom and openness was another recommendation that the Leader made to the MPs. “Piety and honesty should be observed in cases where a public announcement [of an issue] is necessitated.”

At the beginning of his speech, on the occasion of the third

of Khordad, which marks the anniversary of the liberation of Khorramshahr, Imam Khamenei congratulated the great nation of Iran for this miraculous epic.

The Leader also made a recommendation for people to read books that have been written about Operation Beit ol-Moqaddas.

“More important than this great victory are the initiatives, the war plans that can be taught in war colleges, the sacrifices and bravery of ordinary human beings, high-ranking martyrs, and other stories and facts that were seen in that unparalleled operation. We should not let these things fade or be forgotten.”

At the beginning of this meeting, Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, Speaker of Iran’s Islamic Parliament, gave a report on the performance of the 11th Parliament. He described “creating a road map for prioritization in legislation” as one of the most important distinguishing features of this term of the Parliament.

(Source: khamenei.ir)

## Iran says firm to secure water rights from Helmand River



TEHRAN – First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber said on Wednesday that Iran is “determined” to resolve dispute with Afghanistan over water sharing.

Mokhber made the remarks after a cabinet meeting on Wednesday.

Mokhber, who headed the cabinet meeting as President Raisi was on a tour of Indonesia, confirmed that negotiations are underway between Iran and Afghanistan to secure Iran’s water right from the Helmand River.

Based on the 1973 treaty, Afghanistan is legally obligated to allocate 820 million cubic meters of water from the Helmand River to Iran.

However, Afghanistan has built dams on the 1150-kilometer-long river and changed its course. The move has led the Hamoun wetland in the border province of

Sistan-Baluchestan in southeastern Iran to greatly dry up.

The locals’ livelihood is greatly dependent on the wetland which has been fed by the Helmand River for millions of years. The water from the river is used for drinking and agriculture. It is also a source of income for fishermen.

**‘Afghanistan is legally tasked to honor Iran’s water rights’**

The deputy vice president for legal affairs also said on Wednesday that the 1973 treaty is a comprehensive one which has delineated the water rights of Iran and Afghanistan.

“For resolving the Helmand water problem there is a comprehensive treaty and we want the Afghan officials to honor their commitments based on the treaty,” Mohammad Dehqan told reporters after the cabinet meeting.

Dehqan added it is “expected that the issue is resolved” through expert meeting in accordance with the 1973 treaty otherwise it will be resolved through “arbitration”.

During a visit to the border province of Sistan-Baluchistan on May 18, President Raisi warned the “rulers of Afghanistan” should take the issue of Iran’s “water rights seriously”.

The warning followed a phone conversation

between Amir Khan Muttaqi, the acting foreign minister of the Taliban administration, and Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian over several issues, including Iran’s share of water from the Helmand River.

Amir Abdollahian requested the Taliban open the gates of the Kajaki Dam “so both the people of Afghanistan and Iran can be hydrated.”

Taliban officials recently claimed that due to low water levels, even if they opened the dam, nothing would reach Iran. But Amir Abdollahian said that can only be determined by a joint technical team in accordance to the 1973 treaty. Iran has proposed such a team inspect the Kajaki Dam to assess the situation, the minister said.

Raisi said that if the experts confirm the water shortage, Iran would drop its concerns.

The Iranian Energy Ministry has announced satellite images show claims by Taliban officials that there is not enough water behind dams is not true.

Hassan Kazemi Qomi, Iran’s special representative to Afghanistan, stated that despite the Taliban-led government’s repeated commitment to the Helmand water treaty, Iran has only received about 4 percent of the water to which it has a right.

the terrorist attack.

Three schoolchildren were martyred in the attack. Martin, a six-year-old boy, lost all his family members.

CCTV footage showed the attacker entered the shrine after hiding an assault rifle in a bag and shooting as worshippers tried to flee and hide in corridors.

The gunman, identified as a citizen of Tajikistan, later died in a hospital from injuries sustained

during the attack.

The two men sentenced to death said during the trial they had been in contact with the Islamic State in neighboring Afghanistan and helped organize the attack.

Daesh also conducted deadly twin attacks in 2017 in Tehran that targeted the parliament and the mausoleum of Imam Khomeini, the founder of the Islamic Republic.

## IRAN IN FOCUS

MAY 25, 2023

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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## SPORTS

### Esteghlal into 2023 Hazfi Cup final

team defeated Nassaji 4–0 in the 2023 Iran’s Hazfi Cup semifinals.

In the match held in Tehran’s Azadi Stadium, Arash Rezavand opened the scoring for the Blues in the 25th minute. Nassaji defender Alireza Ebrahimi scored an own goal in the 34th minute and Mohammad Mohebi scored the third goal in the 57th minute. With one minute remaining, Mohebhi completed his brace, chipping the ball over Nassaji goalkeeper Alireza Haghighi.

On Thursday, Persepolis will play Havadar in another semifinals in Tehran.

Esteghal are the most successful club with seven titles in the competition founded in 1975.

Persepolis have won the title six times.

The winner of the Hazfi Cup will be awarded a spot in the AFC Champions League.

### Women’s basketball to compete at 2023 William Jones Cup

TEHRAN – Iran’s women’s basketball team will participate at the 2023 William Jones Cup for the first time.

Iran will take part at the competition in Taiwan as part of preparation for the 2023 Women’s Basketball FIBA Division B Asian Cup in August.

Greek basketball coach Eleni Kapogianni has been recently appointed as head coach of Iran’s women’s basketball team.

The R. William Jones Cup, also known as the Jones Cup, is an international basketball tournament organized by the Chinese Taipei Basketball Association (CTBA) held annually since 1977 in Taiwan.

It was named in honor of basketball promoter Renato William Jones, who was one of the founders of the International Basketball Federation (FIBA). Like the Olympics and the FIBA Basketball World Cup, it has both men’s and women’s versions.

Iran’s men’s basketball team have won the title five times.

### Manicone likely to be named as Team Melli assistant

TEHRAN – Iran football federation has reportedly reached an agreement with Italian coach Antonio Manicone.

The 56-year-old coach has most recently worked as assistant coach in French football club Bordeaux.

Several Iranian coaches had been previously named as Amir Ghalenoei assistant and the federation had said a foreign coach would be added to the coaching staff.

Iranian media reports suggest that the Federation has reached an agreement with Manicone.

Manicone, who has played in Italian teams Inter, Palermo, Genoa and Perugia, started his coaching career in Inter in 2004 and has also worked as assistant in Lazio, Switzerland national football team and Bordeaux.

Iran will participate in the 2023 CAFA Nations Cup as part of preparation for the 2023 AFC Asian Cup.

### Iranian trio futsal players sign for Indonesian teams

TEHRAN – Three Iranian futsal players will play in the Indonesia Women’s Pro Futsal League.

Zahra Gholizadeh has joined Pusaka Angels and Zahra Ahadi and Mohadeseh Mohammadi have signed for Muara Enim United futsal team.

Indonesia Women’s Pro Futsal League is the main competition futsal for women at the national level and is in Indonesia, organized by the Indonesian Futsal Federation.

This competition began in the 2012–2013 season and until now it has been arranged 6 times.

This competition was held in conjunction with the title of the Indonesia Pro Futsal League.

### Hakan Demir arrives in Tehran

TEHRAN – Turkish coach Hakan Demir, who was named the new head coach of the Iran basketball team last week, arrived in Tehran Wednesday morning.

He will coach Team Melli in the 2023 FIBA World Cup and 2022 Asian Games.

Demir will watch the match between Shahr-dari Gorgan and Kaleh Mazandran in the Iranian Super League on Thursday.

Demir, who undertook the position of assistant of head coach Ergin Ataman in Turkey’s national team in the 2023 FIBA World Cup Qualifiers, will coach Manisa Metropolitan Belediyespor, one of the Turkish Insurance Basketball Super League teams, simultaneously.

Having previously experienced coaching abroad, including in Switzerland’s Herens Basket and Romania’s Dinamo Bucharest teams, Hakan Demir also undertook the head coaching of Turkish teams such as Besiktas, Banvit, Trabzonspor and Karssyaka.

### Iran beach soccer to play Thailand in World Beach Games opener

TEHRAN - Iran beach soccer national team will meet Thailand in the 2023 World Beach Games qualification opener on Thursday.

The competition will be held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia from May 25 to 27.

Saudi Arabia, Iran, Japan, Oman, the UAE, Thailand and Kuwait will take part in the event and the top two teams will qualify for the 2023 ANOC World Beach Games.

The 2023 ANOC will be held in Bali, Indonesia from Aug. 5 to 12.

### Iran defeat Afghanistan at 2023 CAFA U20 Championship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Afghanistan 4-1 at the 2023 CAFA U20 Championship on Wednesday.

Reza Mirzaeian netted a brace and Yousef Mazraeh and Mehdi Mahdavi scored a goal each.

Iran had lost to Uzbekistan 3-2 in their opening match.

The match was held at the CSKA Stadium in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Iran will play Turkmenistan and Tajikistan on Friday and Sunday, respectively.

Central Asian Football Association (CAFA) is one of five regional bodies of governance in association football in Asia. It governs association football, futsal, and beach football in Central Asia. CAFA consists of six national association members.

### Sepahan win Iran handball league

TEHRAN - Sepahan handball team claimed the title of the 2022-23 edition of Iran’s Handball League on Wednesday.

Although defeated by Shameli, Sepahan club became champions of the 35th edition of the League.

Sepahan fell short, in the second leg, against Shameli 27-21 but won the tile due to the goal difference.

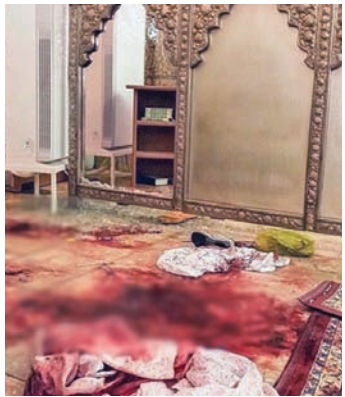
In the first leg, Sepahan had beaten Shameli 36-27.

Montenegrin coach Veselin Vujovic led Sepahan in the League.

## Supreme Court confirms death penalty on two persons involved in Shah Cheraq attack

TEHRAN - Iran’s Supreme Court has upheld death sentence against two persons involved in the terrorist attack on the Shah Cheraq shrine in the city of Shiraz in October 2022, the court’s public relations office announced on Wednesday.

The attack on the shrine in the evening prayer time on October 26 resulted in the death of 15 people and injury of 20 others. The Islamic State, also called Daesh, carried out





## Flowers, ornamental plants worth over \$1m exported from Kordestan in a year



TEHRAN- Flowers and ornamental plants valued at over \$1 million were exported from Kordestan province, in the west of Iran, during the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20), according to a provincial official.

Peyman Eskandari, the head of the province's Agriculture Department, said that one of the priority programs of his department is the development of greenhouse cultivation.

He said that the production of flowers and ornamental plants is economically justifiable, and currently there are about 6.5 hectares of greenhouses dedicated to flowers and ornamental plants production in the province.

Two weeks ago, the head of Iran's Ornamental Plants Research Center (OPRC) said that no permanent production and the problem of transportation are obstacles to the growth of the country's flowers and ornamental plants export.

Hossein Bayat said the government's support for the creation of large production centers can provide the basis for the continuous export of these products.

"One of the shortcomings of export is that the production of flowers and ornamental plants does not follow a permanent trend, and for this reason, we cannot have a constant and permanent export of these products throughout the year, and due to the temporary stoppage of the production of the flowers and ornamental plants, we cannot meet the expectations of the export market", he further complained.

"One of the ways to solve this problem is the government's support for the creation of large production centers so that these centers provide a platform for continuous export by supporting small production units. Otherwise, with the continuation of these conditions, we should not expect an increase in exports", Bayat commented.

In addition to the existing problems in

the field of production, transportation and transport systems and export laws of the destination countries have also created restrictions on the export of these products, the head of OPRC further lamented.

Also, the chairman of the Flower Retailers' Association of Tehran has said, "The high cost of production and the lack of modern greenhouses have led to low export of the flowers and ornamental plants, and have kept us away from the world markets".

Gholam-Hossein Soltan-Mohammadi said, "Last year, we did not have much export, in other words, in the second half of the past year, we had a little export to Iraq and now we are still sending to this country, however, the export to European countries was less than previous years."

"If our products reach the export markets, we may be able to compensate the production costs. Otherwise, if we are going to produce only to supply the domestic market, we should definitely not boost production more than this", he added.

Production of flowers and ornamental plants in Iran rose during the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20), despite the coronavirus pandemic, an official with the Agriculture Ministry has announced.

Gholam-Reza Taqavi, the director-general of the Office of Greenhouses, Ornamental Plants, and Edible Mushrooms of the ministry's Horticulture Affairs Department, said that 4.532 billion flowers and ornamental plants were produced in the country in the past year.

Iran has 17th place in the world in the production of flowers and ornamental plants, but it is ranked 107th in terms of export.

Considering the high potential and volume of import of flowers and ornamental plants by the Persian Gulf littoral states and Central Asian countries, in order to increase the share of Iran in the world markets, it is necessary to adopt effective and targeted policies in order to solve the problems in the way of production and export of flowers and ornamental plants.

As reported, it is possible for Iran to export more than one billion dollars of flowers and ornamental plants per year, and the officials of the Agriculture Ministry also emphasize the export capabilities of the country's flower and ornamental plant sector.

## Commodities worth \$490m exported from Kerman province in a year

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, non-oil goods worth \$490 million were exported from Kerman province in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

Mehdi Hosseini-Nejad, the head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, said that the annual export from the province fell 49 percent in value.

He named pistachio and copper as the major exported products and said that pistachios and copper cathodes constituted 64 percent of the province's exports in the previous year.

The official further announced that commodities worth \$2.2 billion were imported to the province in the past year, with a 107-percent growth.

He named auto parts as the major imported

## ISIPO inks co-op MOU with Germany's BWA

TEHRAN - Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization (ISIPO) has signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) with Germany's Federal Association for Economic Development and Foreign Trade (BWA) for cooperation in various fields

The MOU has been signed by ISIPO Head Ali Rasoulou and the Chairman of the Board of BWA Michael Schumann, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

The MOU covers a variety of areas including technology exchange between Iranian and German companies, holding technology-based conferences, holding B2B meetings between Iranian and German companies, supplying



machines needed by Iranian companies, holding industrial and commercial events with the participation of BWA in the countries of the region, holding educational workshops for Iranian companies including technical and professional courses for managers.

# Iran taking new measures to de-dollarize transactions among ACU members

From page 1 ▶ Referring to Belarus' readiness to join the ACU, the CBI head said: "Belarus's membership with its good capacities in its economy can lead to the development of the activities of this union."

Also, in the meeting with Farzin, Ahmed, the governor of the State Bank of Pakistan, welcomed the development of the banking relations with Iran by creating a non-SWIFT platform for connecting the bank systems of the two countries and clearing trade under the framework of the Asian Clearing Union and said: "We are ready for the development of banking relations. By introducing representative banks and creating a joint working group, we will provide the grounds for deepening banking relations."

According to Farzin, accepting new members with the aim of creating synergy and



CBI Governor Mohammad-Reza Farzin

diversifying the currency basket of the union can encourage de-dollarization in trade exchanges among the ACU members.

This is one of the major goals of this union in the future, he said.

Asian Clearing Union is a payment arrangement whereby the participants settle payments for intra-regional transactions among the participating central banks on a net multilateral basis.

The main objectives of the clearing union are to facilitate payments among member countries for eligible transactions, thereby economizing on the use of foreign exchange reserves and transfer costs, as well as promoting trade and banking relations among the participating countries.

Currently, the members of ACU are the central banks of Iran, India, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Myanmar.

The central banking authorities of member countries have issued detailed instructions and modalities for channeling monetary transactions through the ACU. Membership in the ACU is open to central banks located in the geographical area of ESCAP and non-ESCAP.

## Iran-EU trade stands at €1.18b in Q1 2023



TEHRAN - The value of trade between Iran and the European Union (EU)'s member states reached €1.18 billion in the first three months of 2023, according to the data released by the European Union's statistics office Eurostat.

Based on the Eurostat data, the trade between the two sides fell 11 percent in the said quarter in comparison to the previous year's same period when the figure stood at €1.33 billion.

As reported, EU's exports to Iran during January to March 2023 stood at €960 million, registering a decrease of nine percent compared to the same period of the previous year when the EU exports to Iran were reported to be €1.055 billion.

The European Union's imports from Iran also reached €220 million in the first quarter of 2023 with a 20 percent decrease compared to the same period last year. In the same quarter of the previous year, €275 million of goods were imported from Iran.

As previously announced by Eurostat, the value of Iran's export to the European Union's member states rose 15 percent in 2022, as compared to the

previous year.

The Eurostat's data show that Iran exported commodities worth €1.055 billion to the union in 2022, while the figure was €922 million in 2021.

### Value of Iran's export to European Union's member states rose 15% in 2022.

The EU's export to Iran also rose seven percent to €4.183 billion from €3.931 billion.

According to the Eurostat, the total value of trade between Iran and the European Union reached €5.238 billion in

January-December 2022, while the figure was €3.931 billion in 2021.

Among European countries, Germany was Iran's top trading partner in 2022, accounting for about 35 percent of Iran's trade with the European Union. Germany exported €1.582 billion worth of goods to Iran while importing €278 million worth of commodities from the Islamic Republic. The country's total trade with Iran was 1.860 billion euros.

Italy was Iran's second trading partner with the total trade between the two countries standing at €712 million. Italy exported €551 million worth of goods to Iran while the imports stood at €161 million.

## TEDPIX rises 15,000 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN - TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 15,164 points to 2.345 million on Wednesday.

As reported, over 12.303 billion securities worth 98.618 trillion rials (about \$234.8 million) were traded at the TSE.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one. The other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

The head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) mentioned the measures taken by this organization in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (which ended on March 20) and explained the priorities and key plans of the SEO in 1402.

In a message on the occasion of the New Year, Majid Eshqi wrote:

In 1401, one of the main goals of SEO was to protect the rights of investors and restore their confidence in the capital market. In this regard, various programs were targeted and implemented: (1) Development and improvement of intelligent monitoring systems in market sectors and financial institutions, (2) Payment of interest through the comprehensive customer information system of Sejam, including annual and annual profits, so that small shareholders can ensure that they receive their profits at the lowest cost, (3) Launching new investment instruments, including certificates of deposit of gold bullion, crude oil and gas condensate, so that small shareholders can invest in basic and relatively inflation-proof assets in small amounts, (4) Diversification of investment funds to cover the tastes and needs of a wider range of retail investors, (5) A jump in the licensing of financial institutions with the aim of improving the competitive environment and increasing the quality of customer service, (6) Building trust through the promotion of the Capital Market Stabilization Fund's status and introducing the shareholder portfolio insurance plan for retail investors, (7) Improving market micro-structures such as increasing the range of volatility with the aim of smoothing the market flow, and

(8) Issuing new guidelines for corporate governance in order to protect the rights of shareholders by publishers. Today, we can say with pleasure that the trust of small shareholders has been significantly restored as a fundamental step towards popularizing the economy.

In addition to the above actions, the Securities and Exchange Organization has always tried to lay the ground for the continuation of sustainable growth and increase the efficiency of the capital market by carrying out structural reforms, and in this regard, five key programs are prioritized:

1- Indirect investment development: In the past year, a good amount of diversity was created in indirect investment instruments, especially investment funds, and we continue to focus on deepening these new and efficient instruments and promoting them for investors.

2- Creating a platform for transparent and diverse financing: By defining technical and legal infrastructures to facilitate micro and macro financing by the private and non-governmental sectors, a new chapter of financing projects and businesses was established, and the government was able to implement its plan to transfer the shares of companies along with the transfer of operational management without harming the capital market. The initial offering of shares of businesses based on new technologies was also a big step towards the financing of knowledge-based companies, which will be followed seriously in the current year in a higher volume and of course according to the market capacities.

3- Smart regulation and monitoring: The organization's new approach to smart and preventive monitoring, along with the launch of systems for speeding up the handling of complaints, promises a new move that will greatly help to reduce violations in this market by formulating the necessary regulations in the amendment of the stock market law.

4- Revision of the regulatory infrastructure: Due to the necessity of implementing professional and



uncomplicated principles and rules in the direction of the sustainable development of the capital market, in addition to the measures taken in order to amend the corporate governance guidelines for publishers and the guidelines for identifying and reporting the confidential information holders in the organization, some reforms, which need the changes in the stock market law, have also been considered in cooperation with the legislator, which will definitely ensure the long-term interests of the capital market.

5- Derivative market development: Some basic measures in the field of capital market infrastructure and also in the field of designing derivative instruments with the aim of making the market two-way and providing risk management instruments for market participants were implemented in the past year, and therefore there is full readiness and determination to make these efforts come to fruition with the introduction of new derivative instruments, especially in the stock market, from the beginning of this year.

In 1402, while pursuing the aforementioned long-term plans, the Securities and Exchange Organization intends to provide the basis for the double growth and prosperity of the capital market by facilitating the establishment of project public companies, activating the capacity of credit rating companies, especially in line with the development of the bond market and fixed income funds, and generating government assets through the real estate board, capacity building for the issuance of debt securities that can be converted into shares, the introduction of various commodity funds, and finally the development of the online verification platform of assets.



# Americans anxiously await debt ceiling deadline

From page 1 ► Caught in the middle are millions of Americans including federal employees, the military, those who rely on welfare benefits and medical patients on Medicare, as well as stock markets tied to the Wall Street, all of whom are already on edge. Another fresh wave of selling hit European stock markets on Wednesday.

Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen has warned that if the Biden Administration cannot borrow more funds as of the end of May, the U.S. will not have enough money to meet its financial obligations.

In reality, the talks between the two sides have been stalled for political purposes so that Republicans can bring the Biden administration along with the Democrats down ahead of the 2024 presidential election.

At the G7 summit in Hiroshima, Biden admitted the devastating consequences for his re-election bid if the U.S. is unable to pay its bills. He said, "Because I am president, and presidents are responsible for everything, Biden would take the blame. And that's one way to make sure Biden is not re-elected."

If an agreement is not reached to raise the debt ceiling, the U.S. administration will default on its debts and the U.S. will enter uncharted territory as this is usually a formality to pass a higher debt cap in Congress and not raising the annual level of money the U.S. can borrow will be the first time such a scenario playing out in the country.

The current state of affairs is a strong indication of just how polarized U.S. Democrats and Republicans have become, that Washington has allowed this to drag on and potentially have a catastrophic knock for Americans and cause major economic damage.

In the short-term, Moody's Analytics has forecast that if no deal is made by June 1, stock prices will fall by almost a fifth, the U.S. economy would contract into a recession, mass layoffs will be seen with at least seven million Americans out of work, while reports say 15 million U.S. army



veterans and their families will be harmed.

U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin has warned that a default would see "a substantial risk to our reputation with allies and security partners across the globe" who would question "as to whether or not we will be able to execute (military) programs."

There is a slow but certainly growing pattern in the West, where the executive branch bypasses parliament and takes matters into its own hands. This was seen in France where President Emmanuel Macron bypassed Parliament to raise the pension age despite nationwide protests and strikes by millions of French people against the deeply controversial move. Biden may declare a national emergency and raise the debt ceiling by himself.

Another major knock-on effect would be on the U.S. dollar as a global reserve currency that is slowly becoming a non-global currency. American allies have been using the U.S. dollar to settle trade transactions, which eases America settling its own bills.

The current demand for U.S. dollars absorbs America's trade and budget deficits as foreign central banks are willing to hold their surplus dollars in the form of U.S. treasury bonds. This has been overlooked by Congress since the Second World War as the U.S. can just print dollars as foreign central banks use them.

But the dollar is losing its role as global reserve currency: a direct

result of Washington's policies of sanctions and unilateralism over the past two decades, which has in turn convinced other countries that it is quite risky to use American dollars or hold on to them because they could one day be subject to sanctions by the U.S. themselves.

Many regions in the world have seen how the U.S. can turn on countries that it once considered as allies.

The world is witnessing a rising number of nations settling their trade transactions in currencies, mostly local currencies, but not the U.S. dollar.

This is now posing a threat to the U.S. being able to settle its debts as Washington has been for a long time seeing the rest of the world, in essence, financing its own debt with the U.S. dollar.

The SWIFT system is used for trade transactions via mostly the U.S. dollar and, to a lesser extent, other Western currencies who have also joined the U.S.-led sanctions regime against adversaries, such as Great Britain and Canada. International trading systems such as SWIFT is now facing a challenge from many governments and global organizations such as BRICS, the five regional economies of Brazil, Russia, India, China, and South Africa.

As the U.S. seeks to raise the annual debt ceiling, it could find itself in quite a difficult place where it has to pay back its debt (in its entirety) on its own.

In other words, the U.S. Congress

could soon find itself having to lower the amount of money it borrows every year and not increase the debt ceiling.

Where that money will come from is up for debate. But it would be forced to come out of other budgets, and one of those is the \$857.9 billion U.S. military budget that was passed for the fiscal year 2023.

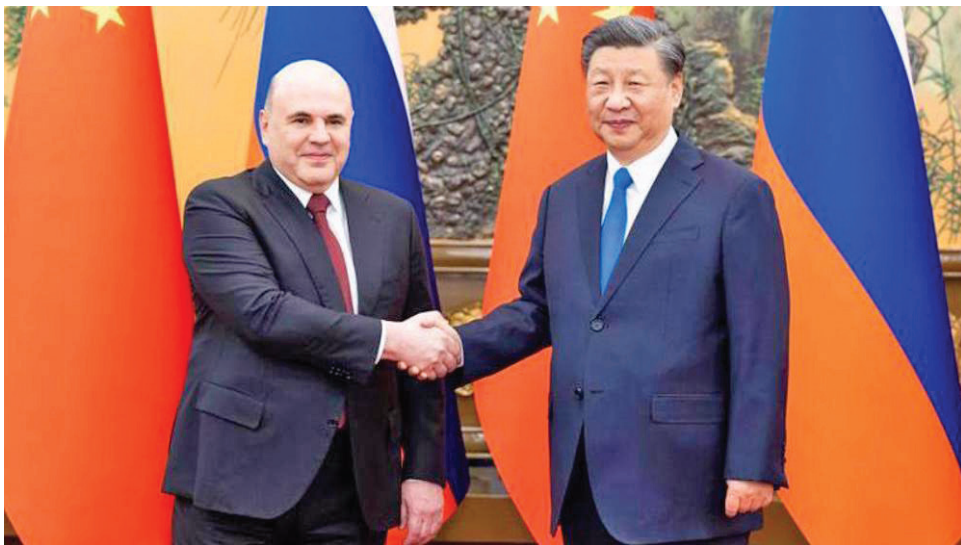
The U.S. military expenditure has been rising every year, and as the pattern over the past decade shows, it is set to hit one trillion dollars very soon. Cutting back on the "defense" budget would see a major setback for America's military adventurism abroad.

The U.S. military expenditure is much higher when other aspects are taken into account. For example, the more than \$2.3 trillion it spent on the war and occupation of Afghanistan (and that was just one country the U.S. has invaded) or its nuclear weapons program.

The U.S. war economy comes at a time when Americans are suffering back at home from the dismal infrastructure, agriculture, medical care, suicide rates among teenagers and army veterans, mass shootings, etc, which the authorities have failed to address.

In the middle of this current crisis, where the politicians are speaking about how much money is needed to increase the debt ceiling, there is always money available for war.

So the U.S., through its aggressive and unilateral foreign policies, has essentially shot itself in the foot.



Russian Prime Minister Mikhail Mishustin (L) shakes hands with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing on May 24, 2023. (Photo by AFP)

the collective West."

"Our country is the leading supplier of oil to China. Exports of natural and liquefied gas, as well as coal, are steadily increasing," Mishustin noted, adding that the two sides "are ready to collaborate on the implementation of other major projects, including those involving renewable energy."

Moscow was hit last year by a slew of Western sanctions over its special military operation in Ukraine, which started in February 2022.

The sanctions slapped against Moscow, which include a cap on Russian oil prices, resulted in China becoming the world's top buyer of Russian oil.

Novak, who is in charge of Russia's energy policy, told a Russia-China business forum in Shanghai on Tuesday that Russian energy

supplies to China would increase by 40 percent year-on-year in 2023, Moscow's state media reported.

Li, for his part, praised the establishment of a "comprehensive strategic cooperative partnership between China and Russia in the new era."

"The scale of investment between the two countries is also continuously upgrading," Li said. "Strategic large-scale projects are steadily advancing."

Ministers from the two countries on Wednesday signed several agreements to expand Beijing's cooperation with Moscow.

China has made it clear that it will not give in to foreign pressure, indicating that it will act in accordance to its foreign policy based on securing its national interests in international relations.

### WORLD HEADLINES

#### Japan has no plans to become a member of NATO: PM

Japan has no plans to become a member of NATO, Prime Minister Fumio Kishida has said.

He told the national parliament on Wednesday that Tokyo would not be joining the US-led military bloc in any form, according to Reuters.

Earlier this month, Japanese Ambassador to the US Koji Tomita told Nikkei Asia that Japan was "working" towards opening a NATO liaison office in Tokyo, which would become the bloc's first in Asia.

The same outlet had earlier reported that the mission, which is scheduled to open next year, would be aimed at facilitating NATO's consultations with Japan and its other allies in the Asia-Pacific, such as Australia, New Zealand and South Korea, in light of geopolitical challenges posed by China and Russia.

Kishida confirmed to MPs that NATO is considering the possibility of establishing a liaison office in the country. However, he added that he was "not aware of any decision made" within the bloc regarding the mission.

#### Islamic scholar Tariq Ramadan cleared in Swiss rape trial

Renowned Islamic scholar Tariq Ramadan has been cleared of rape and sexual coercion charges after a Swiss court found no evidence against the former Oxford University professor.

The plaintiff's lawyer, soon after the verdict on Wednesday, said they will appeal the Geneva Criminal Court ruling.

The academic was also awarded about 151,000 Swiss francs (\$167,000) in damages from the Swiss canton of Geneva.

After the verdict was read in the court, the 60-year-old Swiss preacher smiled and was hugged by one of his daughters.

His 57-year-old Swiss accuser, identified under the assumed name of "Brigitte", left the courtroom before the end of the verdict. The woman had accused Ramadan of raping her in a Geneva hotel in 2008.

Prosecutors had last week called for a three-year jail sentence for Ramadan. The case was the first time he had been tried for rape, although he risks facing a trial in France on charges of sexual assault.

The lawyer representing Brigitte, a convert to Islam, said she was repeatedly raped and subjected to "torture and barbarism".

#### Russia says against any attempts to stage color revolutions in Central Asia

Russia will not tolerate any attempts to interfere in the affairs of Central Asian states with the aim of introducing color revolutions to the region, according to Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova.

During a briefing on Wednesday, Zakharova emphasized that they are prepared to strengthen joint coordination in supporting Central Asian states to ensure their sovereignty and national development.

She also stated that they will not tolerate any attempts to carry out color revolutions or external interference in the region's affairs. Zakharova further pointed out that the US and its allies have intensified typical forms of pressure on Central Asia, which goes against the principle of non-interference in the affairs of sovereign states.

She added that the collective West views interaction with regional countries primarily through promoting an anti-Russian and anti-Chinese agenda.

#### EAEU almost shifts to payments in national currencies: Russian deputy PM

The Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) has almost shifted towards payments in national currencies, with a share of 90% in March, according to Russian Deputy Prime Minister Alexey Overchuk.

Speaking at the second Eurasian Economic Forum, he noted that there has been a surge in the use of national currencies in mutual payments by the union's countries. Overchuk added that "the EAEU has virtually shifted to payments in national currencies."

#### Israel demolishes home of Palestinian

The Israeli army said on Tuesday it had demolished the home of a Palestinian involved in an attack in Tel Aviv that killed one and wounded two others in March.

Video footage of the attack shows a man the army claims was Moataz Khawaja, 23, shooting three men from behind, including one in the head — in one of Tel Aviv's busiest streets — before being shot and killed by Israeli police. Hamas said he was a member of its armed wing.

On Tuesday, the army destroyed Khawaja's home in the town of Naalin, northwest of Ramallah in the occupied West Bank. The army said people burned tires, threw stones and shot fireworks at Israeli forces who were razing the site.

#### German police conduct nationwide raids against climate activists

German investigators have launched a nationwide raid against members of the Last Generation climate activist group, the Munich State Prosecutor's Office said Wednesday.

A total of 15 properties in seven German states have been searched as part of the raids conducted on behalf of the Bavarian State Criminal Police Office (LKA) and the Munich General Public Prosecutor's Office, authorities said.

Four searches took place in Berlin, three in Bavaria and three in Hesse. There were further actions in Hamburg, Magdeburg, Dresden, and Schleswig-Holstein, authorities said.

The Prosecutor General's Office in Munich said it had initiated a preliminary investigation "due to numerous criminal complaints from the population" against a total of seven defendants aged 22 to 38 years, "on the charge of forming or supporting a criminal organization." The notifications had been received since the middle of 2022.

Specifically, the defendants are accused of organizing a fundraising campaign to finance "further crimes" for Last Generation, advertising it on its website and collecting at least 1.4 million Euros (\$1.5 million) in donations.

Two defendants are also suspected of having attempted to sabotage the Trieste-Ingolstadt oil pipeline in April 2022, according to the LKA.

#### Britain refuses to return remains of Ethiopian prince-media

Buckingham Palace has reportedly rejected a request to repatriate the remains of Prince Alemayehu, an Ethiopian royal who was brought to the UK as a child in the 19th century and is buried in the catacombs of St. George's Chapel at Windsor Castle.

Prince Alemayehu was allegedly abducted and taken to England at the age of seven as an orphan after British soldiers looted his father's imperial citadel and seized royal treasures following the Battle of Maqdala in 1868. He was cared for by Queen Victoria, who arranged for his education and his burial after his death at the age of 18.

However, the prince's relatives want his remains to be returned to his homeland, with Fasil Minas, a descendant of the Abyssinian royal family, emphasizing that Ethiopia is his rightful home.



## Tehran museum puts relics recovered from smugglers on display

TEHRAN – Over 400 ancient artifacts recovered from smugglers are on view at the National Museum of Iran in downtown Tehran.

A total of 434 historical objects that Iranian police have recovered from smugglers in the provinces of Tehran and Isfahan have been put on show at the National Museum of Iran, ISNA reported on Wednesday.

The relics have been selected from some 19,000 relics recovered in the past Iranian calendar year, which ended on March 21, the report said.

Potteries, earthen vessels and personal ornamentations are among the objects on show at the exhibit that comes to an end on May 25.

Chock-full of priceless objects showcasing the juicy history of the nation, the National Museum showcases ceramics, pottery, stone figures, and carvings, mostly taken from excavations at Persepolis, Ismail Abad (near Qazvin), Shush, Rey, and Turang Tappeh to name a few.

The museum's main building, designed by French architect André Godard and completed in



1928, is one of the more attractive modern buildings in Tehran, blending Sassanian principles such as the grand iwan-style entrance with art déco-style brickwork.

Inside, among the finds from Shush, there's a stone capital of a winged lion, some delightful pitchers and vessels in animal shapes, and colorful glazed bricks decorated with double-winged mythical creatures. A copy of the diorite stele detailing the Babylonian Code of Hammurabi, found at Shush in 1901, is also displayed – the original being in Paris.

## Sightseers visit Mehriz old fortresses on package tours



TEHRAN – Mehriz tourism office has organized package tours of ancient fortresses, which stand tall across the ancient Iranian city.

Students, researchers, and tourism experts were among the participants of the tours arranged to mark the national cultural heritage week observed from May 18 to 24, CHTN reported.

Since antiquity, mankind has assumed the need to fortify properties to survive in an ever-chang-

ing world of invasion and conquest. Commencing from simple earthworks and wooden walls, fortifications gradually evolved into complex, unconquerable imposing citadels.

Forts were normally erected and maintained along significant routes or cities, particularly at heights overlooking steep slopes or cliffs. Many of the fortifications of the ancient world were built using mud brick, often leaving them no more than mounds of dirt for today's archaeologists.

Situated some 30 km south of Yazd, Mehriz is located at a height of 1470 meters above sea level. It is surrounded by Bafq in the east, Yazd in the north, Taft in the west, and by the province of Fars in the southeast and the province of Kerman in the southwest.

Being located in a strategic position along the roads of Tehran-Bandar Abbas (Yazd-Kerman), the ancient city is famous for having historical castles.

## Over 2000 beds to be added to hospitality sector of West Azarbaijan

TEHRAN –Over 2,000 beds are expected to be added to the accommodation capacity of West Azarbaijan province, northwest Iran, the provincial tourism chief has said.

A total of 1,000 rooms with 2,024 beds is planned to be added to the hospitality sector of the province, Morteza Safari explained on Wednesday.

Last May, a local tourism official announced that some 1500 beds will be added to the hospitality sector of the province.

Last April, the official announced that tourism-related projects generated 1,767 job opportunities across the province during the Iranian

calendar year 1399 (ends March 21, 2020).

"The largest number of jobs is related to the issuance of licenses for handicraft producers, which has led to the employment of 549 persons," he noted.

Last July, ISNA reported that the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic has ruined more than 44,000 jobs in a once budding travel sector of the country.

Experts believe accommodation centers suffered the most as a result of the outbreak of the coronavirus in Iran and its subsequent unemployment and financial losses.

## Sadi mausoleum to undergo restoration



TEHRAN – The mausoleum of Persian poet Sheikh Muslih ad-Din Sadi Shirazi, known by his pen name Sadi, in the southern city of Shiraz, Fars province, is planned to undergo some rehabilitation works, the provincial tourism chief has said.

A budget of 11 billion rials (\$22,000) has been allocated to the restoration project, Seyyed Moayyed Mohsen-Nejad explained on Wednesday.

The project will involve repairing the damaged parts such as the mausoleum's dome as well as strengthening the structure, the official added.

Musharraf ad-Din ibn Muslih ad-Din, known as Sadi (c. 1213-1291) is one of the greatest figures in

classical Persian literature. His best-known works are the Bustan (1257; The Orchard) and the Gulistan (1258; The Rose Garden).

The Bustan is entirely in verse and consists of stories aptly illustrating the standard virtues recommended to Muslims – justice, liberality, modesty, and contentment – as well as reflections on the behavior of dervishes and their ecstatic practices.

The Gulistan is mainly in prose and contains stories and personal anecdotes. The text is interspersed with a variety of short poems, containing aphorisms, advice, and humorous reflections.

# A paradise of colors: Hormuz Island's hues and sights

TEHRAN – With its ocher creeks, crimson beaches, enchanting salt caves, and vibrant landscape, which is adorned with a series of red, orange, and yellow rocks, Hormuz Island is a geologist's Disneyland.

Some say that the island's great variety of colors, mainly due to the presence of different mineral deposits and rocks, paints a surreal picture that will surely take your breath away. Here, the water's color can range in shade from turquoise to royal blue depending on the time of day.

Lying 8 km off the Iranian coast amidst the murky blue waters of the Persian Gulf, Hormuz is a pear-shaped, shimmering salt dome embedded in strata of shale, clay, and ferrous volcanic rock, giving it iridescent hues of red, yellow, and orange the more than 70 minerals found here.

Hormuz is often called the "rainbow island" because of the spectrum of chromatic hues that it exudes.

Locals say the island's red soil is edible, adding the red earth is a kind of sauce that may be spread on flatbread when it is almost done. In addition to culinary uses, the red earth is also used for paintings by local artists, for dyeing, and the manufacture of ceramics and cosmetics.

As mentioned by Dr. Kathryn



Goodenough, senior geologist at the British Geological Survey, who previously worked in Iran, shallow seas formed thick layers of salt along the edges of the Persian Gulf hundreds of millions of years ago. These layers gradually collided and overlaid with mineral-rich volcanic sediments in the area, creating a colorful landscape.

"Over the last 500 million years, the salt layers were buried deeply by younger layers of volcanic sediment. Since the salt is buoyant, over time, it has risen through cracks in the overlying rocks to reach the surface and form salt domes," BBC quoted Goodenough as saying in an article published in October 2021.

Goodenough believes that many kilometers below the land surface, these thick layers of salt actually exist in much of the Persian Gulf.

Hormuz is often called the "rainbow island" because of the spectrum of chromatic hues that it exudes. Extending more than

a kilometer, its pale caves and sharp-edged walls are covered by shimmering salt crystals that look like the giant columns of a marble palace.

Some rocks of the island have been weathered into fantastical shapes by thousands of years of wind erosion; with a bit of imagination, one could see birds, dragons, and other mythical creatures. It is like admiring Earth's very own art gallery.

Despite the island's surreal, kaleidoscopic natural colors, it is quite an unknown destination for nature lovers.

To fully experience the island's beauty, visitors can take a short hike up the colorful highlands, which offer unobstructed panoramic views of the entire island. Aside from its geological wonder, the island of Hormuz is also home to an authentic and rich Iranian culture, which is evident in its bustling traditional markets and unique local archi-

itecture.

Traditional houses with adobe walls and wooden roofs display the local architecture that has survived through the centuries. In addition, the island is known for its handicrafts, such as glass objects, calligraphy, and pottery, which visitors can purchase as souvenirs.

Visitors may also explore the island's beautiful beaches, fringed with crystal-clear turquoise waters and fine white sand. The tranquil beauty of the coast offers a perfect retreat from the hustle and bustle of city life where visitors can soak up the sun, go swimming or even enjoy water sports.

Another attraction on the island of Hormuz is ruined fortifications built by Portuguese colonists in the early 16th century. As mentioned by Britannica, the Portuguese conquered Hormuz in 1514 and built a fortress. For more than a century, the island remained Portuguese, but the rise of the local English and the Persian Shahs' displeasure with Portuguese occupation culminated in the conquest of Hormuz by joint Anglo-Persian forces in 1622.

The island of Hormuz has a unique and diverse wildlife that includes various species of dolphins, turtles, and migratory birds that can be observed in their natural habitats. Among them is the endangered hawksbill turtle, one of the world's rarest sea turtles, which nests on the island's beaches between December and January.

## Excavations underway in Chaparabad Dam to safeguard relics



TEHRAN – Five teams of Iranian archaeologists have commenced rescue excavations on the historical sites at the basin of the Chaparabad Dam in the city of Oshnavieh, northwest Iran, a local tourism official has said.

As a result of the water release in the dam in the near future, the historical sites and

relics in the area could be completely submerged, Ronak Tasa explained on Wednesday.

Archaeologists, therefore, work hard to find and save historical objects and hand them over to the museums in the area, she added.

Located in West Azarbaijan province, Oshnavieh boasts 106 sites registered on Iran's National Cultural Heritage List. It is also home to five bas-relief carvings, originally belonging to the Kingdom of Urartu (860 BC – 590 BC), the main reason why Oshnavieh is called an archaeologist's paradise.

However, over the past couple of years, the region has witnessed a series of unauthorized, unprecedented drillings and exca-

vations committed by unauthorized diggers and antique dealers.

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

## Woodcarving exhibit opens in Shiraz

Located in Hamedan province, the ancient city is home to over 4,000 furniture workshops in which more than 8,000 woodmasters and some 25,000 crafters are engaged.

Although the art had been practiced in Malayer for a long time ago, it is about a half-century that it has gained prosperity in the region.

Currently, more than 60 percent of the furniture and woodcarving

products in Iran are reportedly produced in Malayer and they are sent to various Iranian cities or exported to Central Asian countries, Persian Gulf littoral states, Turkey, and Iraq amongst some others.



### INTERNATIONAL TENDER NOTICE

Since **ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY** intend to purchase 15,000 tons of High Carbon Ferro Manganese with tender no **48573203**, hereby informs whom is interested in that tender documents can be received by sending a request to below contact details (Email or WhatsApp), the sealed and closed envelopes according to what has been mentioned in tender documents must be submitted to **ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY- Raw Materials Purchasing Department (RMP)** until 1:00 PM (According to Tehran time) Tuesday 20. June.2023 (Tuesday 30.03.1402).

Contact Details:

Contact Person: Mr. Khosraviani

Email: [a.khosraviani@msc.ir](mailto:a.khosraviani@msc.ir)

Cell Phone/WhatsApp: **00989131078639**

**Note: ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY** reserves the right of return or rejection of those tender documents in which haven't observed at least one of items of covering letter.

**ESFAHAN MOBARAKEH STEEL COMPANY PUBLIC RELATONS**



# ‘Meaningful collaboration is only way to ensure global health goals’

From page 1 ► He went on to say that the right to enjoy health and enjoy the highest health standards should be available to everyone without distinction of race, religion, political opinions, or economic and social conditions.

Equitable, unimpeded, and timely access to health products and medical countermeasures is critical in public health emergencies.

Unilateral coercive measures, as acknowledged in the report of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on his visit to the Islamic Republic of Iran, negatively affect the right to health of people under sanctions.

“Regional and subregional cooperation can play an important role in promoting health for all. Health-focused subregional initiatives, such as the G5 cooperation program in our region, can help improve the resilience of health systems.”

The Group of Five cooperation program was designed and initiated by the Islamic Republic of Iran with the participation of Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq and the World Health Organization, and Tajikistan as observers. This subregional group is a unique example of South-South cooperation in the field of health, the minister stressed.

“We are happy to share our subregional joint health achievements with other regions and countries.”

The 26th G5 High-Level Experts Meeting on Health Cooperation and the 1st Healthcare Leadership and Governance Training Program was held in Tehran from May 6-10.

G5 countries (Afghanistan, Iran, Iraq, Pakistan, plus the World Health Organization) took part in the meeting with the theme of “Joint Work for Solving Joint Health Problems.” Addressing the opening cere-



mony, Health Minister Bahram Einollahi referred to the unity and cooperation of the countries in the fields of health, treatment, and medical education as a his-

## Unilateral coercive measures negatively affect the right to health of people under sanctions.

torical necessity.

Achieving, maintaining, and promoting health is never possible in a regional way and does not happen in an isolated region, but requires the cooperation of countries, especially neighboring countries, he stressed.

Iran initiated the establishment of the G5 in 2005 to promote subregional cooperation in health among the countries.

Several activities have already been taken under this initiative, with the Islamic Republic of Iran taking responsibility for serving as its secretariat.

The first subregional workshop for G5 countries on health system strengthening was hosted by the Ministry of National Health Services, Regulations and Coordination of Pakistan on November 19-20, 2013 in Islam-

abad, Pakistan.

Health Minister Bahram Einollahi has said many countries in the region are asking Iran for help with issues related to health.

Emphasizing that all diseases are currently treated in the country, the minister added: “With the help of scientists, we were able to educate efficient human resources,” ISNA reported.

“With the efforts that have been made during the 44 years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, today we have the strongest health system in the region in such a way that the health indicators in the Islamic Republic are far ahead of other countries in the region.”

All the indicators of health and treatment have made significant progress after the Islamic Revolution, and now Iran is one of the leading countries in this field, Saeed Karimi, the deputy health minister has said.

Health is one of the areas that got a good jump after the Islamic Revolution, ISNA quoted Karimi as saying.

It should be noted that in the early years of the Revolution, even for a cataract, which is a routine ophthalmic operation, the patient was sent abroad, but now patients from abroad come to Iran for the most advanced surgeries, he highlighted.

“At the beginning of the Revolution, there were just 56,000

hospital beds, but now we have 156,000 hospital beds,” he noted.

Meanwhile, there were just seven thousand specialists, but now there are 70 thousand specialists and sub-specialists in the country, he added.

Syed Jaffar Hussain, the World Health Organization Representative and Head of Mission in Iran, has appreciated the country for its efforts to enhance health security in the region.

The WHO representative also thanked Iran for holding the 26th G5 High-Level Experts Meeting on Health Cooperation and the 1st Healthcare Leadership and Governance Training Program, IRNA reported.

In June 2021, al-Mandhari said the Islamic Republic of Iran is a role model for primary health care.

For the past four decades, its PHC network has aimed to ensure that people have timely access to affordable, accessible, and acceptable essential health services, he explained.

During the seventy-sixth World Health Assembly, a series of strategic roundtables are being held. During these sessions, WHA delegates, partner agencies, representatives of civil society, and WHO experts will discuss current and future priorities for public health issues of global importance.

The World Health Assembly is the decision-making body of WHO. It is attended by delegations from all WHO Member States and focuses on a specific health agenda prepared by the Executive Board. The main functions of the World Health Assembly are to determine the policies of the Organization, appoint the Director-General, supervise financial policies, and review and approve the proposed program budget. The Health Assembly is held annually in Geneva, Switzerland.



moting sustainable rural development, with effective implementation of their action plans.

The GIAHS network is proving to be an effective model for collaboration, with appropriate local governance systems while attracting international and national partners, projects, and actions to increase visibility and support farmers on the ground.

## Women from the Leader’s point of view-5

### Iranian women show indescribable courage in Sacred Defense

From page 1 ► Five days later at 1:30 p.m. local time, he ordered the Iraqi armed forces to launch a ground invasion of Iran while 192 Iraqi fighter jets bombed twelve key military and commercial airports, including Tehran’s Mehrabad International Airport.

Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, as the leader and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran, was responsible for its strategic recognition and guidance. Among the actions of Ayatollah Khomeini during the Iran-Iraq war were the mass mobilization and organization of the Iranian people and the armed forces, the development of the military organization, the establishment of coordination and cohesion between the armed forces, and the encouragement of war.

With the start of the war, Iranian women who played a pioneering role in the 1979 Revolution appeared in various scenes, even on the battlefields alongside men with their indescribable courage and bravery.

According to Ayatollah Khomeini, women compared to men had an equal, and even sometimes bigger role in the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran.

The eight-year period of Sacred Defense has also left many brilliant memories, performances, and actions of the epic presence of Iranian women. The war as an important factor in social, political, economic, and cultural changes had a great influence on various aspects of Iranian women’s lives.

For every male who fought in the Iran-Iraq War, there were at least one and very likely two, three, or four females who helped him fight it. Although history has forgotten this significant fact, it remains nonetheless: millions of Iranian women participated in the war.

During the Iran-Iraq War, women made up a large portion of the domestic workforce in Iran, replacing men who were fighting, injured, or dead.

Taking care of their families and moral support for men who were dispatched to the front; migrating from war zones and becoming familiar with other social environments; and becoming involved in economic issues that had arisen due to the war and international economic sanctions were among the other challenges that Iranian women faced them during the wartime.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in one of his speeches pointed to the role of Iranian women in the history of Iran, say-

ing, “Fortunately pious women have been pioneers in different arenas and in different events in our society, not just after the Revolution, but since a long time before the Revolution... The same is true of different other events which took place after the victory of the Islamic Revolution and during the Sacred Defense Era... I have pointed out on many occasions that in my meetings with the families of our martyrs, I have often found mothers more courageous and more resistant than fathers.” (May 12, 2012)

Around 25,000 Iranian women also served as doctors and nurses during the Sacred Defence, at least 500 fought as combatants, and at least 170 were taken prisoners of war by Iraq. Iranian women were also active behind the scene of the war in providing key logistical support at the home front. Women voluntarily carried guns, gathered intelligence, operated on the wounded, cared for the injured, buried the dead, guarded ammunition depots, organized kitchens, and cooked food for soldiers.

“The services provided by women behind the front lines, including washing the martyrs’ clothes, cooking food, canning fruit, and nursing the wounded are some of the subjects that deserve more analysis and research,” Ayatollah Khamenei said. (October 28, 2021)

Irrespective of women’s ideological reasons for participating in the war, it was in Khorramshahr and Abadan [cities in Khuzestan, the southwestern province of Iran] that they most prominently demonstrated their patriotism. Soon enough, other women from throughout Iran joined them in mind, spirit, and body and supported all war efforts from the West to the Southwest.

“Besides, the emergence of the completely outstanding identity and the independent character of Iranian women in the arena of voluntary activities – such as the Sacred Defense Era and its aftermath until today – makes everyone humble. We have had so many wives of martyrs and disabled war veterans, so many mothers of martyrs and so many relatives of those people who laid down their lives in the way of God,” the Leader of the Islamic Revolution said. (April 19, 2014)

Considering the fact that the Leader of the Islamic Revolution was one of those who had participated in the early days of the imposed war, he has a special view on Sacred defense and also the presence of women who played a significant role in the war.

Therefore, in upcoming articles, we will address their points of view regarding the presence of Iranian women in the Sacred Defense.

## The eight-year Sacred Defense has left many brilliant memories of Iranian women.

## FAO awards GIAHS certificates to two Iranian sites

TEHRAN – The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) awarded the Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) certificate to two Iranian sites of the Qanat-based Saffron Farming System in Gonabad and Grape Production System in Jowzan Valley.

During an event held on Monday 22 May 2023, FAO Director-General, QU Dongyu, granted certificates of recognition to 24 new GIAHS sites in 12 countries.

Designated GIAHS in 2018, the sites are located in Brazil (1), China (4), Ecuador (2), Iran (2), Italy (2), Japan (2), Korea (2), Mexico (1), Morocco (2), Spain (3), Thailand (1) and Tunisia (2).

The two Iranian sites are situated in the provinces of Khorasan Razavi and Hamadan. It is noteworthy that in 2014, the Qanat Irrigated

System of Kashan, Isfahan province has been designated as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System.

The Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS) are communities that base their livelihoods and food security on their close relationship with their surroundings. Through the GIAHS program, which celebrated its 20th anniversary in 2022, FAO has designated over 70 sites in 24 countries.

To be selected, each GIAHS candidate area must meet five criteria established by an independent Scientific Advisory Group: food and livelihood security, agro-biodiversity, local and traditional knowledge systems cultures, value systems and social organizations, landscapes, and seascapes features.

If selected, GIAHS are expected to fulfill their role in revitalizing rural communities and pro-

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### Education, labor ministries ink MOU on out-of-school children

The Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor and Social Welfare have signed a memorandum of understanding aiming to bring out-of-school children back to school.

The memorandum of understanding will pave the way for future steps, ISNA news agency quoted Education Minister Mohammad Bat’haei as saying on Sunday.

He made the remarks over the 8th session of council meeting for improving educational standards in underprivileged and underdeveloped areas at the Ministry of Labor and Social Welfare. “The meeting is aiming to live up to educational standards, however, the current conditions are unjustifiable, and we should move faster,” he added.

### تفاهم وزراء برای بازگرداندن کودکان بازمانده از تحصیل به مدارس

وزارت آموزش و پرورش تفاهم نامه مشترکی با وزارت رفاه برای بازگرداندن کودکان بازمانده از تحصیل امضا کردند.

به گزارش روز یکشنبه ایسنا، محمد بطحایی وزیر آموزش و پرورش گفت: امروز تفاهم نامه ای امضا می شود که نقشه کار برای ادامه مسیر کاملاً مشخص شود.

بطحایی در هشتمین جلسه شورای هماهنگی بهبود و ارتقای شاخص های آموزشی و پرورشی مناطق محروم و کمتر توسعه یافته که در وزارت رفاه برگزار شد گفت: هدف اصلی این برنامه و شورای هماهنگی ارتقای شاخص ها بود، هر چند این روند قابل قبول نیست و باید با سرعت بیشتری حرکت کنیم.



## Darreh Tafi hosting storks again

Darreh Tafi, a village located near Zarivar Lake in western Kordestan province, is once again hosting migratory storks.

Oak forests are the main nesting spots for storks. Villagers believe that white storks are a symbol of good fortune and peace.



