



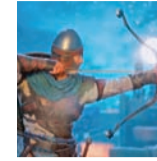
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## 11 Europeans' JCPOA commitments reneged on

ACL title; so close, so far

**BY MASOUD HOSSEIN**  
Persepolis of Iran football club are so close to their first ever title in the AFC Champions League but they have to pass a hurdle on Saturday when the team will meet Ulsan Hyundai at the Al Janoub Stadium.

The Iranian Reds have reached AFC Champions League final for the second time in three years, aiming to end a 27-year continental trophy drought for the Iranian clubs. No Iranian team have won the title since 1992/93 when PAS of Tehran claimed the Asian Club Championship trophy.

Now, Persepolis want to be the first Iranian team to be crowned as champions in the AFC Champions League.

Persepolis have a tough task ahead since the South Korean are a strong team who are well-equipped to win the most coveted title for the second time after eight years. Persepolis coach Yahya Golmohammadi is well aware of the strength of Ulsan Hyundai.

"Ulsan are a strong team and deserved to be in the final match. They are a disciplined team and play an attacking football," he said. "We will be without three key players (Issa Alekisir, Vahid Amiri and Ehsan Pahlavan) in this match but we want to lift the trophy, that's why we are here."

Persepolis, as the most decorated Iranian team in the domestic competitions, have won the league's title in the past four years and it shows that how strong they are. In the 2018, they could win the ACL title for the first time in front of their fans at the Azadi Stadium but Japanese team Kashima Antlers beat them 2-0 on aggregate.

"Our players are full of motivation and we have to fight until the end if we want to win the title. Persepolis want to make their fans happy and the match against Ulsan will be an opportunity to make our dreams come true," Golmohammadi said.

Football mad nation has not won a title for many years and Persepolis can end the years-long wait as an Iranian representative.

Football is everything for the Iranian fans and title can send them into a joyous celebration.

Persepolis are not a wealthy team but they are always playing their hearts out and it could be the trump card for the Iranian team.

## Economic Diplomacy: Poland can be Iran's gateway to Europe market

**BY RAMIN MEHMANPARAST**  
TEHRAN - European countries have great capacities for economic cooperation with Iran, and while Iran can have a serious participation in supplying Europe's energy needs, it would also be possible for the country to benefit from such relations for attracting investment and transferring technical knowledge and supplying its required machinery.

On the other hand, European countries are looking for new markets due to market saturation in their region and are fiercely competing with each other to develop their business and economic activities, for which the 500-million market in the West and Central Asia region is particularly attractive.

Iran, as a stable and safe country with a population of eighty-three million, is located in the heart of this market of five hundred million, which has the following comparative advantages:

- Neighborhood with fifteen countries through

- land and water borders
- Having huge oil and gas resources
- Having high quality and cheap raw materials
- Having educated and specialized manpower
- Existence of cheap labor
- Low costs of transferring materials and manufactured goods to neighboring countries due to geographical location

On the other hand, Poland, being located in the center of Europe, seems to be a suitable point for Iranian traders to enter European markets. In addition, more than five hundred years of historical relations between the two countries and good memories of Poles from Iran considering the country's support for Poland's independence, as well as sheltering of more than 120,000 Poles during World War II in Iran, have provided a good cultural and political context for the development of relations with this country.

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## Hackers breach U.S. agencies, Homeland Security a reported target

The U.S. Department of Homeland Security was the third federal department to be targeted in a major cyberattack, U.S. media reported Monday, a day after Washington revealed the hack which may have been coordinated by a foreign government.

The Washington Post cited unnamed officials who said that the DHS -- which is in charge of protecting the country from attacks both online and off -- had been added to a growing list of targets in the attack, including the Treasury and Commerce departments.

A statement from DHS Monday did not confirm the report, saying only that it was "aware of cyber breaches across the federal government and working closely with our partners in the public and private sector on the federal response."

The Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA), which is attached to the DHS, on Sunday said it had ordered federal agencies

to immediately stop using SolarWinds Orion IT products following reports that hackers had used a recent update to gain access to internal communications.

"We urge all our partners -- in the public and private sectors -- to assess their exposure to this compromise and to secure their networks," said CISA Acting Director Brandon Wales.

SolarWinds over the weekend admitted that hackers had exploited a backdoor in an update of some of its software released between March and June. The hacks are part of a wider campaign that also hit major cybersecurity firm FireEye, which said its own defenses had been breached by sophisticated attackers who stole tools used to test customers' computer systems.

FireEye said it suspected the attack was state-sponsored, and warned it could have affected numerous high profile targets across the globe.

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## Studying inscriptions from Islamic World necessary to realize Greater Iran, linguist says

TEHRAN - Studying historical inscriptions, which are native to cities of the Islamic World, is necessary to better realize Greater Iran, a linguist and cultural heritage expert has said.

"One of the necessities of studies in the field of cultural heritage and Iranian culture is to identify and study the historical inscriptions of the cities in the Islamic world, mostly the ones that were once a part of ancient Iran," Nader Karimian said during a meeting at Linguistic Research Institute on Monday.

As the historical inscriptions in Samarkand (now in Uzbekistan) could reveal important knowledge and information on Iranian culture, history, and art, a research project was commenced on them by Iranian experts and scholars, he explained.

The project aimed at identifying the inscriptions of historical places and monuments of Samarkand related to the Islamic eras, introducing and promoting them as well as preparing a list of them, Karimian stated.

Samarkand inscriptions were one of the most important art forms during different historical

periods, especially the Timurid-era (1370-1507), as most of this dynasty's rulers were masters in art and calligraphy, he added.

"The Timurids paid special attention to art and architecture to fulfill the cultural and artistic goals, while religion played a key role in all their artworks as well." He also noted that building countless mosques, schools, and holy shrines as well as ordering religious manuscripts and inscriptions to the masters of the time were part of the Timurid's cultural agenda.

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## "Let us not make our enemies happy": Turkish attorney

**BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI**  
TEHRAN - Calling for a regional alliance that includes Iran and Turkey, a Turkish lawyer invites Ankara and Tehran "not to make the enemies happy" over minor issues or misunderstandings that may arise.

A controversy started on Thursday after Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan recited epic poems that sparked widespread outrage in Iran, with many Iranian officials strongly rejecting any territorial claims against Iran.

However, the dispute was settled when Turkish Foreign Minister Mevlut Cavusoglu called his Iranian counterpart Javad Zarif on Saturday evening to assure him that his country respects the Islamic Republic of Iran's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Lawyer Onur Sinan Güzaltan tells the Tehran Times that "We need to underline the statements from the Turkish presidential spokesman Omer Celik's after the poem crisis 'let us not make our enemies happy'."

Sinan notes that Turkey and Iran are two major neighbors with a rich history and deep ties "who have lived in peace for nearly 400 years."

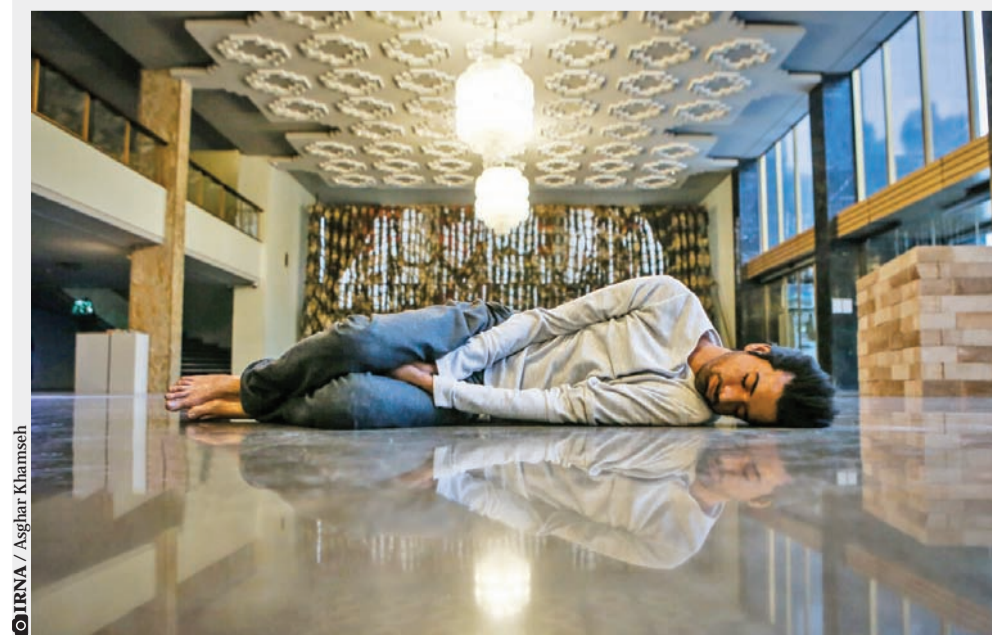
"Cooperation and mutual respect have always a top priority" he adds.

The following is the text of the interview:

**What is your opinion about the poem that Mr. Erdogan recited at the Baku parade? What was his purpose and why was it misunderstood?**

A: Turkey and Iran are two major countries with solid-state traditions, and two neighbors who have lived in peace for nearly 400 years since the Treaty of Qasr-e Shirin (Zuhab) was signed in 1639.

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## Tehran National Sculpture Biennial kicks off

TEHRAN - The 8th edition of the Tehran National Sculpture Biennial was inaugurated at the Vahadat Hall and the Rudaki Open-Air Theater on Monday.

The biennial is organized by the Association of Iranian Sculptors and the Visual Arts Office of Iran's Ministry of Culture and Islamic Guidance.

Speaking at the opening ceremony, the Deputy Culture Minister for Artistic Affairs Seyyed Mojtaba Hosseini said that the Visual Arts Office is determined to hold two to four events every year, and this year, despite the pandemic, the programs are being held one after the other.

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## Cleaning materials export up 14% in 8 months yr/yr

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Iran's value of the cleaning materials export rose 14 percent during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-November 20), compared to the same period of time in the past year, an official with Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced.



Neda Ataei, the secretary of TPO's desk of chemical and cellulose products, announced that 185,000 tons of cleaning materials worth \$76 million have been exported from the country in the eight-month period, indicating a seven-percent rise in weight.

She further underscored that Iran has become a big producer of cleaning materials in the region, and mentioned Iraq, Afghanistan, Pakistan, Turkmenistan, Azerbaijan, China, Uzbekistan, Kazakhstan, and India as the major export destinations of Iran's cleaning materials.

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran has exported 75 million tons of non-oil products worth \$21.5 billion during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year.

Iran's top five non-oil export destinations during this period were Iraq with over \$5.3 billion worth of exports, China with the same amount, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with over \$2.7 billion, and Turkey with \$1.6 billion as well as Afghanistan with \$1.5 billion.

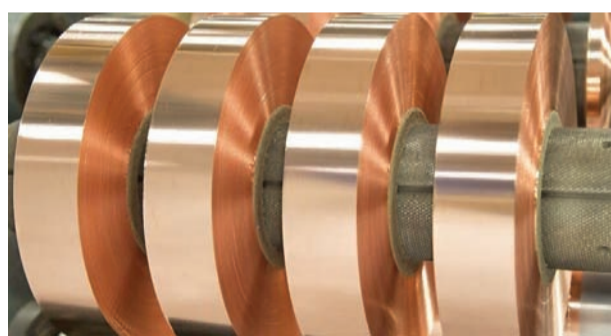
## Copper anode output rises 16%

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Production of the copper anode in Iran has risen 16 percent during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20-November 20), from the same period of time in the previous year.

As reported, 235,379 tons of the product has been produced in the eight-month period of this year.

Copper anode production stood at 30,287 tons in the eighth month of the present year, rising 44 percent from the output in the same month of the previous year.

In early May, four development projects worth 40 trillion rials (about \$952.3 million) were inaugurated in the copper sector of Kerman Province in the southeast of Iran.



President Hassan Rouhani put the projects into operation through video conference.

The projects inaugurated in Khatoun Abad Copper Complex included increasing the capacity of copper smelting in the complex, building a copper concentrate storage, construction of a sulfuric acid production plant, and an oxygen supplying unit.

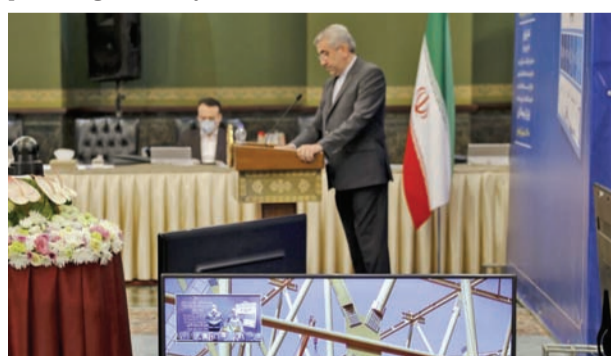
By putting the first project into operation, the complex's capacity for producing copper anode rises by 50 percent to 120,000 tons, and the country's copper smelting capacity rose to 400,000 tons.

Iran has seen its copper exports doubled in the past Iranian calendar year despite a series of bitter sanctions imposed by the United States aimed at hampering the Islamic Republic's trade of lucrative metals.

A senior official at Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), Iran's largest metals and mining holding, has said that the value of exports for main copper products reached more than \$1 billion over the past year.

## Energy projects worth over \$63m inaugurated in 3 provinces

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — As reported, the mentioned projects have been put into operation with the aim of increasing the reliability of the electricity network, reducing unwanted blackouts, supplying electricity to the Mehr housing projects, increasing the country's electricity generation capacity, managing water and gas consumption, and providing electricity to 45 rural households.



A-B-Iran program (the acronyms A and B stand for water and electricity in Persian) was initiated in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19), during which the minister made 31 trips to various provinces for inaugurating over 220 major projects with a total investment of 335.6 trillion rials (about \$7.99 billion).

Since the beginning of the second phase of the scheme in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 20), every week several energy projects have gone operational across the country.

Earlier this month during the 31st week of the A-B-Program, Ardakanian said: "In the second phase of the program 250 projects are going to be inaugurated by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021) of which so far 154 have gone operational."

The official noted that a total of 500 trillion rials (about \$11.9 billion) of investment will be made in the mentioned 250 projects.

# Uzbekistan eager for investment in Iran's Chabahar port

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Iran, India, and Uzbekistan held an online meeting on cooperation in Iran's Chabahar Port on Monday, during which the Uzbek side expressed willingness for cooperation in Chabahar Port's development projects, IRIB reported.

The meeting was jointly chaired by Iran's Deputy Transport Minister Shahram Adamnejad, India's secretary (shipping) Sanjeev Ranjan, and Uzbekistan's Deputy Transport Minister D. Dehkanov.

According to Deputy Transport Minister Shahram Adamnejad, Uzbekistan is eager for using the transportation and logistics capacities of Chabahar port for developing its economic activities in the region.

During the meeting, the participants also discussed joint use of the port for trade and transit purposes and to enhance regional connectivity.

"Chabahar port is a safe and very convenient port for the transit purposes, and neighboring countries and the countries in the region can benefit from investing in this



port," Adamnejad said.

For his part, Dehkanov also praised the

infrastructure and facilities provided in Chabahar port and suggested that a joint

working group be formed with representatives of Iran and Uzbekistan to carefully review the programs and prepare operational plans for Uzbekistan's presence in Chabahar's Shahid Beheshti port.

Chabahar Port, the only Iranian ocean port, is a strategic port with unique opportunities that can attract investments from Iranian and foreign private sectors.

India currently operates one of the terminals of Chabahar port and offers loading and unloading services in the mentioned terminal.

The strategic project has been given a waiver from sanctions imposed by the U.S. on Iran.

The development of the Chabahar Port is important for the economic development of regional countries and in this regard endorsing regional agreements with neighboring countries is of significant importance for Iran so that it can increase its transit share to connect the shores of the Indian Ocean to Russia, northern Central Asia, and the Caucasus.

## Economic Diplomacy: Poland can be Iran's gateway to Europe

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Another feature of Poland is that this country's economic conditions are complementary to the economic situation in Iran. Poland needs energy resources, oil products, petrochemical products, steel and copper and other metals, building stones, nuts and some agricultural products, etc., and in return the country is a major producer of mining and agriculture machinery, metal furnaces, wagons and locomotives, electric buses, medicine and medical equipment, etc., which provide favorable conditions for the further development of economic relations between the two countries.

Iran can export its petrochemical products to the whole of Europe through Poland and replace Saudi Arabia in this market.

The country can also be the best alternative to Russia in supplying oil and gas to this country, especially since the characteristics of the Iranian oil are compatible with Polish refineries, and on the other hand, due to sharp political differences between Poland and Russia, they seek to reduce energy dependence on that country.

In the Polish mining sector, the country is a designer and manufacturer of mining machinery and has advanced technology in the field of exploration and extraction at a depth of 1,500 meters. This situation for Iran, which has more than one million square kilometers of land suitable for mineral exploration, and is trying to cut reliance on oil and become an oil-free economy, can provide very favorable conditions for cooperation.

Regarding the agricultural machinery, Iran is implementing serious strategies for mechanization of the agriculture sector, and Poland can be a great partner to supply the required machinery, and this cooperation can lead to joint investment and factories producing these machines in Iran. Even considering the great needs of the region, Iran can also become an exporter of such machinery in this very attractive market.



In the metal industry, Poland can also be a good partner for Iran, the presence of metal ores and steel industries in the Islamic Republic and the ability to produce furnaces and machinery needed by this industry in Poland, provides a good opportunity for cooperation and joint investment.

As for the railway transport sector, both in the west-east corridor and the north-south corridor, Poland can have a very effective cooperation with Iran and be a good partner for the country in providing rail, and production lines for wagons and locomotives. Polish wagon and locomotive factories are ready to invest and set up production lines with the participation of the Iranian side in Iran. This cooperation would be very significant since development of the railway infrastructure, is one of the important priorities for Iran considering its strategic position, which is located at the intersection of the North-south and East-west corridors.

Another economic feature of Iran and Poland is the possibility of cooperation and participation in the production of various wood and metal products

in Iran and the re-export of the mentioned products to countries in the region, which will both generate income for the two sides and help create jobs, especially in free zones.

The existence of advanced dairy industries in Poland and the saturation of the European market have doubled Iran's attractiveness for Polish dairy companies to both invest in joint ventures with Iranian parties and to consider exporting products produced in Iran to neighboring countries.

Furthermore, given the advanced capabilities of Poland in the production of medicine and medical equipment and Iran's production of pharmaceutical at very competitive prices, cooperation between the two countries in this sector can be another important subject of economic diplomacy between the two countries.

In the field of animal husbandry, Poland can be a good partner for Iran and play a serious role in the development of this sector in Iran by transferring modern technologies and the supply of related machinery.

The possibility of cooperation in the defense industry is another important issue of economic relations between the two countries that needs to be pursued and given serious attention.

Poland can also be a good market for exporting technical and engineering services and the medical sector. Of course, this cooperation requires further consideration and signing of relevant agreements.

Scientific and academic cooperation is another suitable field in Iran-Poland relations, and linking this cooperation with industry, mining, medicine and agriculture will lead to desirable results.

In general, Poland can be a gateway for Iran to enter the European market, and the Islamic Republic can reciprocally provide Poland with access to the very attractive market with a five hundred million population in the region.

## Iran-Pakistan online business forum to be held next week

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — In a bid to expand trade relations between Iran and Pakistan, Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (TCCIMA), and Karachi Chamber of Commerce and Industry (KCCI) will hold an Iran-Pakistan business forum via webinar on December 22.

The online forum will cover issues related to bilateral cooperation in the fields of energy, tourism, transportation, food and medicine, agriculture, health, leather and garments.

TCCIMA has also held a webinar on the expansion of trade with Pakistan in collaboration with Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry on December 9.

In the webinar, which was attended by the officials and representatives of the two countries' private sectors, the two sides discussed ways for the expansion of trade ties.

TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari,



Head of Lahore Chamber of Commerce and Industry Tariq Misbah, and TCCIMA Deputy Head for International Affairs Hamedin Hallaj were among the attendees to this online event.

During the webinar, the two sides underlined the problems caused by the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus pandemic in the economic relations between the two countries and stressed the need for using barter trade, removal of non-tariff barriers, the expansion of cross-border and preferential trade as ways of increasing

trade exchanges.

The two sides criticized the incompatibility of the volume of trade between Iran and Pakistan with the capacities and potentials of the two countries and called for boosting trade relations to over \$5 billion.

Pakistan has a relatively large consumer market with a population of over 200 million.

According to the World Trade Organization, imports constitute over 66 percent of Pakistan's trade.

Expansion of trade with Pakistan, and boosting exports to this neighbor is one of Iran's priorities.

In a visit to Pakistan in mid-November, Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Hamid Zadboum met with Pakistan's deputy economic affairs minister to discuss the expansion of trade ties with the neighboring country.

In the meeting, the representatives of the Foreign Affairs Ministry, the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development,

and the Energy Ministry held talks with their Pakistani counterparts to discuss a variety of issues including electricity exports, and maritime, road, and rail transportation cooperation.

The TPO head had visited Pakistan along with a high-ranking delegation headed by Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif.

Iran's exports to Pakistan in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 19) was \$1.18 billion, but in the meantime, financial and banking problems have still created obstacles in the way of trade relations with this country.

And although due to the banking and financial problems, barter trade with Pakistan is still emphasized by Iran; experts and those active in the economic fields believe that Iran should seriously pursue the idea of a bilateral joint bank with Pakistan, while taking trade facilitation measures in line with signing agreements.

## Iran's oil output up 39,000 bpd in November: OPEC

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Iran produced 1.986 million barrels per day (bpd) of crude oil in November, registering a 39,000-bpd increase compared to the previous month, according to OPEC's latest monthly report published on Monday.

Based on secondary sources, Iran had produced 1.947 million bpd of crude oil in October.

The report put average Iranian crude output for the third quarter of 2020 at 1.942 million barrels per day indicating a near 7,000-bpd fall compared to the figure for the second quarter of 2020.

The country's heavy crude oil prices also increased \$2.64 in November to register a 46.6-percent rise compared to the previous month, according to the OPEC report.

Iran sold its heavy crude oil at \$42.88 per barrel in the mentioned month, compared to October's \$40.24 per barrel.



The country's average heavy crude price was \$39.98 since the beginning of 2020 up to the report's publishing date, in comparison to \$61.68 in the previous year's same period.

OPEC Basket prices also rose 6.3 percent to \$42.99 a barrel in November, up \$2.66 from October.

Based on the OPEC data, the cartel's oil production increased by 707,000 barrels per day in November and the total production of the members of this organization reached 25.109 million barrels per day.

OPEC oil production in the previous month stood at 24.402 million barrels per day.

In addition to the devastating impacts of the coronavirus pandemic on the global oil industry which resulted in the drastic fall in oil prices, the Iranian oil industry has also been under pressure from the U.S. efforts to isolate the country by re-imposing sanctions.



## Manuchehri's mausoleum added to national heritage list

**TOURISM TEHRAN** – The mud-brick mausoleum of the 11th-century Persian poet Manuchehri Damghani has recently been inscribed on the national heritage list. Known as the “poet of nature”, Manuchehri was a creative poet, who is said to have invented the form of musammāt (stanzaic poems) in Persian poetry. His mausoleum is located in Damghan, north-central province of Semnan. The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism announced the inscription on Monday in a letter to the governor-general of the province, IRNA reported.



Although very little is known of his life, his poetry shows an encyclopedic familiarity with Arabic and Persian verse which was presumably acquired in youth. The British modernist poet Basil Bunting published adaptations of several Manuchehri's poems from 1939 onwards, and a little of Manuchehri's sound-patterning seems to have influenced Bunting's English verse. The main population centers of Semnan province lie along the ancient Silk Road (and modern-day Imam Reza Expressway), linking Rey (Tehran) with Khorasan (Mashhad). While few visitors spend much time in the area, driving through you can easily seek out several well-preserved caravanserais (notably Dehnamak and Ahowan), cisterns (the Cafe Abenbar in Garmsar is a special treat) and ruined mud citadels (Padeh is lumpy but fascinating). The large, bustling cities of Semnan, Damghan, and Shahrud (Bastam) all have a small selection of historic buildings and Semnan has a fine old covered bazaar.

## Qajar-era cistern to undergo restoration

**HERITAGE TEHRAN** – Work to restore a Qajar-era (1789–1925) cistern, named Qaleh Bala, is to commence soon in Varamin, southeast Tehran, local tourism chief has said. The restoration project is set to refurbish the outer walls of the privately-owned cistern, CHTN quoted Zhila Khodadi as saying on Monday.



The mudbrick structure, called Ab Anbar in Persian, was once one of the main sources of water supply for villagers in the region, the official added.

The term Ab-Anbar is common throughout Iran as a designation for roofed underground water cisterns. It associates with water management systems in arid areas that are reliant on permanent springs or on seasonal rainwater. Such underground reservoirs or Ab-Anbars are parts of the iconic qanat systems, which rely on snow-fed streams flowing down from surrounding mountains. Qanats, according to UNESCO, provide exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate.

## A taste of Iran: Khoresh Mast

**HERITAGE TEHRAN** — In Persian cuisine, the term 'khoresh' mostly refers to thick, usually sour stews which are served as main meals alongside a rice dish. So, contrary to what its name suggests, Khoresh Mast (literally meaning “yogurt stew”), despite having the name khoresh in the title, is a bright yellow, sweet dessert and mostly served as a side dish or an appetizer.



Made from a combination of sugar, rose water, yogurt, saffron, onions, egg yolks, turmeric, and crushed lamb neck meat, Khoresh mast is a traditional dish native to Isfahan. To make it ready, you should first braise and shred the lamb neck. Yogurt and sugar are simmered inside a separate pot while the shredded meat is slowly added. Once the mixture forms a paste-like texture, brewed saffron and rosewater is added, giving our Khoresh Mast a gorgeous yellow color and an exotic taste. Put the final product in the fridge for 24 hours to chill to create the perfect consistency. Before being served, the dish is designed with sliced pistachios and almonds and topped with barberries. Iranian cooking can be seen as a metaphor for the country itself: It's tart, sweet, fragrant, and vastly complex. It's one of the world's oldest, yet largely obscure, culinary landscapes, with roots dating back to the ancient Persian Empire.

# Studying inscriptions from Islamic World necessary to realize Greater Iran, linguist says

➔ Another speaker at the meeting, Maryam Dana said that several metal artifacts related to Urartu, an ancient kingdom, have been found in Iran that their designs and patterns show many details about the art, culture, religion, and life of people of the time. Dana, who is a faculty member of Iran's Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism, also noted that the metal belts belong to this historical era, being kept in Reza Abbasi Museum, depict patterns of mythical or real animals, plants, or human. The Timurid dynasty, self-designated as Gurkani, was a Sunni Muslim dynasty or clan of Turco-Mongol origin descended from the warlord Timur (also known as Tamerlane). In the realm of architecture, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica, the Timurids drew on and developed many Seljuq traditions. Turquoise and blue tiles forming intricate linear and geometric patterns decorated the facades of buildings. Sometimes the interior was decorated



similarly, with painting and stucco relief further enriching the effect. The schools of miniature painting in Shiraz, Tabriz, and Herat flourished under the Timurids. Among the artists gathered at Herat was Behzad (died c. 1525), whose

dramatic, intense style was unequalled in Persian manuscript illustration. The Urartu kingdom rose to power in the mid-9th century BC, but it went into a gradual decline and was eventually conquered by the Iranian Medes in the

early 6th century BC. The Urartians were succeeded in the area in the 6th century BC by the Armenians. Urartu, an ancient country of southwest Asia centered in the mountainous region southeast of the Black Sea and southwest of the Caspian Sea. Today the region is divided among Armenia, eastern Turkey, and northwestern Iran. As mentioned in Assyrian sources from the early 13th century BC, Urartu enjoyed considerable political power in the Middle East in the 9th and 8th centuries BC. According to Encyclopedia Iranica, the territory of the ancient kingdom of Urartu extended over the modern frontiers of Turkey, Iran, Iraq, and the Republic of Armenia. Its center was the Armenian highland between Lake Van, Lake Urmia, and Lake Sevan. Urartian archeological finds in modern Iran including castles, settlements, water channels and other water constructions, rock chambers, rock graves, stelae, rock inscriptions, and building inscriptions.

## Project aims to conserve Seymareh ruins, architectural elements

**HERITAGE TEHRAN** – A fresh conservation project will soon commence on arrays of the centuries-old ruins and architectural elements, which are scattered across Seymareh, an ancient city located in Ilam province, the provincial tourism chief announced on Monday. “A budget of 6.5 billion rials (about \$154,000 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been allocated to the project that also touches upon agricultural lands situated within the ancient town,” Abdolmalek Shanbehzadeh said. “Seymareh is the largest ancient site in Ilam province... and it is located on the southeastern outskirts of the modern town of Dareh Shahr,” the official explained. Believed to be flourishing on remnants of the Elamite capital, Madaktu, Seymareh dates back to the

Sassanid-era (224 CE–651). Archeological findings show that the city included about 5,000 houses with some modern aspects like a water distribution system through clay pipes and underground sewers. The city was destroyed and deserted after a huge earthquake around 950 BC. The remnants of the city were inscribed on the national heritage list in 1931. Darreh Shahr was once the summer capital of Elamites, a pre-Iranian civilization dated from 2700 to 539 BC. The city also enjoyed centuries of prosperity during the Sassanid era. Darreh Shahr and its surrounding regions boast vestiges of Sassanid constructions such as arches, ceilings, alleys, and passages that follow a specific order of urban development criteria of the time.



## Qazvin province eyes national registration for letters patent

**TOURISM TEHRAN** – Qazvin's department for tourism and cultural heritage eyes national registration for Qajar-era letters patent, which are being kept in the west-central province. “Two pieces of letters patent, being kept in the northwestern province of Qazvin, are prepared to [possibly] be inscribed on the national heritage list,” deputy provincial tourism chief has said. The paper documents, which have been studied and documented by the cultural heritage experts, were issued during the reign of Qajar king Nasser ad-Din Shah (1821-1900), Ehsan Nurani announced



on Monday. One of the handwritten letters is about receiving a pension by one of Qazvin's noble families, and the other is addressed

to the [then] ruler of Qazvin and is sealed with the seal of the Qajar king, the official added. Qazvin was once the capital of the mighty Persian Empire, under Safavids, from 1548 to 98. It is a major tourist destination with a wonderfully restored caravanserai-turned-arts precinct, some quirky museums, and a handful of decent eating options. For most travelers, Qazvin is also primarily the staging point for excursions to the famous Castles of the Assassins and trekking in the sensational Alamut Valley. Also known as the castle of the Assassins, the 12th-century Alamut castle

is nestled on top of a peak. It was once a shelter for the followers of Hasan-e Sabbah (1070–1124) who was a spiritual leader of an Islamic sect. In the early 1930s, British-Italian explorer and travel writer Freya Stark described her exploration of the place in her book “The Valleys of the Assassins”. Qazvin is also home to one of the biggest roofed caravanserais of the country, Sa'al Saltaneh caravanserai. Dating back to the Qajar era, it's a place for discovering tens of Hojreh or shops, cafes, yards, and a stunning mosque. It's a place for visitors who want to experience the culture, culinary, and hospitality of Iran.

## Qajar-era bas-relief in Rey to be restored, preserved

**TOURISM TEHRAN** — The 19th-century rock-carved bas-relief in Cheshmeh-Ali, a historical and recreational spot located in the south of Tehran and north of Rey, is planned to be restored and preserved within a comprehensive project. An appropriate budget has been allocated to the project due to the increasing trend of erosion and damage to the bas-relief, deputy provincial tourism chief said on Tuesday. The artwork that overlooks the Cheshmeh Ali pool was commissioned by the Qajar king Fath Ali Shah who reigned from 1797 to 1834. Cheshmeh Ali also contains an archaeological site estimated to date from the 4 millennium BC. The restoration and preservation project, which aims at repairing damaged parts with proper materials and strengthening the monument using cob material, will be commenced before the end of the current Iranian year 1399 (ends on March 20, 2021), Morteza Adibzadeh said. Back in May, Rey's cultural heritage department director Amir Mosayeb Rahimzadeh announced that the historical complex is planned to be inscribed on



the national heritage list. The national registration of the thousands-year-old spring will lead to its better preservation as well as help tourism development in the region, he explained. From ancient times Cheshmeh-Ali has been a source of vitality to a historical area of the same name in south-

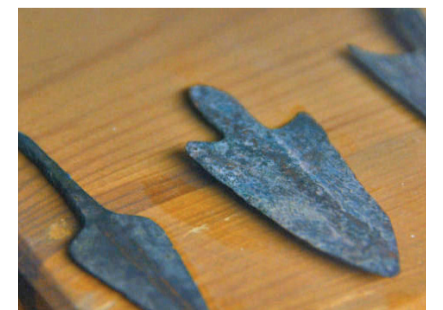
ern Tehran. Cheshmeh-Ali, literally meaning Spring of Ali, is an underground mineral stream that pours into an open-air pool which has long been a traditional destination for sightseers and a recreational center for the locals. The site is in the neighborhood of the ancient Ebn-e Babveyh cemetery, the 12th-century Tughrul Tower, the historical Rashkan Castle, and next to the aged Rey Castle. During the summertime, Cheshmeh-Ali and its surroundings are occupied by hundreds of locals who came for swimming and having fun. In the past, locals used to clean their rugs and carpets in the pool that is fed by an underground mineral spring, with the idea that the property of this spring water is good and clean for carpets and make them full lighter color by its mineral water. Rey was one of the capital cities of the Parthian empire (3rd century BC–3rd century CE) and was captured by the Muslim Arabs in 641 CE. During the reign of the Muslim caliph al-Mahdi in the 8th century, the city grew in importance until it was rivaled in western Asia only by Damascus and Baghdad.

## Explore Susa; one of the oldest cities in the world

(Part 1/3)  
**HERITAGE TEHRAN** — On the hill overlooking the Susa Museum, ancient Persia is unearthed at this fascinating UNESCO-listed archaeological site occupying the whole southern flank of modern Shush. Excavations have established that people were living at the acropolis in 5000 BC and have shown the existence of urban structures about 4000, and we can be certain that the town, situated on a strip of land between the rivers Shaour (a tributary of the Karkheh) and Dez, was already a political center of some importance. Originally similar in scale to Persepolis, the city saw countless invasions and sackings (the Mongols were particularly thorough), and little upright evidence remains of Darius the Great's once grand capital. The site is over 6000 years old;

one of the oldest in the world. ■ **Early Susa** In this early age, the potters of Susa produced ceramics of an unsurpassed quality, which they decorated with birds, mountain goats, and other animals designs. In the fourth millennium (the “Uruk Period”), the city became the capital of Elam and was able, at times, to challenge the Sumerian and Akkadian towns in southern Iraq. The city itself expanded to the east, to that part of the city that is now called the royal city. From written sources, we know that there must have been ziggurat. A third part is the artisan's quarter, which was even further to the east. The kings of the Awan dynasty are known to have been the rulers of Elam in the last third of the third millennium; they were contemporaries of the dynasty of Sargon of Akkad, who was

temporarily able to incorporate Susa into his empire. However, the Awan kings managed to regain their independence and a treaty between Sargon's grandson Naram-Sin and his colleague in the east proves that in the end, mutual respect reigned, according to Livius.org; a website on ancient history written and maintained since 1996 by the Dutch historian Jona Lendering. The kings of Awan even conquered the kingdom of Anshan, east of the Zagros. This was just the first of several unifications of these two kingdoms; although there were periods in which they were separated, the title “king of Susa and Anshan” was to become common. The Awan dynasty collapsed when the Gutians descended from the mountains and created havoc on the alluvial plains of Elam and Mesopotamia. Susa was controlled by king Shulgi of Ur and



Neo-Elamite arrowheads; Susa; ca. 1000 BC–ca. 500 BC  
later by other Mesopotamian rulers, and still under attack from the Gutians. Still, the city, although claimed by the kings of Larsa, was independent under an Elamite dynasty. However, this was not to last forever: king Hammurabi of Babylon (1792-1750) annexed Elam.

# Mismanagement, overexploitation threaten Persian Gulf ecosystem

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – The Persian Gulf ecosystem and biodiversity are being destroyed due to mismanagement, overexploitation, and lack of supervision.

Criticizing the internal and external threat to Persian Gulf biodiversity with domestic and foreign issues, Issa Kalantari, head of the Department of Environment (DOE), said that "Persian Gulf biodiversity has been abandoned due to political conflicts between international institutions."

However, experts believe that the situation of the Persian Gulf is critical and its survival is not possible without major changes in the management policies.

Mohammad Reza Fatemi, a marine biologist, said that "According to the law, the main custodian of the protection of the Persian Gulf is the DOE, and users, Ports and Maritime Organization, Fisheries Organization and Gas Industries, must take operational and development measures under the supervision of the DOE."

According to Fatemi, Persian Gulf destruction has long been neglected; 90 percent of the development activities in this area are done by state-run organizations with a small share of the private sector.

Despite spending lots of domestic and foreign funds, no map has been yet prepared for the Persian Gulf resources to assess economic exploitation and development in the Persian Gulf, he lamented.

The effects of poor management and marine biodiversity in the Persian Gulf can be seen in the development of trawling these days, as fish that should be caught at depths of 200 to 400 meters are caught at shallower depths, he regretted.



If adequate financial resources are available for strong surveillance, special satellite devices will be installed on the ships, he said, adding, currently, trawling is done not only by foreigners but also by local fishermen without strict monitoring.

Lack of ecosystem approach, lack of a positive and dynamic relationship with maritime organizations, and related organization is the main barrier to the protection of the Persian Gulf. The DOE cannot monitor the country's environment with limited forces, equipment, and facilities, he highlighted.

He went on to say that in comparison to the Caspian Sea hosting 80 aquatic species, the Persian Gulf is home to over a thousand species so far. But the unique habitat is being destroyed.

Mangrove forests and coral reefs of the Persian Gulf is one of the most biodiverse habitats but is under serious threat. Oil pollution, countless ships and fishing nets floating on the sea, on the one hand, the construction of artificial islands in the surrounding countries and, most destructively, the presence of 90 percent of the world's desalination plants in the region, on the other hand, has created an ecosystem that is losing more aquatic species every day.

Urban and industrial effluents from desalination plants increase the salinity of the Persian Gulf, in addition to climate change, which has destroyed coral reefs as seawater gets warmer, while the habitat and breeding ground of three-quarters of marine species is among the coral reefs, he explained.

"In the last 30 years, the Persian Gulf has lost its ability to rebuild due to unsustainable exploitation.

Many species are on the verge of extinction, facing a constant and growing threat, and the main victim of which is human.

The decline of indigenous fishing in the south has led to illegal fishing and smuggling. Social and economic instability in addition to ecological instability has become a crisis. Wherever the economic situation is bad, the pressure on natural resources increases, and people turn to illegal fishing and put pressure on the Persian Gulf ecosystem for their livelihood," he lamented.

Iran shares five ecological zones with specific flora from the lowest to the highest parts, one of which is the Persian Gulf-Omani ecological zone.

The forests of the Persian Gulf-Omani ecological region include part of the southwest and all southern coasts, covering 2,039,963 hectares. Due to ecological differences, the main vegetation is divided into two territories of the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

In the Persian Gulf area, which extends from Qasr-e Shirin to the border of Bushehr and Hormozgan provinces, the plant species of Christ's thorn jujube, Prosopis farcta, and desert poplar grow. While in the Oman Sea area, which includes a part of Hormozgan province to Sistan-Baluchestan (border of Iran and Pakistan), Mesquites and acacia species are the main vegetation covers.

Gum arabic tree, used in the boat production, are scattered in this area. Mangrove forests, which consist of two species of grey mangroves and loop-root mangroves, are also spread in this area. The mangrove forest habitat is located between the tides of the seas.

## Discarded masks infecting oceans as side effect of Covid pandemic

The pale blue of a mask is easy to spot among the dry-brown reeds. People walk here along the northern coast of the San Francisco Bay, crowding a path that bends to the contour of the shore. At the small pebble beach near a park called Blackies Pasture, a surgical mask is tangled in the marsh at the edge of the Bay. A little further on is another, then another on the other side of the path, waiting to be blown into the sea.

"I mean this is a high-wealth area and even here you see it," said Peter Ottesen, a fit 74-year-old tossing the ball to his black lab, Addie, on a recent clear morning. "It's now like cigarette butts or anything else. You see it on the sides of the path, the sides of the road, and if you don't see it, you are not looking."



There is the economic crash, the education gap, the depression of solitary life. Now another unwelcome and potentially enduring side effect of the coronavirus pandemic has emerged: the masks, gloves, disinfectant wipes and other items of "personal protective equipment" meant to save lives are also polluting the environment.

Since the pandemic began early this year, masks have become a go-to item of the national wardrobe, especially here along the California coast where mask-wearing rates are high. But many are careless with the new accessory and, in windy places like many along this state's 840-mile coast, the masks and other products are ending up on sidewalks, skittering into storm drains, blowing onto beaches and ending up in the Pacific Ocean and its bays.

And this is before the state's traditional rainy season, which washes urban flotsam and jetsam into the sea. It is due to begin this month, the Independent reported.

Many types of masks, including the most common surgical variety, contain plastics that taint ocean ecosystems and disrupt marine food chains. The bottom line is that, in the era of covid-19, another form of mass-produced human stuff is making its way into places where humans do not live.

"Whatever the product may be this is a new, additional plastic threat," said Adam Ratner, associate director of the conservation education program at the Marine Mammal Center based in the Marin headlands, which rescues and heals seals, sea lions, otters and other animals along a 600-mile stretch of California coast.

So far, Ratner said, no animals in America have needed to be rescued after being entangled in personal protective items. It is the extent of the pollution that is the primary concern, he said, given that 25% of the animals they treat already suffer from the harmful effects of ocean trash.

"We want to see people use masks, we want to see people use all of the protective equipment and stay healthy," Ratner said. "But now is the time to stop this, and ocean trash knows no international borders."

A study published last summer in the journal Environmental Science & Technology estimated that 129 billion masks and 65 billion plastic-containing gloves are used globally each month, with "a significant portion" ending up in the world's oceans.

Along the Pacific Ocean, the world's largest, the evidence has been literally piling up.

Each year the California Coastal Commission holds a cleanup day, drawing thousands of volunteers from San Diego to Eureka. The normally one-day event this year was held over the entire month of September, and once completed, the commission reported that 70,000 pounds of trash were pulled from parks, creeks, beaches and other public areas.

## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

Table with Persian and English vocabulary: (Part 84) housewife, goodbye, buying, to shop, to buy, not crowded, to laugh, sleep, asleep, dormitory, to sleep, to want, to read, sister, request, good, well, well, OK, ballpoint pen, to study, comprehension, grammar, notebook, minute, doctor. Includes Persian translations and source: saadifoundation.ir

## Five-year residence for foreign investors in Iran

TEHRAN – Iran issues five-year residence permits for foreign nationals making investments in the country to facilitate their economic activities, Mehdi Mahmoudi, director general for foreign nationals and immigrants at the Ministry of Interior, has announced.

Within the framework of the procedure of "granting a five-year residence permit to foreign depositors and investors", those citizens who intend to engage in economic activity in Iran can benefit from the possibility of obtaining a five-year residence permit, he explained.

Situation of foreign nationals in Iran Iran is host to one of the largest and most protracted urban refugee situations in the world and has provided asylum to refugees for four decades.

The latest official government statistics in 2014, there are 951,142 Afghan refugees and 28,268 Iraqi refugees living in Iran. Many of the refugees living in Iran are the second and third generation, according to the UNHCR.

About 97 percent of refugees live in urban and semi-urban areas, while 3 percent are residing in 20 refugee resorts run by the UNHCR's main government counterpart.

In addition to Afghan refugees, there are about 2.5 million Afghans living in Iran, including those having a passport and undocumented Afghans. 450,000 Afghan who did not have identity cards or birth certificates have



received Iranian visas that allow them to live, work or study in the country.

There are 40,000 Afghan students in the country, according to the official report, 17,000 of them are graduated, while the unofficial report is estimated at 26,000.

Some 47,000 people were trained and 10 percent of legal refugees were covered by social insurance with the help of the UNHCR, and other foreign nationals can pay for health insurance like Iranians.

In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, undocumented Afghans who have access to free primary health services and similarly free COVID-19 related testing, treatment, and hospitalization, just like nationals.

### Step towards reducing statelessness

Although Iran is not a party to the UN Conventions on Statelessness, the Government of Iran is taking steps towards the prevention and reduction of statelessness in the country.

In October 2019, the Guardian Council ratified a bill amending the law on conferring citizenship on children born to an Iranian mother and a foreign father regardless of where they are born.

According to article one of the law, children of Iranian women and non-Iranian men who were born before or after the law can be an Iranian citizen in case the Iranian mother requested if they have no security problem before the age of 18.

These children, after reaching the age of 18, can apply for Iranian citizenship if not requested by the mother, then will be granted Iranian citizenship in case of no security problem.

The first children, out of some 10,000 children whose citizenship applications have so far been accepted, received their Iranian identity card, known as a "Shenasnameh", last month.

According to the Government of Iran, nearly 75,000 children at risk of becoming statelessness are eligible for Iranian citizenship under a new nationality law, which was amended in 2019 to allow children under 18 years to apply for identity documents.

## Waste-to-energy plant to come on stream in northern Iran

So far, about 1.1 trillion rials (about \$26 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) have been spent for the construction of this power plant.

The amount of waste generated in the northern provinces of the country, neighboring the Caspian Sea, is snowballing at a rate of over 7,000 tons a day, holding accountable for 14 percent of the total daily 50,000 tons of waste produced in the country, Khabaronline reported in January 2019.

In the past few years, the amount of waste produced in the three northern provinces of

Mazandaran, Golestan, and Gilan has risen sharply to alarming rates,

Sirous Vatankeh, secretary of energy technologies development headquarters at the vice-presidency for science and technology, told ISNA that there is a significant relationship between the prevalence of various diseases and the amount of waste generation, which must be considered a "danger sign" that needs urgent measures to contain the issue.

Diseases such as tetanus, typhoid, intestinal parasites, bloody diarrhea, poliomyelitis

or infantile paralysis, and skin lesions are among the diseases caused by solid waste pollution in water, air, and soil.

On the other hand, a large part of these thousand tons of waste is ending up in the Caspian Sea and the forests, which can lead to many changes in the environmental cycles.

Moreover, Hossein Niaz Azari, a member of the parliament, said that some 104 aquatic species have been living in the Caspian Sea in the past years, while most of them have gone extinct due to the high amount of waste entering the sea.

Deputy environment chief Masoud Tajrishi has referred to the poor waste disposal in the coastal cities of the country, saying that "Unfortunately, we face not only the problem of identifying a proper place for waste disposal but sewers being discharged into all rivers and lakes.

In such case, mostly tourists who are littering the northern coast are blamed, however, the other main reason behind is the lack of proper equipment for waste management and recycling, he added.

### ENGLISH IN USE

#### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## FDA to penalize manufacturers producing unlabeled GM foods

Iran's Food and Drug Administration (FDA) will penalize food manufacturers who have not labeled genetically modified (GM) food products, Vahid Mofid, the caretaker of the FDA department of food and beverages has announced.

All food products containing ingredients derived from GMOs must be labeled, including soybean and corn oil, rapeseed and cottonseed, he also noted.

He went on to say that eight laboratories in addition to the Energy & Power Industries Laboratories Company can test the products in terms of containing GM organism.

Labeling the products is merely done out of respect for the customer and providing the consumer with different choices and has nothing to do with the product's safety and health, he concluded.

## سازمان غذا و دارو با محصولات تراریخته فاقد برچسب برخورد می کند

مدیرکل فرآورده های غذایی و آشامیدنی سازمان غذا و دارو، وحید مفید در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا اعلام کرد: تمام محصولات تراریخته در سطح عرضه کنترل می شوند و در صورتی که تراریخته باشند اما برچسب نداشته باشند، حتماً برخورد می کنیم.

وی اضافه کرد: برخی محصولات در کشور مانند ذرت، سویا و کلزا از نوع تراریخته وجود دارد و فرآورده های غذایی در صورت استفاده از این محصولات تراریخته باید آن را روی برچسب خود اعلام کنند.

مفید افزود: هشت آزمایشگاه علاوه بر آزمایشگاه مرجع در کشور می توانند تراریختگی را تعیین کنند.

مدیرکل فرآورده های غذایی و آشامیدنی سازمان غذا و دارو گفت: درج تراریختگی در برچسب جلوی ترکیبات، صرفاً احترام به مشتری و فراهم کردن قدرت انتخاب برای مصرف کننده است و هیچ ارتباطی با ایمنی و سلامت آن فرآورده ندارد.

