

Tehran-Baku ties have grown to strategic level in all areas: Iran Page 2

Iranian lifters snatch silver and bronze at IWF Junior World C'ships Page 3

Monthly steel products export up 215% year on year Page 4

Ebook edition of Leader's "A 250-Year-Old Person" released Page 8



Praising humanity, Canadian style!

Genocidal tragedy in the self-proclaimed bastion of human rights

See page 3

Good progress made but key issues remain unresolved in Vienna talks, Iran says

TEHRAN – Spokesman for Iran's Foreign Ministry Saeed Khatibzadeh has echoed the assessment of Iran's top nuclear negotiator that the Vienna nuclear talks are moving forward but key issues remain unresolved.

Speaking at a weekly press conference on Monday, Khatibzadeh said the talks in Vienna have reached "key points" and that there has been no stalemate in the talks, adding that good and significant

progresses have been made, but key issues remain unresolved.

"I have already stated the position of the Islamic Republic of Iran. We conduct the negotiations and discussions in Vienna with the necessary care and obsession. Each round could have been the last round, but because of some remaining issues, the talks have been moved to the next round," Khatibzadeh explained.

Continued on page 3

Iran, Azerbaijan discuss expansion of energy ties

TEHRAN – Iranian Energy Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh held talks with Azerbaijan's Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev on Sunday to discuss expansion of economic and energy ties.

Mustafayev who visited Tehran heading a high-ranking delegation met with Zanganeh to mainly discuss cooperation in oil and gas sectors, Shana reported.

Speaking in the meeting, Zanganeh stressed positive political and economic relations between the two countries,

saying: "Iran-Azerbaijan relations have grown well in all fields over the recent years, mostly in the oil, gas and energy sectors and the development of joint fields in the Caspian Sea."

"Although we have not yet been able to realize this cooperation (development of joint fields) due to external pressures imposed by sanctions, but according to the leaders of the two countries, it will be operational soon," he said.

Continued on page 4

Ebrahim Hassanbeigi novelizes life story of Martyr Mohsen Hojaji

TEHRAN – Ebrahim Hassanbeigi, the Iranian writer whose novel "Muhammad" about the Prophet of Islam (S) has been translated into several languages, has fictionalized the life story of Mohsen Hojaji, an Iranian soldier who was martyred by ISIS forces in Syria.

Khate Moqaddam is scheduled to publish the novel entitled "Morning of the Fateful Day", the publisher announced in a press release on Monday.

In this novel, Hassanbeigi has tried to highlight Hojaji's religious perspective, describing why he volunteered to join Iranian forces fighting against ISIS.

"Although he was quite fashionable during schooldays, nurturing a goatee and wearing jeans and a yellow shirt contrary to his native custom, he always tried to carry out his religious duties and to advance his life based his religious beliefs," Hassanbeigi has said.

Continued on page 8

Iran have potential to qualify for 2022 World Cup qualification third round: expert

BY FARROKH HESABI

TEHRAN - The Iranian national football team will return to action on June 3 against Hong Kong in the 2022 World Cup qualifiers in Bahrain. The competition is very vital for the 'Persian Leopards' since they need to beat their opponents to book a place in the third round.

Iran will also play Bahrain, Cambodia and Iraq in the qualification.

Iran head coach Dragan Skocic's plans have been far from ideal for the upcoming competition. The National Team will step into the tournament without any warm-up match. The team have just started their training camp in Kish Island, from there they will go to Bahrain.

Despite the setbacks, Iranians hope that their team will qualify for the 2022 World Cup.

Jalal Cheraghpur, head of the Technical and Education Committee of the Iranian Football Federation, believes that a lack of friendly matches would not be a problem for the national team if there will be a wise selection of the squad.

"There is no doubt that for entering a tournament, you need to have warm-up matches. It is undeniable. The preparation games make clear the technical and tactical patterns that a coach wants his players to perform," Cheraghpur said.

"However, for a team that most of their players have played along with each other for many years, it will not be a huge problem to start without friendly matches, although I emphasize that the conditions are far from ideal.

"For example, in the defense line, we have Morteza Pouraliganji and Majid Hosseini, who have been the center-backs of the national team for many years and have played in big tournaments like the World Cup and AFC Asian Cup. Also, Hossein Kanaanzadegan and Shoja Khalilzadeh are the other pair that have been teammates in Persepolis and had formed the best defensive line in the Iranian league.

"In the midfield and also in the attacking line, the situation is the same. I think the national team own players that have more than 75 percent of mutual understanding despite not playing along with each other for several months.

"The most important principle that the national team head coach must consider is that he must avoid using players who play together for the first time as much as possible. In fact, he must think of pairs or even triples of players for each line instead of thinking and selecting one by one. The players arrived highly motivated and excited for what's to come. So, we all hope the best for our national team," he added.

COVID-19 inoculation to rollout by homegrown vaccine this week

TEHRAN – Health Minister Saeed Namaki announced that immunization against coronavirus by the domestic vaccine (COVIRAN BAREKAT) will start by the next week, ISNA reported on Monday.

COVIRAN, the first coronavirus vaccine made by researchers at the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, was unveiled on December 29, 2020, and started to be mass-produced on March 29.

Though the first phase of vaccination, only volunteers will receive the vaccine, Namaki further stated.

Today, our homegrown vaccines are the most harmless without any side effects. So, in less than a year, we were able to join the world's largest vaccine manufacturers, he emphasized.

He went on to note that "fortunately, vaccination is going well in the country, and by the end of June, we will vaccinate the target

groups, including the population above 60, and the incurable and special patients.

Some 85 percent of the toll occurs among the elderly and those with underlying diseases so that vaccination will reduce at least 80 percent of the mortality, and then we will enter the vaccination phase of other age groups by both Iranian and imported vaccines."

Some 1 million doses of the vaccine have been produced; By June, this number will reach 12 million doses per month, and in August, and by September we will produce 20 to 25 million doses of vaccine.

Seven countries seeking to purchase Iranian vaccine

South America, African countries, several neighboring and two European countries have asked to purchase COVIRAN vaccine, Hassan Jalili, director of the vaccine research team said.

Continued on page 7

No let-up in mass anti-Israeli demonstrations in Pakistan

The massive public outpouring is continuing in Peshawar, the regional capital of Pakistan's northwestern province of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. Anger is boiling over Israel's atrocities during the 11-day conflict, which the United Nations said could amount to war crimes.

Pakistanis are particularly furious over Israeli troops' desecration of al-Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem al-Quds. Similar protests have also been held in major cities against Israel's plans to evict Palestinians from their homes in the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood in East Jerusalem al-Quds.

The ongoing protests are mounting increasing pressure on the Pakistani government to help Palestinians militarily to prevent another Israeli aggression.

Pakistan has backed Turkey's demand to set up an international protection mechanism as a deterrence against a renewed act of Israeli

aggression. Although the scope and reach of such a mechanism are yet to be established, observers believe some non-Arab states could form a joint military coalition in a not-so-distant future.

More mass anti-Israel protests are expected in the coming weeks and months, as different opposition parties are planning demonstrations across Pakistan.

Tension in East Jerusalem has been escalating in recent weeks, centering on the Sheikh Jarrah and the Old City areas. Between May 7 and 10 alone, 1,000 Palestinians were injured by Israeli forces, 735 of these due to rubber bullets.

Widespread clashes erupted in East Jerusalem, particularly in the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Damascus Gate area. A heavy Israeli security presence and large numbers of worshippers contributed to the tensions.

Continued on page 5

Rare discovery yields traces of hunter-gatherers in northern Iran

TEHRAN – A team of Iranian archaeologists has discovered remains of an infant that could yield clues about the life of hunter-gatherers in northern Iran.

The rare discovery was made in Hotu Cave which is situated in Behshahr county of Mazandaran province, provincial tourism chief Seifollah Farzaneh said on Monday.

"The archaeologists discovered the skeleton of a child, which was buried in a seated position and wearing a wolf tooth necklace on its neck,"

the official said.

"This burial may be the manifestation of highly emotional moments of the life of hunter-gatherers in Mazandaran [region]... and one of the emotional behaviors of our ancestors in this part of Iran."

Assessed to belong to a 6-8-month-old baby, the [fossilized] corpse has been found in rock layers of the Epipalaeolithic era, which dates back more than 12,000 years.

The survey is supervised by Iranian archaeol-

ogist Hasan Fazeli Nashli in close collaboration with the University of Tehran.

Early seasons of excavation took place in the cave from 1949 to 1957 by American anthropologist Carleton S. Coon, in which several ancient objects and tools were discovered.

Hunter-gatherer, also called forager, is referred to any person who depends primarily on wild foods for subsistence. Until about 12,000 to 11,000 years ago,

Continued on page 6

Palestine has a fixed position in Shia thought: Lebanese professor

BY ALIA. JENABZADEH

TEHRAN - Head of the Center for Political Studies at the University of Lebanon says that Palestine is alive in Shia leaders and thinkers' thoughts.

"The status of Palestine is fixed in the thought of Shia leaders who spoke about the liberation of Palestine and support for the Palestinian resistance," Dr. Talal Atrissi tells the Tehran Times.

Imam Musa al-Sadr in Lebanon and Imam Khomeini always had supportive stance when it came to Palestine cause, Atrissi notes.

"Imam Khomeini emphasized, not only on the intellectual and political level but also on the practical level, on arming the Palestinian people and necessity of support to the resistance groups by all means," he points out.

Following is the text of the interview:
Today, after decades of struggle, how do you evaluate the Palestinian situation?

After decades of struggle, the Palestine cause is still alive where the Palestinian people uphold this cause and defend their lands.

There is still a Palestinian resistance movement consisting of different factions fighting inside Palestine.

On the other hand, there is a view that claims negotiations can resolve the Palestinian problem. This approach still exists, but it reached a dead end after about twenty years of negotiations.

Continued on page 5



Iran, Afghanistan sign MOU on sports cooperation

TEHRAN – Iran and Afghanistan National Olympic Committees signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on sports cooperation on Sunday.

The ceremony, which was held in Iran's NOC headquarters, was attended by Reza Salehi Amiri and his counterpart Hafizullah Wali Rahimi.

The MOU aims to further promote and develop bilateral cooperation in sports area between two countries.

© IRNA / Moysam Alaghemandani



Tehran-Baku ties have grown to strategic level in all areas: Iran

POLITICAL TEHRAN — The Iranian presidential chief of staff has said that relations between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan have grown to a strategic level at all areas.

"Today, with the will of the presidents of the two countries relations have reached to a strategic level at all areas," Mahmoud Vaezi told visiting Azeri Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev in Tehran late on Sunday.

Vaezi described historical, cultural, ethnic affinities as the "engine of relations" between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The presidential chief of staff went on to say that "the Islamic Republic of Iran has been on the side of the government and people of Azerbaijan in different times and now there is a strong relationship between the countries and two nations in all areas."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Vaezi insisted on the implementation of the agreements signed by the presidents of the two countries, saying, "It is necessary to pursue our activities with greater speed so that in the remaining two months these agreements will bear result."

The term of the administration of President Rouhani will come to an end about two months later. The elections to elect a new president in Iran will be held on June 18. However, the elections may go to a runoff.

The presidential chief of staff went on to say that a proper condition has been created to lay the groundwork for implementation of projects which had been halted due to the unjust U.S. sanctions against Iran.

Vaezi also suggested that areas of cooperation should be identified in relations of the two neighboring states that would have long-lasting effects.

For his part, Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev said that strengthening relations with Iran are among the priorities of Azerbaijan's foreign policy.

"The level of relations between the two countries have reached the highest level in the recent years and the political will of the presidents of the two countries have been very effective in this endeavor," Mustafayev stated.

Mustafayev went on to say that there is a great capacity for closer cooperation between the two countries in different sectors, including energy, transportation, technology, agriculture and tourism.

The deputy prime minister said his country is "firm to activate these capacities".

He added despite problems created due to the Coronavirus pandemic the volume of trade ties between the two countries increased by 27 percent and "the transit of goods between us was not halted even for a single day."

Candidates express concerns and present plans

POLITICAL TEHRAN — As we get closer to the election day, candidates begin campaigns in social media, TV and radio. The Tehran Times gathered all the remarks the presidential candidates made in the past 24 hours.

Saeed Jalili criticized the education system in Iran, tweeting that over 20,000 high school students studying empirical science have an average of 19 and above (out of 20), yet only a few of them can enter the universities to study medicine, whereas the country needs more medical doctors than ever. "We have more facilities than before in the country. Why shouldn't these opportunities be used?" he asked.

He also proposed a plan to give every Iranian a fair share of energy subsidy. "Every Iranian must have an equal share of energy, and if he does not want to use it, he must receive the price of it," he stated.

Mohsen Rezaei discussed various issues, such as establishing a "Southwestern Asian Union," and creating an environment for economic development.

He said that he will consider housework as a job for household women with two children, paying them monthly salaries.

"Child rearing and family health are important. In this regard, we consider women who have two or more children and spend their time raising children and family health as employed. After 6 months of training, we pay these women salaries," he explained.

He also claims that he will grant a cash subsidy of 450,000 tomans (almost \$107 at the official rate of 42,000 rials) to 40 million Iranians per month. He says he has worked on this plan for four years. The presidential contender has also stated that he is planning to give each province economic provisions to govern its affairs.

"If I am talking today about the subsidy of 450,000 tomans, this estimate is quite accurate. It has scientific basis and is applicable. We operate in a way that is non-inflationary and does not incur costs for the government because \$130 billion in subsidies are given annually, many of which are being spent by the rich from subsidies to gasoline and electricity to other things," Rezaei stated.

He said that his administration's diplomacy will move towards regional diplomacy "because we consider Iran to be regionally important."

Rezaei stated that until the Islamic Republic does not stabilize its position in the region, it will not be able to make leaps internationally.

"A successful presence in the region will pave the way for a successful international presence," the former chief of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps added.

He called the establishment of the "Southwest Asian Union" in line with Iran's regional diplomacy and said, "This union consists of 25 countries and will be similar to the European Union. These 25 countries have more than 1,200 billion dollars in foreign exchange, with which we have a very small share."

Qazizadeh Hashemi said on Sunday that pseudo currency should be used in economy, but not in cash. He said that gold, foreign exchange and cryptocurrency are pseudo currencies Iran is using right now, but it should not be cashed.

He also said no Iranian will remain homeless under his administration.

The presidential candidate also criticized injection of huge liquidity into the economy,

saying it has raised the inflation rate to up to 50%.

He stated that as a physician he cares about the public health. "Healthy food should reach people. For this reason, we have designed a monthly package of 300,000 tomans (almost \$72) for each Iranian."

By this amount of money citizens can buy food rich in calories and vitamins and also healthy and diversified, he explained.

In this context, his team has planned from seed to table how to manage exports, prices and toxins in food products and processing of agricultural materials.

He also says that Iran should not even be selling one drop of crude oil.

"Smart governments are future governments" that make predictions and "then plan for them," he opined. "We will have a smart and young government and a 'government of greetings' for the future of new Iran, which aims to build Iran," he stated.

Mohsen Mehr Alizadeh said that Iran should think about export as it thinks about production.

"We should provide export incentives, especially for the preservation of export markets in neighboring countries, and in no way should we allow a ministry or agency to issue an order every day," he pointed out.

"Currently, about 70% of the country's production capacity consists of small production units, and most of them have been shut down due to these cumbersome bureaucratic issues and circulars," he added.

He said that he will increase by five times the subsidy for five low-income deciles from the second month of his presidency.

Seyyed Ebrahim Raeisi said on Sunday that internet must be free for low-income deciles.

"Banking facilities must be properly distributed for production, marriage and housing," the cleric presidential candidate said.

He said that today the internet has become the right of the people, and educational, economic, and research issues are being carried out in cyberspace in all parts of the country.

"Why not letting people work in cyberspace? A housewife who cooks or a teacher who produces content should get her share of what she does," he suggested.

He said that the popular government has clear plans to make money from the internet.

Abdolnasser Hemmati, the presidential candidate trained in economy, said on Monday morning that by lifting the sanctions, his government will see at least a 5% economic growth and it will be able to lower inflation rate to 8 to 12%.

"Economic prosperity and exports are highly important and have a great impact on the country's economic prosperity. We can increase non-oil exports by up to 50%," he said.

According to Hemmati, in addition to the issue of employment, which is highly important, the social life of the youth also has a high priority.

Hemmati said, "Before we fight corruption, we must confront its origin, and we must not allow corruption to occur in the country, and we must eliminate the grounds for corruption."

The presidential candidate said that all over the world, subsidies are paid through taxes, and Iran cannot solve the problem if it does not tax properly.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Hemmati said, "My effort is for the presence of people who are angry with the ballot boxes and do not intend to participate in the elections." He added, "In order to change the course" he has entered the election race."

He said that government interference in economic affairs, such as the price of tires, chicken feed, etc., must be eliminated, and the government must focus on infrastructure.

Mehr Alizadeh writes to Reformist Front to back him

POLITICAL TEHRAN — Reformist candidate Mohsen Mehr Alizadeh has written a letter asking the Reformist Front of Iran to set an appointment for him at earliest convenience.

In the letter released on Monday, Mehr Alizadeh has stated that he is a reformist and he served in Khatami's administration as the head of the Physical Education Organization.

Mehr Alizadeh is seeking to get the approval of reformists in the presidential race.

Earlier on May 26, a day after the names of the con-

firmed candidates were announced, Azar Mansouri, the spokeswoman for the Reformist Front of Iran, said that the front has no candidate as the Guardian Council did not endorse prominent reformist figures to run for the post of president.

On May 27, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution thanked all those who registered to run for president, saying, "The honorable Guardian Council did what it deemed necessary according to its responsibility."

The Leader added that not confirming a candidate "does not mean that a person is incompetent."

7 candidates in 7 days

CANDIDATE PROFILE



Amir Hossein Qazizadeh Hashemi

Age: 50 Place of Birth: Fariman, Khorasan

Education: Otorhinolaryngologist

Career: Member of parliament (4 terms)

Social Media Accounts: dr.gh.hashemi, GhaziZade_ha, GhazizadehSA, ghashemi.com

Supporters: Some groups within the principlist faction, including the Resilience Front

Political position on JCPOA: Qazizadeh Hashemi has opposed the JCPOA in the parliament over and over, yet when declared presidential candidacy, he said that the deal is the decision of the policymakers in the Islamic Republic. He says he would continue the ongoing Vienna negotiations for a possible revival of the JCPOA better than the incumbent administration. "I am opposed to essay-writing in the negotiations," he said.

Political position on interaction with neighbors and the West: Qazizadeh Hashemi believes that it is necessary to interact with the world, yet it is important with whom Iran is trying to negotiate. He has not elaborated on his regional foreign policy, but it is expected that he would follow "neighbors first" policy.

AUCTION SJSCO. 14007

Hereby Sirjan Jahan Steel Complex announces selling and export 30.000 Mt of Pellet fine, fine on basis of ex-work,

Interested bidders are invited to get documents with send an email to sjsco.sales.info@gmail.com

All the documents will be sent VIA email. All bids on conformity to tender instruction should be submitted no later than Tuesday, June 8, 2021 (2021-06-08)

For more information, please contact us at:

Tel: +2186084642



Candidates' views on regional foreign policy



Seyed Ebrahim Raeisi

Raeisi has stated that "neighbors first" is his foreign policy motto, yet, he has not made it clear as to what his foreign policy roadmap will be. His general plan is to protect Iran's national pride and dignity. He says that Iran needs to increase relations with other countries to improve the economic situation.



Saeed Jalili

Iran, in terms of location and geographical location, has a good opportunity in the field of transit that if it is not used in a timely and good manner, others will try to seize this opportunity by creating parallel transit lines. "Adopting an active foreign policy requires improving the level of interaction with neighbors," he says. He says that strong diplomacy and the establishment of stable economic interactions, especially with neighbors, are components of real foreign policy.



Mohsen Rezaei

Rezaei suggested forming an EU like union in Asia, called Southwestern Asian Union. He said that this union is consisted of 25 countries, cooperating closely to boost economies. Since Rezaei considers himself as an economist, he believes in interaction with neighbors and boosting export to neighbors to improve economy.



Mohsen Mehr Alizadeh

Mehr Alizadeh believes that neighboring countries are in a weaker position compared to Iran in industrial, economic and commercial aspects, as well as in terms of resources. "Neighbors are a great market for our engineering products, products and services and contractors," he says.



Alireza Zakani

In response to the Tehran Times about Tehran-Riyadh talks, the presidential candidate said that these kinds of talks are definitely beneficiary. "When I say beneficiary, it does not mean that we should give in to their wrong policies. On the contrary, my administration is eager to talk with these countries, yet our negotiations will be to awaken them and lay the groundwork for mutual cooperation," he said.



Abdolnasser Hemmati

He defends interaction with neighbors. Hemmati traveled to Baghdad to help release Iran's assets frozen in Iraq due to U.S. sanctions.



Amir Hossein Qazizadeh Hashemi

Qazizadeh had previously stated that Iran could have negotiated better with Saudi Arabia. "Now we have disagreements with Saudi Arabia, but there are many neighboring countries that we left behind in order to distance themselves from us bit by bit." "We lost Iraq, Turkey, Tajikistan, and Azerbaijan because of the negligence of the government, and Zionists were able to establish a base in these countries and create those seditions," he says.

'Silent earthquake' casts shadow over environment

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN — Geologists call subsidence a "silent earthquake" because an earthquake is instantaneous and its effects are visible at the same time, but subsidence is the cause of environmental depletion and its impact appears gradually, which is getting a big threat in the country.

Land subsidence, a gradual settling or sudden sinking of the Earth's surface due to subsurface movement of earth materials is mainly caused by aquifer-system compaction, drainage, and decomposition of organic soils, underground mining, oil and gas extraction, hydro compaction, natural compaction, sinkholes, and thawing permafrost.

Subsidence results in significant economic losses in the form of structural damage and high maintenance costs. This affects roads and transportation networks, hydraulic infrastructure, sewage systems, buildings, and foundations. The total damage worldwide is estimated at billions of dollars annually.

80% of groundwater resources withdrawn

Iran is greatly affected by the phenomena, Alireza Shahidi, head of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration told ISNA on Monday.

With the onset of drought in every country, people are more inclined to use water resources and due to limited water resources in Iran, wells are drilled legally and illegally across the country to compensate for the drought, he added.

In the whole world, water resources withdrawal is between 3 to 20 percent, and when it reaches 40 to 60 percent which is considered problematic, and it will be a crisis when exceeding 60-80 percent, Shahidi noted.

"Yet the contribution of groundwater withdrawal to subsidence in Iran is outpacing the world, withdrawing over 80 percent," he further noted.

Highlighting that aquifer-system depletion intensifies land subsidence, he said that subsidence is called a "silent earthquake" by geologists because earthquake occurs instantly and its effects immediately ap-



Some 30 provinces of Iran are struggling with the issue of subsidence, while two densely populated provinces of Tehran and Isfahan are vastly subsiding by 36 and 17 centimeters annually, respectively; becoming increasingly vulnerable to flooding and natural incidents as well as bearing huge infrastructure damage.

pear, while subsidence occurs when aquifers, plants, animals, and human societies have already been damaged.

How aquifer overexploitation can sink lands?

Over the past decades, some of the aquifer levels dropped by 100 centimeters.

On top of that, groundwater draw-downs result in the filling of vacant cavities between soil particles and highly compressible soils which diminishes the capacity of aquifers and increases subsidence probability.

Groundwater overexploitation will affect the plains, as rainwater will not penetrate into the subsurface reservoirs and cause high rates of soil erosion along

with permanent inundation.

Inefficient irrigation methods in addition to digging illegal wells are the other main causes of groundwater extraction-induced subsidence, as out of 50,000 wells pumping underground water resources in the capital, 30,000 are illegal.

Almost all provinces struggling with subsidence

Except for Gilan province, all 30 provinces of the country are struggling with the issue of subsidence, which, fortunately, in Isfahan province, more measures are taken to deal with the crisis, he noted.

Two densely populated provinces of Tehran and Isfahan are vastly subsiding by 36 and 17 centimeters annually, respectively;

consequently, become increasingly vulnerable to flooding and natural incidents as well as bearing huge infrastructure damage, he explained.

While statistics show that 4 mm of subsidence is referred to as a crisis in the EU, he added.

He went on to state that drought causes people to migrate from the south to the northern cities and depopulate large parts of the country, which will bring up security crises for the country.

Rising temperature, rising tendency for more water resources

It should be noted that over the next 40 years, the country's temperature will rise by 2.6 degrees on Celsius Scale, which will increase the country's need for more water resources.

Out of 608 plains in Iran, more than 300 are vastly sinking and forbidden to enter, he said.

According to Shahidi, by 2100, due to climate change and melting glaciers, the southern coast of Iran in the provinces of Khuzestan, Bushehr, and Hormozgan will be submerged.

How to reduce the risk?

The installation of smart meter systems on the water pumps and wells is an efficient measure in this regard.

The Ministry of Energy should take steps toward reducing groundwater exploitation, in addition to banning well construction as well as shutting down the illegal wells in the sinking provinces.

It should also control agricultural products and prohibit the cultivation of water-consuming products in those provinces, and instead, introducing agricultural products which require a low amount of water.

The Ministry of Agriculture should cooperate to implement watershed management projects in order to increase the storage capacity of aquifers.

The Department of Environment is another responsible organization that must take more serious steps toward environmental assessment of land subsidence and its prevention techniques.

COVID-19 UPDATES

The statistics are related to 24 hours started 2:00 p.m. May 30

New cases	11,042
New deaths	217
Total cases	2,913,136
Total deaths	80,156
New hospitalized patients	1,388
Patients in critical condition	4,160
Total recovered patients	2,458,684
Diagnostic tests conducted	19,936,548
Doses of vaccine injected	4,166,063

Five snake species endemic to Iran

(Part 3)

So, any trade of the species is permitted only with the CITES's permission, and all 183 member parties are obliged to control the ports and prevent the trade of this viper.

Spider-tailed horned viper was declared endangered by the DOE in November 2018.

Cerastes gasperettii

Cerastes gasperettii, commonly known as the Arabian horned viper, is a venomous viper species found especially in the Arabian Peninsula and north to Israel, Iraq, and Iran. It is very similar in appearance to *C. cerastes*, but the geographic ranges of these two species do not overlap. No subspecies of *C. gasperettii* are recognized.

First, this snake lives in very tropical areas of our country, such as Ahvaz (Al-Baji region) in the sandy and earthen hills and has a limited distribution in Iran, Shahrdaripannah said.

"The vegetation where this species is found is also very limited in diversity. Unfortunately, we are not very aware of its protection status in Iran because not much work has been done. Some specimens of this viper have two deformed horn-like scales on their heads, which is their unique feature, while others are hornless.

This snake is one of the species that have a high camouflage ability. It is completely colored similar to sand which helps camouflage it. On the other hand, the shape of the scales is also effective in hiding. The scales are prominent and the two bands start from the side of the nose and extend along the face to the cheeks, appearing like two lines on the head from above. The spots on his body are not perfect zigzags, but they are spots. In the camouflage mode, the pupil of the snake's eye and part of the horn is out of the sand, which has a different effect.

This snake is nocturnal and is not seen during the day due to the hot weather. Depending on its size, it chooses its prey and its diet consists of rodents and even lizards. One way to identify this snake is to leave a mark on the sandals. Because it moves in a zigzag pattern, but the wind quickly destroys the traces and makes it difficult to find.

This snake is laying eggs and the place where it lays eggs must be on a balanced level; That is, where it is neither too hot nor too deep. These snakes lay between four and eight eggs each time, depending on environmental conditions. Their venom is also strong, but because they are nocturnal and live in desert and warm habitats, they do not have much conflict with humans," he explained.

Iran's Hara forests, a key biosphere reserve

The Hara forests, covering an area of 27,310 hectares in southern Iran, is a key biodiversity site due to its remarkable *Avicennia* mangrove ecosystem.

The core area of the reserve is a marine zone. The major topographic features of the region include a wetland with a series of small islands (mud hills), mangrove forests, tidal marshes, and shallow coves.

Wetlands are ecosystems saturated with water, either seasonally or permanently. They store water and ensure its quality, providing resilience against drought. They play a central role in sustainable development by supplying all our freshwater.

Wetlands play a major role in protecting the land against floods and the impacts of storms. They provide food and diverse habitats which support genetic, species, and ecosystem biodiversity. Wetlands play a key role in the life cycles of many species and in annual migration patterns.

Unfortunately, wetlands are being degraded and lost due to pollution, overexploitation, climate change, and human population growth. In recognition of these challenges, the RAMSAR Convention, an international treaty, was adopted in 1971.

Ramsar Wetlands are sites inscribed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") under the Convention on Wetlands.

Designated a Ramsar site, the Hara biosphere reserve is located in the Mehran River delta in the south of Iran. It is situated near the Straits of Khuran between Qeshm Island and the Persian Gulf.

Sea snakes take advantage of Hara aqueous habitats for feeding, breeding, and subsistence. A species of *Xerophilous* snake (*Echiscarinatu*) in the region is found on the northern coast of the region, and the critically endangered Hawksbill sea turtle (*Eretmochelys imbricata*) is found in the coastal waters of the reserve.

The Strait of Khuran, in which the reserve is located, is a Ramsar site, which provides a habitat for the pelican (*Pelecanus Crispus*) during the winter months and acts as a regular feeding place for the green turtle (*Chelonia mydas*) – both globally threatened species.

The area is a major habitat for migratory birds in the cold season, and for reptiles, fish, and varieties of Arthropoda and bivalves. Venomous aquatic snakes are also indigenous to the forests.

Birdlife includes herons, flamingos, pelicans, and angler eagles. Another important feature of these forests is the appropriate and suitable seabed conditions for the ovulation of fish in the Persian Gulf.

COVID-19 inoculation to rollout by homegrown vaccine this week

→ Although, we are capable of exporting the vaccine, however, through the policies adopted by the Ministry of Health, no vaccine will be exported until the domestic need is fully met, he stated.

14,000 more hospital beds to pace up coronavirus fight

Over 14,000 hospital beds will be added to the health system by mid-August to sooner contain the coronavirus pandemic, Kianoush Jahanpour, head of the Information Center of the Ministry of Health, announced.

Moreover, 1,400 health projects will be inaugurated, which have been started 12 months ago, he stated.

This movement in less than 14 months in the most difficult conditions of sanctions and epidemic will be remembered as a record in the history of the health system of Iran, he noted.

Vaccination to end by late November

President Hassan Rouhani said on Saturday that if the volume of COVID-19 vaccine required by the country is provided, the vaccination of people with underlying diseases will be completed by late July, and the whole population will be vaccinated by late November.

To vaccinate people with underlying diseases, about 14-



15 million doses of vaccine is required, while we now have 5 million doses, so another 10 million must be provided to complete the process by the end of July, then we will continue the process with foreign and domestic vaccines, he explained.

He expressed hope to start vaccination of the whole pop-

ulation by the end of the summer (September 23), noting that given the country's ability of vaccine administration, vaccinating 500,000 people in 24 hours, the entire population can receive the vaccine within three to four months.

Homegrown vaccines

The second Iranian-made vaccine developed by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute (Razi Cov Pars) to be administered among the population in early August; which started the clinical trial on February 27, entered the second phase of the human trial on Friday.

Iran has also successfully completed the first phase of the human trial for Fakhra vaccine, the third domestically developed COVID-19 vaccine, named after nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhrazadeh (he was assassinated in November 2020 near Tehran), that was unveiled and started the clinical trial on March 16.

"Osvid-19", the fourth domestic vaccine produced by Osvah Pharmaceutical Company is also undergoing human trials, which will also be available in early September.

On May 24, the first coronavirus vaccine made by the private sector in Iran succeeded in receiving the code of ethics and entered the phase of clinical studies.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran pioneer in cancer innovation, research among Islamic countries

Iran has the most research and innovation in the field of cancer both in the region and among Islamic countries, deputy health minister Reza Malekzadeh has stated.

Referring to the great progress in cancer research, he said that "We have been able to play a role in this area globally." He added that one of the hopes for early detection of cancer is the use of urine and blood tests for people who are susceptible to cancer.

"We have conducted researches in the field of blood and urine biomarkers, which will help control cancers in the country," he said.

Pointing out that there are about 250,000 cancer patients in the country, Malekzadeh noted that 50,000 people die each year from the disease and 125,000 new patients develop cancer, so that the number of people with the disease increases each year.

ایران بیشترین نوآوری و تحقیقات سرطان را بین کشورهای اسلامی دارد

معاون تحقیقات و فناوری وزیر بهداشت، درمان و آموزش پزشکی گفت: ایران هم در منطقه و هم بین کشورهای اسلامی بیشترین میزان تحقیقات و نوآوری ها در حوزه سرطان را داشته است.

دکتر رضا ملک زاده روز شنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار علمی ایرنا با اشاره به اینکه ما در زمینه تحقیقات سرطان پیشرفت های خیلی خوبی داشتیم، گفت: ما در سطح جهانی هم توانستیم در این حوزه نقش آفرین باشیم. وی افزود: یکی از امیدهای خیلی روشن برای تشخیص زودرس سرطان، استفاده از آزمایش ادرار و خون برای افرادی است که استعداد سرطان را دارند.

معاون وزیر بهداشت گفت: در ایران تحقیقات خیلی خوبی در زمینه بیومارکرهای ادراری و خونی در دست اجرا داریم و امیدواریم با این کار، امکان کنترل سرطان ها در کشور میسر شود.

ملک زاده با اشاره به اینکه در حال حاضر تعداد ۲۵۰ هزار مبتلا به سرطان در کشور داریم، گفت: هر سال حدود ۵۰ هزار نفر بر اثر این بیماری می میرند و ۱۲۵ هزار بیمار جدید اضافه می شوند. در نتیجه هر ساله تعداد مبتلایان این بیماری بیشتر می شود.

