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**Congratulations on birthday of Hazrat Masoumeh (SA) and Daughter's Day**

# Final showdown



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## Economic terrorism amid pandemic is crime against humanity: Araqchi

TEHRAN – Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Abbas Araqchi said on Saturday that the "economic terrorism" against Iran during the Coronavirus pandemic "is a crime against humanity".

The economic sanctions launched against Iran during Donald Trump's presidency are still in place despite the fact that Joe Biden had vowed to reenter the nuclear deal if he is elected president. Trump quit the 2015 nuclear deal, of-

ficially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in May 2018 and started introducing the harshest sanctions against Iran under his "maximum pressure" campaign against the Islamic Republic.

Top Iranian officials, including President Hassan Rouhani and Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, have called the illegal U.S. sanctions against Iran as instances of "economic terrorism".

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## Tire output increases 3% in 2 months on year

TEHRAN- Production of tires in Iran has risen three percent during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21), compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Some 40,619 tons of tires have been produced during the two-month period of this year.

In terms of number, a four-percent growth has been also achieved through

the production of 3,788 million tires.

As reported, passenger car tires account for the lion's share of the number of produced tires in the mentioned time span, showing a four-percent rise year on year.

Some 4,198 tons of van tires were produced, indicating a 16-percent growth.

Also, 8,494 tons of truck and bus tires were produced, showing a four-percent rise.

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## COVID-19 prevalence on a downward trend

TEHRAN – The spread of coronavirus is slowing down in Iran, as the daily toll has fallen to 115, the lowest figure since April.

Alireza Raeisi, spokesman for the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, said that currently 13 cities in the country are at high-risk red zones, 12 of which are in the southern provinces.

Except for southern Hormozgan and Sistan-Baluchestan provinces, all the provinces are experiencing a downward trend

in the prevalence of pandemic, he added, IRNA reported on Saturday.

**Over 360,000 passengers tested at borders**

Some 360,824 passengers have so far been screened for coronavirus by thermal tests at the country's official borders since March 10, Mehdi Valipour, head of Relief and Rescue Organization affiliated to the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), has stated.

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## Every child has the right to a childhood

**BY FARANAK BAKHTIARI**

Despite laws banning child labor, available statistics show that over the years, many children have worked in underground workshops, on the streets, or scavenging on rubbish dumps, while every child must benefit from childhood.

According to the Society for Protecting the Rights of the Child (SPRC), there are 14,000 dumpsite pickers in Tehran, of which 4,700, or one-third of them, are children.

Habibollah Masoudi Farid, the deputy head of the Welfare Organization, announced in 2020 that there are an estimated 70,000 street children in the country. Of course, given that the conditions of children working in workshops are different, Masoudi Farid said that there are no exact statistics.

Under the law, the employment of children aged 15 or younger is prohibited in Iran and there are also restrictions on types of jobs that persons between 15 and 18 years can do. For example, no child is allowed to work on jobs that pose occupational health hazards.

There are two concepts for labor children, some of whom are street children and others who are not homeless but have to work to provide a family livelihood.

Street children are homeless boys and girls, aged under 18 years, for whom "the street" has become home or their source of livelihood, and who are inadequately protected or supervised.

### No law deficiencies

Referring to the leading causes of child labor in the country, Seyed Hassan Mousavi Chalak, head of the Iranian Social Workers Association noted that the current causes of child labor in the country are similar to its global causes, which are economic and financial issues.

"There are no law deficiencies in the country, even undocumented foreign nationals should be protected from child labor based on the law.

Different articles of the Constitution, the law on the Comprehensive Welfare and Social Security Organizational Structure, and Law on Maintenance of Women and Orphaned Children are all consisted of child labor prevention and protection of these children," he stated.

What makes the situation fragile is mostly lack of financial resources to enforce the law properly.

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## Dream vacations: 12 most unique travel destinations in Iran

TEHRAN – Embracing 24 UNESCO World Heritage sites, Iran is an amazingly underrated country with an immense history, sociable people, and magnificent architecture. However, the grandeur of this country is rarely shown in the mass media; it is sadly always buried underneath footages that only reflect the world of politics. What is not reflected through is the beauty of its landscapes, the details of its striking architecture, the hospitality of the locals, and so much more.

Here is a selection of the most unique travel destinations in Iran:

### Borj-e Azadi

Borj-e Azadi (Azadi Tower) is the most iconic landmark of Tehran and is undeniably worth a visit during your time in the Iranian capital. Completed in 1971, the structure has a very distinct style that merges traditional Persian architecture with modern influences — one can see this quite clearly by its big iwan arch that

is covered with 8,000 pieces of white marble. Azadi Square, where the tower sits, is very symbolic too: a lot of protests happened there during the 1979 Islamic Revolution, and it's still a popular site for demonstrations today. Visitors can climb Azadi Tower using the elevator or stairs to get a nice view of the city from the top.

### Imamzadeh Saleh

The beautiful Imamzadeh Saleh, also known as Tajrish Mosque, is where Saleh, the son of Musa al-Kadhim (AS) (the seventh Shia Imam) is laid to rest. The mosque boasts some truly stunning tile work on the minarets and dome, and the interior is decorated with brilliant mirror work, something that's quite common in Iranian shrines.

Visitors can also stop by the lively Tajrish Bazaar nearby for some souvenirs and more glimpses of local life.

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## 'Torture' complaint filed in France against UAE official

An NGO campaigning for human rights in the Persian Gulf has filed a complaint in France against a top UAE official running to be president of Interpol, accusing him of being responsible for the torture of a prominent dissident, its lawyer said on Friday.

The Lebanon-based (Persian) Gulf Centre for Human Rights (GCHR) filed its complaint against Major General Ahmed al-Raisi, inspector general at the UAE interior ministry, at a Paris court on Monday.

The complaint accuses al-Raisi, who is a member of Interpol's executive committee, of being responsible for "torture and barbaric acts" against the prominent UAE dissident Ahmed Mansoor who it says is being held in an Abu Dhabi jail in "mediaeval conditions".

Mansoor was arrested in 2017 and sentenced to 10 years in prison the following year on charges of criticizing the UAE authorities and tarnishing the image of the country on social media.

Amnesty International describes Mansoor as

a prisoner of conscience.

According to the complaint, he has since March 2017 been held in solitary confinement in Al-Sadr prison in a tiny cell "without access to a doctor, hygiene, water and sanitary facilities".

Al-Raisi was accused last year of being responsible for the torture of a British academic and a football fan.

He is regarded as a possible figure to become president of the France-based global police body, Interpol, when candidacies are presented at its general meeting in November, a prospect that has horrified activists.

In a joint statement last month, Human Rights Watch and the GCHR warned that his candidacy "may jeopardise the global police organization's commitment to its human rights obligations".

Mansoor "has been detained in inhumane conditions since 2017, more than four years," William Bourdon, lawyer for GCHR, told AFP.

## The NSTC's recent setback should inspire progress on W-CPEC+

### BY ANDREW KORYBKO

The North-South Transport Corridor (NSTC) suffered a major setback after Afghanistan recently agreed to participate in a trilateral railway project alongside Pakistan and Uzbekistan. Described by some as PAKAFUZ, this corridor essentially represents the northern expansion of the flagship project of China's Belt & Road Initiative (BRI), the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC). N-CPEC+, as it can also be called, is more viable of a vision than ever after the latest trilateral

foreign ministers meeting between the top Chinese, Pakistani, and Afghan diplomats saw Kabul committing to intensify its participation in BRI and applauding the progress made on utilizing CPEC's terminal port of Gwadar for connecting with the broader global economy.

For all intents and purposes, the NSTC no longer stands any conceivable chance of being Afghanistan's preferred outlet to the rest of the world. The landlocked country chose to go with PAKAFUZ/N-CPEC+ instead because it's arguably much more reliable of a corri-

dor than the NSTC. The latter failed to fulfill the lofty expectations that were initially held of it after India complied with the U.S. unilateral sanctions regime against Iran. Although it surprisingly received a waiver to continue work on the Chabahar Port, the project was unable to regain its former momentum and ultimately became much less attractive to Afghanistan than its friendly Chinese competitor. This emerging reality will necessitate a shift in Iran's regional connectivity strategy.

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## Biden-Harris government has put American Republic at risk, says rights activist

### BY MOHAMMAD MAZHARI

TEHRAN – While some states in the U.S. are preparing to restrict voting rights, an American human rights activist says that the Biden-Harris government has jeopardized the American Republic.

"Unless there is a rapid effort to remove this criminal enterprise called the Biden-Harris government, the American Republic is doomed," Randy Short tells the Tehran Times.

Democrats claim that Republicans are putting the American democracy in mortal danger. There are also critics who claim that the current Democratic administration is a real threat to Republicanism in the United States.

"In order to cause mass death and destruction, the American people have been under level of oppression that mirrors a dystopian Third-World dictatorship wherein their rights have been stripped," Short argues.

Following is the text of the interview:

### How do you assess the current U.S. democracy? Is it an ethical democracy or just a plutocracy influenced by money and media?

The United States has since its inception in 1787 has been the Constitutional Republic, and it is both ahistorical and farcical to use incorrect terms to define the political system. Therefore, I will rephrase your question as if you had queried about the U.S. as a Republic. Candidly, the Republic is in danger of being destroyed from within by the corrosive power of globalistic elites that has no loyalty to the United States as a nation and have an existential hatred and disdain towards the common people of the United States.

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## National Day of Girls commemorated

The holy shrine of Hazrat Masoumeh (SA), sister of Imam Reza (AS) - the eighth Shia Imam - in the city of Qom was embellished with flowers on Saturday, marking the National Day of Girls.

The national day aims at improving girls' awareness of their dignity and helping them have a deeper sense of themselves and a true sense of their value.



# Final showdown

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN—Seven presidential candidates gathered at the IRIB building on Saturday to discuss their plans and elaborate on their views on “people’s concerns” in the third and final presidential debate.

The candidates arrived at IRIB building at 3:30pm to prepare for the third debate. The candidates arrived in turn, based on the drawing of lots done last time. Alireza Zakani arrived first and responded to the reporters’ questions. He said people have dignity and no one should misuse the people’s dignity.

He called himself “the voice of the looted.” Mohsen Rezaei arrived next. He said that the share of the women in the economy must be increased, stating that he has a modern plan.

He called his government “operational and strategic with plans based on scientific research.” Reformist candidate Mohsen Mehr Alizadeh was the third candidate to arrive at the IRIB building. He said that government’s transparency will reduce challenges.

Seyyed Ebrahim Raeisi arrived 4th at the IRIB building. When asked about his plans if he is elected president, he said that in his administration he will only appoint persons at managerial posts who are popular, effortful and have an anti-corruption spirit.

Abdolnasser Hemmati was the next candidate who arrived next. He said that the relationship between the people and the government must be fixed.

The youngest presidential contender, Amir Hossein Qazizadeh Hashemi, was the next to arrive. He discussed important issues, such as the JCPOA, saying that his government will remain committed to all international deals.

He said that his administration, whom he has called “Government of Greetings”, will make people benefit from such deals, and Americans will soon realize they will conclude negotiations with action and not just empty promises.

Saeed Jalili was the last candidate who entered the building. He said that people’s concerns must be known to the president, adding that he has truly and tangibly felt people’s concerns by traveling to various cities around the country.

As usual, drawing of lots determined where candidates can sit during the debate. Saeed Jalili was allocated seat number one, with the rest

seated according to the following list: Zakani, Hemmati, Raeisi, Mehr Alizadeh, Qazizadeh Hashemi, and Rezaei.

**Qazizadeh Hashemi**  
The debate began with a question from Qazizadeh Hashemi. He said that mismanagement and lack of trust are reasons behind the major problems in Iran.  
He also said the solution to Iran’s problems lie in “change in the country’s officials.” He also criticized the incumbent administration’s negotiation approach, saying, “The Leader of the Islamic Revolution gave an extraordinary opportunity to negotiate with the United States, but government ruined it.”  
The sitting MP who is seeking presidential post stated that a change in generation of policymakers is the only way to counter Iran’s challenges.  
“Exactly like the very first days of the Revolution, honest youth must come to power,” he exemplified.  
On inflation and high-price rises, which is the primary concern of people, Qazizadeh said inflationary pressures wreak havoc on Iranian households and businesses.  
“High inflation rate creates many problems for Iranian families, (different) sectors.” He also said if he wins the presidency he will form “ministry of family” to tackle issues of households.  
On his foreign policy, he said he will appoint a foreign minister “with a background in international trade.”  
Qazizadeh also said, “A comprehensive system of transparency will be established with the establishment of an electronic government.”  
He elaborated by saying that if e-government and transparency are needed, Iran also needs cyberspace and should not limit it. He added, “My government will protect the rights of all people.”  
He concluded by saying that if there was an atmosphere of zeal, “our daughters would not have remained without a dowry and people wouldn’t have been pocketed at the stock market.”

**Mohsen Rezaei**  
Rezaei said Iran has regained its lost authority in security after 300 years. He also said he has divided economy in 3 sections, including “economy of life,” “economy of provinces,” and “economy of family.”  
“In areas of defense and security we have done

extraordinary things while we are wrestling with economic problems,” said Rezaei, the former chief of the IRGC.  
Rezaei also criticized monopoly in import of chador, corn, meat, etc. (Chador is a large piece of cloth that is wrapped around the head and upper body, worn especially by Muslim women).  
He also said officials are caught in a false “factional dispute” and neglecting focus on high price rises.  
The former top military officer said “we can again start a move like the Revolution” and create an epic like the time that people resisted the invading Saddam army during the sacred defense.  
He said economy needs “two surgeries”: A reform within the system and reengineering the economy.  
Rezaei repeated his promise that if corruption is uprooted, his government can provide enough money to pay cash subsidy (to 40 million Iranians). He said the amount of cash subsidy is 450,000 tomans.  
He also said a great reform is needed in political atmosphere.  
Rezaei stated that his government will establish order in society, emphasizing importance of “collective wisdom.”  
He described the youth as “saviors of Iran,” stating that his administration will be a mixture of the Revolutionary youth and experienced experts. He added he will build schools for “future leaders.”  
He also said that he will link producers to the retailers and he will connect the youth to the banks to get long-term loans with low-interest rates.  
He stated that he will not employ “impinging diplomacy,” and will not wait for negotiations.  
Rezaei reiterated that the managers must have a plan and ask for consultation.  
“Managers must be aware of challenges in the next 8 years,” he said, putting an emphasis on the next 8 years as the most important years of the Islamic Republic. He noted that planning and implementation of plans are two separate issues. He once again said that his administration is perfect at both planning and execution.  
Rezaei concluded by saying that he has drafted a plan to take “Iran forward,” repeating that he will keep his promises.  
He said that he will promote small businesses, follow a wisely drafted housing plan with long-term loans with low-interest rates, and will give 30% of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) stocks to the people.

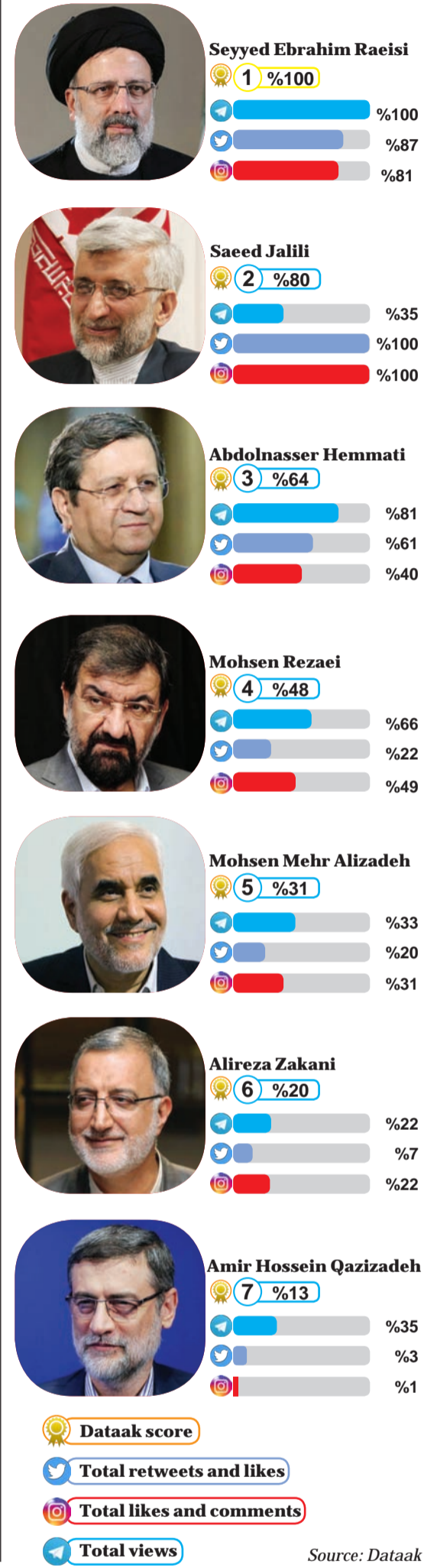
**Ebrahim Raeisi**  
Raeisi stated that he has divided his comprehensive economic plans into three sections: Government reform and tackling corruption and discrimination; family support; and empowering businesses and taking a leap in production.  
He also called transparency an important issue and emphasized a regulation of the tax system. He stated that the second most important issue is high inflation that must be controlled.  
Raeisi said that he will cut dependence of people’s lives to foreign currency (prices), adding that he will give credit cards to lower 3 deciles.  
He also promised to create 4 million jobs in four years.  
Raeisi also said if the FATF is beneficiary to Iran, it must be ratified, and if it is not, it must not. On international deals, he said that Iran “is and will be committed to the JCPOA.”  
On his post-COVID-19 economic plan, he said that small businesses have been badly affected during the coronavirus pandemic that there is a need to reactivate them.  
Raeisi also said he is and has always been honest with people.  
He promised to broaden cyberspace, repeating that internet must be free for lower deciles.  
When accused by his rival Hemmati of trying to censor internet, Raeisi said that he never ordered to limit any website or close a newspaper in his term as the Judiciary chief.  
Raeisi concluded by saying that his govern-

ment will lean towards justice, and will utilize all capacities and will execute all development plans drafted in previous parliaments and administrations. He said that the president must have a holistic look at all people.

**Alireza Zakani**  
Zakani began his remarks by saying that high inflation rate is the most important issue at the moment, promising that he will reform budget structure, control inflation and decrease it to a single-digit rate.  
He also said that he’ll uproot corruption in government, parliament and Judiciary, and promised to regulate wealth distribution system.  
He also revealed a letter written by his rival Hemmati to President Rouhani, proposing increasing petrol prices to 5,000 tomans.  
“52% inflation is a disaster that is the result of the performance of the Rouhani administration. Mr. Hemmati should also answer about high liquidity,” he added.  
“I will reduce inflation by half in the first year,” he promised.  
Zakani said that he will bring transparency to the government through creating e-government by broadening internet infrastructure.  
He also said that lower deciles will receive three different rates of cash subsidies.  
He described honesty as an important characteristic of presidency, saying that he is here to stop economic corruption.  
He added, “The wealthy are enjoying energy subsidy 15 times more than the low-income people.”  
Zakani said that his government will pay attention to domestic production to neutralize sanctions, with a particular attention to farming. “I will decentralize the management system and give priority to rural areas.”  
He went on to criticize Iran’s small share of export and import within the Eurasia zone, adding that the FATF mustn’t be signed and trades can be done with all foreign currencies, not just U.S. dollar.  
“I will give priority to meritocracy,” Zakani said.  
Praising the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Zakani said without the Islamic Revolution none of the candidates would have been here. He said he will uproot corruption and confront “lying.”  
“It’s time to rise against looters,” he suggested.  
He promised to tackle abject poverty in one year, saying that he’ll provide facilities for idled production capacities, promising to follow the constitution.  
“We will administer the rule of law,” he promised.  
He also said that he will provide insurance for fertile couples.

**Saeed Jalili**  
Jalili began the debate by saying that the causes of problems are not a “mystery.”  
“The main concern of people is that why problems are not being resolved. People’s concerns and problems is not like the Coronavirus which its origin is unknown.”  
He emphasized that Iran has a great potential, saying that his government plans to draw a roadmap for all ministries to counter challenges.  
He added that the president must use time as an advantage, saying that his administration will not waste time by performing “shows.”  
The former top security official added, “People are concerned about price fluctuations.”  
He said that economic stability is needed to govern Iran, saying that the sanctions have affected Iran, but not as greatly as it is portrayed by the incumbent president. He added that the leverage of sanctions must be taken from U.S., referring to the recent remarks by U.S. officials seeking further negotiations by threatening to use the leverage of sanctions against Iran.  
He stated that a “leap” in production will lead to a leap in economic growth.  
(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))

## Comparative analysis of the presidential candidates in Instagram, Telegram and Twitter Total of 378,443,473 data analyzed



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### Candidates’ views on FATF

 <b>Seyyed Ebrahim Raeisi</b>	 <b>Saeed Jalili</b>	 <b>Mohsen Rezaei</b>	 <b>Mohsen Mehr Alizadeh</b>	 <b>Alireza Zakani</b>	 <b>Abdolnasser Hemmati</b>	 <b>Amir Hossein Qazizadeh</b>
<p>Raeisi has not explicitly said whether he will push for ratification of the FATF if he is elected president or not. “Some say that in these (economic) wars we must implement their treaties and conventions in order not to give excuses to the enemy. Who guarantees that the enemy will not continue to remain hostile?” he asked in 2018. He says that no one can guarantee that the economic problems will be resolved by signing the FATF.</p> <p>“Our question with regard to the FATF is that we had drafted domestic law, which was accepted by the Majlis (parliament), but the FATF issued a statement saying there should be no conditions! “How is it that they issue a statement on our domestic law?” he raised the question in 2018.</p>	<p>In a tweet in March 2021, Jalili said, “Lack of prudence on the main issues of the country’s economy and unrealistic hope for a foreign institution to solve problems on the one hand, ignoring the country’s economic opportunities on the other hand, focusing public opinion on resolving problems by joining the FATF (is unacceptable). Jalili, the former chief nuclear negotiator, has raised doubts over the credibility and warranty of the FATF convention. Jalili says the government has accepted 39 articles out of 41 of the FATF, but the international institution has not accepted them from Iran. He said certain countries have not implemented the FATF as much as Iran. “You (Hemmati) say that all the country’s problems are rooted in not accepting the FATF...this lack of correct understanding will not help you.”</p>	<p>Rezaei says that the FATF case is open in the Expediency Council and if he is elected president, his government will seriously pursue the ambiguities inside the country, abroad and in the FATF Secretariat. He says that he himself will make the necessary guarantees and try to clear up the ambiguities and follow up on the problems that have arisen in the way of joining the convention. Rezaei, secretary of the Expediency Council, believes the incumbent administration has delayed the procedure to approve the FATF by not answering ambiguities raised by the Expediency Council.</p>	<p>He has not made any comments regarding the FATF. However, regarding his political and economic views, most probably he favors ratification of the FATF.</p>	<p>Zakani likened the FATF to a “rope” that Iran is trying to tie over its neck to hang itself with it. “Our country is unsanctionable. The effects of the sanctions are due to the clumsiness of officials who think that we can only trade with the United States and Europe and using only dollar.</p>	<p>Hemmati rebuked Rezaei in the first presidential debate held on June 5 for delaying decision to approve the FATF in the Expediency Council for six months despite an order by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution. He has repeatedly criticized his rival candidates, except Mohsen Mehr Alizadeh, accusing them of refusing the move to approve the FATF in the Expediency Council. Raeisi, Jalili and Rezaei are members of the Expediency Council.</p> <p>“I do not accept that they say that if we accept the FATF, we cannot bypass the sanctions, and if we join the FATF, like many countries, we can circumvent the sanctions. If people elect me, I will seriously pursue the passage of the FATF convention,” he said in a Clubhouse session.</p>	<p>Qazizadeh, who prior to being endorsed as a presidential candidate served as Majlis deputy speaker, says international deals and conventions such as JCPOA and FATF must be followed and respected.</p>

# Iran's envoy to UN: Maximum pressure still continues

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Iran's UN envoy has disputed the United States' assertion of a strategic shift toward the 2015 multilateral nuclear deal, saying that Washington is still pursuing the so-called "maximum pressure" campaign against Tehran.

"The incumbent U.S. administration's claim of a policy shift toward the JCPOA is merely rhetoric. In actuality, the U.S. policy of maximum pressure remains in place, prohibiting Iran from utilizing its own financial resources overseas to acquire medicines," he said, referring to the nuclear deal by its official term, the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"While the ongoing talks in Vienna are the first step in assessing the accuracy of the U.S.'s true political will to return to the JCPOA, the main and true test will come after verification, when it is proven that America has changed course, abandoned its failed policy of maximum pressure, and stopped its economic terrorism against Iran."

Former U.S. President Donald Trump withdrew from the JCPOA in May 2018, and his administration launched a "maximum pressure" campaign with the stated goal



of compelling Iran to renegotiate "a better agreement."

The Islamic Republic refused to give in to the pressure; instead, it adopted the policy "maximum resistance" that included economic measures to counter the bans, such as reducing reliance on oil incomes.

The current U.S. government, led by Joe Biden, claims it wants to right Trump's wrongs

and rejoin the deal, but it is displaying a strong preference for keeping some of the bans in place as a tool of leverage.

Before the Islamic Republic reverses its remedial measures, Tehran asks that all sanctions be lifted in a verifiable manner.

Takht Ravanchi further stated, "The UN Security Council (UNSC) adopted a deadly silence in the early days of 2020, when the

U.S. martyred regional counter-terrorism heroes, including General Soleimani, in a terrorist act at the direct instruction of its president. A few days later, the U.S. president threatened to bomb 52 locations, including key cultural sites in Iran."

"Of course, when the U.S. offered a draft resolution to impose an arms embargo on Iran the same year, 13 UNSC members unequivocally rejected it."

When the Trump administration attempted to use the snapback mechanism against Iran, the same 13 UNSC members rejected the U.S. effort. They said that the U.S. had forfeited its right to invoke the snapback mechanism as a result of its withdrawal from the JCPOA.

Envoys from Iran and the P4+1 group of countries — Britain, France, Russia, and China, plus Germany — have been meeting in Vienna since April to discuss removing sanctions, renewing the JCPOA, and getting the U.S. back into compliance.

The U.S. has sent a delegation to Vienna, but it will not be directly participating in the JCPOA Joint Commission meetings because Washington is no longer a party to the agreement. It has, however, had separate negotiations with the other JCPOA parties.

## Economic terrorism amid pandemic is crime against humanity: Araqchi

→1 Araqchi says although Trump is no longer president his "unlawful and murderous sanctions" against Iran have not yet been lifted.

"Trump is gone, but his unlawful & murderous sanctions are still there. No need for crocodile tears when US efforts to immiserate 82 million Iranians are ongoing. Economic terrorism amid a PANDEMIC, is a crime against humanity," Araqchi wrote on his Twitter account.

Trump quit the nuclear deal in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 that has endorsed the nuclear deal.

Despite calls by international bodies such as the United Nations, the United States, even under the Biden administration, has so far refused to relax sanctions against Iran as the country is hardest hit by the Covid-19.

The death toll from Covid-19 in Iran has reached about 82,000.

Iran's ambassador to the UN has also rejected a U.S.

claim of policy change towards the multilateral nuclear deal, saying Washington is still pushing ahead with the so-called "maximum pressure" campaign against Tehran.

Speaking at the UN General Assembly on Friday, Majid Takht Ravanchi complained that the U.S. economic terrorism against the Iranian nation has hampered the import of medicines to the country.

"The current U.S. administration's claim of policy change towards the JCPOA is just in words. In practice, the U.S. policy of maximum pressure still continues, preventing Iran from using its own financial resources abroad to import medicines," Takht Ravanchi said.

Araqchi is leading the Iranian delegation in the nuclear deal talks in Vienna. The new round nuclear talks intended to possibly restore the 2015 nuclear deal were to start on Saturday.

The nuclear deal talks have reached a sensitive stage.

Diplomats say the talks have reached a stage which entail political decisions by Washington and Tehran.

Before resuming the sixth round of talks, negotiators had visited capitals for consultations with senior officials.

The talks are taking place within the framework of the JCPOA Joint Commission.

European signatories to the JCPOA — Britain, Germany and France — are acting as intermediary between negotiators from Iran and the United States. Iran has been insisting that it will not enter direct talks if the U.S. does not rejoin the nuclear deal and lifts sanctions.

Chinese State Councilor and Foreign Minister Wang Yi has said the United States should first lift all the sanctions it has imposed on Iran in order to return to the 2015 nuclear deal.

"To return to the deal, lifting sanctions on Iran first is the natural thing to do," Wang said in an address to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva on Friday.

## Putin denies Russia will provide Iran with advanced satellite system

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Russian leader Vladimir Putin refuted on Friday a U.S. media report that Moscow is preparing to transfer to Iran an advanced satellite system that will substantially boost its surveillance capabilities.

"We have plans for cooperation with Iran, including military and technical cooperation," Putin told NBC News.

"It's all fake news. At the very least, I'm not familiar with this type of thing..."

It's all gibberish and garbage." In a report on Thursday, the Washington Post, citing current and former U.S. and West Asian officials, claimed the satellite system delivery might take place within months and is the product of several trips to Russia by Iranian officials.

U.S. President Joe Biden, who is on his first foreign trip since taking office in January, is anticipated to discuss issues related to Iran, including the 2015 nuclear deal, among other things.

## China's Wang says U.S. must first lift sanctions before joining JCPOA

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — Wang Yi, the Chinese state councilor and foreign minister, said on Friday that the U.S. should first lift all the sanctions it has imposed on Iran in order to return to the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the JCPOA.

Wang made the remarks as negotiations are underway in Vienna to possibly revitalize the agreement, which was abandoned by the Trump administration in May 2018.

"To return to the deal, lifting sanc-

tions on Iran first is the natural thing to do," Wang said in an address to the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva, Press TV reported.

The Chinese foreign minister, whose country is a party to the deal, added, "As the negotiations for the United States and Iran to resume compliance with the agreement are now in the final sprint, parties concerned need to make a political decision as quickly as possible and redouble diplomatic efforts to bring the JCPOA back on track."

## GOP senators push for veto power over Iran nuclear deal

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — A group of Republican senators introduced a bill on Friday that would require President Joe Biden to secure congressional approval for any new diplomatic agreement to revitalize the 2015 nuclear deal, officially called the JCPOA, according to Politico.

The bill, led by Sen. Ron Johnson (R-Wis.), would give the Senate veto power over any attempt by the Biden administration to reenter the nuclear deal — which was effectively dissolved when former President Donald Trump withdrew from the pact in 2018 — by deeming it a treaty, which mandates approval from the upper chamber.

The GOP proposal comes as top Biden officials are holding indirect talks with the Iranians in Vienna in a bid to revive the Obama-era deal, which Republicans uniformly opposed. GOP lawmakers have introduced several measures aimed at preventing Biden from lifting the biting sanctions that Trump imposed on Tehran as part of his administration's "maximum pressure" doctrine.

"Any potential agreement with Iran involves risks that affect our entire nation. It is critical to the security of America and to world peace that any deal Biden negotiates with Iran be deemed a treaty requiring approval by the U.S. Senate," Johnson said.

Republicans have been pushing for Biden to use the Vienna talks to pressure Iran over its non-nuclear activities, too; but Democrats say that approach would be a death knell to efforts to revive the nuclear agreement.

Republicans' new effort could further complicate the administration's diplomatic efforts, since it's aligned in spirit if not letter with a push that successfully afforded Congress veto power over the 2015 U.S.-Iran deal. The Johnson-led bill would subject any future agreement to a two-thirds majority vote in the Senate, an even higher hurdle than the 60-vote threshold the 2015 pact was subjected to.

The 2015 nuclear deal is endorsed by UN Security Council Resolution 2231.

Most recently, the U.S. has been monitoring Iranian Navy ships that are making their way across the Atlantic Ocean, potentially for a weapons delivery to Venezuela. The Biden administration is pressuring the Venezuelan and Cuban governments to turn away the Iranian ships, and a senior administration official warned that the U.S. will take "appropriate measures in coordination with our partners to deter the transit or delivery of such weapons."

A top Iranian military commander said on Thursday that the Iranian naval fleet, including two ships, has entered the Atlantic Ocean.

Habibollah Sayyari, deputy chief of the Army for coordination affairs, said Iran is entitled under international law to have a naval presence in international waters.

"We consider our presence in international waters an inalienable strategic right of the Islamic Republic of Iran Navy and we will continue on this path with strength," Rear Admiral Sayyari stated.

## Iranian airspace is most secure in the region

**POLITICAL** TEHRAN — A top military official said on Saturday that the Iranian airspace is the most secure in the West Asia region.

"The airspace of Islamic Iran, through cooperation and synergy between the air

defense forces of the Army and the Guards (IRGC) who have the ability to counter any threat or air aggression, is the most secure in the region," Khatam al-Anbia Air Defense Base chief Qader Rahimzadeh stated.

Brigadier General Rahimzadeh, who visited the air defense units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) in Tehran province and southern Iran, praised the spirit of the air defense personnel.

He also thanked Brigadier General Amir Ali Hajizadeh, commander of the IRGC Aerospace Force, for unveiling the Dey 9 air defense system and Quds radar, which have been made by experts from the Aerospace Force.

## The NSTC's recent setback should inspire progress on W-CPEC+

→1 The NSTC can still be utilized to facilitate Iran and India's trade with Afghanistan and Central Asia, but the volume thereof probably won't ever come close to PAKAF-UZ/N-CPEC+'s. India will also probably not use this project all that much for trading with Russia or the EU either since the Vladivostok-Chennai Maritime Corridor (VCMC) and prospective "Trans-Arabian Corridor" (TAC) seem much more promising. Nevertheless, Iran can incorporate most of the NSTC into Azerbaijan's six-country regional integration platform between those two states, Russia, Turkey, Georgia, and Armenia. This would enable the Islamic Republic to make good on existing investments as well as have a basis upon which to attract additional ones, albeit more locally focused.

Even so, Iran might be eager to replace its lost regional connectivity ambitions with something more realistic after the NSTC failed to meet its expectations. Therein lies the importance of W-CPEC+, or the western expansion of

CPEC into Iran and further afield across the Mashriq after the recently clinched 25-year Chinese-Iranian Strategic Partnership deal. Following President Xi's telegram to his Syrian counterpart earlier this month promising full economic support for the Arab Republic, it's indeed possible that Iran's deeply embedded connections there could open the door for new Chinese economic opportunities. The promise of Chinese-Iranian synergy in Syria could incentivize Beijing to expand W-CPEC+ there sooner than expected.

This vision fully aligns with Iran's grand strategic interests. The U.S. and "Israel" have thus far done their utmost to thwart the Islamic Republic's regional connectivity initiatives across Iraq, Syria, and Lebanon, including through militant means, but they might second guess the wisdom of attacking future Chinese infrastructure projects there due to China's emerging superpower status. Iran should therefore see to it that China starts concentrating on W-CPEC+ so that its

people can then use that country's newly built connectivity infrastructure as a comparatively safer geo-economic means for trading with those three countries. Iran has impressive socio-economic and political influence there, but lacks comparative prestige in their infrastructure.

China, flush with cash and eager to expand BRI's flagship project of CPEC all across Eurasia, can easily compensate for this strategic shortcoming in coordination with its Iranian partner. After all, the People's Republic is interested in turning the Islamic one into its regional production facility due to the latter's large population, resource wealth, and geostrategic location. It would therefore be natural for Beijing to build more regional connectivity infrastructure across the neighboring countries in order to facilitate its forthcoming exports from Iranian production facilities. Of course, this vision will take time to enter fruition, but it's important for Iran to focus more intensely on it now in the aftermath of the NSTC's recent setback.

## SPORTS

### Iran rout Qatar in FIBA Asia Cup 2021 Qualifiers

**SPORTS** TEHRAN — Iran national basketball team defeated Qatar 84-46 in Group E of the FIBA Asia Cup 2021 Qualifiers on Saturday.

Samad Nikkhah Bahrami scored 16 points for Iran at the Prince Hamza Hall in Amman, Jordan, while Qatar's Meho Haracic had a match-high 17 points.



Iran advanced to the top with nine points.

Mehran Shahintab's men will play Saudi Arabia on Monday.

There are 24 teams competing in the FIBA Asia Cup 2021 Qualifiers. Once the three windows of the Qualifiers conclude, the top two teams in each group will qualify directly to Asia Cup 2021. The six last-placed teams in each group are eliminated.

Meanwhile, the six third-placed teams in each group will then play in a separate qualifying tournament. Teams will be placed into two different groups of three teams. The top two teams of those respective groups will then lock in their spots at Asia Cup 2021, completing the 16-team roster who will also compete in the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 Asian Qualifiers.

### Bashar Resan a doubt for Iran match: report

**SPORTS** TEHRAN — Media reports suggest that Iraqi iconic midfielder Bashar Resan will miss the match against Iran at the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and AFC Asian Cup China 2023.

The 25-year-old midfielder sustained a foot injury in the match against Hong Kong Friday night.

Resan was forced to leave the field in the 67th minute and the reports say that he will be absent in the crucial match against Iran.

Iran will meet Iraq in a must-win game on Tuesday at the Khalifa Sports City Stadium in Isa Town, Bahrain.

Resan, who was a member of Iranian giants Persepolis for several years, has played a key role in the previous matches for Iraq, helping them sit top of Group C.

Vahid Amiri, who has been a pivotal figure in Iran football team, is also a doubt for the Iraq match after suffering a hamstring injury in the match against Bahrain.

### Skocic enjoys Iran's performance against Cambodia

**SPORTS** TEHRAN — Iran national football team coach Dragan Skocic is very happy with his team's performance against Cambodia.

Iran defeated Cambodia 10-0 at Group C of the Asian Qualifiers for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022 and AFC Asian Cup China 2023 on Friday.

"First, I would like to congratulate my players because they played very well. Our team are a better team than Cambodia and we ended the match as we expected. I enjoyed my team's performance but in such games, there is a feeling of sympathy due to our weak opponent," Skocic said.

"The game against Cambodia is over and from now on we think about the match against Iraq. The tournament has not yet finished for us. We respect Iraq and I hope my team play as they played against Hong Kong, Bahrain and Cambodia in their previous matches," the Croat added.

Iran are scheduled to play Iraq on Tuesday.

### Iran's women's team beaten by Uzbekistan in friendly

**SPORTS** TEHRAN — Iran's women's football team lost to Uzbekistan 5-0 in a friendly match on Friday.

Iran had lost to Belarus 6-0 on Wednesday. The match was held at the Spartak stadium in Mogilev, Belarus.

Iran are 70th in FIFA ranking while Belarus and Uzbekistan sit on 54th and 43rd place, respectively.

The warm-up games were as part of preparation for the 2022 AFC Women's Asian Cup qualification in September. The competition will be held from Sept. 13 to 25 and total of 12 teams will qualify to play in the final tournament in India.

### Iran victorious over Tajikistan at CAFA Junior Championship

**SPORTS** TEHRAN — Iran's U19 women's team defeated Tajikistan 3-0 in the CAFA Junior Championship on Friday.

Fatemeh Shaban scored the first goal in the first half and Zohreh Erfani and Negin Zandi were on target in the second half.

Maryam Azmoon's girls will play Afghanistan on Monday. The Persians won the silver medal in the previous edition held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan in 2016.

The CAFA tournament is being held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan from June 9 to 18.

A total of five nations namely, Tajikistan, Iran, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan and Kyrgyzstan take part in a round-robin tournament

The CAFA Junior Championship is an international football competition in Central Asia for the member nations of the Central Asian Football Association (CAFA).

## Issuance of industrial unit establishment permits rises 47% in Semnan

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — As announced by a provincial desk official, the issuance of industrial unit establishment permits has risen 47 percent in Semnan province, in the center of Iran, during the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21).

Faramarz Mahboubi, the deputy head of Industry, Mining, and Trade Department of the province, said that 25 permits have been issued in this due since the year start.

He also said that the establishment of 20 new industrial units for which the permits were issued in the present year have created jobs for 400 people.

The official put the amount of investment for the operation of the mentioned units at 1.68 trillion rials (about \$40 million).

The deputy head of the province's Industry, Mining, and Trade Department further stated that for the industrial units that have obtained the establishment permit, the investment of 36 trillion rials (about \$857 million) with employment of about 6500 people is predicted.



The official put the investment made in the industry sector of the province at over 19 trillion rials (about \$452.3 million) in the past Iranian calendar year, and said that jobs have been created for 3,618 people.

He said that 90 percent of the industries in Semnan province are small industries, six percent are medium industries and the rest are large industries.

According to the data released by Iran's Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry, during the first month of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, April 20), 2,094 permits have been issued for establishing new industrial units in the country, which marked a 162-percent increase year on year.

As reported, 278.906 trillion rials (about \$6.64 billion) have been invested for the establishment of the mentioned units, which was 329.5 percent higher than the figure of the same month of the previous year.

The units are predicted to create jobs for 43,046 persons, indicating 158.5 percent growth year on year.

During the said period, also 347 licenses were issued for the commission of newly completed industrial units, creating jobs for 6,079 persons.

As announced by Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki, over 6,500 new industrial units were established across the country during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), which created jobs for over 121,000 people.

Touching upon the Industry Ministry's plans for the realization of the motto of the current year which is named the year of "Production: support and the elimination of obstacles" by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, the official has said: "In the year that has been dedicated to the production sector by the Leader of the revolution, the orientation of all government organizations and executive bodies should be towards supporting the country's industrial and mining units."

Niaraki pointed to a 40-percent increase in the issuance of establishment licenses for industrial units in the previous year, saying: "The number of establishment licenses increased to more than 36,000 last year, which shows that people are encouraged to invest in the productive sectors."

He also mentioned an 85-percent rise in the allocation of land for establishing industrial units across the country and noted that over 4,500 hectares of land were handed over to applicants in the previous calendar year.

The official further announced that 1,500 idle industrial units have been revived in the country during the past year.

According to the deputy minister, there are over 46,000 small and medium-sized industrial units in Iran's industrial parks and zones, of them about 9,200 units are inactive.

Iran's industrial parks play a significant role in making the country independent through boosting production, which is a major strategy of Iran to combat the U.S. sanctions.

In fact, strengthening domestic production to achieve self-reliance is the most important program that Iran is following up in its industry sector in a bid to nullify the effects of the U.S. sanctions on its economy.

## Over 38,000 tons of alumina powder produced in 2 months

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Iran has produced 38,160 tons of alumina powder during the first two months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-May 21).

As announced by Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO), the figure shows eight percent decline as compared to 41,699 tons of the product produced in the first two months of the previous year.

Aluminum oxide, which is commonly called alumina, is an inert, odorless, white amorphous material often used in industrial ceramics.

Alumina is an important ceramic material for industrial applications. The numerous fields of application range from construction materials, to filling materials, as well as abrasives and catalysts.

In plants and mechanical engineering, alumina ceramics are mainly used for wear and corrosion protection.

The particle size distribution largely determines the application range and the quality of an alumina powder. Reliably identifying the differences in particle size is therefore an essential requirement of the measuring instrument.



# Tire output increases 3% in 2 months on year

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Production of the tires of light agricultural vehicles experienced a decline of 34 percent to stand at 2,874 tons, and that of the heavy ones fell three percent to stand at 669 tons.

Meanwhile, 669 tons of road building and industrial vehicle tires were produced, with a 35-percent drop compared to the first two months of the past year.

The bicycle and motorcycle tire output stood at 2,474 tons, indicating 62 percent growth.

In a bid to nullify the U.S. sanctions, Iran is determined to strengthen its domestic production to achieve self-reliance.

Selecting the motto of "Pickup in Production" for the Iranian calendar year 1398 (March 2019-March 2020), and the slogan of "Surge in Production" for the year 1399 (March 2020-March 2021) indicates the Islamic Republic's determination to achieve this goal.

To this end, the Iranian ministries besides the private sector outlined their programs for the surge in production in the past year, and pursued the set objectives seriously in this due.

It is clear that among different ministries, the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade was one with a somehow heavier responsibility to materialize the motto of the year.

The ministry managed to fulfill its duty as the production of some major industrial products was noticeably increased in the



previous year.

One of the sectors, which achieved outstanding output growth, was the tire production industry.

The country's tire industry, despite the continuation of sanctions and the coronavirus pandemic conditions, as well as some domestic restrictions, has had a thriving and successful year overall; a year that was accompanied by record-breaking production and entry into some new fields.

In this regard, breaking of production records in the production of various types of tires was witnessed, and for the first time the annual output surpassed 24 million tires.

In addition to the successes achieved in terms of the output amount, the tire manufacturers entered new areas including production of the wide base tires and the tires of SUVs.

Wide base tires, which are a new generation of the heavy vehicles' tires, were

produced for the first time in the West Asia by the Iranian producers.

In recent years, with the high investment making of domestic companies and with more emphasis on research and development (R&D), the production of this type of tires with a high-quality standard has been on the agenda, it is while in the past, Iran had to rely on foreign aid to change the generation of tires.

Mostafa Tanha, the spokesman of the Iranian Tire Syndicate, has recently said, "The investments made by companies in the past years in the field of research and development (R&D) and equipment and machinery, are now bearing fruit and we are witnessing the prosperity of companies."

Now, as the approach of strengthening domestic production is also pursuing in the current Iranian calendar year, which is named "Production: Support and the Elimination of Obstacles", tire production industry is among the sectors focused for the materialization of this motto.

Iran accounts for 41 percent of tire output in West Asia, according to Mohsen Safdari, the deputy director of the non-metal industries office of the Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry.

Development of the country's tire production industry, not only is to materialize self-reliance, but also is to boost non-oil export and get a larger share of the regional market for Iran.

## Iran starts electricity import from Azerbaijan

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Iranian Energy Ministry's desk Spokesman for Electricity Industry Mostafa Rajabi Mashhadi said that in order to reduce restrictions on electricity supply, electricity imports from Azerbaijan began on Thursday.

Saying that with the synchronization of Moghan power transmission lines to the electricity network of the Republic of Azerbaijan, the import of electricity from this country began, he added "Currently, 73 megawatts (MW) of electricity is injected from this transmission line to the internal network of Iran."

The amount of electricity imported from this transmission line can be increased up to 130 MW during the peak consumption hours, headed.

Rajabi Mashhadi further stated that the electricity industry has used all its power and capacities to supply the electricity needed domestically, adding, "In addition to using all capacities to import and increase electricity generation, household subscribers with a fifty percent share at the peak consumption time have a very effective role in this regard."

Earlier this month, he had also announced that the

country will import 140 megawatts (MW) of electricity from Turkmenistan in a bid to meet domestic power need.

Emphasizing the ministry's efforts for meeting the country's electricity requirement, he said that 140 MW of electricity will be imported from Turkmenistan at the first stage, that will meet the power need of some part of Khorasan region (northeastern Iran).

Although every year nearly 3,000 MW is added to the country's power generation capacity, the reduction in the rainfalls and the decline in the water storage behind the dams has reduced the electricity generation offsetting the added capacity, according to the managing director of Tehran Electricity Distribution Company said Iran's Power Generation, Distribution, and Transmission Company (known as Tavanir).

In the past decade, constant temperature rising and the significant decrease of rainfalls across Iran have put the country in a hard situation regarding electricity supply during peak consumption periods.

In this regard, the Energy Ministry has been following new strategies in recent years to manage the consumption and lessen the electricity losses in the



national grid.

In late July 2020, Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said that his ministry was considering new incentive packages for low-consuming households and industrial electricity subscribers.

## 'Next president should have an understanding of capital market'

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — Regarding the capital market expectations from the future president, a board member of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) said the people's choice must have an understanding of the capital market and its place in the economy.

And this issue also influences the decision-making process of the next president, Seyed Mehdi Sadidi told Tasnim news agency on Saturday.

This year, following what happened in the first half of last year, the stock market was in a volatile situation, and accordingly, investors are still waiting for the market to return to a stable period, he explained.

Referring to this year's presidential election, Sadidi said: "In this situation, we should use top managers with perceptual skills in the basics of politics and decision-making, and then look for technical skills, but it is while the words of



some presidential candidates are being reduced to the microstructures of the stock exchange instead of the macroeconomy and the capital market, so we must focus on the candidates who are careful enough in this regard."

"On the other hand, instability of laws is another issue that should be considered in

the field of stock market; as in the capital market, we always recommend that we should be present in this market with a long-term vision. This is while momentary decisions are in conflict with this issue", the SEO board member further stated.

Iran is on the verge of yet another political turning point as the current government incumbency gets closer to its end and seven new presidential candidates line up to try their luck for leading the next government.

Iran's thirteenth presidential election is scheduled to be held on June 18 and this round, the current incumbent president Hassan Rouhani would be ineligible to run for re-election as he was limited to two terms or eight years in office.

Since the last presidential election in 2017, a series of events have drastically changed the Iranian political and economic landscape, on top of which the re-imposition of the U.S. sanctions and the outbreak of the

coronavirus pandemic can be mentioned.

The economy, among other factors, has always played a key role in the Iranian elections and it has been high on the agenda of every candidate years after years. Due to the country's current economic situation, this year, however, the issue is more significant in comparison to the previous rounds.

The impact of sanctions, exacerbated by the pandemic, has caused one of the toughest economic situations in the country's history, imposing a huge burden on people's livelihood and business activities, so the majority of people and businesses are closely monitoring the new candidates' programs for addressing the current economic issues.

It can be said that economic programs will be the determining factor for the success of the presidential candidates in the current round of elections.

## TEDPIX drops nearly 7,000 points on Saturday

**ECONOMY** TEHRAN — TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), fell 6,973 points to 1.144 million on Saturday, which is the first day of Iranian calendar week.

Over 5.426 billion securities worth 33.702 trillion rials (about \$802.4 million) were traded at the TSE on Saturday.

The first market's index fell 5,644 points, and the second market's index lost 12,248 points.

TEDPIX rose 3,000 points, or less than one percent, in the past Iranian calendar week.

The index closed at 1.151 million points on Wednesday (the last working day of the week).

During the past week, the indices of Iran Khodro Company, Saipa Company, Isfahan Oil Refining Company, Barekat Pharmaceutical Group (BPG), and Zarmakarun Industrial Company were the most widely followed indices.

Iranian market analyst Hassan Balazadeh has proposed three solutions for improving the trend of the stock market and resolving some of the problems that the market is currently wrestling with.

Revising the regulations regarding the public float stock, determining ceiling and limitation for the Initial Public Offerings (IPOs), and finally establishing a support fund for certain stocks were the solutions



that Balazadeh has proposed.

According to Balazadeh, one of the problems that can be quickly addressed in the current situation is the issue of float stock. Based on the capital market law, companies in this market must offer at least 10 percent of their shares to public investors. In recent years, the increase in companies' capital from revaluation has made them bigger and following this growth most companies need more liquidity to back them up.

So, the regulations in this regard must change in a way to oblige such companies to offer more of their shares in the market.

Secondly, the analyst offered that for those companies who are going to offer their shares for the first time, a ceiling must be set for the price of the shares and if they exceed the set criteria and the stock falls in the future the owner company should be obliged to refund the shareholders paid money.

Regarding the support fund, Balazadeh said this fund can be set up with a part of the dividend of the companies in the general assembly and with the agreement of the shareholders. This way, shareholders can agree to allocate a portion of their dividend to the mentioned fund to support the stock when needed.

According to him, the development of the stock market and inviting people to bring their assets into this market required the preparation of infrastructure. But the government encouraged people to participate in this market before the infrastructure was ready and that caused the current problems.

He said last year the market was not ready to absorb the huge amount of liquidity that was flown into it.

"When a market is to be developed, the base and infrastructure must be developed in the first step," he stressed

# Biden-Harris government has put American Republic at risk, says rights activist

**→ 1** The gross theft of the 2020 presidential election by the Deep State traitors the subsequent eugenics campaign foisted on the people by the illegal and usurper Biden-Harris regime to allow the invasion of the United States by hundreds of thousands of Covid-19 infected persons and the Malthusian mass nonconsensual human experimentation of the public with non-FDA-approved bioweapons deceptively misnamed as vaccines, make the genocidal and totalitarian regimes of Adolph Hitler, Joseph Stalin, and Ceausescu tame in comparison. In order to cause mass death and destruction, the American people have been under a level of oppression that mirrors a dystopian Third-World dictatorship wherein their rights have been stripped. Unless there is a rapid effort to remove this criminal enterprise called the Biden-Harris government, the American Republic is doomed. The courts, the press, the media, and the rest of society have been contaminated by an illegal coup that has been made to appear like free and fair elections when this simply is not the case. Regardless of how unrefined and problematic many found the Trump administration, the voters chose him to serve a second term. The demonically orchestrated coup to oust Trump has caused tremendous national and global suffering. Every day that passes with the racist and corrupt Biden-Harris junta in power brings the American Republic closer to its wholesale destruction and decline into a socialistic and sexually perverted and deviant dictatorship with the aim to internationalize hedonistic gender-dysphoria, human trafficking, wars without end, atheism, eugenics, and biological warfare for profit to benefit Luciferian billionaire plutocrat uberclass. It must be added that there are other international forces outside of the U.S. that are working against society. Several nations took part in corrupting the final outcome of the 2020 presidential election and the mass poisoning of planet earth with the COVID-19 bioweapon.

The U.S. has always been a Republic that has favored the rich and upper classes. Wealth and power matter more than any other value, and as the nation continues to slide into a late Roman Empire like moral malaise, hedonism and materialism steadily become more pronounced. The America First Movement led by former President Donald J. Trump, albeit with serious public relations flaws and numerous compromised and subversive persons in that administration, was trying hard to revive the ethics of the Republic that the immoral and criminal Bush I, Clinton, Bush II, and Obama presidencies had mortally undermined. Several external forces have helped undermine the existence of an ethical Republic in the U.S. Israel, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, and the Vatican have a mission to control and/or influence the destiny of America.

**Are the American people politically literate? Are they capable to determine U.S. destiny?**

No, the majority of Americans are politically ignorant and arrogantly proud of their stupidity. The masses of Americans have been conditioned to be mental midgets and ignorant giants. The U.S. has scores of millions of persons incapable of reading beyond an elementary school level and tens of millions of illiterates—many of whom don't even speak English. Less than 3% of the American public reads. Annually, dozens of newspapers and periodicals go out of business for want of subscribers. If the same number of Americans addicted to pornography, drugs, alcohol, liquor, cigarettes, marijuana, prescription drugs, hallucinogens, mind-numbing movies, and degenerate television, and deviant sexual fetishes added a few minutes of reading to their busy schedules, the American masses would rank among the most enlightened in the world. Millions of American youth learn about becoming homosexuals or the non-existence of maleness or femaleness but do not have any education in history, civics, social studies, geography, or even music or art. Virtually all-American colleges have remedial classes to teach semi-literate pupils how to read and write after twelve years of academic study. The elite has destroyed the educational system in order to make the people stupid slaves. The civil rights and anti-war movements of the 1950s, 1960s, and 1970s frightened the American ruling classes who realized their hegemony was threatened by the existence of an educated public, and they began to use media, entertainment, education, tainted food and water, and even religion to make the people passive and weak. The Nazis and Russian Communists used fluoride to make the prisoners in their camps passive. The American elite use fluoride, lead poisoning, mercury in vaccines, psychotropic drugs, sexual confusion via identity politics, marijuana



**“Millions of American youth learn about becoming homosexuals or the non-existence of maleness or femaleness but do not have any education in history, civics, social studies, geography, or even music or art.”**

legalization, religious cults, weaponized media and entertainment, neurotoxins in foods, and chem-trails to destroy the masses.

**Do American people have a clear perception of democracy and political activity?**

The majority, I do not think so. Please remember that roughly 100,000,000 Americans do not vote in national elections. The penultimate success of the plutocratic elites is that they have gotten a significant number of Americans to become aggressively estranged from participating in the political process. The peak epoch of Americans getting involved in politics occurred in 1960--sixty-one years ago. Perhaps, when it is too late, they might notice. However, the nature of Americans is aggressive individualism and indifference towards others. Let me add this, the most unfree people in American society are not undocumented people but the DAFTA (descendants of Aboriginal and forcibly trafficked African Americans). The degree of how free and fair a society is and the engagement of the citizens in how the most marginalized people are treated. Honestly, why hasn't the historic record of massacres (Black Wall Street, East Saint Louis, Elaine Arkansas, Knoxville, Wilmington, Rosewood, etc.), lynchings, pogroms, expulsions, peonage, or thousands of videos of murdered DAFTA (aka Black Americans) by police or the statistics on health disparities, educational disparities, housing disparities, income inequality, life-chances disparities, incarceration disparities, and the targeting this population for abortion and/or sterilization not caused the white majority to realize social oppression has karma all its own? The Palestinianization of DAFTA is an ignored early warning of what will happen to the moronic white and honorary white masses. However, in America, most people live under the illusion that the suffering of others—especially Blacks—is none of their concern or their business, and they, even amid COVID-19, cannot fathom that they too can be eliminated. White skin and white mindedness are such as strong opium that it is dubious that they will ever realize that human beings are part of a chain of being. Last, the same Americans cannot imagine de-sensitized U.S. military personal are capable of doing to them what they practiced in Africa, Asia, Latin America, Europe (Ukraine), and the Middle East (West Asia). Dinosaur eggs will hatch before the toxic entitlement syndrome of racist white people changes. The Israelis will return the homes and farms to the ethnically cleansed Palestinians before the white majority realizes they too could become an oppressed people—it's too easy hating non-white people than to admit most white elites see them as lighter-complected useful idiot trash.

**Some scholars believe that the American election system is outdated that needs to be reformed. Don't you think that the rules written in the 1700s must be updated?**

The system, if it is to be changed, must be done constitutionally. Frankly, both the Constitution of the United States and that of the Confederate States of America had an electoral college and a 3/5ths clause: (1) the college existed because the ruling Anglo-American elite families feared and hated the white masses, and (2) the 3/5th enumeration institutionalized the sub-humanity of the Aboriginal-African population which was initially 30% of the population. Part of

the foundation of the society that became the United States was the creation of the racial classification of WHITENESS, which allowed for the reconfiguration of English feudalism wherein the European masses were transubstantiated into a biological aristocracy by a social contract that rewarded them in exchange for their cooperation in a conspiracy to maintain an Apartheid system against the Black Indian population (part of the biggest lies in the U.S. is that all the Indians were eliminated this is not true they were simply reclassified as Negroes people like the writer are a mixture of Aboriginal and African and European with no entitlement to the human status from any lineage). The Europeans became biologically privileged as “whites,” a superior master race who preserved their status by (1) defending the ruling elite Anglo-American landed gentry that had elevated them from serfs to racial brethren of humble origin, and (2) to hate, oppress, reject, and kill the non-white others—regardless of the plethora of reasons to find common cause with their “biological inferiors.” We see the same characteristic white settler colony horizontal violence in Israel wherein the Mizrahi are anti-Palestinian—despite their oppression by the Ashkenazi. The white supremacist's antisocial contract defends, protects, and enshrines the intrinsic injustice of the electoral college and the imaginary illusion of white inclusion in tandem with a Black subcaste to hate, exploit, and abuse as evidence and the tangible reward for their union with their oligarchical betters. Furthermore, in every state with a sizable Black population, there exist racist and unjust electoral laws created to deny and prevent DAFTA from having a political reputation. Even as this piece is written, there is a movement through the former pro-slavery Confederate states to limit the access of Blacks to franchise. Over 156 bloody years, there has been one long effort to keep what Thomas Jefferson described as “wolf by the ears” prostrate and bowed. In a nutshell, the dystopia racist union in exclusionary bigotry and hatred has prevented the emergence of a more free, fair, and equitable society in the United States. The U.S., in all the HDMI, lags far behind other advanced westernized nations. The white masses have opposed social programs and policies that are characteristic of Western Europe and industrial societies, and the resistance is rooted in the historic agenda of crushing Blacks. The white supremacist social contract developed since the 1670s onward has made the white masses a biologically racist and reactionary force that has fanciful and Kafkaesque delusions of grandeur that renders them impervious to their own lack of freedom and justice. It is clinically insane to think that scores of millions of people who perceive their superior racial status embedded with structures such as the Electoral College being interested or willing to risk losing their advanced position in society to subhuman evolutionary-deficient inferiors. The entire society, if it wishes to save itself from a horrific racial conflagration at some future date that will have no winners, must take a hiatus from the 17th-century system of intolerant racial and caste hatred that birthed the Electoral College and the concept of white superiority.

**Given the history of slavery in the U.S., do you think that Amer-**

**ican democracy was or is able to counter racism?**

No, the present society must maintain racism to preserve the social order wherein the majority of whites imagine themselves to have access to the White American Dream. The racial ideology has instilled in whites that they are in a racial zero-sum game with Blacks and they will lose everything if anything improves for those they hate. The change will not come through the political system. The only hope for America is for there to be a religious awakening that upholds the value of all human beings. It is not necessarily something that one can be optimistic about because the majority of Americans, regardless of their ethnic background, are out of synch with the Holy Scriptures. Most Anglo, Black, Latino, Asian, white ethnics, and other Americans that are Christians are under the spell of false religion and/or a pro-white apostate theology. For example, Zionism, Curse of Ham doctrine (Blacks are cursed and were made slaves by God), and British Israel-Christian Identity (whites are God's chosen people Blacks and others are of the devil to be enslaved or exterminated) enshrine genocidal and pathological hatred of Blacks in particular and non-whites in general—with the exception of Zionism which is unique in its preference for hatred of Palestinians instead of Blacks. Only divine intervention can address this issue.

**Do you believe that former U.S. President Donald Trump represents a movement beyond the two-party system? Why are independent candidates mostly neglected?**

Trump's presidency will be smiled upon favorably as the results of the conspiracy to destroy America by the Deep State with the COVID-19 bioweapon and the fraudulent hijacking of the Republic are presented to society at large. Trump won Georgia, Pennsylvania, Arizona, Wisconsin, and possibly the states of Virginia and Nevada. Obama and others will be viewed as enemies of the people for their role in trying to short-circuit the Trump presidency with the Russian Collusion hoax and “Urinigate” libel. Trump had an administration honeycombed with enemies and traitors who are opposed to the rebuilding of America and the ending of American soldiers fighting senseless wars against people who are no threat to Americans. Trump's aim to rebuild America was undermined by sinister forces that pretended to be his friends. These people tricked Trump into giving tax breaks to the rich, and this sidelined his agenda to help most Americans. The chapter on Trump cannot be written until the facts of the electoral fraud, COVID-19 bioweapon genocide, and the total manipulation of the media and high-tech giants are revealed. Still, it can be said that Trump was a positive herald for America First.

Trump will not leave the two-party system. He, for all intents and purposes, owns the Republican Party almost as totally he owns his brand and hotels. Trump has the greatest coalition of voters of all creeds and colors of any American president of the last 100 years. He has a mission to smash the Communistic-infiltrated Democrat Party and this cannot be achieved by starting a third party. It is true that the political duopoly is effete and corrupted, but the Trump movement is driving the internationalist elitists out of the party. Also, Trump has built a bridge to Black voters without which the Democrats cannot win national elections. Independent parties and candidates are able to win local races but not national races due to electoral fraud and cash-biased campaign finance laws. The third-party movement will become a more likely trend as the white majority becomes a minority. We will soon have a white nationalist political party comprised of insecure whites unwilling to be Democrat or Republican because they oppose any power-sharing with Blacks or other non-white people. What exists in Israel where coalition governments are formed by smaller parties. A large number of COVID-19 deaths and other demographic trends suggest these changes are coming soon, and the effort to limit the voting of non-whites shows that this is understood by the white patrician class. At present, over 50% of Americans under 12 years old are not white, and the white population's median age is in the middle 50s. The bigoted and intolerant and exclusivistic white majority just might have hated themselves out of being the dominant group in society. At present, the white population in 30 states has negative population growth rates and the U.S. Census is notorious for lying about the number of Blacks in the United States and inflating the white population with people who are non-European.

## Thousands march in support of Muslim family killed in truck attack in Canada

Thousands of people marched in support of a Canadian Muslim family run over and killed by a man driving a pick-up truck last Sunday in an attack the police described as a hate crime.

The four victims, spanning three generations, were killed when Nathaniel Veltman, 20, ran into them while they were out for an evening walk near their home. A fifth family member, a 9-year-old boy, survived.

People in London, Ontario marched about 7 kilometers (4.4 miles) from the spot where the family was struck down to a nearby mosque, the site close to where Veltman was arrested by police, Reuters reported.

Some carried placards with messages reading ‘Hate has no home here’, ‘Love over hate.’ Similar events were held in other cities in Ontario, Canada's most populous province.

“The best part was not just the numbers ... but the diversity of the people coming from every single community in London, coming together for this cause,” said 19-year old college student Abdullah Al Jarad at the march.

The attack sparked outrage across Canada, with politicians from all sides condemning the crime, spurring growing calls to take action to curb hate crime and Islamophobia.

Veltman made a brief court appearance on Thursday and will return to court on Monday. He faces four charges of first-degree murder and one of attempted murder.

Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has called the killings a “terrorist attack” and vowed to clamp down on far-right groups and online hate.

## Putin: U.S.-Russia relationship at ‘its lowest point’ in years

Russian President Vladimir Putin, in advance of his June 16 meeting with United States President Joe Biden, said relations between the U.S. and Russia are at a nadir.

“We have a bilateral relationship that has deteriorated to its lowest point in recent years,” Putin told NBC News in an interview broadcast Friday with an English translation of his remarks.

Putin and Biden will meet in Geneva next week and Biden, upon arriving in the United Kingdom for his first overseas trip as president Wednesday, warned Putin he would send a clear message to him during their meeting.

“We're not seeking conflict with Russia,” Biden said. “We want a stable and predictable relationship ... but I've been clear: The United States will respond in a robust and meaningful way if the Russian government engages in harmful activities.”

The leaders' first in-person meeting comes as relations between Washington and Moscow are strained over several issues, including alleged Russian cyberattacks against the U.S. and the detention of Alexey Navalny, a critic of the Kremlin.

**Praise for Trump**

In the NBC interview, Putin praised former President Donald Trump as “an extraordinary individual, talented individual,” and called Biden “radically different”.

“Well even now, I believe that former U.S. President Mr Trump is an extraordinary individual, talented individual, otherwise he would not have become U.S. president,” Putin said.

“He is a colorful individual. You may like him or not. And, but he didn't come from the U.S. establishment, he had not been part of big-time politics before, and some like it, some don't like it, but that is a fact.”

## Hezbollah deputy head: Operation al-Quds Sword unified Palestinian resistance

The deputy secretary general of Hezbollah says Operation al-Quds Sword unified Palestinian resistance groups during the 11-day military confrontation with Israel.

“We saw some of the results of the resistance in the battle of the al-Quds Sword, which took place in Palestine,” Sheikh Naim Qassem said, referring to the Israeli war against Palestinian resistance groups in the Gaza Strip that took place last month.

Qassem said the Palestinian people saw how their Lebanese brothers defeated the Israeli enemy with limited resources, and were prompted to rise against the occupying regime, Lebanon's al-Manar reported.

“The once weak Lebanon has become powerful today,” he said. “All this was thanks to the resistance.”

He further stressed that the 11-day confrontation led to the unity of Palestinian resistance across occupied Palestine, adding that the resistance reinforced their deterrence power against the enemy.

During the conflict, Israeli airstrikes killed over 250 Palestinians, including 66 children, and wounded nearly 2,000 others, with more than 72,000 Palestinians displaced after the Israeli onslaught.

According to Press TV, the confrontation began as a result of Israeli violence against Palestinian worshippers in al-Aqsa Mosque and the Sheikh Jarrah neighborhood, where Israeli forces stepped up moves to steal Palestinian people's lands and displace them.

## Resistance News

### Bangladesh: Israel's practices against Palestinians “war crimes”

**INTERNATIONAL DESK** TEHRAN— Bangladeshi foreign minister Abul-Kalam Abdul-Momen has condemned Israel's racist measures against the Palestinian people in the West Bank, Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip, describing them as “war crimes” and “crimes against humanity.”

In the presence of the Palestinian ambassador to the country, Abdul-Momen told a news conference on that Bangladesh would never recognize Israel as a state before the Palestinian people obtained their legitimate rights fully, including their right to an independent state on the 1967 borders with Jerusalem as its capital.

The foreign minister hailed the ties between his country and Palestine as “inherently spiritual,” stressing that “no one can tamper with these relations.”

For his part, Palestinian ambassador Yousef Ramadan valued the supportive position of the Bangladeshi people and their government towards the Palestinian people and their just cause, describing the relations with the Asian country as “historic” and “deeply rooted for 50 years.”

## Rosewater festival held in northwestern Iran

**TOURISM** TEHRAN – A rosewater distillation festival, commonly known as “Golab-giri”, was held in Khoy, the northwestern province of West Azarbaijan on Thursday. Organizing such seasonal festivals could boost tourism and attract investors to the region, the provincial tourism chief has said.



Khoy is famous for its rose flowers and sunflower seeds, which, in recent years, have been promoted in this city through festivals, CHTN quoted Jalil Jabari as saying. These festivals will play a significant role in developing tourism as one of the capacities of each region if they are organized at a particular time and continuously as part of the cultural calendar of each region, the official added. Golab-giri festivals are usually running through mid-June notably in Kashan, Qamsar, Barzak, and Niasar; however, in the face of the coronavirus pandemic, many traditional workshops are closed or practice their distillation without the presence of any visitors.

Golab or rosewater is obtained from a particular kind of Rose, known as Mohammadi roses in Iran. Harvesting flowers seems to be the most important part of the process. They should be picked from dawn through morning very carefully. The petals are put into massive copper pots and boiled, and then the extracted water is kept in special bottles. The longest the distillation is, the better will be the quality of the rosewater.

Golab is used nationwide in diverse traditional dishes to flavor them or consumed as a religious perfume as well. The holy month of Ramadan, which started yesterday, is one of the bestselling months of the product.

The distillation of flowers and herbs has a deep history in Iran. Many believe traditionally distilled rosewater is of higher quality than that produced in factories probably due to shorter time intervals between the harvest and distillation practices.

## Six moveable properties in Yazd made national heritage

**HERITAGE** TEHRAN – A total of six historical moveable properties in Yazd province have been inscribed on the national heritage list, IRNA reported.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts announced the inscriptions on Thursday in a letter to the governor-general of the central province. Three ancient gravestones, a collection of historical daggers, a sword and its scabbard, and a leather shield are the properties added to the prestigious list.

In July 2017, the historical structure of the city of Yazd was named a UNESCO World Heritage. Wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and the southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain, the oasis city enjoys a very harmonious public-religious architecture that dates from different eras.

Yazd is usually referred to as a delightful place to stay, or a “don’t miss” destination by almost all of its visitors. The city is full of mudbrick houses that are equipped with innovative badgirs (wind catchers), atmospheric alleyways, and many Islamic and Iranian monuments that shape its eye-catching city landscape.



It is a living testimony to the intelligent use of limited available resources in the desert for survival. Water is brought to the city by the qanat system. Each district of the city is built on a qanat and has a communal center.

The use of earth in buildings includes walls and roofs by the construction of vaults and domes. Houses are built with courtyards below ground level, serving underground areas. Wind-catchers, courtyards, and thick earthen walls create a pleasant microclimate.

Partially covered alleyways together with streets, public squares and courtyards contribute to a pleasant urban quality. The city escaped the modernization trends that destroyed many traditional earthen cities.

It survives today with its traditional districts, the qanat system, traditional houses, bazaars, hammams, water cisterns, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples, and the historic garden of Dolat-Abad. The city enjoys the peaceful coexistence of three religions: Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism.

# Dream vacations: 12 most unique travel destinations in Iran

### → 1 Shah Cheragh

Shah Cheragh Shrine, whose name translates to “King of the Light”, is one of the holiest places in Shiraz. It is truly a priceless sight. The interior of the shrine is even more spectacular than the exterior facade; as you step inside, you’ll be overwhelmed by the incredibly intricate mirrorwork covering the walls and ceilings, sparkling and shimmering like diamonds.

There is an interesting story behind this name: in roughly 900 CE, a traveler followed a mysterious light he saw from a distance and ended up stumbling upon an illuminated grave. The body of an important Muslim figure was found inside, and a tomb was subsequently built to house that grave. As time went on, the site expanded and went on to become an important pilgrimage destination for Shia Muslims. Today, after many rounds of renovations, it’s a structure admired by tourists from all over the world.

### Eram Garden

Shiraz is not just filled with stunning mosques and shrines, it is also home to one of the most beautiful Persian gardens in Iran — the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Eram Garden.

Visitors are surrounded by over 45 species of plants, 200 species of roses, and countless fruit trees, including a famous 3,000-year-old cypress tree, and sound of birds chirping and the fresh smell of blossoms all around.

No one knows when exactly Eram Garden was built, but it is said to have been completed in the 13th century during the Seljuk era. It was then passed down and restored multiple times before being handed to the University of Shiraz, which owns the garden today.

### Maharloo Lake

Maharloo Lake, also known as the Pink Lake due to the amount of red tide in its salty water, is just a one-hour drive from Shiraz and worth the excursion if you want to witness fascinating natural wonder surrounding the city.

The best time to visit this salt lake is between July and September, when the water from the lake is more likely to evaporate, making the pink hues more intense. For the same reasons, the lake is likely to be less pink during the rainy season (April to June). Do not forget your camera, as this is certainly one of the most beautiful places in the country.

### Naqsh-e Rostam

Only a 10-minute drive from the UNESCO-registered Persepolis is Naqsh-e Rostam, the royal necropolis of the Achaemenid Empire (c. 550 – 330 BC). The site is home to four majestic rock-cut tombs and several majestic bas-relief carvings.



A view of Mohammed Helal shrine near Kashan

Naqsh-e Rostam, meaning “Picture of Rostam” is named after a mythical Iranian hero which is most celebrated in Shahnameh and Persian mythology. Back in time, natives of the region had erroneously supposed that the carvings below the tombs represent depictions of the mythical hero.

One of the wonders of the ancient world, Naqsh-e Rostam embraces four tombs where Persian Achaemenid kings are laid to rest, believed to be those of Darius II, Artaxerxes I, Darius I, and Xerxes I (from left to right facing the cliff), although some historians are still debating this.

Beneath the funerary chambers are dotted with seven Sassanian era (224–651) bas-reliefs cut into the cliff depict vivid scenes of imperial conquests and royal ceremonies; signboards below each relief give a detailed description in English.

### Arg-e Rayen

You can start your journey in Kerman by visiting this massive adobe fortress; the magnificent Arg-e-Rayen. Constructed in the Sassanid era (224 – 651 CE), this majestic structure rising gloriously out of the desert will leave visitors in absolute awe! It is a must-see during your time in Iran!

The fortress is also really well-preserved despite the natural disasters it had to endure. It’s said that around 5,000 people lived in this citadel up until roughly 150 years ago, and the current structure you see has been built over the ruins of an older fortress.

The fortress was divided into three parts: a section for the kings, a section for the lords

and the wealthy, and a section for the ordinary people. Walls and towers separated each of these areas. It was well-situated on a major trade route and was, therefore, a popular hub for caravans and merchants. There were also a lot of workshops here with people making guns, knives, and swords. Today, you can still see some of them by the entrance.

### Kaluts of Lut Desert

The gem of the southeastern Kerman province is undoubtedly the magnificent Lut Desert, a UNESCO site, which is home to some truly ethereal clay-rock formations known as Kaluts. Many visitors highly recommend camping overnight there to fully soak in the magic of this desert.

The unique and incredible shapes of the Kaluts were formed by erosion due to strong wind and water. Some of these rock structures are easily climbable, and one can get a fantastic view of the desert from the top.

Lut is one of the hottest places on Earth — its highest registered temperature is 70° C (158° F)! For that reason, it is best to visit during the spring or autumn. If you go during the summer, try to be there in the early morning or evening when temperatures are cooler.

### Amir Chakhmaq complex

The stunning Amir Chakhmaq complex is one of the biggest gems in the UNESCO-designated city of Yazd. The complex houses a majestic mosque, a bathhouse, a mausoleum, and several cafes and restaurants.

There is also a bazaar behind the square

where visitors can try some local liver kebabs. Having a relaxed atmosphere, it is a great place to sit down on a bench, people-watch, and admire the captivating Amir Chakhmaq mosque.

Amir Chakhmaq mosque is the star of the square and a symbol of Yazd. From the outside, this three-storied structure looks very different from other mosques in Iran; its facade consists of several symmetrical sunken alcoves — a truly unique sight.

### Towers of Silence

About ten km away from the mosques and adobe houses of Yazd lies another site filled with history and tradition. The Towers of Silence (also known as dakhmas) were where Zoroastrians performed their sky burial rituals up until 40 years ago.

Zoroastrians believed that when people die, their bodies could be contaminated by demons and made impure. So in their tradition, they attempted to purify the corpses by laying them in three concentric circles on top of the Towers of Silence.

The bodies will then slowly decompose while being picked apart by desert vultures. The bones were moved into ossuaries inside the towers. This tradition dates back to the early 9th century CE, but in the 1970s, the use of these towers was banned in the country, so Zoroastrians started using other burial methods.

### Khaju Bridge

One of the most relaxing things to do in Isfahan is to visit the stunning Khaju Bridge in the evening. This centuries-old bridge lights up splendidly in the dark, exuding an incredibly magical and peaceful vibe. It is also the perfect place for photography and a glimpse into local life in Iran, as it is a popular gathering spot for families and teenagers.

The bridge is also decorated with gorgeous tile work and paintings, and there is a pavilion in the middle where Shah Abbas II (the 7th Safavid king) used to hang out and admire the beauty of the Zayanderud River beneath.

### Mohammed Helal shrine

Some a 20-minute drive from the heart of the oasis city of Kashan lies the shrine of Mohammed Helal, a breathtaking hidden gem that most visitors do not know about. This shrine displays some true gems of Islamic architecture, including intricate mosaic tiles, a large blue-tiled dome, and glittering minarets.

An amazing thing about this place is that you are likely to be the only tourist around in one of the most beautiful places in Iran, which is quite rare given that most attractions in this country are quite crowded. The people working at this shrine are also very friendly and will offer to help guide you around.

## Iron Age Tepe Hasanlu undergoes restoration

**HERITAGE** TEHRAN – Tepe Hasanlu, a significant Iron Age site in northwest Iran, has undergone some rehabilitation work, the director of the historical site has announced.

A budget of one billion rials (about \$24,000 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been allocated to the project, Hassan Shiri said on Saturday.

The project involves strengthening the architectural remains using cob material, removing disturbing vegetation, arranging the sand path, and repairing and painting office buildings, the official added.

The historical site, which was inscribed on the National Heritage list in 1965, has become a national site for research and scientific activities, he explained. Situated a short distance south of Lake Urmia, Tepe Hasanlu consists of a 25m high central mound with massive fortifications. The site is thought to be once a citadel surrounded by paved streets and an outer town with houses, stables, and temples.

### The magnificent ‘Gold Bowl of Hasanlu’

Tepe Hasanlu is mostly known for a millennia-old gold bowl discovered in 1958 by an Iranian man, named Emamqoli Mohammadi Hasanluei in the debris of a burned building, part of the major architectural complex in the site.

Engraved with images of gods and rituals, a stone cyl-



inder with gold caps, a figurine of laminated ivory, and a sword-hilt with a bronze guard, the Gold Bowl of Hasanlu is named after the man who discovered it almost 3000 years later not far from a skeletal hand of an individual who had been fleeing with the piece at the end of the 9th century BC.

Some evidence suggests when the citadel of Hasanlu was under violent siege some soldiers could penetrate the citadel grabbing a handful of valuable treasures, including the treasured gold bowl. The hypothesis suggests that the whole building was collapsed due to fire, crushing the war-

riors and their prized possessions under layers of debris. And here they remained for around 3,000 years until the ground-breaking discovery in 1958.

However, due to the lack of written records, very little is known about the inhabitants of Hasanlu and their invaders.

Among the most important objects uncovered at Hasanlu were an unusually decorated silver bowl, several iron garment pins headed by bronze lions, a solid gold bowl, a knife handle with gold cloisonné, and two hollow bronze horse heads that served to hold liquids.

According to the Britannica Encyclopedia, Hasanlu was inhabited from about 2100 to about 825 BC, but the richest period yet excavated dates to the 10th and 9th centuries BC. The period, often called “Mannaeen” after the name of the people who lived in the area, is characterized by gray pottery accompanied by black and red varieties, the black ware being of a much finer quality and probably made in imitation of metal vessels.

Experts say parallels to the motifs on the Hasanlu objects have been found in Elam, Assyria, north Syria, and Urartu, indicating that Iran not only received considerable cultural and artistic stimuli from other areas but also, in turn, exerted influence on them.

The Gold Bowl of Hasanlu is being kept at the National Museum of Iran in downtown Tehran.

## North Khorasan exports \$800,000 of handicrafts in year

**HERITAGE** TEHRAN – Handicrafts products worth some \$800,000 were exported from the northeastern province of North Khorasan during the previous Iranian calendar year 1399 (March 20, 2020 – March 21, 2021), the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

The products include kilims and carpets, jewelry, leather works, traditional costumes, wood carvings, needlework, and traditional embroidery, which were mostly exported to Germany, Turkey, Poland, Russia, Australia, Emirates, Oman, Canada, and China, Mohammadreza Qahremanian announced on Saturday.

Handicrafts in the province have a thriving market for their products and have provided employment for many people since they have high added value, low production costs, and easy and accessible training, the official added. During the period mentioned, the prov-

ince’s artisans received some seven billion rials (\$167,000 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) in loans to support their businesses, he explained.

Currently, over 15,000 artisans and crafters are practicing 61 handicrafts fields across the province, he noted.

With 14 entries, Iran ranks first globally for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next.

In January 2020, the cities of Shiraz, Malayer, and Zanjan and the village of Qasemabad were designated by the WCC-Asia Pacific Region, putting Iran’s number of world crafts cities and villages from ten to 14.

Shiraz was named a “world city of [diverse] handicrafts”. Malayer was made a global hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture. Zanjan gained the title of a “world city of

filigree”. And Qasemabad village, which is nationally known for its traditional costumes, was also promoted to a world hub of handicrafts. Chador Shab, a kind of homemade outer garment for women, was, however, the main subject for the WCC assessment for the village.

The value of Iran’s handicrafts exports stood at \$120 million during the first eleven months of the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (March 20, 2020 – February 18, 2021), Mehr reported. The country’s handicrafts exports slumped during the mentioned months in comparison to the same period last year earlier due to the damage the coronavirus pandemic has inflicted on global trade.

The Islamic Republic exported \$427 million worth of handicrafts during the first eleven months of the calendar year 1398. Of the figure, some \$190 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free



and tax-free transfer) through 20 provinces, according to data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

Ceramics, pottery vessels, handwoven cloths as well as personal ornaments with precious and semi-precious gemstones are traditionally exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, and other countries.

# Where is the biodiversity capital of Iran?

By Faranak Bakhtiari

**TEHRAN** – Semnan province, northcentral Iran, is considered the biodiversity capital of the country.

The province is home to 160 species of birds, 50 species of mammals, 40 reptiles, 6 amphibians, and in addition, all eight species of cats in our country's climate inhabit the region and none of them became extinct, Amir Abdous, head of the provincial department of environment, said.

Referring to the Asiatic cheetah as the most important and popular endemic species, he said that Turan National Park is the only breeding habitat of cheetahs in Iran and the world. Therefore, this biosphere is of great importance.

**17% share of protected areas**

To preserve the existing biodiversity over the wide geographic expanse of Iran, four types of areas have been designated for preservation and protection, including national parks, wildlife refuges, protected areas, and natural national monuments. In 1997, the Department of the Environment (DOE) held supervision over 7,563,983 hectares of such areas. By now, the size of the DOE supervised areas reached 18.5 million hectares.

Protected areas in Semnan province stretch to 2.5 million hectares and in total between 15 to 20 thousand hectares of natural areas are under the DOE's supervision.

Garmsar Desert National Park and Turan Wildlife Refuge are the two most important protected wildlife reserves in the world which are both located in Semnan province.

Three National Parks including Kavir National Park, Turan National Park, and Sidova National Park, two wildlife sanc-



**Protected areas in Semnan province stretch to 2.5 million hectares, which are in fact a natural exhibition of rare wildlife species such as Asiatic cheetah, Persian leopard, Persian ground jaya, Persian onager, Asiatic mouflon, sand cat, chinkara, and various plant species.**

tuaries in Khosh Yeilagh and Turan, and two protected areas in Parvar, and Turan, five no-hunting areas are located in the province.

The two habitats of Kavir and Turan National Parks are considered biosphere reserves and have been registered in the UNESCO Man and the Biosphere Pro-

gramme (MAB), Abdous said.

He added that there are 14 biosphere reserves in Iran, two of them are located in the biodiverse province of Semnan, highlighting that Semnan province hosts 17 percent of the country's protected areas.

**Valuable species come first**

These areas are in fact a natural exhibi-

tion of rare wildlife species such as Asiatic cheetah, Persian leopard, Persian ground jaya, Persian onager, Asiatic mouflon, sand cat, chinkara, and various plant species.

Among the wildlife species, the Asiatic cheetah and the Persian onager are among the valuable and endangered species, and Semnan province is known as one of the best habitats of these two rare species in the world.

The world's fastest mammal, capable of reaching speeds of 120 kilometers per hour, Asiatic cheetah once stalked habitats from the eastern reaches of India to the Atlantic coast of Senegal, once their numbers have stabilized in parts of southern Africa, but they have practically disappeared from northern Africa and Asia, and is critically endangered, according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, with fewer than 50 believed to remain in Iran.

Also, small populations of Onagers are found in Touran National Park, Bahram-e Goor Protected Area in Fars province and Sarakhs in North Khorasan province are two famous habitats of the subspecies in Iran. Sadly, onager populations have shrunk dramatically because of hunting as well as overgrazing by domestic animals such as sheep, goats, and camels. Onagers are hardy animals and can survive in bleak desert areas.

Onagers disappeared from western Iran in the 1930s but were still widespread in central and eastern arid and semi-arid plains until the 1950s. By the 1980s only four subpopulations were left. However, no reports of the animals have been heard of in Kavir National Park since 1986 and none in recent years from the once transboundary Sarakhs subpopulation along the border to Turkmenistan.

**COVID-19 UPDATES**

The statistics are related to 24 hours started 2:00 p.m. June 11

New cases	7444
New deaths	115
Total cases	3,020,522
Total deaths	81,911
New hospitalized patients	905
Patients in critical condition	3,483
Total recovered patients	2,640,281
Diagnostic tests conducted	21,435,900
Doses of vaccine injected	5,107,830

**National Parks of Iran**

(Part 2)

The wildlife park classification was applied to those reserves within which human habitations and exploitation of resources had been excluded through a process of upgrading protected regions, or which were under the full control of the Game and Fish Department. In short, wildlife parks enjoyed much the same status as national parks elsewhere, except for provisions for regulated sport hunting.



In 1971, a new Department of the Environment (Sazman-e hefazat-e mohit-e zist), into which the Game and Fish Department was incorporated, was created by an act of the parliament. At this time, some six wildlife parks and thirty-five protected regions had been established. Recovery of vegetation and attendant wildlife populations had surpassed expectations in the majority of these reserves. In terms of certain emerging demands of resource use and management, however, the need for a revision of the reserve classification was deemed expedient. These demands may be summarized as follows:

(1) Outdoor recreation and education. The increasing standard of living in Iran had brought with it a demand for non-consumptive out-door recreation. Then, as now, on an average summer weekend, an enormous number of private automobiles as well as buses and taxis departed from Tehran, destined for numerous recreation sites. A similar pattern was emerging throughout the country with urban residents fleeing the cities on weekends. The wildlife reserves constituted a vast resource for recreation and the promotion of concepts of conservation. Several thousand people were already visiting the Mohammad-Reza Shah (now called Golestan) National Park in Golestan (formerly Gorgan) Province during the summers of the mid-1970s, despite the inadequacy of suitable facilities.

(2) Research and base-line monitoring. The result of over a decade of ecosystem protection in most of the reserves had by now produced conditions which would serve as models for this part of the Eurasian continent. Classifications and/or zoning plans were necessary to ensure that certain areas would receive the recognition and future protection that they merited. It was clear that many Iranian reserves were worthy of inclusion in the lists of UNESCO's Man and the Biosphere Programme (MAB) and similar programs.

(3) Wildlife protection and harvesting. The conservation movement in Iran began with strong emphasis on wildlife management. It was intended to ensure that a large number of reserves would continue to be managed on a primary use basis for wildlife. These included habitats for the propagation of endangered species, waterfowl refuges, endangered habitats, and numerous areas targeted to be managed for optimum wildlife harvests. In many of these areas, a degree of manipulation had proven of great value in enhancing wildlife populations. It was hence deemed essential to designate reserves in which such manipulation was justified, in contrast to categories in which natural processes should govern. A good example is the monitoring and feeding of the Persian fallow deer in the Dast-e Naz Wildlife Refuge enclosure, into which they had originally been released. Another example, is the capturing and culling (by hunters) of an excessive population of gazelles in the Muta (Mouth) Wildlife Refuge (Isfahan Province).

(4) Plant protection and plant succession. The improvement in vegetation conditions in a number of reserves was well beyond any limits of expectation. For example, approximately 22,000 hectares of moving sand dunes existed in the Kavir protected region (Park-e melli-e kavir, Semnan Province) at the time of its establishment; but following eight years of protection from grazing, such species as the shrub *Haloxylon ammodendron* (saxaul, Pers. siah tag) and the grass *Stipagrostis plumosa* (Pers. sabbt-e pa-kutah) had pioneered the area. Not only had 80 percent of the sand been stabilized, but in parts the once-barren area was taking on a steppe-like appearance. The cost, which entailed only protection from grazing or plant destruction, had been about six American cents per hectare per annum; whereas conventional sand dune treatment costs by the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources to obtain results within perhaps three, four, or more years would usually exceed USD500 per hectare.

(Source: Encyclopaedia Iranica)

## Every child has the right to a childhood

➔ Even the law on the protection of the rights of the child, passed by the Guardian Council a few days ago, defines the protection for working children, banning economic exploitation, unfavorable working conditions, and long work.

**The worst kind of child labor**

Masoudi Farid told ISNA that waste picking is the worst kind of child labor; as the children may be exploited in the worst conditions.

It is also considered modern slavery, he lamented, adding, two studies conducted by the SPRC show that there are over 4,000 children waste pickers in Tehran.

"Waste segregation at source" is a solution to reduce child scavengers, while municipalities have a very important and pivotal role in this regard, he emphasized.

The SPRC estimated the total value of dry waste at 26 trillion rials (nearly \$628 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials), he stated, the share of children is only 2.4 percent of the total value of waste, amounting to one-third of the whole rubbish scavenger band.

Instead of helping the child directly, people should give their contributions to supportive institutions or NGOs, because these institutions can meet the needs of these



children, he highlighted.

Garbage collection and working on the street are not decent jobs for a child (even for a 15- to 18-year-old), because the dignity of the child is lost. We should prevent child labor and identify the families of these children and support them not to abuse the children, he further emphasized.

**Key factors**

Although the main factor to help reduce these phenomena is cross-sectoral cooperation with all the related bodies and officials in attendance, socio-cultural capacities should be

used for economic growth and protecting these children as our social capital, Mousavi-Chalal said.

"We need to create a sense of responsibility in all members of society to be able to take effective steps in this regard using the capacities of NGOs and volunteers."

Some countries like India worked well on this issue without spending a big sum of money but by strengthening a sense of responsibility in the society which needs to be shared among other countries dealing with the same issue, he noted.

Good social capital can lead to various growth in a society, like promoting ethics, producing quality goods, and feeling responsible for whatever happens in society.

In the current situation that preventing children from working is difficult, if not impossible, it is essential to provide them with safe work, education, and a suitable work environment, observing their rights and reduce their presence in the street.

It is noteworthy to say that social issues are not political and should be separated from politics, but also should be prioritized and taken into consideration more seriously.

## COVID-19 prevalence on a downward trend

➔ During the aforesaid period, IRCS forces have screened 360,824 passengers for COVID-19, 24,581 of whom with symptoms underwent PCR and 51,298 rapid tests, he said, IRNA reported.

He went on to lament that some 64 individuals, who tested positive, have so far been temporarily quarantined, under a plan to rapidly identify suspected cases

of coronavirus and prevent the spread of new UK strain.

Some 431 members of the IRCS cooperate for carrying out the plan in 16 provinces across the country, Valipour concluded.

With the cooperation of ministries of health and transport, a plan is being implemented with the goal of rapidly identifying and testing incoming passengers



and keeping them in quarantine facilities, if necessary.

Thirty border checkpoints have been selected, including 18 land borders, nine air borders, and three sea borders, all incoming passengers will be tested and referred to the quarantine facilities in case of necessity.

Around 8,000 individuals enter the country via borders on a daily basis.

**ENGLISH IN USE**

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### Home to home program to be launched to combat COVID-19

The Ministry of Health is to start a home to home program on Tuesday with the aim of finding people suspected of having coronavirus from around the country.

Some 300,000 teams of specialists will visit homes in collaboration with health centers for COVID-19 screening, Health Minister Saeed Namaki said, IRNA reported.

"As one of the leading countries in the Eastern Mediterranean region, we have started a big move and have prepared a plan that will be implemented as part of the national campaign to defeat COVID-19," he explained.

"We are also preparing the health centers and we will identify sporadic cases, and all suspected cases will be referred to health centers for further treatment."

The number of coronavirus cases in the country has risen to 1501, with 66 deaths so far.

### آغاز طرح بیماریابی خانه به خانه برای مقابله با کرونا از فردا

وزارت بهداشت طرحی را با هدف یافتن افراد احتمالی مبتلا به ویروس کرونا از فردا در سراسر کشور آغاز می کند.

به گزارش ایرنا، سعید نمکی وزیر بهداشت گفت ۳۰۰ هزار اکیپ با همکاری مراکز درمانی برای غربالگری کرونا و بیماریابی خانه به خانه مردم از روز سه شنبه به خانه های مردم مراجعه می کنند.

او افزود: حرکت بزرگی را شروع کرده ایم و طرحی را آماده کرده ایم که در قالب بسیج ملی شکست کووید ۱۹ به عنوان یکی از پیشگامان کشورهای شرق مدیترانه اجرا می کنیم.

نمکی گفت مراکز بهداشتی و درمانی را نیز آماده می کنیم. در اسرع وقت موارد پراکنده بیماری را شناسایی می کنیم و موارد مشکوک به مراکز بهداشتی و درمانی ارجاع می شوند و تحت پیگیری قرار می گیرند.

