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**Congratulation on Bahman 22 celebrations**  
**Congratulation on 42st anniversary of the revolution**  
**Celebrating Bahman 22**

# Who needs to rejoin JCPOA?

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## NIDC digs 117 oil, gas wells in 10 months

TEHRAN- National Iranian Drilling Company (NIDC) dug and completed digging operation of 117 oil and gas wells during the first nine months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2020 – January 19, 2021), according to the managing director of the company.

Abdollah Mousavi said the drilled wells consisted of 27 development wells, one appraisal well, 85 workover wells, and four exploratory wells.

The official stated that during this period, 18 wells were drilled 326 days earlier than the schedule and handed over to the applicant company for operation, adding that the early production of the wells, rig clearance and cost reduction, which are resulted through cooperation between the experts of NIDC and the operating company is economically viable significantly.

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## Hundreds of new speedboats delivered to IRGC Navy

## Symphonic poem "The Bright Path" released

TEHRAN – "The Bright Path", a symphonic poem produced by the Art and Cultural Organization of the Tehran Municipality to promote "Second Phase of the Revolution, was released on Sunday.

The Second Phase of the Revolution statement, also known as the Second Step of the Revolution statement, was issued by Leader of the Islam-

ic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei to the country, particularly to the youth on the fortieth anniversary of the Islamic Revolution in February 2019.

Hossein Parsafar is the composer of the symphonic poem with lyrics by Milad Erfanpur, and Bahram Payiz is the singer of one of the pieces.

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TEHRAN - The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps Navy on Monday took delivery of 340 combat speedboats in Iran's southern waters, according to Tasnim news agency.

340 military speedboats were handed over to the IRGC Navy's fleet in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas.

The speedboats can carry out assault operations with various types of missiles and rockets and support the Navy divers.

In comments at the event, Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Hossein Bagheri hailed the IRGC Navy for guaranteeing security in the strategic region of the Strait of Hormuz.

Major General Bagheri stressed, "The security of local residents and coastal areas in the region is highly significant, since more than two-thirds of the world's fossil fuel passes through the Strait of Hormuz."

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## Iran handball rocked by match-fixing claims

**BY FARROKH HESABI**  
TEHRAN - Iran's Handball Premier League has been hit with reports of match-fixing in the last weeks.

Several Iranian media reported that the match between Foolad Mobarakeh Sepahan and Farazbam Dehdasht Khaiez in the last day of premiere league's Group B, raised strong suspicions that the game might be fixed.

Foolad Mobarakeh had already qualified for the next round as the second team of the group, while Farazbam needed at least one point to make it to the next round.

The match ended with a 24-24 draw on Jan. 7 and Farazbam qualified as the third team.

However, Zoghal Sang Tabas club, another team that had a chance to advance to the next stage but failed as they stand fourth, immediately filed a complaint to the Iranian Handball Federation regarding alleged match-fixing at the match between Foolad and Farazbam.

Suspicious scenes in the mentioned match have been published in social media and Iranian press, which show that some players move away from each other in a strange way during the game to let the ball go into the goal and some other intentionally throw the ball out!

The Disciplinary Committee of the handball federation examined the match and subsequently passed its judgment on all disciplinary matters relating to the match-fixing.

The federation suspended two players of Farazbam team for six months and one player of Foolad Mobarakeh for three months. In a strange decision, the federation also announced that instead of three teams, four teams from each group will advance to next round, and Zoghal Sang qualified for the next stage as a result of the decision.

However, President of Iran Handball Federation Alireza Pakdel did not confirmed match-fixing at the mentioned match and considered it as 'negative cooperation' between some players which is nonsense.

"Zoghal Sang team expressed some issues about the match, and the handball federation and even the Ministry of Sports' officials investigated the case. There were some negative cooperations between some players that had some bad effects on the match. However, we don't consider it as an organized and scheduled match-fixing," Pakdel said in an interview with Tehran Times.

"The priority in handball, and sports in general, is to observe fair play issues. In our handball community, there are a lot of honest athletes and coaches who are not deserved to be questioned by such unethical rumors. There is no match-fixing in the Iranian handball," he added.

## Iran a successful model for the region: ex-Lebanese minister

**BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI**  
TEHRAN – Noting that the world is looking to Iran as an inspiring example for Islamic movements, former Lebanese labor minister Tarad Hamadeh says that the Islamic Republic founded a successful model for the region.

"There is no doubt that the Islamic Revolution due to importance and status of Iran will have an impact on politics, economy, culture, and the strategic military balances, as well as on culture, production of ideas and advancement of science," Hamadeh tells the Tehran Times.

"Iran is now the center of attention of states and peoples in the entire region, and it deserves to be the model and example," the Lebanese politician points out.

The following is the text of the interview:  
**What is the message of the Islamic Revolution to the region and the world? What are the links between the Islamic**

**Revolution and the idea of resistance?**  
The Islamic Revolution took place in Iran at a time when the world was living under the international bipolar struggle. It was in the time of the Cold War and arms race, including what was known as Star Wars, as well as competing economic systems to achieve sustainable development.

The first thing that the Islamic Revolution presented to the world was the right of peoples to freedom, sovereignty, independence, self-determination, and the fight against colonial domination and the tyranny of the great powers over the world.

These goals are achieved through building self-sufficient forces, expelling the colonialists, and putting forward the slogan "neither East, nor West, the Islamic Republic," which is the symbol of freedom and dignity.

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## Netanyahu appears in court to answer corruption charges

Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu has appeared in court to formally respond to corruption charges against him, as his trial resumes weeks before legislative elections in the occupied territories.

He arrived at the Jerusalem al-Quds district court for a hearing on Monday morning under heavy security and after several delays due to the coronavirus lockdown.

Dozens of protesters demanding his resignation gathered near the court house, following weekly demonstrations held in recent months.

Netanyahu, who is the first Israeli prime minister to be indicted while in office, will likely be required to verbally confirm the defense filed by his lawyers. In 2019, he was indicted on charges of bribery, fraud and breach of trust stemming from three long-running cases.

According to Press TV, case 1,000 involves allegations that Netanyahu received luxury gifts from international billionaires in exchange for favors.

In Case 2,000, he is accused of conspiring with the owner of the Yedioth Ahronoth newspaper to undermine a critical daily. And Case 4,000 involves allegations that Netanyahu offered incentives to the Israeli telecom provider Bezeq in return for positive stories in the Walla news website.

It is the second time that Netanyahu attends a hearing of his trial in person.

The first hearing took place last May, where the premier alleged that the charges against him were "fabricated." He repeated that claim on Sunday, calling on his supporters not to come to the court to show solidarity with him due to surging coronavirus infections.

"I know you want to give me strength in light of the fabricated and false cases against me," Netanyahu said. "But we are at a time when a [mutated strain] is spreading around the world and in Israel too, so for the sake of your own health I ask you: Don't come tomorrow."

## Digital economy is the dream world of extremist liberal capitalism: professor

**BY M.A. SAKI**  
TEHRAN - Professor Arshin Adib-Moghaddam, chair of the Centre for Iranian Studies at the London Middle East Institute, says the digital economy "is the dream world of extremist liberal capitalism."

Noting that the man is entering "the age of supersonic power," Professor Adib-Moghaddam says "technology has sped up power projections to the degree that we are even haunted in our living rooms."

Adib-Moghaddam has introduced the first course on "Artificial Intelligence and Human Security" to the curriculum of SOAS University of London. The Module presents a critical analysis of Artificial Intelligence with a particular emphasis on its implication for human security. It connects current research into the ethics of AI, to comparative philosophies including the socio-economic theories of the Frankfurt School and their emphasis on the perils of modern forms of production for human existence

and the threat of "perfectionism" in capitalist societies. In addition, the course considers the "techno-politics" of Paul Virilio and the critical approaches of Iranian philosophers such as Jalal Al-e Ahmadi.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Professor Adib-Moghaddam says even "biggest theoreticians of power such as the French philosopher Michel Foucault and Antonio Gramsci couldn't realize" this "supersonic" power.

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## Ruins of majestic historical gateway unearthed near Persepolis

**BY AFSHIN MAJLESI**  
TEHRAN – The ruins of a majestic historical gateway, built upon the order of Cyrus the Great, who was the founder of the mighty Achaemenid Empire (ca. 550 – 330 BC), have been unearthed near the UNESCO-registered Persepolis in southern Iran, Iranian researchers said on Monday.

Supervised by a joint mission of Iranian and Italian archaeologists and cultural heritage experts, the dig uncovered vestiges of a massive gateway measuring 30 by 40 meters with a height

of approximately 12 meters.

They (archaeologists) succeeded in proving that Cyrus had ordered the construction of the gateway near Persepolis in Tall-e Ajori and that this magnificent gateway had been put into operation during the reign of his son Cambyses.

"The building had a corridor in the center, which was in form of a rectangular room measuring eight by twelve meters, and inside this central room, there were four living chairs. And the central corridor opened on both sides to the

Achaemenid campus," IRNA quoted senior Iranian archaeologist Alireza Askari-Charoufi as saying on Monday.

The discovery was made during the tenth excavation season jointly supervised by the Italian archaeologist Pierfrancesco Callieri from the University of Bologna, and his Iranian counterpart Askari-Charoufi from the University of Shiraz. The first season was held in the Iranian calendar year 1390 (2011).

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## Islamic Revolution a brilliant example of triumph over authoritarianism and imperialism: American professor

**BY AMIR MOHAMMAD ESMAEILI**  
TEHRAN - David Yaghoubian, a professor of history at California State University San Bernardino, tells the Tehran Times that the Islamic Revolution of Iran in 1979 serves as a shining example for all people and movements around the world who seeking to maintain "hard-won independence and sovereignty".

"On the national level, the revolution brought together Iranians of all backgrounds to collectively oppose the Pahlavi regime and its American enablers, which rendered the Shah's military strength and U.S. backing essentially irrelevant. Thus it is a brilliant example of indigenous popular will triumphing over authoritarianism and imperialism. On a global level, the revolution's core message of Islamic unity and anti-imperialism resonated deeply outside of Iran and served as an arguably modular approach for other societies to emulate in their quest for justice, dignity, independence, and sovereignty," states Yaghoubian, who is author of "Ethnicity, Identity, and the Development of Nationalism in Iran".

He also believes that the Western powers have adopted a hostile approach to Iran since the revolution, because "it simultaneously exposed their imperialistic avarice, while demonstrating their actual weakness in the face of national unity and mass popular opposition."

*Continued on page 5*

**TENDER INVITATION NO. 99-1018**

IRAN ALUMINIUM COMPANY (IRALCO) would like to invite eligible suppliers for the supply of **100 MT Magnesium pure** on tender basis. Interested companies are allowed to send their competitive offer till **27-Feb-2021** Based on our required instruction to following address: **PO Box 31, opposite Bahonar Park, Natural Resources Boulevard, Arak- Iran Postal code: 3818998116 Attention: Mr. Omidi - Mr. Nabuini**

**Tel: +98 86 32162014 +98 86 32162181**

NO.49, Mollasadra Ave., Vanak Square, Tehran- Iran, Postal code: 1991614581 Name of office: Managing Director Office, Iranian Aluminum Company. Fax: +98 21 88049028 Tel: +98 21 88049024

For obtaining tender's documents and more information, please check: [www.iralco.ir](http://www.iralco.ir)

**Public Relations Department of Iran Aluminum Company**









→ The following is the full text of the interview:

### How did the Islamic Revolution in Iran change international politics?

The Islamic Revolution challenged the conventional wisdom regarding revolutionary movements, which maintained that religion was not an important or critical factor in modern political struggle. The "neither East nor West" stance of the Islamic Republic also challenged the Cold War-era notion that there were only two recognized and "acceptable" political blocs, and powerfully illustrated how a non-aligned nation could chart its own political and social destiny while maintaining its sovereignty and rights. Moreover, the elimination of the United States presence in Iran and constant meddling in Iranian internal politics marked a new era of anti-imperialist, anti-colonialist revolutionary activism, which drew direct inspiration from Imam Khomeini and the Iranian people.

### What is the significance of the Iranian revolution?

The significance of the Iranian Islamic Revolution, in essence, is that it demonstrated (and continues to demonstrate) the limits of imperialism and colonialism in the face of a unified national movement seeking to acquire and maintain political independence, sovereignty, and

## Islamic Revolution a brilliant example of triumph over authoritarianism and imperialism: American professor



the retention of indigenous religious, cultural, and social values. The Iranian revolution serves as a shining example of anti-royalist, anti-imperialist popular activism, as well as the short and long-term advantages of national self-reliance for peoples and movements seeking to maintain hard-won independence and

sovereignty.

### What were the unique characteristics of the Islamic Revolution?

On the national level, the revolution brought together Iranians of all backgrounds to collectively oppose the Pahlavi regime and its American enablers, which rendered the Shah's military strength and

U.S. backing essentially irrelevant. Thus it is a brilliant example of indigenous popular will triumphing over authoritarianism and imperialism. On a global level, the revolution's core message of Islamic unity and anti-imperialism resonated deeply outside of Iran and served as an arguably modular approach for other societies to emulate in their quest for justice, dignity, independence, and sovereignty.

### What impacts have the Islamic Revolution had on West Asia and the Islamic world at large?

In the context of the above response, the example set by the Iranian people and Iran's revolutionary leadership understandably struck fear deep into the hearts and minds of despotic kings and tyrants throughout West Asia, most of whom sought assistance to maintain their abusive and illegitimate rule by forging or further enhancing their military and intelligence relationships with western governments, most importantly the United States and the United Kingdom. After Saddam Hussein and his Arab, American, and European allies and suppliers

learned the hard way that the Islamic Republic of Iran was both impenetrable and indivisible, yet another wave of shock and fear led the rancid monarchies of the region to shortsightedly double down on their investment in foreign arms, foreign technology, foreign advising, and foreign "security."

Through the present they continue to invest in foreign "security" at the expense (and in many ways, in fear) of their own people, prohibiting any real chance to forge genuine societal unity, to develop a capacity for self-reliance through diversification, or to assure the perpetuation of their ruling systems. Regarding the latter, in my view it is now only a matter of time before their people collectively act to chart their own destiny without decrepit royalist or imperialist hands on their shoulders, and the Iranian Islamic Revolution can thankfully serve as both an inspiration, as well as a proven road map.

### Why have the Western powers adopted a hostile approach to the Islamic Revolution?

The Western powers have adopted a hostile approach to the Islamic Republic of Iran because the revolution simultaneously exposed their imperialistic avarice, while demonstrating their actual weakness in the face of national unity and mass popular opposition, the fragility of their regional puppet governments (in this case the Shah of Iran), the hypocrisy of their self-serving policies, and ultimately the potency of domestically produced industrial and military technologies and hardware. It is not that these attributes and accomplishments alone would suffice to maintain the Western powers' hostility to Iran for over four decades, but rather that these characteristics and developments have once and for all cut off the ability of Western powers to steal and/or control Iran's economy and wealth of national resources. One must understand continued Western hostility as a package of imperialist sour grapes: The Islamic Revolution enabled Iran to acquire and maintain true independence and sovereignty, the end result of which is the inability of Europeans and Americans to ever again control and ultimately profit from Iran's material wealth at the expense of the Iranian people. This is the source of perpetual Western hostility to the Islamic Revolution and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

## Iran a successful model for the region: ex-Lebanese minister

→ The young revolution could enhance the Islamic world's sense of dignity and pride, after it was in a position of subordination and obedience, and it provided a model for the major regional states in managing world affairs.

This policy was a model for what we call the policy and approach of resistance in the face of global arrogance.

Why did some Arab countries in the Persian Gulf were reluctant to receive the message of the Islamic Revolution and they did not even spare any effort to abort the revolution?

Some countries in the (Persian) Gulf region follow the American colonial policies. The former Shah of Iran was known as the policeman of the (Persian) Gulf, because he ruled the region for the benefit of his American masters.

When Saddam Hussein, a dictator, waged an aggressive war on Iran, the (Persian) Gulf countries were providing him with unconditional support, until he occupied Kuwait and then they brought American forces into the region.

The (Persian) Gulf countries are now normalizing ties with the Zionist enemy in an attempt to ally with the enemy to confront Islamic Iran, which extended a hand of cooperation to them.

Iran defends the region and protects it from all aggression

as a pivotal pillar of stability and security.

### How was Lebanon inspired by the idea of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, especially through Imam Musa al-Sadr and martyr Mustafa Chamran?

The Lebanese people were influenced by the Islamic Revolution in Iran, as well as by the ideas of Imam Khomeini.

I remember that we were among the strong supporters of the Islamic Revolution and the ideas of Imam Khomeini; love for Khomeini is a love for all values.

At that time, Lebanon was a center of the Palestinian resistance, and part of southern Lebanon and western Beqaa (East of Lebanon) were under the Israeli occupation.

I remember that I was in Tehran at the conference of the "oppressed people" in June 1982, and I attended the conference in which Hezbollah was founded, and I wrote that in my novel, "Sea Scene" (Mashhad al-Bahr).

Hezbollah and the Islamic Resistance were strong allies of the Islamic Revolution and the Quds Force of the Revolutionary Guards. The party's ideas are based on the theory of "guardianship of the Islamic jurist" in the Shiite Islamic political jurisprudence.

Hezbollah succeeded to form a sublime model for the Islamic Revolution, and serve as the sword of truth, which defeated

the Zionist enemy and the Takfiri terrorist enemy.

It is still the ideal model in the Islamic political movements that were inspired by the ideas of Imam Khomeini and the Islamic Republic in Iran.

### How do you assess Iran's confrontation with the U.S. projects in the context of regional balances? Do you see Iran as a successful model in self-sufficiency in scientific and military fields?

At this stage, when the level of conflicts has increased at the international and regional levels, Iran plays a pivotal role in leading the Islamic resistance movement to confront global arrogance.

It makes the Islamic state a major regional power capable of participating in managing world affairs.

Iran is now in a very strong position at international and regional level, and it is a force that weighs in the balance of power.

The Iranian power cannot be ignored in any issue related to the affairs of the West Asian region, in addition to international relations.

Trump has gone, the Islamic republic in Iran has remained stable, while sanctions, blockades, soft warfare, threats... have failed. The situation is excellent in Syria, in Palestine, and in Lebanon. In Yemen, the war will stop despite the attempts



of aggressors.

### How can the idea of resistance be extended to non-military fields such as economy and culture?

There is no doubt that the Islamic Revolution due to importance and status Iran will have an impact on politics, economy, culture, and the strategic military balances, as well as on culture, production of ideas and the advancement of science.

Iran is now the center of attention of states and peoples in the entire region, and it deserves to be the model and example.

## Yemen's Houthis in new operation to seize Marib

Yemen's Houthis have resumed an offensive to seize the fugitive government's last northern stronghold of Marib, a government source said Monday, with dozens of casualties on both sides.

New clashes between pro-government forces -- backed by a Saudi-led military coalition -- and the Houthis erupted after weeks of relative calm in the oil-rich and strategic region. A government source told AFP that the

Houthis had brought in reinforcements during that time.

"Fighting took place about 10 kilometers (six miles) west of Marib," the source told AFP on condition of anonymity.

Second Announcement



## International Invitation for Qualitative Evaluation of Suppliers (Second Notice)

**Subject: Purchasing, Installing and Commissioning of Railway Signaling System along Esfahan-Yazd-Bafgh Double-Track Line**

**Re-Tender no. 19-94-1**

The Railways of Islamic Republic of Iran (RAI) intend to entrust the supplying, installing and commissioning of railway signaling system along Esfahan-Yazd-Bafgh double-track line to the competent companies through utilization of foreign financial facilities (Finance) and within framework of the "Tenders Holding Law" approved by the Iranian parliament in 06.06.2004 and also in compliance with the Law "Maximum utilization of local production/service capabilities of Iran and promotion of Iranian products" approved by the Iranian parliament in 05.05.2019. Hence, all qualified companies who have related records in this field are hereby invited to receive the Qualitative Evaluation Documents.

### 1- General specifications of the tender scope as follows:

Purchasing, installing and commissioning of railway signaling system along Esfahan-Yazd-Bafgh double-track line

**2- Place of project execution:** Railways of Islamic Republic of Iran (RAI)

**3- Deadline for purchase of tender qualitative evaluation documents:** utmost by 16:00 on Saturday 27. February. 2021 corresponding to 09.12.1399

**4- Deadline and place of submission of completed qualitative evaluation documents:**

The Bidders can complete the qualitative evaluation documents utmost by 16:00 on Saturday 03. April. 2021 corresponding to 14.01.1400 and submit them to the RAI Procurement and Logistics General Dept. (Foreign Orders Dept.). Address: 2nd Floor Iranian Railways Central Building ; Argentina Sq., Africa Blvd., Tehran - Iran; P.O. Box 15197-13111.

**5- Receipt of Documents and method of payment:** The bidders shall pay RLS 500,000 to the account no. IR710100004001064004005747 by mentioning remittance code of 234064074280500885134499810000 opened in name Iranian Railways at the Central Bank of Iran (payable at all the branches of Bank Melli Iran) in order to receive the qualitative evaluation documents personally from the above address by submitting an introduction letter or receive the said documents free-of-charge through web site of National Tenders Informatic Base/ [HTTP://IETS.MPORG.IR](http://IETS.MPORG.IR).

**Procurement and Logistics General Department**  
**Iranian Islamic Republic Railways (RAI)**

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First Announcement



Khouzestan Steel Company

## Announcement of the contractors' qualification for Khouzestan steel company new wagon unloading system (tippler No. 3) by EPC contract

Khouzestan Steel Company (KSC), intends to increase the capacity of its wagon unloading system by implementing an EPC contract for a new wagon tippler No. 3. Wagon tippler No. 3 must be able to unload all types of wagons with weight of 90 tons of load and a total weight of 120 tons.

Companies interested in taking part the tender, having the following qualifications, can declare their readiness:

1. Sufficient Technological Knowledge and experience in the implementation of pelletizing plants, process gas fans equipped and ESP de-dusters.
2. The ability of financing and implementing the project by EPCF approach is preferred.
3. The equipment must be supplied from European Companies in Europe or other country under their license with European Union Countries Standards.

The interested companies shall send the following documents to KSC by the date: 10<sup>th</sup> March 2021.

1. Company Profile and Catalogues
2. Company references of similar projects. (Name, Location, Scope, Capacity and Contract Price)
3. The list of projects with frame of financing (if any).

After receiving the documents and evaluating the companies' competency, KSC will send the tender documents to the selected contractors.

Address: IRAN, Ahwaz, Khouzestan province, Khouzestan Steel Company, Post Box: 1378, Post Code: 61778-1311, Mr. Seyyed Hasan Hosseini contracts department manager.

Contact: Mr. Jamshid Sayyadi project manager - Tel: 0098 61 32908222 - Email: [j.sayyadi@ksc.ir](mailto:j.sayyadi@ksc.ir)

روابط عمومی شرکت فولاد خوزستان

## First living museum of kilim carpets makes debut in Sirjan

**HERITAGE** TEHRAN — A living museum, dedicated to kilim carpets and hand-woven textiles by rural and nomad people, was inaugurated on Sunday in the city of Sirjan, southeastern Kerman province.

The museum, which is the first of its kind in the region, aims at introducing and promoting hand-woven products especially Shiriki Pich Kilims of Sirjan as a unique souvenir of the region, the provincial tourism chief Fereydu Faali said during the inauguration ceremony.

With an area of 620 square meters, the museum also aims at holding weaving kilim workshops and training the crafters, the official added.



The visitors can watch artisans and weavers while they are weaving different textiles, which is one of the unique features of the museum, he explained.

He also expressed hope that considering the tourism and handicraft capacities of the region, the participation of domestic and foreign investors would be provided in near future.

Sirjan, which was named the world city of hand-woven kilim by the World Council of Handicrafts in 2017, is located in the southeastern province of Kerman.

High quality and innovations in patterns and colors of Shiriki Pich Kilims make them popular.

Unlike common kilims, which are made without using knots, Shiriki Pich of Sirjan is made by knotted weaves and is considered something between carpets and kilims.

This kilim is rarely woven based on a pre-made pattern. Therefore almost all Sirjan kilims are unique and no two similar pieces can be found.

The choice of colors using in the kilims is depended on the mood and emotions of the weavers, who are mostly nomad women that weaving is their daily routine as well as their main source of income.

## Iranian police seize millennia-old jug from smuggler

**TOURISM** TEHRAN — An earthenware jug, estimated to date back to 5,000 years before the Bronze Age, has recently been confiscated from a smuggler in the western province of Lorestan, a senior police official has announced.

The prehistoric object was seized with the judicial coordination after days of police surveillance, ISNA quoted Mohammad Mahdian-Nasab as saying on Monday.



The culprit was detained and surrendered to the judicial system for further investigation, he noted.

Lorestan, which is a region of raw beauty, was inhabited by Iranian Indo-European peoples, including the Medes, c. 1000 BC. Cimmerians and Scythians intermittently ruled the region from about 700 to 625 BC. The Luristan Bronzes noted for their eclectic array of Assyrian, Babylonian, and Iranian artistic motifs, date from this turbulent period.

Lorestan was incorporated into the growing Achaemenid Empire in about 540 BC and successively was part of the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sasanid dynasties.

## Eco-lodge units come on stream in Kerman

**HERITAGE** TEHRAN — Three eco-lodge units have been inaugurated in three different villages of Baft county, Kerman province, southeast Iran, ILNA reported on Monday.

Establishing such lodging centers is of very high importance in Iranian rural landscapes, reportedly to boost tourism, to generate job opportunities, and ultimately to help empower countryside communities.



Big and sprawling Kerman province is something of a cultural melting pot, blending various regional cultures over time. It is also home to rich tourist spots and historical sites including bazaars, mosques, caravanserais, and ruins of ancient urban areas.

Kerman province is bounded by the provinces of Fars on the west, Yazd on the north, South Khorasan on the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan on the east, and Hormozgan on the south. It includes the southern part of the central Iranian desert, the Dasht-e Lut.

# Ruins of majestic historical gateway unearthed near Persepolis

**→ 1** The gateway is made of [brick and] clay materials and the whole exterior has been decorated with painted bricks. The lower parts and the plinth of the walls are decorated with [themes of] lotus flowers, the body, and facade of the walls are embellished with various colored panels of mythical animals, symbols, and belief symbols of ancient Iranians, Elamites and Mesopotamians," the Iranian archaeologist explained.

"More importantly, the central room bears inscriptions in Babylonian and Elamite (cuneiforms)," he added.

Talking about the age of the monument, the top Iranian archaeologist said: "The sum of written documents, building materials, motifs used to decorate the facade of the building, the Carbon 14 (C-14) dating method, and some other evidence reveal that this structure was built after 539 BC in honor of the conquest of Babylon by Cyrus the Great."

The empire, founded by the Persian kings Cyrus and Darius, stretched from the Balkans to Central Asia at its peak. It was the first state model based on diversity and tolerance of different cultures and religions.

Once Cyrus and his army entered the city of Babylonian, they did not burn it to the ground (as usually happened with conquered cities at this period) but he freed the population from forced labor obligations, sent back to various shrines statues of gods, and allowed the people who had been brought to Babylon by the Babylonian kings to return to their homes.

By this act, he was effectively allowing people to pursue unmolested their own religious practices.

The royal city of Persepolis ranks among the archaeological sites which have no equivalent, considering its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art.

Persepolis, also known as Takht-e Jamshid, whose magnificent ruins rest at the foot of Kuh-e Rahmat (Mountain



of Mercy), was the ceremonial capital of the Achaemenid Empire. It is situated 60 kilometers northeast of the city of Shiraz in Fars province.

The city was burnt by Alexander the Great in 330 BC apparently as revenge to the Persians because it seems the Persian King Xerxes had burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 years earlier.

The city's immense terrace was begun about 518 BC by Darius the Great, the Achaemenid Empire's king. On this terrace, successive kings erected a series of

architecturally stunning palatial buildings, among them the massive Apadana palace and the Throne Hall ("Hundred-Column Hall").

This 13-ha ensemble of majestic approaches, monumental stairways, throne rooms (Apadana), reception rooms, and dependencies is classified among the world's greatest archaeological sites.

Persepolis was the seat of the government of the Achaemenid Empire, though it was designed primarily to be a showplace and spectacular center for the receptions

## Supervised by a joint mission of Iranian and Italian archaeologists and cultural heritage experts, the dig uncovered vestiges of a massive gateway measuring 30 by 40 meters with a height of approximately 12 meters.

## Imam Mosque: a grand, sparkling jewel of Islamic architecture

**TOURISM** TEHRAN — At the southern end of the UNESCO-registered Imam (Naghsh-e Jahan) Square stands the big, grand, and imposing Imam Mosque in the touristic city of Isfahan, central Iran.

Visitors to the mosque are mainly overwhelmed with good views of the main dome with its glorious profusion of turquoise-shaded tiles as one of the masterpieces of the Islamic architecture.

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

The monument is not only impressive because of its sheer size and incredible decorations but also helps to get a good impression of the needs and challenges of always on-going restoration works.

The craftsmanship continues and is intricate with amazing views both on the façade and the interior. The monument boasts perfect proportions and iconic blue-tiled mosaics.

A very picturesque huge entrance portal welcomes people to the mosque. It is built to face the square though

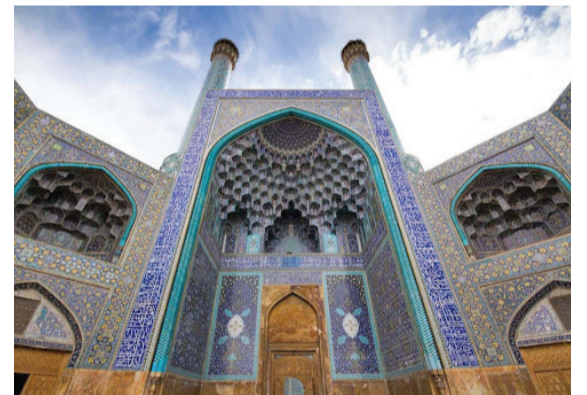
the mosque is oriented towards Mecca. A short corridor connects the square to the inner courtyard that is surrounded by four imposing iwans (porticos) with a pool dedicated to ritual ablutions nesting in the middle.

The walls of the courtyard feature sunken porches framed by seven-colored tiles of deep blue and yellow. Each iwan leads into a vaulted sanctuary covered with particularly fine floral motifs on a blue background.

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

On the other side of the square stands the very delicate Sheikh Lotfollah Mosque which was dedicated to the ruler's father-in-law, Sheikh Lotfollah, a revered Lebanese scholar of Islam who was invited to oversee the construction of the Shah Mosque.

The mosque's interior and exterior walls are fully covered with a polychrome, mostly dark blue, glazed tile revetment above a continuous marble dado. Throughout the whole mosque, except for the sanctuary dome and portal iwan, Shah 'Abbas was keen to minimize labor



costs and time by introducing a novel technique called "haft-rangi" (seven colors).

Isfahan has long been nicknamed as Nesf-e-Jahan which is translated into "half the world"; meaning seeing it is relevant to see the whole world. The city is home to many versatile artisans who underpin its reputation as a living museum of traditional culture.

## Kordestan to cater for music-themed tourism

**TOURISM** TEHRAN — Music tourism in the western Iranian province of Kordestan needs to be supported and promoted, the provincial tourism chief has said.

The development and prosperity of music tourism in the region is one of the high priorities of the province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Department, Yaqub Guylani announced on Monday.

In 2019, the provincial capital of Sanandaj was designated as UNESCO Creative City of Music by the UN cultural body.

The artistic capacities, rich history, and the presence of talented artists in the field of music have made Sanandaj to become a global city of music, the official explained.

The earliest records of compositions and



music in the Iranian plateau dates back thousands of years based on evidence that came to light by the "pre-Iranian" archaeological records of Elam, the oldest civilization in southwestern Iran.

Iran is the birthplace of the earliest complex instruments, which date back to the third millennium BC. A number of trumpets made of silver, gold, and copper were found in eastern Iran that are attributed to the Oxus civilization and date back between 2200 and 1750 BC. The use of both vertical and horizontal angular harps have been documented at the archaeological sites of Madaktu (650 BC) and Kul-e Fara (900–600 BC), with the largest collection of Elamite instruments documented at Kul-e Fara. Multiple depictions of horizontal harps were also sculpted in Assyrian palaces, dating back between 865 and 650 BC.

Pointing to the importance of music tourism in the world he noted that this valuable branch of tourism could promote Iranian

regional and folk music and lead to a tourism boom in the region.

Music tourism is a lucrative industry for many regions of the world, and it refers to people traveling to a new area in order to attend a music show or concert, or even a larger festival.

The name Kordestan refers to the region's principal inhabitants. After the Turkish invasion of Iran in the 11th century CE (Seljuq period), the name Kurdistan was applied to the region comprising the northwestern Zagros Mountains. It was during the reign of Abbas I the Great of Iran's Safavid dynasty (1501–1736) that the Kurds rose to prominence, having been enlisted by Abbas I to help stem the attacks of the marauding Uzbeks from the east in the early 17th century.

## Bandar Khamir on way to become sustainable travel destination

**TOURISM** TEHRAN — The southern Iranian port city of Bandar Khamir, which has recently joined the UNESCO Network of Learning Cities, seeks to be a sustainable travel destination.

A sustainable tourism approach, instead of being at risk of overtourism, is top on agenda to be materialized in Bandar Khamir as the latter would eventually cause cultural shocks for the locals and harm the city itself and its pristine environment, Mehr quoted city's mayor as saying on Sunday.

In September 2020, the city joined the UNESCO Network of Learning Cities and received a certificate of membership in the network, people who felt frustrated and isolated before, became proud of their city's tourism capacities, Javad Mahmudi added.

Situated in Hormozgan province and bounded by the



Persian Gulf, Bandar Khamir is the only city located on the coasts of the Khorkhoran Wetland, one of the largest and most

important marine environments in the Islamic Republic.

Traveling to the Persian Gulf region would be an experience that you probably haven't even considered. While you've been planning your Iranian sojourn around the jewels of the country's rich history (Isfahan, Shiraz, Yazd), to the southeast the Persian Gulf is equally deserving.

Explore the magnetic islands of Kish, Qeshm, and Hormuz, which are absurdly easy to combine and are altogether different. While Kish is unashamedly glam and glitzy, Qeshm and Hormuz are refreshingly void of large-scale development and offer a chance to glimpse a more traditional way of life — not to mention an array of geological wonders. Along the coast, soak up the vibes of lively Bandar Abbas and make a beeline for the delightful town of Kong, whose historical center is peppered with charming old houses and monuments.

# Over 5,800 projects to be inaugurated in rural areas

**SOCIETY** TEHRAN — Iran's Municipalities and Rural Administration Organization will inaugurate 5,811 development projects in rural areas during Ten-Day Fajr celebrations (January 31-February 10, marking the 42nd anniversary of the Islamic Revolution).

A total of 11.6 trillion rials (nearly \$278 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been spent on these projects, Ali Ghorbani, deputy head of the organization, said.

Most of the projects, equivalent to 71 percent, is related to the field of road maintenance, he stated.

Other projects include creating fire stations, green spaces, sport, and cultural places, he added, Mehr reported on Monday.

Mohammad Omid, the vice president for rural development, said in November 2020 that for the first time in the country, the migration of people from rural areas to cities has reached zero.

A total of 220 trillion rials (nearly \$5.6 billion) has been approved for the develop-



ment of villages in the current year (March 2020-March 2021), Omid said.

Some 140 trillion rials (about \$3.3 billion) have so far been spent, he noted, adding, the unemployment rate in rural areas has reached 7.4 percent, which has decreased by over one percent compared to last year.

In October 2020, Omid stated that the rural development projects worth 130 trillion rials (nearly \$3 billion) inaugurated on the occasion of the National Day of Villagers and Nomads.

He went on to state that 6,750 construction projects will come on stream in various fields such as roads, communications, etc. In addition, a total of 26,512 projects will be launched throughout the country.

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

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

## One million documented foreign nationals residing in Iran

**SOCIETY** TEHRAN — Iran is hosting to some one million documented foreign nationals, and perhaps another one million are illegally living in the country, deputy minister of interior has stated.

Some 700,000 foreign nationals illegally residing in Iran are expelled annually from the country, but many of whom return back for different reasons, IRIB quoted Javad Naserian as saying on Monday.

He went on to note that recently, a system has been set up to manage, guide, and organize foreign nationals in the country.

At the end of 2018, Iran hosted close to one million refugees, making it the sixth-largest refugee host country in the world.

Iran also was the eighth largest refugee-hosting country in the world in 2019, hosting 951,142 Afghan refugees and 28,268 Iraqi refugees, according to the UNHCR.

One of the largest and most protracted urban refugee populations in the world are living in Iran; about 97 percent of



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

Undocumented Afghans have access to free primary health services and similarly free COVID-19 related testing, treatment, and hospitalization, just like nationals.

In Iran, UNHCR is seeking \$16.2 million for its COVID-19 emergency, while requires an additional \$98.7 million to support Iran in maintaining and sustaining its commendable inclusive refugee policies, under the umbrella of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees.

## Iranian tech delegation aims to promote products in Armenia

**SOCIETY** TEHRAN — A delegation comprising representatives of 40 Iranian knowledge-based companies are scheduled to visit Armenia with the aim of promoting their technological products and expand the market in the neighboring country.

Organized by the vice presidency for science and technology, the four-day visit will be held from February 16-19, ISNA reported on Monday.

On January 27, Vice-President for Science and Technology, Sourena Sattari, met with Armenian Economy Minister Vahan Kerobyan in Tehran to discuss ways to expand technological cooperation.

Praising Iran's scientific and technological achievements, Kerobyan said "We agree with the implementation of a project in the field of creating a joint technology park between Iran and Armenia as soon as possible and the formation of a team to develop bilateral cooperation."

Sattari, said for his part, that Iran has four million students with high knowledge capacity so that the country relies on them to move toward a knowledge-based economy. There are currently 6,000 knowl-



edge-based companies operating in Iran, and last year they generated a revenue of about \$12 billion, he highlighted.

He emphasized that Iran has the largest startups in the region in the field of information and communication technology, biotechnology, nanotechnology, stem cells, etc., and about 50 technology parks have been formed throughout Iran.

Noting that 98 percent of the medicine needed in the country is produced domestically, he said that a large number of Armenian scientists and academics are studying in Iranian universities.

He emphasized the need to expand cooperation in the field of joint technology parks and student exchange.

## Half of global wastewater treated, rates in developing countries still lagging

A new study by scientists at Utrecht University and the United Nations University concludes that about half of global wastewater is treated, rather than the previous estimate of 20%. Despite this promising finding, the authors warn that treatment rates in developing countries are still very low. The study and its dataset were published Open Access in the journal Earth System Science Data. Humans and factories produce vast quantities of wastewater per day. If not properly collected and treated, wastewater may severely threaten human health and pollute the environment.

### 144 million swimming pools

The authors use national statistics to estimate volumes of wastewater production, collection, treatment and reuse. "Globally, about 359 billion cubic metres of wastewater is produced each year, equivalent to 144 million Olympic-sized swimming pools," says Edward Jones, Ph.D. researcher at Utrecht University and lead author of the study. "About 48 percent of that water is currently released untreated. This is much lower than the frequently cited figure of 80 percent."

While the results show a more optimistic outlook compared to previous work, the authors stress that many challenges still exist. "We see that particularly in the developing world, where most of the future population growth will likely oc-



cur, treatment rates are lagging behind," Jones explains. "In these countries in particular, wastewater production is likely to rise at a faster pace than the current development of collection infrastructure and treatment facilities. This poses serious threats to both human health and the environment. There is still a long way to go."

### Creative reuse

The main problem, especially in the developing world, is the lack of financial resources to build infrastructure to collect and treat wastewater. This is particularly the case for

advanced treatment technologies, which can be prohibitively expensive. However, the authors highlight potential opportunities for creative reuse of wastewater streams that could help to finance improved wastewater treatment practices.

"The most obvious reuse of treated wastewater is to augment freshwater water supplies," Jones says. Treated wastewater reuse is already an important source of irrigation water in many dry countries, particularly in the Middle East and North Africa. However, only 11% of the wastewater produced globally is currently being reused, which shows large opportunities for expansion.

### From 'waste' to resource

"But freshwater augmentation is not the only opportunity," says Jones. "Wastewater also has large potential as a source of nutrients and energy. Recognition of wastewater as a resource, opposed to as waste, will be key to driving improved treatment going forward."

However, the authors stress the importance of proper monitoring of wastewater treatment plants, accompanied by strong legislation and regulations, to ensure that the reuse of wastewater is safe. The authors also acknowledge public acceptance as another key barrier towards increasing wastewater reuse.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION



## Wildfire extinguished in northern forests

Wildfire, erupted in northern forests of Gilan province over the past 2 days, has been fully extinguished, commander of the protection unit of natural resources and watershed management organization of Gilan has stated.

According to the latest statistics, approximately 130 hectares of forests in Gilan province have been burnt in recent days, IRNA quoted Mohammad Qorbani as saying on Sunday.

He went on to say that 99 percent of fires in 13 cities of Gilan province have caused no serious damage to the trees.

In spite of the complete containment of fire, the protection unit is on full alert, he further noted.

Appreciating all the forces who made efforts to control the wildfire, he concluded that fire broke out in various cities, including Rezvanshahr, Talesh, Roudbar, Siahkal and some others.

## آتش سوزی جنگل های گیلان مهار شد

فرمانده یگان حفاظت اداره کل منابع طبیعی و آبخیزداری گیلان گفت: آتش سوزی جنگل های استان گیلان پس از ۷۲ ساعت تلاش، کاملاً مهار شد. سرهنگ محمد قربانی لرد عصر روز شنبه در گفت و گوی اختصاصی با خبرنگار ایرنا اظهار داشت: بر اساس آخرین آمارها به صورت تقریبی حدود «۱۳۰ هکتار» از اراضی جنگلی استان گیلان در چند روز اخیر دچار آتش سوزی شدند.

وی افزود: ۹۹ درصد از آتش سوزی جنگل های ۱۳ شهرستان استان گیلان سطحی بوده و خسارت جدی به درختان وارد نشده است. فرمانده یگان حفاظت اداره کل منابع طبیعی و آبخیزداری گیلان خاطر نشان کرد: به رغم مهار کامل آتش در جنگل های استان، نیروهای یگان حفاظت اداره کل منابع طبیعی و آبخیزداری در آماده باش کامل هستند. وی ضمن قدردانی از تمامی نیروها در مهار آتش در جنگل های استان گیلان اضافه کرد: آتش سوزی در سطح شهرستان های مختلف استان از جمله رضوانشهر، Talesh، رودبار، سیاھکل و غیره روی داده.

## How to predict the unpredictable in a changing climate

The retreat of an Alaskan glacier in the Barry Arm fjord, caused by rising temperatures, has left a steep and hefty land mass without structural support. If the hillside collapses in a landslide, millions of tons of rock and soil will plummet into the waters below, generating a wave of water hundreds of feet tall, endangering nearby coastal towns. Perhaps even more troubling, scientists cannot predict the timing of the collapse and resulting tsunami with certainty, making preparation difficult.



Centering its focus on this example, a recent study discusses how studying past trends and using simulations can help to manage the unfamiliar and unpredictable impacts of climate change. Authored by Miriam Matejova and Chad M. Briggs, the paper was published in Global Environmental Politics.

One of the key tools that the authors discuss is scenario analysis, which involves studying past trends in order to extrapolate possible futures. For example, scenario analysis can be used to predict population growth, increases in temperature, or future levels of CO2 emissions. However, studying past trends can only help so much as climate change will bring new risks. In order for scenario analysis to be effective in predicting environmental risks before they become hazards, they must incorporate a higher level of complexity. In many instances, simple models that rely on only one or two variables will not provide accurate predictions of how complicated social and environmental systems will react to change. As an example of how adding complexity helps, the authors highlight an enhanced scenario analysis conducted in Hawaii to look for systemic vulnerabilities to tropical storms or tsunamis on the island of Oahu. New risks related to food and energy infrastructure were identified for which the island in question would be otherwise unprepared.

In addition to scenario analysis, the authors suggest simulations as another way to prepare for impending risks. Simulations are defined as realistic situations which allow participants to train and practice responding to certain circumstances. With their origins in military settings, simulations, also known as wargaming, have been used to design environments that test, measure and improve behavior and decision-making in complex and uncertain situations. For example, military officers often participate in simulations, learning how to implement certain strategies and tactics while under pressure. For natural disasters, simulations might involve political actors learning how to mobilize large groups of people, institutions learning how to provide proper aid and relief, or communities learning how to make decisions while managing risk.

Humans have, to an extent, learned to adapt their behavior based on past experiences and to make plans for disasters based on typical trends. But the Barry Arm tsunami risk highlights a crucial implication of climate change. As the environments and ecosystems surrounding human communities shift, being prepared becomes far more difficult. Beyond just fjords and glaciers, other ecosystems may also develop new, perhaps unnoticeable risks as a result of climate change. How effective will current measures for preparation and response be in the face of unfamiliar and unexpected risks?

In an interview with GlacierHub, Sue Perry, a former disaster scientist for the United States Geological Survey, spoke of her experience with a risk familiar to many today: "In my universe, everyone who ever went near an ocean would know that tsunamis are rare but can happen at any time, and that—depending on how far away the tsunami starts—they could have hours or a scant few minutes to take action. They'd know the warning signs that a tsunami is imminent, how to get to safety, that a tsunami can move a mile or more up rivers, and that tsunamis can send more than one damaging wave ashore." But as circumstances change, communities that were once unaffected will need to learn to manage new disaster threats. Even communities that have had experience with natural disasters may need to adjust as well.

The authors suggest that scenario analysis and simulations should play a key role in identifying weak signals, such as the change in the Barry Arm Fjord, that have been overlooked. They define weak signals as "pieces of information that may seem random but reveal important patterns if interpreted in a new context." Such signals are often ignored, whether it's due to misinterpretations or the psychological avoidance of unfavorable outcomes.

## LET'S LEARN PERSIAN

(Part 127)

(Source: saadifoundation.ir)

### مخالف و هم معنی Antonyms and Synonyms

بعضی از کلمات یا عبارات دارای معنی مخالف هم هستند و کلمات یا عبارات مخالف به شمار می‌روند:

همیشه = هرگز هرجس = هیچکس

بعضی دیگر، کلمات یا عبارات هم معنی به شمار می‌روند:

نام = اسم چگونه = چطور

تمرین ۳. کلمات هم معنی و مخالف را به هم وصل کنید:

باز سرد شغل سیر درس خواندن سؤال آهسته شلوغ

گرسنه کار گرم بسته خلوت تند جواب تحصیل

### حرف ربط همپایه Coordinate Conjunction

من هم گرسنه بودم هم تشنه. I was both hungry and thirsty.

او نه گرسنه بود نه تشنه. He was neither hungry nor thirsty.





# Managing Director of Agricultural Support Services Co.: Providing Potash & Phosphate Soil, Salient Achievement of Government Dubbed “Hope and Produce” for Fertilizer Self-Sufficiency



The phosphate fertilizer production plant will be inaugurated concurrent with the glorious victory anniversary of the Islamic revolution during this year.

Chief Executive of Agricultural Support Services Company said that salient achievements have been taken during the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> government dubbed “Hope and Prudence” in line with provision of potash & phosphate soil in line with self-sufficiency of fertilizer.

Currently, of 2.4 million tons of urea fertilizer envisioned according to this year's announcement program, more than 1.9 million tons of which has been distributed by the Ministry of Agriculture, showing an increase of 300 thousand tons as compared to the same period last year.

On the occasion of the glorious victory anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, we reached out to the Chief Executive of Agricultural Support Services Company Hamid Rasouli which comes as follows.

According to the program of the Ministry of Agriculture, about three million tons of subsidized fertilizers of nitrogen, phosphate and potash should be supplied and distributed by the Agricultural Support Services Company in the current year, 2.4 million tons of which are nitrogen fertilizer (urea) while 600,000 tons of which are phosphate and potash fertilizers.

This is while that in the last 10 years, the plan of the agricultural sector to supply urea fertilizer was about two million tons and in recent years this amount had reached 2.2 million tons, he said, adding, “With the necessary follow-ups made by the ministry in the current year (started March 21, 2020), this number has reached 2.4 million tons i.e. an increase of 200,000 tons as compared to the previous year.”

Although the agricultural sector needs about three million tons of urea fertilizer per year, it is a matter of happiness that it has increased by 200,000 tons as compared to previous years, he continued.

Since the beginning of the year (started March 21, 2020), more than 1.9 million tons of urea fertilizer has been delivered to the agricultural sector by petrochemical companies, which shows an increase of 300,000 tons compared to the same period last year, Rasouli added.

He put the urea fertilizer delivered to the agricultural sector by the petrochemical companies in last year at 1.6 million tons.

This year, despite the fact that the gas of petrochemical companies was cut off for a short period due to cold weather, but with the follow-ups of the Minister of Agriculture and order of the President and First Vice President and Minister of Oil, gas needed by the petrochemical companies connected faster and these companies managed to resume their production activities, he said, adding, “We are not behind schedule.”

According to the agreement made between the company and petrochemical companies in the beginning of the current year, “we will deliver the fertilizer according to the scheduled program in the coming months, so that necessary arrangements have been made in this respect.”

**■ 45% growth in supply and distribution of urea fertilizer in last 10 years**

In the field of supply and distribution of urea fertilizer, the company has registered about 30 percent growth as compared to the previous year and also more than 45 percent growth as compared to

the previous 10 years, he added.

**■ 140,000 tons of urea fertilizer reserves in the country**

Elsewhere in his remarks, CEO of Agricultural Support Services Company added that strategic reserves of basic commodities are of special importance for maintaining the country's food security, so, more than 150,000 tons of urea fertilizers are currently available for strategic reserves and there is no room to be worry about this issue.

He added that these reserves are constantly updated and will be injected into the market if needed for the security of the agricultural sector.

**■ The rate of urea fertilizer grew only about 19 percent.**

Rasouli pointed to the price of urea fertilizer in the current year and added, “Price of each 50 kg bag of urea fertilizer increased slightly from the beginning of January and after a year and a half and reaches at the price of 650,000 Rials to farmers, showing less than 20% growth as compared to the previous year.”

According to him, price of each 50 kg bag of urea fertilizer was 550,000 Rials last year i.e. each kilogram of urea fertilizer has increased by only 2,000 Rials as compared to the previous year, showing the least and lowest price growth as compared to other agricultural inputs.

He stated that both the government and the Ministry of Agriculture, for special support to farmers, seek to supply domestically produced urea fertilizer at a fair and reasonable price so as not to allow the urea fertilizer required by the agricultural sector to increase in price like other agricultural inputs and services.

**■ Entry of two new petrochemical companies into the urea fertilizer production cycle**

Currently, Agricultural Support Services Company provides urea fertilizer required by agricultural sector from Assaluyeh Petrochemical Company, Razi Petrochemical Company, Bandar Imam Khomeini Petrochemical Company, petrochemical companies in Shiraz, Khorasan and Kermanshah.

The amount of fertilizer production volume of these petrochemical companies is more than 6 million tons per year, of which about 2.4 million tons are delivered to the Agricultural Support Services Com-

pany and more than 3.6 million tons of this product are exported to target countries, he added.

By the end of the current year (t end March 20, 2021), two other petrochemical companies such as Lordegan Urea and Ammonia Petrochemical Company and Masjed Soleiman Petrochemical Company are also scheduled to enter the urea fertilizer production cycle.

According to him, Lordegan Urea and Ammonia Petrochemical Company and Masjed Soleiman Petrochemical Company are currently in pilot production stage and it is hoped that the two petrochemical companies will be put into operation in first month of the next Iranian calendar year (April 2021).

**■ 100,000 tons of urea fertilizer contract with sulfur coating**

The Managing Director Agricultural Support Services Company and commissioner of Agricultural Fertilizers Self-Sufficiency Project said, “Of course, the plan for the contract of urea fertilizer with sulfur coating for paddy fields in north of the country, amounting to 100,000 tons, is ready, but it has not yet been signed.”

According to him, the technology of urea fertilizer with sulfur coating is that urea fertilizer dissolves immediately in water, but with sulfur coating called frankincense, urea is released after 20 days, which plays an important role in increasing crop production.

**■ Supply of phosphate and potash soils, salient measures taken by government dubbed “Hope and Prudence” for fertilizer self-sufficiency**

Hamid Rasouli, who in addition to being the CEO of Agricultural Support Services Company, has been working as the commissioner of Agricultural Fertilizers Self-Sufficiency Project since June of this year with the order of Minister of Agriculture Dr. Khavazi, added, “Despite sanctions terms and conditions as well as currency restrictions, the company is obliged to supply 600,000 tons of phosphate and potash fertilizers in the current year.”

“We have several explored mines regarding the raw materials needed to produce these two types of basic fertilizers,” he said, adding, “The amount of phosphate soil extracted in the country is currently about



150,000 tons and according to the plan, the deficit will be provided through imports.”

The CEO of Agricultural Support Services Company stated, “This year, effective measures were taken to provide phosphate and potash fertilizers, most portion of which is imported. Since we are facing a shortage of phosphate and potash soils, we have to meet most of the needs of these two fertilizers through imports.”

“The mines that we have in the country in the field of phosphate are two mines including Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company and Asfordi Mining Company, which deliver about 150,000 tons of phosphate soil to the producers' factories. Khur-va-Biyabanak Mining Company is producer of potash fertilizer that was left useless with the lowest capacity and now, we have taken effective steps to take advantage of this capacity,” he added.

During the negotiations made between Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade and Agricultural Support Services Company, it was decided to increase the capacity of supplying potash soil from the mine this year, so that the capacity of Khur-va-Biyabanak mine reached 30,000 tons this year, which is a significant number for the first year of operation.

“We also invited all the producers of phosphate fertilizers in the country to the company, and we signed contracts with all these factories according to their capacity, and provided them with imported soil for the production of phosphate fertilizers.”

“We are looking to localize the production of phosphate and potash fertilizers in the country,” he said.

“The total number of contracts concluded with domestic producers is about 200,000 tons, while last year it was 20,000 tons,” he continued.

Shortage of phosphate soil was the major concern of the company that “we managed to import 100,000 tons into the country.”

“Our contract with the seller of phosphate soil is long-term and for significant quantities,” he added.

He went on to say that the company has concluded contracts with about 14 factories producing phosphate fertilizer, adding, “We transfer and transport the soil from Bandar Imam Khomeini and Bandar Abbas to these phosphate fertilizer production plants.”

The phosphate fertilizer production plant will be inaugurated concurrent with the glorious victory anniversary of the Islamic Revolution during this year.

**■ Inauguration of Phosphate Fertilizer Production Factory in Bushehr during the victory anniversary of the Islamic Revolution (Ten-Day Dawn ceremonies) in the presence of minister of Agriculture.**

Rasouli added a Phosphate Fertilizer Production Factory in Bushehr, during anniversary of the Islamic Revolution victory (Ten-Day Dawn ceremonies), will be inaugurated in the presence of minister of Agriculture. This factory named ARKANSHIMI, will produce 100,000 Tons phosphate fertilizers with its subsidiaries in Bushehr and its productions will be supplied for distribution nationally

**■ Identifying Torud Mine in Semnan Province**

Now, to supply potash soil, except for Khur-va-Biyabanak mines, Torud mine has been identified in Semnan province, he said, adding, “If these mines are produced with their full capacity, we will not need to import potash soil from abroad.”

He pointed out that the country's need for potash fertilizer is at least 400,000 tons per year. The production capacity of Khur-va-Biyabanak mines reached 30,000 tons this year, the amount of which will

increase about 100,000 tons next year (to start March 21, 2021).

He added that exploration operations are currently underway in Torud mines of Semnan province and with the help of expert domestic consulting engineers. According to the negotiations made with the user of the mentioned mines, these mines will be put into operation by 2022.

Regarding the phosphate soil mines, he said: “Considering that the country has several mines that must be operational and phosphate extraction work must begin in these mines, we are now focused on the operation of these mines.”

“We are facing restrictions on the supply of potash soil through imports due to sanctions. Currently, most of the potash soil needed by the country is supplied and imported from Belarus, Russia and Uzbekistan.”

**■ Phosphate and Potash Fertilizers Self-Sufficiency Plan**

For this purpose, a significant part of the country's phosphate and potash fertilizers are imported into the country. Therefore, for domestic production, “we faced the problem of restriction of raw materials of phosphate and potash soils and factories that produce soil in accordance with the country's needs.”

This year, “We have finalized five large self-sufficiency plans for the provision and supply of these fertilizers in the current year.”

Within the framework of Agricultural Fertilizers Self-Sufficiency Plan, Agricultural Support Services Company has concluded contract with the National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICICO) for the distribution of phosphate fertilizers as product of a 500,000-ton factory which is under construction.

Another contract has been concluded with Karun Phosphate Production Company with the production of 200,000 tons of phosphate fertilizers, he said.

Khur-va-Biyabanak Mine is located in Isfahan while Chadormalu and Asfordi Mine companies are located in Yazd, he said, adding, “Torud Mine is located in Semnan province.”

In potash fertilizer, according to the exploration mines and according to the prescheduled program, “we can achieve self-sufficiency in the next three years.”

According to him, the grade of phosphate soil in Iranian mines is different, but in Asfordi and Chadormalu mines, phosphate concentrate is currently produced with a grade of 30%.





## Eng. Taghizadeh CEO of CMICO:

# Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Co. Thinking of Producing Nonferrous Metals, Nonmetallic Products

"Exploration" is the main priority of Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company. It is hoped that the Ministry of Industry, Mine and Trade will pave suitable ways for exploring and increasing mineral reserves by transferring mineral zones in every region of the country.

To learn more about the details, our reporter has conducted an interview with Eng. Naser Taghizadeh Chief Executive of Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company which comes as follows.

In the beginning, CEO of Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company added, "Basically, steel production has a 'rock-bottom and ceiling' rate. Steel production is reaching its ceiling with a prospect of 55 million tons. Due to mineral constraints, it is no longer possible to do much activity in the development of concentrate production and pelletizing. However, it must be acknowledged that mining activities are reaching its ceiling rate in the country."

He pointed out that priority of activity of the company is focused on producing metal and mining industries, but since Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company is an economic enterprise, "We must move towards activities in various sectors of this field, including non-ferrous and even non-metallic metals."

He stressed the need to achieve goals of the company such as completing the supply chain, creating an extensive rail transportation system, and added: "Currently, our main priority is focused on exploration, and paying attention to the exploration activity can provide suitable ways for maintaining the current situation."

Taghizadeh stated that the issue of exploration is one of the vital measures for the continuation of steel production in the country and realization of producing 55 million tons of steel in the country, he said, adding, "The central desert of Iran is rich with iron ore reserves, but unfortunately, some obstacles such as environmental excuses and existing administrative bureaucracies have prevented

exploration activities as well as receiving operation licenses."

Fortunately, Omid Investment Group, as a major shareholder of Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company, is associated with the development plans and projects of this company, he maintained.

In the recent visit of the then Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Dr. Modares Khiaabani from Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company, he announced that Ministry of Industry is ready to participate in establishing new drilling and exploration company with 49 percent partnership of Omid Investment Group and 51 percent partnership of Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company.

On the other hand, many licenses have been issued for the exploitation of some mines in the country but in practice, due to the inability of their owners, these mines have not been exploited, he said, adding, "It is hoped that fate of these mines will be specified at the new instruction of the respected minister of Industry, Mine and Trade."

"We hope that exploration objectives of domestic mining and mineral companies will be realized by the Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade Alireza Razm-Hosseini."

The CEO of Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company said that taking basic and practical steps, in accordance with realities and capabilities of the country's major industries, is the key behind economic development in the country and reiterated, "For example, today, following the relentless efforts of three major mining and industrial companies, we are witnessing the implementation of a huge project to transfer water from the Persian Gulf to the central part of the country, the issue that many did not consider this giant project as feasible."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Taghizadeh emphasized the concept of development and given the financial restrictions and situation of government and budget of the country, which is mainly spent on salaries, wages and pension funds, and said, "In the current situation, one of the

ways to achieve industrial and mining goals and sustainable development in general is moving from traditional methods towards the application of common and modern methods in the world."

Emphasizing that one of the aforementioned ways is to oblige large companies to invest and strive for the development of less developed and disadvantaged areas, he added, "Large metal and mining companies and even petrochemical companies, with their investment, can take giant stride in development of one of the deprived provinces all over the country."

Taghizadeh emphasized that by adopting this method and with the cooperation of banks, it is possible to create employment and yield currency exchange.

"Today, we must accept that the government, given the current situation, is not able to invest and develop financially and This method can be the best way to overcome the current situation. In this regard, petrochemical and mining companies can make huge investment for developing underprivileged areas."

Under the current situation that the government is suffering from financial problem, large and mega-sized companies can take giant strides in developing less developed areas in the country.

In the current situation, the government can, with principled policies and with strict supervision, entrust the development of each province to one of the large companies and oblige them to move to other employment-generating industries and encourage these large companies to take giant step in generating employment given the high potential of the region.

For example, a large steel company, which is entrusted with the development of a region or province, should encourage people of the region with its support to produce items such as clothing, high-tech, electrical, agricultural, agricultural products' processing industries, etc.

For example, a large steel production company in Jask, in addition to produce steel, can help construct water desalination



unit and also agricultural greenhouse in the region with its financial support, he added.

The CEO of Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company said that realization of such an important issue requires national will at the level of government officials, adding, "Suitable condition should be paved for managers and they should not be blamed for small and negligible mistakes."

Empowering managers and supporting fair-minded directors is the prerequisite for reaching such principled policies, he said, adding, "Achieving such principled policies requires empowering managers and supporting honest people so that they can motivate and advance all industries with power, while the government's decision-making mechanism must be in line with the policies of managers appointed for such managerial activities."

While adjusting all policies, government officials should not impose any restrictions for large companies. For example, one should not wait for months to obtain a permit and such obstacles will never lead the country to comprehensive and sustainable development, he reiterated.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Taghizadeh pointed to setting up a new industrial zone in Ardakan area and added, "Chador-

malu Mining and Industrial Company will construct a super mega-module steel production unit and a ferrosilicon production plant in the mentioned area between Behabad and Chadormalu Mine within the framework of expansion project. The construction of these projects in the desert area is in compliance with the requirements of environmental protection and with the aim of developing deprived areas, and it is stipulated that residential houses will be constructed for personnel in that area if needed."

The CEO of Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company added, "We are currently obtaining land, necessary permits and also trying to build a mega-module sponge iron project with a capacity of 1.8 to 2.2 million tons, ferrosilicon-manganese with a capacity of 50,000 tons, refractory brick, casting and so on. The mentioned projects will be constructed in three to four years, if an agreement in principle is obtained. In addition, we are planning to build a railway, electricity transmission line and water desalination system in the mentioned area."

He further reminded indigenization measures taken in this regard and said that Chadormalu Mining and Industrial Company with localization of 29,300 parts of

its required parts, in addition to increasing productivity, has also had economic savings as much as over 12,000 billion rials.

Then, CEO of the company pointed to the issue of crude-selling of iron ore and emphasized that "We strongly oppose the sale of crude selling of iron ore or any other mineral and believe that the duties of concentrate and pellets should be increased and suitable ways should be paved for exporting sponge iron."

Taghizadeh stressed that the government should encourage large mining companies to build processing units and ultimately create added value with the participation of the private sector by preventing crude sale of raw materials.

He further announced the company's readiness to buy iron ore in any mine and in any tonnage and said, "Undoubtedly, sustainable development will be achieved by providing raw materials and building production units in different parts of the country in addition to generating employment."

Glimmers of hope should be promoted among people in any way possible, he said, adding, "Although there are really problems in some professions, we must accept that we can materialize all economic objectives in these difficult conditions if we join our hands together and planning wisely."

In the end, Taghizadeh announced the establishment of a public joint stock company with the aim of participation of staff and personnel in stock of the company and added, "By establishing a public joint stock company and trying to share 5,000 employees of the company, we will try to provide all projects to shareholders, so that they can be encouraged to continue their activities at the company with more peace of mind."

This year, the highest record of production and sales of the company was achieved after 20 years, which has been given a good reward to the staff, and "we believe that if the needs of staff and their livelihood are met and production is increased due to increasing efforts of employees and workers, necessary reward and incentive packages will be given to staff."

# A Glance at the Activities of MAPNA Group, a Leading Industrial Enterprise in the Middle East



MAPNA Group is a leading power plant company in the Middle East and North Africa region.

MAPNA Group is a conglomerate of Iranian companies involved in development and execution of power, oil & gas, and railway projects, as well as manufacturing main equipment including gas and steam turbines, electric generators, turbine blades and vanes, HRSG and conventional boilers, electric and control systems, compressors, locomotives and other advanced industrial products.

An industrial enterprise, MAPNA Group comprises a parent company along with several specialized companies as its subsidiaries which are active in the fields of engineering, constructing and developing thermal power plants, renewable energy plants, power & heat or power & water co-generation plants, onshore and offshore drilling, execution and development of oil and gas projects, engineering and constructing rail transportation projects, medical imaging services, electrification, repair and maintenance services as well as finance and investment.

MAPNA Group is also a manufacturer of a wide range of advanced industrial products including gas and steam turbines, turbine blades, wind turbines, conventional and heat recovery boilers, hydro- and thermal generators, control systems, passenger and freight locomotives, and turbo compressors.

In addition to its over fifty-percent share in the development of Iran's power generation capacity and effective participation in development of oil and gas, rail transportation and healthcare projects, MAPNA Group has been able to play a role in international markets relying on quality and competitive price of its products and services.

### History of MAPNA Group

Established in August, 1993, MAPNA Group's initial purpose was to serve as a general contractor of power plant projects. Gradually, the enterprise turned from a contractor in the 1990s to a manufacturer in the 2000s, and now, to a technology owner.

Since its establishment, MAPNA Group has recorded execution of over one hundred large-scale projects worth more than 35 billion Euros (€30bn). In addition, this prestigious company produces 75 different products and also offers 96 different types of high-quality services to its customers, including:

- Various types of gas turbines
- Various types of steam turbines
- Wind turbines
- Turbine accessories
- Various conventional boilers
- Various turbo-compressors
- Heat recovery steam generators
- Thermal generators
- Hydro generators
- Turbo generators
- Switchboard and security control systems

### MAPNA Group's capabilities in rail transportation production and manufacturing include:

- Different types of locomotives
- Brake systems
- Switchboard and security control systems
- Mechanical equipment
- Railway electrical equipment
- Signaling and control center

### MAPNA Group's products in oil & gas are:

- Gas turbines
- Turbine blades



MAP24 Freight Locomotive

- Centrifugal compressors
- Oil pumps
- Tanks

### Investing in MAPNA Group

In today's world, close competition for higher levels of development and progress is an integral part of economic and social programs. Economic development is achieved through the definition of projects in various sectors such as energy, transportation etc. This is where the critical issue of financing and investment is raised.

With the expansion of MAPNA Group's activities and the need to attract capital for projects, the organizational structure was reviewed and in the architecture of the new structure, the Investment Projects Division (IPD) was

established as an important pillars of MAPNA Group.

Wide access to domestic and international markets have given MAPNA an active and constructive role in development of power, oil & gas, and rail transportation projects of the country through individual, direct or mutual investment along with domestic and international investors.

MAPNA Group can be considered as a pioneer in power generation investment. It is the first and largest investor in the construction and development of private power plants in the country. In a period of less than thirty years, MAPNA Group has invested in power plant projects with a capacity of more than 11,000 MWs of existing power plants, valued at more than 5.5 billion

Euros (€5.5bn). More than 1300 MWs of power plant capacity is under construction and development by MAPNA Group at the moment. Having this capacity has made MAPNA Group a key player in the electricity market and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

In the field of thermal (gas and combined cycle) power plants construction, MAPNA Group has commissioned and launched power plants across the country, including South Isfahan (the first privately-funded power plant in the country) Toos Power Plant (Ferdowsi), Assaluyeh, Aliabad (Golestan), Fars (Hafez), Parehsar (the first privately-funded power plant that was raised through an international tender in the electricity industry and paved the way for development of rules and regulations on private power investment), Genaveh, Parand, Sanandaj, Behbahan, Qeshm, as well as Kahak and Aqand wind farms and also water and electricity co-generation in Qeshm.

### International Investment

By taking a strategic approach to internationalization, MAPNA Group seeks to reinforce its presence in foreign target countries. Selection of target countries for investment in power plant projects hinges upon various factors including rules and incentive packages, fuel provision (by the target country), tariffs and power sale mechanisms, investment risk, and other effective investment-related factors. The two key objectives sought in power investment projects are sustainability in international markets and improved share of the company in target countries.

In investment, in addition to the objective of entering the international markets, forming and increasing market share of the group is also a key objective. MAPNA Group now has regional offices across the world and enjoys industrial cooperation with many prominent & prestigious international companies.



Damavand Combined Cycle Power Plant



MAPNA Genaveh Combined Cycle Power Plant 2



Offshore Drilling Project - Persian Gulf 2



# Note of Eng. Farnoush Nobakht Vice Chairman of Board of Directors and CEO of Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Operation Company (TUSROC)

Today, urban & inner-city transportation is not just an everyday and routine event. The public transportation fleet is of special importance in metropolises and metro (subway) is also known as a public transportation lifeline and its role in social and cultural development is also seriously taken into consideration by urban management experts.

A complete, orderly, extensive and efficient public transportation system is considered an important need for the developed and developing countries, and having an efficient economic, cultural, social and political system is a prerequisite for countries that are in the field of industrial competition and improving the social structure. Having a fast and safe means of transportation such as metro, which is the most important means of public transportation in large cities today, is also seriously considered in Tehran due to traffic and air pollution, because the metro has an irreplaceable capacity.

The importance of this means of transportation became more and more apparent due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, in the country and from the very beginning, Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Operation Company (TUSROC) used the experience of other countries and according to health protocols and guidelines instructed by the Ministry of Health and Medical Education and put subway trains on the agenda.

In addition, by preparing educational clips, informing and publishing it on social networks, we tried to inform the company's performance and provide the necessary training services through various posters and banners on the subject of observing social distancing, requiring all walks of life to use and wear face masks and observing safety and health issues. Moreover, giant steps have been taken in the field of installing necessary health guidelines and instructions in seven metro (subway) lines of Tehran and its suburbs to create the sensitivity among citizens and subway passengers that at least if they have to get out of the house and use the subway to observe a safe and hygienic distance to prevent the transmission of the coronavirus, COVID-19, disease.

Also, reducing the distance of trains in Tehran metro lines, which was a priority for the company for better service delivery and to help the "Social Distancing" plan, improve the distance between trains' arrival in Metro Line Two from three and a half to three minutes and in Metro Line Three, we reduced it from seven minutes to six minutes for offering better services at the condition that the country is grappling with the pandemic.

Although we have seen a significant reduction in the number of passengers these days due to the spread of COVID-19, we have used all the capacity of the subway to provide better services to the citizens and we have not stopped any of our trains in the parking lots to avoid the congestion of passengers at the seven-lane stations.

Therefore, we used everything we had to deal with the coronavirus, COVID-19, disease and asked passengers to use and wear face masks to prevent the transmission of the coronavirus disease and to better implement the plan of "Observing Social Distancing" by managing travel time from the subway congestion.

So far, more than 99 percent of subway passengers wear face masks.



At present, Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Operation Company (TUSROC), with more than 250 kilometers and 130 active stations, has found its place among the citizens of the capital, and on the eve of the 22nd year of operation of the metro, with 7 active lines, we have been able to move about two million passengers daily.

Although the number of passengers has decreased due to the spread of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, in the subway, this is not the actual capacity of the capital's metro, and this capacity will increase with the completion of lines 6 and 7. We hope to reach seven million passengers a day by 2025 based on the transportation and traffic prospects of Tehran.

However, achieving this requires prioritizing funding for the construction and supply of the fleet, as the metro is a leading transportation means in urban transportation system with a "precision, health, and speed" approach.

This very high safety, comfort and convenience means of transportation, which plays a leading role in reducing energy consumption, has increased its proper speed compared to other means of public transportation.

Also, according to statistics, the use of Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway as the only means of public transportation within the city is clean from the beginning of operation until the end of 1398 (2020) in a way that it was able to save 76 billion and 556 thousand Rials in fuel consumption costs, which has an effect of 41 billion and 403 thousand Rials on the cost of health care and cleaning due to air pollution and has resulted in saving consumption of 5,741 million liters of gasoline and 570 million liters of diesel.

It is worth mentioning that urban tours with Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway have prevented 14,700,000 tons of CO2 gas from entering the air of Tehran, while tours performed with Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway during this period has prevented the emission of 2,709 tons of CO, NOX, SO2, PM10 and HC gases.

Although Tehran Urban and Suburban Railway Operation Company needs more equipment, especially wagons, to increase the fleet capacity on the existing lines, which requires funding from the government, we hope that with the help of domestic manufacturers and producers, an opportunity will be provided to meet the metro needs inside the country.

## اهم اقدامات پیشگیرانه شرکت بهره برداری متروی تهران و حومه برای مقابله با کرونا

19-nCoV بهمن ماه ۱۳۹۹

The infographic details various measures taken by TUSROC to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Key points include:
 

- Implementation of social distancing protocols on all 7 metro lines.
- Requirement for all passengers to wear face masks.
- Regular sanitization of train cars and stations.
- Reduction of train arrival intervals to increase capacity and reduce crowding.
- Use of disinfectant sprays and hand sanitizers at stations.
- Prohibition of passengers with symptoms of illness from boarding trains.
- Enhanced cleaning and disinfection of the fleet.
- Provision of information and training to passengers.
- Collaboration with health authorities for monitoring and response.

### The Most Important Achievements of National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) from 2012 to 2020

**x5 Fivefold Increase**  
Production capacity of crude oil from West Karun Joint Oilfields

Accessing daily production capacity of (400,000 barrels of oil per day (bpd)

**x2.5 2.5fold Increase**  
Production capacity of gas in South Pars Gas field with implementation of 18 conventional phases

Achieving daily production capacity of 1,000 million cubic meters gas in country

**1 Winning First Rank**  
Hydrocarbon explorations in the world in 2019

Accessing to more than 130 percent of oil exploration commitments and 170 percent of gas exploration commitments in first half of 6th Five-Year Socioeconomic and Cultural Development Plan

**National and Strategic Plan**  
Goureh – Jask Crude Oil Transfer Pipeline & Makran Export Oil Terminal

Creating pipe production chain NACE (Slab, Sheet and Pipe), 2.7MW pumps, 42-inch valves and covering FBE pipe for the first time in the country

**All-out and comprehensive support from Iranian contractors, manufacturers, knowledge-based companies, scientific and academic centers, universities and Iranian startups**

**A giant stride in supporting research and self-sufficiency in oil industry**

**Fulfilling Social Responsibilities**  
In tandem with the development and production in the oil industry

**Preserving Environment, Pillar of Sustainable Development**  
Observing Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) requirements, main activities of the National (Iranian Oil company) (NIOC)

Public Relations of National Iranian Oil Company

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# Transparency and Supervision, Salient & Main Feature of Chain Stores

Hossein Sabouri, Acting CEO of Ofogh Kourosh Chain Stores

The market was considered as a platform for the exchange and trade of goods and services before the industrial revolution based on traditional mechanism and based on face-to-face communications but after the industrial revolution and change of social and economic equations, it has diversified and promoted economic activities and finally, increased growth, prosperity and welfare using scientific and technical achievements.

In Iran, with social and economic modernization and its impact on market structure, although the method of distribution of goods has changed as compared to the thirteenth century and centuries before, the dominant distribution system in the country can predominantly be called 'traditional' as compared with the developed countries.

Chain stores, as one of the main elements of the modern distribution system, have been established in Iran since early 1960s, and since then up to the present time, although chain stores in Iran have led to the formation of a more modern distribution system, they still have a small share of Iran's economy.

Generating jobs, helping national production, reducing supply route and distribution of goods, eliminating intermediaries (agents), offering regular discounts and turning the shopping



process into an enjoyable and fun experience are some of the services and benefits of chain stores that have made this industry effective in the country's economy.

But what is an important factor in the expansion of chain stores is the entry of the private sector in this business, which has made chain stores to perform better than before in the field of distribution of goods.

Not only privately-funded chain stores create competition and increase the qual-

ity of service and customer satisfaction, but also these chain stores have created transparency in the best possible way in the field of distribution of goods. High transparency refers to the legal structure of these complexes and the requirements for their management and administration.

Having a clear legal entity makes it mandatory to comply with financial and tax laws throughout the supply chain management, while such requirements are not required for small, independent retailers.

On the other hand, expansion of branches and high turnover of goods in these complexes (chain stores) make recording and monitoring of all events and transactions along supply chain and mechanization of all processes 'mandatory', so that this method of registering and monitoring allows accurate monitoring of external organizations.

Although many recent media reports indicate a weakness due to inflation overshadowing the country, suitable condition has been paved for the possibility of recording and monitoring activity of chain stores.

This transparency, along with supervision, is the main feature of chain stores and the key difference between private and public sectors and the new system with the traditional market mechanism.

Presence of private sector in chain stores and lack of cumbersome restrictions of government bureaucracy and/or small- and large expediciencies that public sector inevitably has to comply with it have increased the transparency of these stores as compared to the public sector, and this transparency has made the monitoring process easier with two concepts i.e. "Monitoring on" and "Supervising in".

"Monitoring in" refers to the monitoring and inspection processes that

chain stores, themselves, apply to input, output, inventory, as well as daily and periodic inspections of their branches consecutively.

It should be noted that looking into the complaints and proposals of customers and clientele as well as responding to their questions are carried out within the framework of 'monitoring' process.

"Monitoring on", however refers to the supervisory bodies outside the chain stores that, due to the high transparency that exists in these stores, can monitor all the processes of ordering, supplying, transferring, warehousing and selling in chain stores.

Easy access to all activities of chain stores such as amount of goods ordered, amount of purchases, process of transferring and entering the goods in the warehouse, storage time of goods and finally exit of goods from the warehouse and entering the store branches and even its final stage is selling goods can be controlled and monitored maximally due to the maximum transparency of chain stores.

It is not unreasonable to claim that popularity and welcome of citizens to chain stores in the last decade has been due to transparency on the one hand and supervision on the other hand.

The two components of "transparen-

cy" and "supervision" at chain stores has created a sense of trust in customers that not only their right to choose is respected but also goods are provided to customers with fair, reasonable and logical price qualitatively and quantitatively.

It goes without saying that price problems of chain stores are much more than other stores working with traditional system of supply and distribution of goods and this is due to the maximum transparency of these stores and also the maximum supervision exerted on these stores.

Definitely, wherever there is more transparency and maximum monitoring is exerted, more flaws and problems will appear. Lack of appearance of problems and defects in the public sector or other similar sectors does not necessarily mean the absence of problems, rather, it can be attributed to a lack of transparency or a lack of oversight.

Trust of customers as a social capital is a product an economic enterprise and owes to transparency and supervision, which is the necessary basis for future activities and also the basis of fight against corruption. Therefore, protection of this trust is a public duty, which depends on appreciating transparency and putting it at the forefront and observing ethics and law in all stages of supervision.



جمهوری اسلامی ایران  
وزارت صنعت، معدن و تجارت



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## Industrial Development and Renovation Organization of Iran (IDRO)

### Performance of IDRO in Executive Projects by Dec. 20, 2020

No.	Title of Project	Total Investment Value (billion rials)	Employment	Physical Progress
1	Plan for setting up fuel bioethanol in Kermanshah Prov.	6,727	152	73.90 percent
2	Second phase of plan to renovate and overhaul Balouch Industries Development Organization (Weaving, Printing and Dyeing Line)	3,900	282	20.00 percent
3	Plan for producing water purification and treatment filters (membrane) in Ilam province	4,457	75	36.00 percent
4	Plan for completion of construction operation of Esfarayen Industrial Complex in North Khorasan province	27,429	230	97.06 percent
5	Plan to set up and commission system for launching vessel and parking of vessels (travel lift) in ISOICO	1,570	560	17.88 percent
6	Plan for construction of phase 1 of Garmsar Special Economic Zone (250 ha) in Semnan Province	2,736	150	62.11 percent
7	Plan for construction of phase 1 of Jahrom Special Economic Zone (85 ha) in Fars Province	1,060	80	58.50 percent
8	Plan for construction of fuel bioethanol production unit in Kohgiluyeh and Boyerahmad Province	9,102	152	14.16 percent
9	Plan for construction and completion of infrastructures of KAVOSH Research Township (Pishro Bloc)	354	25	48.03 percent
10	Plan for construction of dry ponds and logistics (backup) workshops	71,810	5000	80.02 percent

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Investment projects: Valued at 424,800 billion rials / 11,507 persons

1

General contracting projects: Valued at \$5,249 billion / 4,236 persons

2

Plan management projects: Valued at \$6,343 billion & 782 million

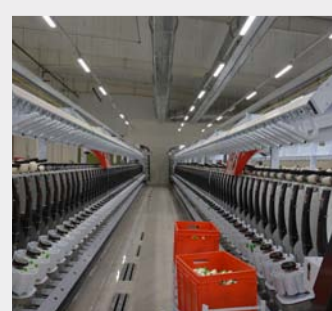
6

"Surge in Production" projects



Projects of Four Specialized Desks of Automotive Industry

No. of Project	Value of Contracts	Currency Saving
154	4,460 billion rials	€341 million



Inauguration of new weaving production line and start of construction operation of weaving line of Baft Balouch Industrial Development Company

- 1- Inauguration of new weaving line, costing 2,000 billion rials and generating employment for 150 job-seeking people
- 2- Planning and starting construction operation for the development of weaving line and renovation of printing and dyeing line in order to complete the production process as well as generation of employment for 195 job-seeking people, costing €10 million and 560 billion rials
- 3- Receiving license for planting cotton from Agriculture Organization of the province in order to complete the production chain, ranging from planting cotton to producing fabrics,
- 4- Completion of infrastructures of the company
- 5- Completing, employing and training 150 manpower of the company needed for new weaving and spinning production line