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# High-efficiency power plants to help Iran compensate for power shortage

BY Ebrahim Fallahi

TEHRAN - Over 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.

Despite having one of the most developed electricity networks in the region, the country's power industry has been struggling to meet the ever-increasing demand by the expanding industrial sector which has been booming following the country's new strategies for cutting reliance on oil as the major source of revenue.

In addition to the mentioned developments, new deteriorating factors such as illegal cryptocurrency mining across the country have also worsened the situation.

In this regard, the country's Energy Ministry has been looking for new ways for compensating for the power shortages and to meet the increasing electricity demand in the country.

Back in August, Iranian Energy Minister Ali-Akbar Mehrabian said inefficient power plants and drought were the major challenges of the country's electricity sector. So, increasing the efficiency of the country's power plants and preventing the electricity loss in the network have been among the major strategies that the ministry has been following in this due.

According to Mehrabian, the actual power generation by the country's power plants is significantly low compared to their number and this is mostly due to the non-standard conditions of power plants.

To resolve this issue, the Energy Ministry has been taking serious measures for boosting the efficiency of the country's power plants and even to build new high-efficiency power plants.

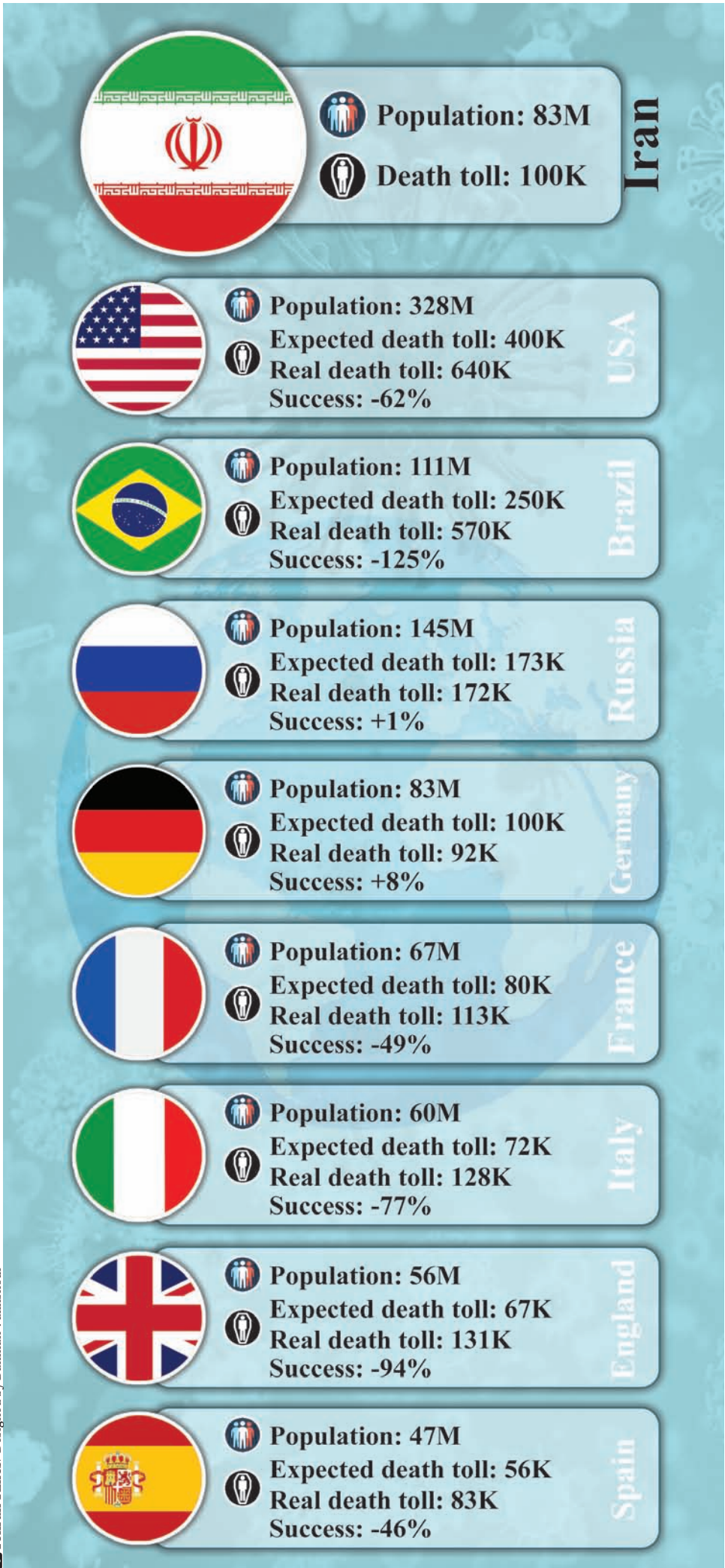
According to the country's Sixth Five-Year National Development Plan (2016-2021), new power plants in Iran should operate with an efficiency of at least 55 percent; this goal can only be realized by constructing a new generation of power plants with high efficiency.

As the first step in the mentioned direction, the ministry has inked an agreement with the MAPNA Group, as the country's leading holding involved in the development and execution of thermal and renewable power plants, for constructing 5,000 megawatts (MW) of high-efficiency power plants across the country.

Following the mentioned agreement, the country's first high-efficiency F-class power plant which was constructed under the mentioned agreement by the private sector started operation in late August.

According to the Manager of Iranian Thermal Power Plants Holding (TPPH)'s private power plants program Roohollah Espanani, this combined cycle power plant, called Caspian, is constructed with €260 million of investment and has the capacity of 460 MW.

The efficiency of the power plant, which is located near Nowshahr city in northern Mazandaran province, is 58 percent in the combined cycle mode. **► Page 4**



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## FMs of countries bordering Afghanistan hold virtual summit

TEHRAN - Foreign ministers of countries neighboring Afghanistan held a virtual conference on Wednesday to discuss the latest developments in the war-torn country.

The meeting was attended by the foreign ministers of Iran, Pakistan, China, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan and Turkmenistan. In an interview with IRIB, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said the main agenda of the meeting was how to contribute to the fulfillment of the will of all Afghans and the achievement of peace in the country.

Khatibzadeh also said Abdollahian told the virtual summit “that we should use all the potentials and capacities of all Afghanistan’s leaders and people, and that neighboring countries should also help materialize peace in Afghanistan.”

“Mr. Amir Abdollahian insisted in the session that all must abide by dialogue as a chief principle, and neighboring countries should also help prevent foreign intervention in the country,” Khatibzadeh announced. He added the participants had “serious concern about terrorism in Afghanistan.”

“It was insisted that the Taliban must distance itself from this issue (terrorism) and don’t allow terrorism to take roots again in the country so that borders and border crossings remain safe and open” for sending aid and commercial purposes.

According to the spokesman, Iran also insisted on the need for an inclusive government in which all religious and ethnic groups are represented and international law is respected.

## Polish travelers cross Iran on their expedition to Himalayas

By Zahra Mirzafarjouyan

TEHRAN - A team of Polish travelers is in Iran as part of their long expedition to Nepal to retrace the footsteps of the first Polish expedition to the Himalayas 50 years ago.

It was in the 70s and 80s of the 20th century that Polish Himalayan mountaineering lived its ‘Golden Age’. In those years Poles not only climbed the highest peaks of the Himalayas and the Karakoram but also became famous for their first-ever winter conquests of several summits. A Polish-made truck ‘Jelcz’ played an important role in the successes of Polish climbers, who used it to travel overland from Poland to the world’s highest mountains as well as to transport their equipment, food, and supplies.

This year, to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the first voyage of Polish mountaineers in a Jelcz truck to the “Roof of the World”, a group of Polish travelers will follow the same route from Poland to Nepal in a replica of the historical vehicle that played such a prominent role in the successes of Polish mountaineers. Their expedition in a Jelcz truck, nicknamed “the Mobile Monument of Polish Himalayism”, intends to revive the memory of Polish sports achievements, to honor the great figures of Polish mountaineering, and to make them known internationally. **► Page 6**

# Iran Vs. “Unsanctioned” Countries: Who Dealt Better With the Pandemic?

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN - Some people claim that if Iran had better interaction with the world, more facilities would have been imported and coronavirus mortality would have been much less. So, we have compared Iran with eight countries which are not under sanctions to find out which one did better in battling the pandemic?

Here, we compare the “number of deaths due to the COVID-19 pandemic” to the “population” of eight countries, namely, the United States, Brazil, Russia, Germany, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, and Spain.

By measuring the number of deaths per population, the success rate of each country in battling the pandemic will be realized. **► Page 7**

## Iran warns against resolution at IAEA Board meeting

TEHRAN - Iran has responded defiantly to critical reports by the UN nuclear watchdog, urging the UN body to act impartially amid ongoing uncertainty over when the nuclear talks between Tehran and world powers would resume.

Iran’s representative to the international organizations in Vienna Kazem Gharibabadi said all of Iran’s nuclear activities, including high-enriched uranium and production of metal uranium, are in line with Iran’s proliferation commitments and that no one is entitled to ask Iran to halt its nuclear activities.

“Since the other parties to the JCPOA (the 2015 nuclear deal) have not fulfilled their obligations in lifting sanctions and the U.S. policy of imposing illegal and unilateral sanctions on Tehran still goes on, no one can pressure Iran to halt its nuclear activities,” the Iranian diplomat said.

The remarks came after Western news outlets published the details of two reports by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) accusing Iran of stonewalling an investigation into past activities and jeopardizing important monitoring work.

The IAEA said in two reports to member states reviewed by Reuters that there had been no progress on two central issues: explaining alleged uranium

traces found at several old, undeclared sites and getting urgent access to some monitoring equipment so that the agency can continue to keep track of parts of Iran’s nuclear program.

Citing diplomats, Reuters claimed that the IAEA urgently needs access to the equipment to swap out memory cards so there are no gaps in its observation of activities like the production of parts for centrifuges, machines that enrich uranium.

“The Agency’s confidence that it can maintain continuity of knowledge is declining over time and has now significantly further declined,” one of the two reports said, adding that while the agency needs to access the equipment every three months, it had not had access since May 25.

“This confidence will continue to decline unless the situation is immediately rectified by Iran,” the IAEA claimed.

The Reuters report also suggested that the United States and its European allies could push for a resolution at next week’s meeting of the 35-nation IAEA Board of Governors pressuring Iran to yield.

But Iran has already warned about such a move, considering it as an obstacle to resuming the stalled Vienna talks over reviving the JCPOA. **► Page 3**

## Ex-Turkish FM says NATO countries’ reliance on U.S. has suffered seriously

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN - Former Turkish Foreign Minister Yashar Yakish says the U.S. has done nothing but harming the people of the region and the world at large.

“The U.S. has not deviated from its usual practice of harming the peoples of foreign countries, as it has done in the past in Vietnam and Iraq,” Yakish tells the Tehran Times.

U.S. President Joe Biden withdrew all American troops from Afghanistan, completing the military exit by the 20th anniversary of the Sept. 11 attacks that drew the United States into its longest war.

The negotiations between the U.S. and the Taliban for the withdrawal of the American troops started during the Trump administration.

Ordinary Americans closely watched the chaotic withdrawal from Afghanistan, as they did at the start of the war nearly 20 years ago, in the weeks after the 9/11 attacks.

But Americans often tended to forget about the Afghanistan war. The war in the Central Asian country received measurably less oversight from Congress than the Vietnam War did.

The war’s death toll for Afghans and Americans and their NATO allies are in the many tens of thousands, and generations of Americans to come will be paying off its cost, in the trillions of dollars.

“The death toll of Afghan civilians is around 50,000 and that of the U.S. soldiers 2,450. The damage caused to the country’s physical infrastructure is beyond description. The progress achieved in the fulfillment of the targeted aims is almost zero. The 20-year war made the Afghan people more antagonistic towards the U.S.,” Yakish explains. **► Page 5**



## Navy chief: Iranian Navy can be present at all open seas

TEHRAN— Admiral Shahram Irani, the Navy chief, said on Tuesday that Iran is now is able to navigating all seas.

Speaking at a press conference, Irani described the mission of the 75th Najaf fleet to the northern Indian Ocean and St. Petersburg as “the biggest and most historical naval mission.”

He added that the navy fleet consists of Sahand destroyer.

The mission was completed with power and success by traveling about 45,000 kilometers in the oceans and facing the harsh nature of the oceans and it safely returned to the homeland, Irani explained.

He added, “Demonstrating self-confidence and capability of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the world arena was important in this mission. For those who never believed in the ability of the children of Iran, they now believe in this ability.”

On the other hand, Irani emphasized, this mission sent glimpses of hope for the friends of Iran and created this chance that they can use this naval capacity in a desirable way.

The Navy commander added crossing 55 countries on three continents was aimed to send a message of peace and friendship to the world.

“Iranians have always been preachers of peace and friendship and have not attacked any country...,” the admiral remarked.

The commander went on to say that this mission took place despite harsh economic sanctions and military threats against the Islamic Republic.

“The conditions imposed on us show that sanctions and threats never work against the Iranians and that we can overcome great obstacles by relying on our own strength,” he underlined.

Irani highlighted that the fleet is the result of the experiences that Iran has gained since 2009.

The admiral explained about the missions that the Iranian Navy have carried out.

“Apart from the Indian Ocean, we went to the direction of the China Sea and attended that region with Sabalan destroyer. Then we attended the Mediterranean Sea by passing the Suez Canal. Then we took another step and went to the Cape of Good Hope. And in 2012 we honorably passed through three oceans and participated in the parade of the Russian Navy,” he



explained.

The admiral added the naval mission provided security for maritime commerce both for Iran and others.

“We did not establish security only for our own economic purposes. Others also took advantage of it, and we can say that we also gave security to others,” the Navy commander said.

He also said that today, Iran can exercise authority in all open seas whenever an order is issued.

The admiral further said localization of propellants is important for Iran.

“Soon we will see the construction of the first all-Iranian propellants that help all units in the sea,” Irani underlined.

When asked about the challenges facing the 75th fleet, the Navy chief said that the biggest challenge for the fleet was to prove its self-confidence.

“We are the only country that provide our maritime security singlehandedly, and this group of ships continued its journey without seeking help from any country,” he pointed out.

Irani underscored that Iran did not need any port along the way, even to meet technical needs.

“The enemy’s attention on our fleet was more to see if we were breaking the rules or not, thank God we did not break any rules and we were able to cross three important canals and eight straits safely,” the Navy chief highlighted.

Irani added that one of Iran’s plans is to hold combined exercises with other countries.

“We conduct relief and rescue exercises with Oman every two years, and we seek to hold better exercises by inviting more countries,” Admiral Irani concluded.

The mission of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in connection with Iran’s nuclear activities has a technical and confidential nature, but the political exploitation of the issue by some great powers is not only in conflict with independence, impartiality and professionalism of the IAEA, it also will distort the IAEA’s reputation as an institution with verifying task.

On the eve of the meeting of the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency, which will be held on September 13-17, attention is once again focused on the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and Tehran-IAEA cooperation, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

In particular, a new report by the International Atomic Energy Agency released last month has intensified speculation on issues such as the state of Tehran-IAEA cooperation, existing obstacles, and its prospects.

In his latest report released on Tuesday, September 7, Rafael Grossi, the IAEA Director General, said the IAEA’s activities in Iran had been severely weakened compared to any other period since the signing of the JCPOA six years ago.

He added that he was increasingly concerned about alleged Iran’s unannounced nuclear sites, and that Tehran needed to resolve these issues immediately.

Last month, the IAEA had referred to new-generation centrifuges and metal uranium reserves, and Grossi said that Iran had launched a new cascade of advanced centrifuges to enrich uranium to 60 percent; the issue was first reported by Reuters. Reuters also wrote that in addition to the 164 cascade of IR-6 centrifuges, Iran has now launched a new cascade of 153 “IR-4” centrifuges in Natanz.

In addition to issues related to cascade, there is another issue in the report, and that is the issue of increasing the degree of enrichment and reserves of metal uranium. According to IAEA, Iran has produced 200 grams of 20-percent-enriched metal uranium.

On Tuesday, simultaneously with the release of the IAEA new report, the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Kazem Gharibabadi, Iran’s ambassador to the IAEA, reacted to it and said: “All Iran’s nuclear activities, including enrichment at various levels and metal uranium production, are within the framework of Iran’s nuclear rights under the Non-Proliferation Treaty and done in full compliance with safeguards obligations.

## Requirements for IAEA to move in direction of neutrality, professionalism



Iran cooperated closely with the IAEA since 2013 when the nuclear talks began until one-year anniversary of the U.S. withdrawal from the JCPOA.

Bloomberg News recently reported that it had obtained a 113-page copy of an IAEA report sent to diplomats; the version states that snap inspections have been carried out on average three times a month this year. According to the report, the Agency also increased the number of active inspectors in Iran to 285, a 6 percent increase in that year.

According to the report these inspections are based on features such as random selection, unpredictability and quick access, which strengthen their deterrent effect in the countries where the inspections take place. Earlier, in an interview with the German magazine Der Spiegel, Grossi said that his organization had conducted more than 400 inspections in Iran in 2018.

The fulfillment of JCPOA-related obligations by Tehran is one side of the coin and the need for the other parties to adhere to their own obligations is other side. Despite the voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol by Iran, the United States unilaterally withdrew from the JCPOA, and the European parties to the agreement did not take a tangi-

ble step to save the deal, and sufficed only to verbal support.

Therefore, according to the ratifications of the Supreme National Security Council, the Islamic Republic of Iran had no choice but to scale back its obligations in five steps, citing paragraphs 26 and 36 of the JCPOA. According to these paragraphs, if the other party does not adhere to its obligations, Iran has the right to suspend the implementation of its obligations in whole or in part.

Regarding cooperation between Iran and the IAEA, Iran suspended a voluntary implementation of the Additional Protocol after the adoption of a law by the Iranian parliament called “Strategic Action for Lifting Sanctions and Protection of the Rights of the Iranian Nation”. However, based on the ratification, Iran continues to cooperate with the IAEA.

Tehran and the IAEA reached an agreement late last year. The agreement, which was set to last three months, was extended for another month after it ended without tangible results and anti-Iranian sanctions were not lifted. Since there was no change in sanctions, Tehran avoided renewing it for a third time in July.

Political experts believe that unlike the term of the late IAEA chief Yukiya

Amano, in the new era the UN body is influenced by Western powers, which, while ignoring 17 positive reports about Tehran’s constructive cooperation and the West’s non-adherence to its commitments, seeks to magnify Iran’s nuclear activities.

The IAEA under Grossi considers Iran’s nuclear activities a threat to the world, while Tehran continues to cooperate with the IAEA in the framework of safeguards agreement. The IAEA, however, has remained silent on some nuclear weapons holders, such as the Zionist regime. The Zionist regime is not a member of the NPT and does not even allow the IAEA inspectors to inspect its nuclear facilities.

Barbara Slavin, an American foreign policy expert, tells the Tehran Times that “whenever I have a chance, I point out that Israel has about 90 nuclear weapons (according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute).

From the observers’ point of view, the IAEA’s politicization and U.S. insistence on continuing sanctions will lead to an increasing reduction in cooperation between Tehran and the organization. The deeper these differences, the more difficult it will be to reverse them.

Therefore, it is expected that the United States will not use the IAEA to advance its policies, and the IAEA shall continue its mission while maintaining its independence, so as not to further undermine the JCPOA and the position of this watchdog body.

Now, on the eve of the meeting of the Board of Governors, Grossi must pay attention to the fact that Tehran’s determination to live up to its commitments and Iran’s long-term cooperation with the institution do not mean accepting unreasonable and one-sided demands. The Agency is expected to carry out its mission properly and not fall prey to the political game of the great powers in its assessments.

In this regard, on Monday, September 6, one day before the release of the new report of the IAEA, Saeed Khatibzadeh, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, warned in his presser about the upcoming meeting of the board. He said, “The upcoming meeting of the Board of Governors is an ordinary meeting. I emphasize that neither side should make a miscalculation and go in a direction that will affect the Vienna talks. Everyone should note that the political use of the Agency’s technical platform will lead to a different response from Tehran.

## Israeli might intend to commit suicide over fear of death: Iran Army chief



TEHRAN – Iranian Army Commander Abdolrahim Mousavi said on Wednesday that Israel might commit suicide over fear of death.

“It appears that the Zionist regime’s leaders have realized the speed of collapse of their existence, and might intend to commit suicide over fear of death,” Major General Mousavi said, according to the Tasnim news agency.

The comments by the top Iranian commander came after the Israeli regime’s military chief said military plans dealing with Iran’s nuclear program have been “greatly accelerated” and preparations for possible action against Iran were being intensified.

“A significant chunk of the boost to the defense budget, as was recently agreed, was intended for this purpose,” Israel’s Chief of General Staff Aviv Kohavi said in an interview published on Monday.

During a visit to the military bases in western province of Lorestan, Major General Mousavi shrugged off the absurd remarks by the Israeli regime’s officials and military commanders, saying the Israeli regime has many vulnerabilities and has the experience of heavy and multiple defeats from the past.

## Iran insists on inclusive government in Afghanistan

TEHRAN – Iran’s top security official on Wednesday underlined the need for establishing an inclusive government in Afghanistan.

Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran’s Supreme National Security Council (SNSC), also expressed concern about foreign intervention and the use of military force in the Central Asian country.

“Afghanistan’s first priority is stability and peace,” Shamkhani wrote on his Twitter account.

He added, “Ignoring the necessity of establishing an inclusive government, foreign intervention and the use of military means instead of dialogue to meet the demands of ethnicities and social groups are the main concerns of the friends of the Afghan people,” Press TV reported.

Late on Tuesday, the Taliban announced an interim government. It took control of Kabul on August 15. The Taliban government returned to power 20 years after it was toppled by the U.S. invasion of Afghanistan in 2001.

## Will U.S. return to Southeast Asia?

By Mohammad Javadian

The recent visit of U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris to Southeast Asia can be reviewed from several aspects. As a matter of fact, the message of presence of Harris to this region is so important that it can change the geopolitics of the region for coming years.

Harris only chose Singapore and Vietnam for her trip to the region, meaningful choices that countries in Southeast Asia understand it clearly.

Although the visit took place shortly after the visit of U.S. Secretary of Defense to the region, it conveyed another important message for the two countries, especially Vietnam.

**Removal of old partner from travel list**

The Philippines and the United States have established close relations for decades since the beginning of independence of the Philippines. Relations between the two countries, regardless of public opinion in the Philippines, have always been strong and based on strategic agreements and macro-policies of the two countries.

Of course, the amicable relations between the two countries were subjected to serious changes after Rodrigo Duterte came to power in the country.

With cancelling various agreements inked between the Philippines and the United States, Duterte officially put de-

veloping ties with China as a top foreign policy priority after many years.

Insulting former U.S. president Barack Obama, fomenting anti-American sentiment, establishing very close diplomatic relations with China and disregarding ruling by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the Philippines’ legal right in the South China Sea and dozens of other strategies against old allies marked a new era in relations of the Philippines with other countries.

Now and at the end of the Duterte presidency, the rift between the Philippines and the United States is widening. Today, the Philippines may want to get closer to the United States but the United States will certainly pursue a policy of “waiting” until the end of the current administration and next election in the United States.

**Vietnam, a new destination for deepening cooperation**

Washington is now clearly preparing to establish deeper relationship and cooperation with Hanoi. The donation of COVID-19 vaccines to Vietnam in comparison to little help from its northern neighbor, only to its own citizens in Vietnam, shows Washington’s serious determination to start a new chapter of cooperation with Hanoi.

Although some experts acknowledge that the United States is seeking to appease Vietnam for negligence under Donald Trump, the reality is that current U.S. President Joe Biden’s administration

is preparing to deepen relationship with Vietnam.

A history of border disputes between Vietnam and China, a sense of racial superiority and most importantly, the two countries’ long-standing and age-old dispute over control of the South China Sea are the factors that persuade the United States to invest more on Vietnam.

Strengthening Vietnam’s military (especially followed with the recent visit of U.S. Secretary of Defense to the country), provocation of Hanoi’s disputes with China by Vice President Harris at a diplomatic banquet in Hanoi, and increasing volume of economic investment outline the future perspective between Hanoi and Washington.

However, increased level of cooperation between U.S. and Vietnam will lead to China’s reaction.

**Malaysia and Indonesia, big absentee in travel list of Kamala Harris**

Although U.S. officials were expected to consider the two countries of Malaysia and Indonesia on Harris’ first visit to the Southeast Asia region, there were obstacles ahead.

It has been for years that Malaysia has been involved in internal disputes in a way that the country formed a government without a parliamentary vote and the same government collapsed because it circumvented the parliament.

The spread of the Coronavirus pandemic has caused Malaysia to face

various socio-economic problems. In addition, political parties’ conflict for grabbing power in Malaysia must be added to the critical situation governing this Southeast Asian country.

Today, Malaysia is perhaps considered as the most unstable country in terms of politics in Asia which is why the United States has chosen to remove the country from travel list of Harris due to the eruption of conflict between the king, parliament and government.

Of course, the good relations between China and Malaysia should be taken into serious consideration, an issue that is very important for Washington.

Indonesia, however, is in a different situation. The country’s economic indicators have not been greatly affected like other ASEAN states because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Also, increase in foreign investment in Indonesia along with the political stability that President Joko Widodo has brought shows that Indonesia is in a better position as compared to other neighbors.

It seems that Indonesia’s good relationship with China, along with lack of pursuit of previous issues regarding the South China Sea, has been effective in lack of presence of Harris in Indonesia.

Of course, undisputed support of the United States for Zionist regime, especially in recent aggression against Palestinians and the events that happened during former U.S. President Donald

Restoring public trust, which has experienced a significant decline in recent years due to some challenges and performance of relevant institutions, is on the agenda of the Raisi administration.

The revival of social capital, in addition to the way the administration operates, depends on the cooperation of other branches of the government and departments with the Raisi administration which calls itself “sincere in words”.

The administration, by passing the stage of appointing ministers and forming the executive body, prepares itself to face challenges, such as the Covid-19 pandemic and the economic hardship, the management of which, in addition to cooperation of institutions, requires the support of the people themselves.

People, however, have long lost their trust to some officials due to the performance of some institutions, difficult living and economic challenges, uncoordinated decision-making and weakening the environment for interaction and dialogue with the people, non-fulfilment of promises, weakening the spirit and culture of accountability and apology, etc.

## Joint responsibility for rebuilding public trust

Public trust can be considered one of the strategic assets of any political system. Accordingly, one of the major challenges facing administration is managing public trust.

This is the important point that the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei insisted on in the meeting with the president and the members of his cabinet. And on the same basis, the Leader set an important mission for the executive power: restoring public trust.

**Trust that needs to be revived**

Although addressing the Coronavirus, people’s livelihoods and improving the business environment have been identified as the administration’s priorities, this does not diminish the importance of rebuilding social capital.

From observers’ point of view, restoring public trust will happen to be a by-product of the administration’s promises. Keeping promises will restore the essence of lost trust.

The Leader said, “People’s trust is the biggest asset of the administration, which unfortunately has been undermined to some extent. You have to be very careful in your words, and if a promise is made, it must be fulfilled, because making a promise and not fulfilling it will cause people to lose trust.”

A significant gap between campaign promises and the record of the presidents at the end of their term, of course, numerous promises left unfulfilled in the previous administrations, has made the competence of the administration very sensitive from the people’s point of view.

Awareness about this has led the president to repeatedly reaffirm his commitment to deliver on his campaign promises. On August 26, in the first meeting of the cabinet, the president reiterated his promises, especially in the field of economy, and stressed that we should be a “sincere in word” government and keep all our promises by working around the clock.

Raisi had previously stated that his criteria for appointing men of his government were anti-corruption spirit, honesty with the people and upholding morality. He had also stressed that he will not tolerate the slightest corruption in his administration in order to move more decisively towards the fulfillment of his promises, especially in the economic field.

Moreover, the president is supposed to put on agenda active interaction with the people. This is evident in his trips to the two provinces of Khuzestan and Sistan-Baluchestan as well as his televised interview in his first month in office. These moves show that he is honest in seeking to restore the public trust.

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



# Iran warns against resolution at IAEA Board meeting

From Page 1 ► In his Wednesday phone conversation with President of the European Council Charles Michel, Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi signaled that any non-constructive move at the IAEA would undermine the prospect of resuming the Vienna talks.

“The serious cooperation of the Islamic Republic of Iran with the IAEA is a clear example of Iran’s will for transparency in its nuclear activities. It is natural that in the case of a non-constructive treatment in the International Atomic Energy Agency, it is unreasonable to expect Iran to have a constructive response. Non-constructive actions naturally disrupt the negotiation process as well,” Ayatollah Raisi said.

Earlier on Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh had issued a stark warning to Washington and its European allies over the likelihood of pushing for a resolution against Iran at the next meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors.

“The next meeting of the Board of Governors is a usual meeting. So, no parties should make miscalculations that would impinge on the Vienna negotiations,” Khatibzadeh said



during a press briefing. “The relations between Iran and the IAEA are technical and respectful, and within the same framework a deep and correct understanding is established between the two sides. We hope that the other parties will not interfere in this regard.”

In addition to third parties, there are concerns that the IAEA would submit to political pressure from outside the UN body. This may have prompted

Gharibabadi to urge the IAEA to keep its impartiality.

The Iranian diplomat accused the IAEA of falling under the influence of some of its certain members. “The Agency must maintain its independence, impartiality, and professionalism, and the members of the Agency must seriously refrain from putting pressure on the Agency and trying to use it as a tool for their own political purposes,” Gharibabadi said.

He rejected the sense of urgency articulated in the IAEA reports, underlining that what is a cause for concern is Israel’s nuclear weapons and acts of sabotage against Iranian nuclear facilities as well as the assassination of Iranian nuclear scientists which the IAEA did nothing to address.

“We have a transparent constructive cooperation and interaction with the Agency, and this transparency should be recognized and appreciated, not be used as a means to make gratuitous excuses, because this unnecessary crisis-making approach will first backfire on the Agency,” Gharibabadi warned.

Raisi tells the European Council president any non-constructive move at IAEA would undermine prospect for resuming Vienna talks.

## IRAN IN FOCUS

SEPTEMBER 9, 2021

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3

## SPORTS

### Iran coach Skocic on verge of milestone win

TEHRAN – Iran national football team coach Dragan Skocic is on the brink of his 10th consecutive win with Iran football team.

Iran defeated Iraq 3-0 in Group A of the 2022 World Cup qualification Tuesday night and equaled Mohammad Mayeli Kohan’s nine-match winning streak in the National Team.

Now, he needs one more win to set a new milestone with Iran national football team.

Skocic was appointed as Iran coach in February 2020 as Marc Wilmots’s replacement.

The Croat started his career with Iran with three wins over Uzbekistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Syria in three friendly matches.

Skocic made history with Iran in the 2022 World Cup qualification Round 2, beating Hong Kong, Cambodia, Bahrain and Iraq in four must-win matches.

He added two more wins to his tally in the matches against Syria and Iraq in the 2022 World Cup qualification Round 3.

Iran will have to meet the UAE on Oct. 7 and a win against Bert van Marwijk’s team will be Skocic’s 10th win in a row.

### Former Persepolis GM Abbas Ansarifard dies

TEHRAN – Former Persepolis general manager, Abbas Ansarifard, passed away at the age of 65 following his battle with Covid-19 on Tuesday.

Ansarifard was chairman of the Iranian club, Persepolis, in three different spells.

Ansarifard’s greatest success as general manager came during his three-year stint in Persepolis, between 1990-1993, when the Reds won the Asian Cup Winners’ Cup in the 1990/91 season.

He also managed the club in 2001 and again in 2009 for a short period of time.

He was the brother of Mohammadhassan Ansarifard, a former player of Persepolis and Iran national football team, and a former chairman of the Persepolis club.

Tehran Times extends deepest sympathy to the Ansarifard family, loved ones, and friends over his demise.

### Carlos Queiroz appointed Egypt coach

TEHRAN – The Egyptian Football Association (EFA) appointed Portugal’s Carlos Queiroz as Egypt’s new coach on Wednesday.

He replaced Hossam El Badry. The EFA had sacked El Badry following the Pharaohs’ 1-1 draw with Gabon in Sunday’s 2022 FIFA World Cup qualifying match.

Queiroz will be assisted by Diaa El Said as general manager, Mohamed Shawky as manager, and Legend Essam El Hadry as goalkeeper’s coach.

The coach will land in Egypt by the end of the ongoing week.

### Asian Youth Games postponed due to Covid-19

TEHRAN – The Asian Youth Games, organized by the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA), have been postponed to December 2022 because of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Games were due to be held in Shantou city in China’s southern Guangdong province in November.

The move is to “ensure the safety and health of athletes and all participants”, a Shantou government department in charge of sports affairs said on Chinese social media, citing an announcement from the OCA.

The statement did not offer details on the reasons behind the delay, but said the decision came after in-depth discussions among the Olympic Council of Asia, the Chinese

Olympic Committee and the local committee responsible for organizing the Games.

In another move that showed the coronavirus’ continued impact, Japan will not host the FIFA Club World Cup later this year because of virus restrictions that could cap spectator numbers, a report said on Wednesday.

The annual football tournament, at which the champions from the six global confederations compete along with the host nation’s top team, was due to be held there in December.

But the Japan Football Association (JFA) has decided to give up its right to host the cup, Kyodo news agency said.

### Iraq coach Advocaat feels let down after Iran’s loss

TEHRAN – Iraq national football team head coach Dick Advocaat says that he feels let down due to the loss against Iran.

Iraq lost to Iran 3-0 in Group A of the 2022 World Cup qualification Round 3 Tuesday night.

“We feel let down, just like all Iraqi people after this loss,” said Advocaat.

“We have to sit down, think properly and prepare for the rest of the games in these qualifiers. We have to put the right players in the right positions, because we played two matches in a week and there are eight games to go so we need to start picking up points,” the Dutch added.

“We played with four defenders here as we did against Korea Republic and we did well back then. Though, gaps appeared at the back. We tried to get back into the game by pushing on some offensive players, but it did not work,” Advocaat concluded.

### Hossein Tayyebi doubt for 2021 Futsal World Cup

TEHRAN – Iran iconic futsal player Hossein Tayyebi will likely miss the 2021 FIFA Futsal World Cup.

He has suffered a rib injury and needs rest to be fit, Tasnim news agency reported.

The coaching staff will decide about the player until Wednesday night.

The 2021 FIFA Futsal World Cup will kick off on September 12 in Lithuania.

Iran have been drawn in Group F along with the U.S., Serbia and Argentina.

### Skocic credits Iran’s ability to manage Iraq

TEHRAN – Iran head coach Dragan Skocic credited his side’s ability to manage the game for the 3-0 victory against Iraq on Matchday Two of the AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to Qatar Group A.

Team Melli ended the first window of the AFC Asian Qualifiers – Road to Qatar with full marks, having beaten Syria 1-0 at Azadi Stadium on Thursday before adding a second victory on Tuesday, keeping clean sheets across both games to top the group at this early stage of the campaign.

Alireza Jahanbakhsh opened the scoring for Iran inside three minutes, heading home Mehdi Taremi’s pinpoint cross from the left. Taremi turned from provider to scorer in the second half, adding his side’s second before substitute Ali Gholizadeh rounded off the scoring late on.

“I am very satisfied with the performance and the result,” said Skocic.

“We had the mentality and the shape of a team. There is a lot of excitement and emotion in such games, but we were the better team in how we managed it. I thought we deserved this victory.

“It was very good for us that we scored early, because it gave us the opportunity to manage the game. In the first half, we played as expected, but in the second half we depended on counter attacks and were able to control Iraq’s attacks,” the Croat added.

## Iran FM, ex-Afghan president discuss Afghanistan

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan with former Afghan president Hamed Karzai during a phone call on Tuesday.

The top Iranian diplomat said it is the Islamic Republic’s principled stance to support dialog among all groups in Afghanistan to form an inclusive government which reflects the ethnic and demographic makeup of the country and added, “This is the only way for Afghanistan to reach lasting peace,” according to a statement by the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Abdollahian said, “The Islamic Republic of Iran wants Afghanistan to be free from war and terrorism.” He added that the Islamic Republic will keep its border crossings with Afghanistan open to ease the current situation in the country and will continue to trade with Afghanistan.

The Iranian foreign minister noted that the U.S. policies during the past two decades are to blame for the current chaotic situation in Afghanistan. He said the Afghan people are determined that this situation has to end.

Hamed Karzai also said during the phone call that eminent figures of Afghanistan do their utmost to overcome this situation, adding that the main goal is the realization of the Afghan people’s will.

He thanked Iran for its stances and efforts. The former Afghan president said he and other elders are engaged in negotiations with different groups including the Taliban and want the Islamic Republic to continue its assistance to facilitate the process.

The phone conversation came hours before the Taliban announced its caretaker cabinet, which was met with unease in Tehran. Iran’s Supreme National Security Council Secretary Admiral Ali Shamkhani said on Twitter, “Afghanistan’s first priority is stability & peace. Ignoring the need for inclusive government, foreign intervention and the use of military means instead of dialogue to meet the demands of ethnic groups and social groups are the main concerns of the friends of the Afghan people.”

Earlier this week, Head of Afghanistan’s High Council for National Reconciliation Abdullah Abdullah spoke over the phone with Abdollahian. He called on Iran to send humanitarian aid to Afghanistan amid Taliban-led deliberations to form a new government.

In a phone call on Sunday, Abdullah thanked Iran for defending the Afghan people, according to a statement by the Iranian foreign ministry.

The request by the top Afghan figure was



submitted during a phone conversation with Iran’s Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian.

Abdullah also congratulated Abdollahian on his appointment as the Islamic Republic’s foreign minister.

During the conversation, Abdullah also spoke of the dire situation in Afghanistan and called on Iran to send humanitarian aid to his country, the statement added.

The two sides agreed on the need to fight the heinous phenomenon of terrorism. They also discussed the formation of an inclusive government with the participation of all Afghan ethnic groups and factions. They also reaffirmed their position that it’s only up to the Afghan people to determine their country’s future.

On Sunday, Afghanistan’s neighbors held talks over the situation in the country during a teleconference. Mohammad Ebrahim Taherian, an advisor to Iran’s foreign minister and the country’s special envoy for Afghanistan told his counterparts from other neighbors of the war-torn country that peace can only be achieved there through the formation of an inclusive government with the participation of all Afghan groups.

Taherian underlined the need to end the ordeal of the Afghan people.

Taherian also referred to the three-way phone conversation between the foreign ministers of Iran, Russia and China over the upcoming virtual meeting involving the chief diplomats of Afghanistan’s neighbors, proposed to be held on Wednesday, September 8th. He expressed hope that the foreign ministers send a clear and strong message, reaffirming their support for the formation of an inclusive government in Afghanistan.

a ministry of the 13th government [President Ebrahim Raisi’s government] with the private sector. He described the meeting as significant and as a show of how bold the foreign ministry

Iran’s foreign and energy ministers discussed latest developments regarding Iran’s relations with its northern neighbors.

## Iran Foreign Ministry hosts interagency meeting on ties with northern neighbors

TEHRAN – Iran’s foreign minister and energy minister (the head of the Iran-Tajikistan Joint Commission) as well as heads of other government organizations and that of the Chamber of Commerce have held a joint meeting at the Foreign Ministry.

They discussed the latest developments regarding Iran’s relations with its northern neighbors and explored ways of expanding relations, according to a statement by the Iranian foreign ministry.

Meanwhile the participants in the meeting assessed the proposal put forth by the organizations for the president to participate in the upcoming Shanghai summit and to visit Tajikistan.

Earlier on Monday, the first consultation forum of the Foreign Ministry and Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines was held with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, his deputy for economic diplomacy and directors general of the ministry playing host.

The meeting, held at the foreign ministry, had as guests head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines Gholam Hossein Shafei as well as members of joint chambers of commerce with neighboring countries and joint chambers with key trade partners of Iran, the Iranian foreign ministry said in a separate statement.

Shafei thanked the foreign minister for holding the meeting, saying the consultation forum is the first initiative and meeting held by

considers the activities of the private sector. Shafei also called for such meetings to be held regularly in the coming months.

The private sector economic operators of Iran elaborated on their viewpoints on expansion of trade ties with other countries, especially neighboring nations and major trade partners of Iran, and called on the Foreign Ministry to increase its support for the private sector’s role in promotion of economic exchanges with other countries, especially during joint commissions.

During the meeting, the Foreign Ministry’s deputy for economic diplomacy and the ministry’s regional directors general also answered questions raised by the economic operators of the private sector.



## High-efficiency power plants to help Iran compensate for power shortage

From page 1 ► It is the first single-axis power plant in the country that uses Class F gas turbines and its commercial operation while helping to meet the needs of the country's electricity network, will play an important role in reducing blackouts in Mazandaran province during the peak consumption period in the upcoming years, the official said.

"High efficiency of the Caspian power plant is considered an important step in the implementation of the country's general policies regarding the optimal use of fuel and prevention of wasting national wealth; this high-efficiency power plant, in addition to saving billions of dollars in natural gas consumption, has a significant impact on reducing polluting emissions, especially in Mazandaran province," Espanani said.

Following the operation of the first high-efficiency power plant, now the TPPH's Deputy Head Hamidreza Azimi has announced that the second such power plant is going to go operational by the second quarter of the next Iranian calendar year (May 22, 2022).

The mentioned power plant which is currently under construction in the southwestern Khuz-



estan Province will have a power generation capacity of 451 MW which will be supplied by a gas and a steam unit.

Constructing such modern power plants is a great step for improving the country's electricity industry which has a long history in the region.

Hopefully, with such power plants being added to the country's power generation sector, a significant part of the problems regarding the electricity shortage will be eliminated in the near future.

## Exports to ASEAN rise 48% in 5 months on year



From page 1 ► As reported, exports to Thailand rose 88 percent in terms of value compared to the same period last year.

The top exported items to Thailand include steel ingots, steel sections, zinc, chicken viscera, bitumen, and Vaseline, Rezaei-Pour said.

During the period under review, Indonesia was Iran's second-largest export destination in this union; the Islamic Republic exported 352,000

tons of goods worth \$227 million to this country, according to the official.

The exports to Indonesia increased by 29 percent in terms of value compared to the same period last year, however, the figure decreased by 30 percent in terms of weight.

Rezaei-Pour put the country's trade with the ASEAN union in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) at \$3 billion, saying that the increase in exports in the mentioned five months is an indication that the level of trade with the union is expected to follow an upward trend in the current year.

He pointed out that Iran's top imported items from this union include sugarcane, palm oil, soybeans, food products, rice, home appliances, medium-density fiber, and mobile phones.

ASEAN is an economic union comprising 10 member states in Southeast Asia, which promotes intergovernmental cooperation and facilitates economic, political, security, military, educational, and sociocultural integration among its members and other countries in Asia.

ports in the region, the official said.

Mentioning the history of trade between the two countries, Piltan said: "Iran's trade with Lebanon stood at about \$100 million over the past few years, which, of course, has been declining due to the sanctions and the pandemic."

In the Iranian calendar year 1396 (ended on March 20, 2018), the trade between Iran and Lebanon reached \$124 million, of which \$86 million was related to Iran's exports to this country and \$38 million was imports from the country, he explained.

"The trade fell to \$78 million in the fiscal year 1397 (ended on March 20, 2019), which included \$66 million of exports and \$12 million of imports. The two coun-



tries' trade volume was \$33.8 million in the previous year (ended on March 20), of which \$21 million were exports and \$12.8 million were imports," Piltan added.

He further referred to the amount of trade between the two countries in the first five months

# Industry Ministry defines 36 programs to support strategic industries

TEHRAN - Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki said his ministry has defined 36 new programs for improving the productivity of the country's major strategic industries in the current Iranian calendar year (ends in March 2022).

Niaraki said the Industry Ministry's programs for supporting the productive sector focus on three major axes including the facilitation of supplying raw materials required by industries including equipment, machinery, components, and parts as well as planning to provide the working capital needed by the production units.

He described the development of a roadmap for strategic industries as another major ax of the Industry Ministry planning and said: "36 programs have been defined in the industry, mining, and trade sectors for supporting strategic industries such as automotive,



home appliances, textiles, and clothing, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, and medical equipment."

"Last year, three operational programs for the home appliance, food, and precious metals industries were put on the agenda, and these programs have been implemented this year with the participation of organizations and pio-

neering industries," he said.

In addition to the above-mentioned three programs, a support package has also been prepared and finalized for the development of the automobile and auto parts industries and will be sent to the industry minister for approval, Niaraki added.

The official went on to say that

there are currently 85,000 production units across the country of which 13,000 are inactive, underlining that assessment of the conditions of the mentioned units is also among the most important programs of the Industry Ministry.

According to Niaraki, in a short period of time, the status of the inactive units in each province will be reviewed with the priority of investment, employment, and production capacity, and then reasons for the closure of these units will be determined and solutions will be provided to revive them.

Referring to the ministry's planning for reviving 2,000 idle industrial units in the current year, the official said: "In addition to the assessment and evaluation of the said 13,000 units, Iran Small Industries and Industrial Parks Organization also has it on the agenda to revive 2,000 industrial units across the country."

## Transit of goods via Shahid Rajaei port increases 100%

TEHRAN - Transit of goods through Shahid Rajaei port, Iran's largest and best-equipped container port, increased 100 percent in the first five month of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to a provincial official.

Alireza Mohammadi Karajiran, the director-general of Ports and Maritime Department of Iran's southern Hormozgan province, where the port lies, said that 112,827 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of commodities were transited via Shahid Rajaei port in the said five-month period.

In the first five months of this year, 675 container ships have entered and exited Shahid Rajaei port, which shows three percent increase compared to the same period last year, the official added.

Enjoying the most modern container terminals and port equipment, Shahid Rajaei accounts for 85 percent of the total loading and unloading at the Iranian ports.

Given its significant role in the country's import and export of products as well as transit and transshipment via Iran, the development of Shahid Rajaei Port has been among the most important development projects in the country.

In late December last year, Iranian Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) signed six memorandums of understanding (MOU) with domestic

companies for investing 100 trillion rials (about \$2.38 billion) plus €800 million in development projects of Shahid Rajaei port's hinterland.

The signing ceremony was attended by the former Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mohammad Eslami, and the PMO Head Mohammad Rastad.

The mentioned investments will be made in a variety of projects including zinc, lead, manganese, and copper factories, the construction, and development of industrial components and parts production units, development and integration of the existing industrial units in the area, construction of an alumina refinery, as well as the construction of container manufacturing units.

**Construction of production units in Shahid Rajaei Port will make this port a center for value-added production and a logistics center.**

Implementation and construction of production units in Shahid Rajaei Port will make this port a center for value-added production and a logistics center, which will upgrade the port's level to the third generation and significantly reduce transportation and storage costs.

Back in August 2019, PMO's Director of Engineering and Infrastructure Development Mohammadreza Allahyar had said that the port's capacity is planned to rise 2.1 million TEUs to reach 8 million TEUs.

Today, transit has become more important due to the expanded global trade relations and the intensity of competition for new markets. So that many countries have achieved huge in-



comes in this way by planning and making optimal use of their transit opportunities and facilities.

Iran is one of the countries that has a special status in trade and transit relations due to its strategic location and special geography, as the country is the passage of several important international corridors.

In the south of Iran is the Persian Gulf, which is home to the world's major oil-producing countries. This region is considered as the energy bottleneck of the world.

In the north of Iran is the Caspian Sea, which is the best bridge between Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan and can play an important role in trade between these countries.

Considering the country's transit statistics, it is obvious that Iran is taking the advantage of its strategic status in this due.

## Iran, Lebanon discussing preferential trade agreement

TEHRAN - Director-General of Iranian Trade Promotion Organization (TPO)'s Office of Arabian and African Countries has said Iran and Lebanon are discussing a preferential trade agreement between the two countries.

"Since Iran and Lebanon have already announced their readiness to reduce trade tariffs, negotiations on the signing a preferential trade agreement between the two countries have begun, the initial lists have been exchanged and primary consensus has been reached," Farzad Piltan told ILNA on Tuesday.

Lebanon is an important country in West Asia and the Arab world, which has very good trade relations with the world; Beirut and Tripoli ports are very active

ports in the region, the official said.

Mentioning the history of trade between the two countries, Piltan said: "Iran's trade with Lebanon stood at about \$100 million over the past few years, which, of course, has been declining due to the sanctions and the pandemic."

In the Iranian calendar year 1396 (ended on March 20, 2018), the trade between Iran and Lebanon reached \$124 million, of which \$86 million was related to Iran's exports to this country and \$38 million was imports from the country, he explained.

"The trade fell to \$78 million in the fiscal year 1397 (ended on March 20, 2019), which included \$66 million of exports and \$12 million of imports. The two coun-



tries' trade volume was \$33.8 million in the previous year (ended on March 20), of which \$21 million were exports and \$12.8 million were imports," Piltan added.

He further referred to the amount of trade between the two countries in the first five months

of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), saying: "In the first five months of the current year, we had about \$20 million of trade with Lebanon, of which about \$12.7 million were Iranian exports and \$7.5 million were imports."

According to the official, the trade between the two countries in the mentioned five months increased by 226 percent in terms of value and 677 percent in terms of weight compared to the previous year's same period.

Iran's main exports to the Arab country included iron or steel rods, floor coverings, glass, pistachios, textiles, tomato paste, active yeasts, polystyrene, animals, and electronic equipment, Piltan stated.



TEHRAN - Out of 85 types of catalysts used in the country's petrochemical industry, 22 types with a value of \$123 million are now domestically produced, according to a director in Iran's National Petrochemical Company (NPC).

While elaborating on the current status of Iran's petrochemical industry, Shahram Rezaei, the NPC investment director, said that 35 million tons of final products are annually produced for the downstream sector and export.

Back in early July, the NPC head had said that Iranian engineers are going to indigenize the knowledge for the production of 72 percent of the catalysts needed in the country's petrochemical industry by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 2022).

According to Behzad Mohammadi, the country needs \$275 million worth of catalysts annually, \$200 million of which is domestically sup-

plied.

NPC, in collaboration with domestic research institutes and knowledge-based companies, is currently working seriously on indigenizing the knowledge for the production of the rest of the catalysts needed in the country's petrochemical industry.

Back in March 2020, the Managing Director of the country's Petrochemical Research and Technology Company (PRTC) Ali Pajouhan had said NPC was planning to indigenize nine major catalysts used in the petrochemical industry within the next two years.

The official said that NPC had signed 20 contracts with knowledge-based companies for mass production of catalysts and 70 research projects were also underway in this regard.

In early January 2020, NPC held a seminar on the indigenization of petrochemical industry catalysts in Kish Island.

According to the seminar's Executive Secretary Mohammad-Amin Ebrahimi, the mentioned seminar was aimed to create a common language and synergy between catalyst producers and consumers and also to provide a platform to discuss and evaluate the performance of the native catalysts.

Petrochemical is Iran's most important industry after oil and gas. The National Petrochemical Company hopes to lift output capacity to 120 million tons per annum by 2022.

The petrochemical industry has played a key role in domestic economic growth as it creates value-added and reduces the sale of oil and gas on which the economy has been dependent for decades.

With abundant hydrocarbon reserves and new private sector investments, Iran is working hard to maintain its global status in this key sector and broaden its scope.

## TEDPIX gains 2,900 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN - TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 2,948 points to 1.526 million on Wednesday.

As reported, over 8.907 billion securities worth 74.803 trillion rials (about \$1.781 billion) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 2,111 points, and the second market's index climbed 6,095 points.

A capital market analyst has said the trades at the Tehran Stock Exchange are going to follow an upward trend in the remaining months of the current Iranian calendar year (ends in March 2022).

"Based on the forecasts, it seems that the stock market trading will experience a positive trend and be upward by the end of this year due to the current inflation in the country's economy," Soheil Kolahchi told IRNA on Monday.

Emphasizing the parameters affecting stock market transactions, he said: "A few days of correction in the market paved the way for the return of the upward trend in stock trading, in this regard, the future of this market in the medium term can be considered as upward."

"Another issue that can affect the stock market in the near future is the nuclear deal and the



outcome of the negotiations, which can to some extent affect the trading process in this market," the expert added.

Kolahchi further stressed the need to change some of the regulations in the stock market and said: "Issues such as the base volume and the amplitude in the market are among the topics whose change has been discussed many times."

Back in July, Market Analyst Mehdi Bayat-Manesh had said that TEDPIX, the TSE's main index, is going to improve in the second half of the current Iranian calendar year.

Bayat-Manesh noted that considering the current trend of capital inflow into the market TEDPIX is expected to rise in the mentioned period.

According to Bayat-Manesh, the government policies for supporting the upward trend of the market should continue in the coming months in order to ensure this upward trend.

"It is also better for the managers of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) to also take the necessary measures for supporting the market so that the stock market index can once again reach more than two million points, which takes at least a few months to happen."

He pointed to the continuous increase in inflation rate in recent months and its effect on capital market transactions and added: "Shareholders' fears and worries about investing in the market will be eliminated by increasing government support and will increase their willingness to invest in this market."

Following the supportive measures taken by the government, the Iranian stock market has been gradually getting back on track and experts believe that the market is regaining people's trust.



# Ex-Turkish FM says NATO countries’ reliance on U.S. has suffered seriously

*Yakish says U.S. has not abandoned policy of harming people in other countries*

From page 1 ► The former Turkish chief also says, “The NATO countries’ reliance on U.S. deterrence has also suffered seriously. European members of NATO started to raise the question of whether they should not rely more on their own means.”

Following is the text of the interview:

**What is Turkey’s posture on recent developments in Afghanistan? Does Turkey prefer to cooperate with the Taliban?**

Despite the geographic distance that separates Turkey from Afghanistan, the relations between these two nations were very close in the last hundred years. The technical assistance extended by Turkey in the 1920s are considered the first examples of technical assistance in the world. King Amanullah Khan of Afghanistan was so eager to be inspired by the Kemalist reforms in Turkey in the 1920s that Mustafa Kemal Atatürk had to suggest Amanullah Khan that he should not go so fast in introducing these reforms, because he thought that the Afghan people may not be as receptive as Turks to absorb such reforms.

Furthermore, a big majority of Turks and Afghans embrace the same Hanafi school (madhab) of Sunni Islam. Turkey volunteered to guard the Kabul airport after NATO’s withdrawal from Afghanistan. Turkey was eager to assume this mission mostly to keep the relations with the U.S. and EU warmer and to promote itself as a valuable player in the region, but the Taliban politely declined this offer. Now, negotiations are underway, to find out whether suitable conditions could be created for Turkey and Qatar to assume the responsibility of running the technical services in the airport.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has a pre-disposition for the Taliban regime and is eager to help the Afghan people –with or without the Taliban– to come out of the present imbroglio. In one of his statements to the media, he said: “There is nothing contradictory in Turkey’s attitude towards Taliban”. This statement caused a strong protest in the



secular circles in Turkey. Furthermore, a 1985 picture shows Erdogan kneeling by Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, the leader of the Hezb-i Islami in Afghanistan. These two backgrounds have to be perceived as a positive approach by the Turkish president to the Taliban’s Afghanistan.

**How do you assess U.S. performance in Afghanistan over the past two decades?**

The U.S. has not deviated from its usual practice of harming the peoples of foreign countries, as it has done in the past in Vietnam and Iraq. More than two trillion U.S. dollar American taxpayers’ money is spent during the last 20 years in Afghanistan.

The death toll of Afghan civilians is around 50,000 and that of the U.S. soldiers 2,450. The damage caused to the country’s physical infrastructure is beyond description. The progress achieved in the fulfilment of the targeted aims is almost zero. The 20-year war made the Afghan people more antagonistic towards the U.S.

On the other hand, the NATO countries’ reliance on U.S. deterrence has also suffered seriously. European members of NATO started to raise the question of whether they should not rely more on their own means.

**How can regional powers like Iran, Turkey and Pakistan help restore peace to Afghanistan?**

It is worth noting that the countries specifically invited to attend the inauguration ceremony of the Taliban’s ministerial council are confined to Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, Russia and China.

Turkey, Iran and Pakistan can and should definitely help Afghanistan whether the Taliban maintains the power or not. However, there are limits to what these three countries can economically achieve in Afghanistan. China has more means to help it. Nonetheless, it will probably ask the Taliban to strictly control the Afghan soil regarding the activities of Uighurs and terrorist organizations such as the Eastern Turkistan Brigades.

Russia is another country that may be interested in providing assistance to Afghanistan. It considers Central Asia as its former backyard. Furthermore, it fought in the past in Afghanistan. This experience is very important. It has deeper knowledge about the Taliban and power balance in the country.

Despite this background, no foreign country should militarily intervene in the Taliban’s affairs. The

assistance should be economic and other methods of soft power.

**How do you see Turkey’s foreign policy in recent years, especially when it comes to Syria, Libya and Afghanistan? Do you think the policy of zero problems with neighbors was successful?**

Turkey started to follow an over-stretched foreign policy in the Middle East (West Asia) since the Arab Spring. Its Syria policy is totally ill-advised. In line with the repeated statements contained in the final communique of the Astana-Sochi summits between Turkey, Russia and Iran, it has to fulfill at once its respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Syria. It has to resume the diplomatic ties with Syria and negotiate with Damascus a realistic policy for the Syrian Kurds.

In Libya, Turkey is doing the right thing by providing military assistance to the UN-recognized Government of National Accord. However, now that a caretaker government is established and will organize the elections in December this year, Turkey has to abide by the invitation of the Libyan government to withdraw its forces from the Libyan soil. Turkey is reluctant to do it because other countries that have a military presence in Libya continue to keep their military presence in Libya.

In Afghanistan, Turkey is likely to maintain good relations with the Taliban and help stabilize the country.

**How do you assess Turkey’s approach toward Ikhwan al-Muslimin (Muslim brotherhood) as apparently the Taliban are inspired by the Islamic educations of Ikhwan al-Muslimin?**

Turkey’s ruling Justice and Development Party (AKP), like the Taliban, has an ideological affinity with the Muslim Brothers. This affinity is also the reason for the strained relations between Turkey and Egypt. The common favorable approach of Turkey’s ruling party and Taliban may also help establish smoother relations with Afghanistan.

## Turkey’s Syria policy “is totally ill-advised”.

## Most Americans say U.S. wars “not worth fighting”

A substantial majority of Americans believe that the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan were “not worth fighting”, that’s according to an AP-NORC poll that has released the results of its survey.

The research indicates a sign of growing public frustration in the wake of the catastrophic U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan after nearly two decades as well as the continuing presence of at least 2,500 troops in Iraq. The American troops stationed in Iraq are the subject of almost daily attacks, following the U.S. act of terror that assassinated Iran’s Lieutenant General, Qassem Soleimani and the deputy head of Iraq’s Popular Mobilization Units, Abu Mehdi al-Muhandis. The two war heroes have also added to rising anti-American sentiment in Iraq and the wider West Asia region.

Americans were asked their opinions on the wars in mid-August as part of a wide-ranging poll on national security and the coronavirus pandemic. But the poll came as the Taliban swept into the Afghan capital and overthrew the former government as well as outmuscling the U.S.-trained Afghan army in the space of two weeks.

Some 62% of respondents told pollsters that the war in Afghanistan, waged in 2001, had not been worth fighting for, while 63% said the same of the war waged on Iraq in 2003. Afghanistan was America’s longest war.

Ordinary Americans tended to forget about the war in Afghanistan, and research shows it received measurably less oversight from Congress than the Vietnam War did for example. But its death toll is in the many tens of thousands.

And because the U.S. borrowed most of the money to pay for the invasion of the country, generations of Americans will be burdened by the cost of paying it off.

According to the Harvard University’s Kennedy School and the Brown University Costs of War project; the estimated amount of direct Afghanistan and Iraq war costs that Washington has debt-financed as of 2020 was \$2 trillion. To put this into prospective that’s \$300 million dollars per day, every day, for two decades.

The estimated interest costs by 2050 will haunt the U.S. taxpayer up to \$6.5 trillion dollars in the future.

This is while the number of times U.S. lawmakers have voted to declare war in Afghanistan was zero.

The number of times lawmakers on the Senate Appropriations defense subcommittee addressed the costs of the Vietnam War was 42 times. In comparison, the number of times lawmakers in the same subcommittee have mentioned the costs of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars, through mid-summer 2021 was just five.

Maybe Congress learn a lesson from Vietnam when it comes to addressing war cost losses. Quite astonishingly the number of times lawmakers on the Senate Finance Committee have made public the costs of the Afghanistan and Iraq wars since September 11, 2001, until mid-summer 2021 was once only.

The low profile by Congress of how much war



costs speaks volumes.

Nevertheless, in a growing sign that Americans have lost faith in their leaders’ words or the narrative of U.S. mainstream media, the study found the most common worry among Americans polled was “the spread of misinformation”. 75% of those asked told pollsters they were worried or very worried about the “the spread of misinformation”.

During the Trump era, the term Fake News become infamous, but critics say the wars waged by U.S. administrations were done so on a bunch of lies.

At their highest points, American support for the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq ranged from large majorities to nearly unanimous. In early 2002, months after invading Afghanistan and attacking the Taliban, 93% of respondents said they supported the war, according to a Gallup poll at the time.

In March 2003, as U.S. troops invaded Iraq, 72% of respondents told Gallup they supported the war. Support for spying, powers for which were vastly expanded as part of the Global War on Terror, has also fallen.

The next most commonly shared concerns were cyber attacking, which worried 67% of respondents, followed by the spread of infectious diseases and the danger of extremists in the U.S., about which 65% of Americans said they were worried or very worried. The disastrous mishandling of the coronavirus pandemic by the former Trump administration means America has the worst covid-19 death toll and infection rate in the world. Meanwhile, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security has labeled White supremacists as posing the strongest domestic terror threat.

Even if wars waged by the U.S. finally come to an end; the costs of military adventurism certainly do not come to end. Experts estimate the amount of money the United States has committed to pay in health care, disability, burial and other costs for roughly 4 million Afghanistan and Iraq veterans is more than \$2 trillion. The Period that those costs will peak is expected after 2048.

## 9/11 - the hatred that Western foreign policy produced

By John Wight

Placing 9/11, twenty years on, in its proper historical context is the sworn duty of the living to the dead and the yet unborn.

On a personal note, I was living in America at the time of 9/11 – in Hollywood, to be specific – and will never forget the days following the palpable fear and confusion that paralyzed the place. In the day following, streets normally teeming with traffic were eerily quiet. The world-famous Sunset Strip was deserted, its flashing neon lights now reminiscent of an abandoned theme park. People were paralyzed with shock, many too numb to be able to discuss what had just happened with anything approaching coherence. The vituperative calls for revenge, the unvarnished patriotism and nationalism, were still to materialize in those first few days.

Interestingly there were a few, though not many, who held dissenting opinions of 9/11 – opinions at odds with the deluge of condemnation it unleashed. One of the attendants at the parking garage where I parked my car at the time was one of them. Originally from Mexico, Roberto and I had got into the habit of exchanging a few words whenever our paths crossed. A day or so after the attack on the Twin Towers, on my way to my car, he was at his usual place at the entrance to the garage. As I reached him along the alleyway, he lowered his head and in a quiet voice said, “You see what happens, senior? You see what happens when you go around the world bombing and killing people?”

Without meaning to, Roberto, with this simple and succinct observation, accurately defined not only the meaning of this atrocity but also the countless atrocities committed before it and committed in its name thereafter.

Modern history did not start with 9/11, but it did change its course in ways the men of war who used it as a pretext for the most prolonged and destructive military onslaught since World War II did not anticipate. For instead of achieving the domination and mastery of the Middle East and Central Asia, as intended, the wars unleashed after 9/11 ended in a humiliating retreat and panicked and shambolic evacuation from Afghanistan.

Such a far cry from the bombastic speeches and pronouncements which spilled from the mouths of George W. Bush and his neocon friends twenty years ago, relishing, all of them, the prospect of unleashing bombs and missiles on Afghanistan and Iraq not with justice but revenge in mind.

It was not as if they weren’t warned and warned mightily of the consequences of what they had in store for a world they mistakenly and hubristically believed was theirs to control. As a foot soldier with the U.S. anti-war movement, which I joined not long after 9/11, I along with countless others from every part of the world – Muslims, Christians, atheists – marched and rallied against the invasion

## NRF vows resistance against Taliban’s ‘illegitimate’ interim government

Afghanistan’s National Resistance Front (NRF) says the Taliban’s new interim government is “illegitimate,” fated to become a “pariah” amid the front’s call for a nationwide uprising.

The Taliban on Tuesday announced the formation of the new caretaker government made up of top leaders from the Taliban and the militant Haqqani network. The lineup does not include women.

“The narrative of a modern Taliban is over... there is no Taliban in favor of an inclusive government,” the NRF’s spokesman Ali Maisam Nazary told AFP on Wednesday.

“This is going to become a pariah government, an illegitimate government... just look at the amount of terrorists in this cabinet. And we expect they are going to reform?”

The spokesman stressed that the group remains defiant despite losing control of the Panjshir Valley, which was the last holdout for resistance forces who oppose the rule of the hardline group in Afghanistan.

Referring to the attack on the Panjshir Valley and the exclusion of representatives of Afghanistan’s diverse ethnicities, Narazy said the Taliban “have deepened” social divides.

“Afghanistan’s ethnic groups are against them.”

The NRF is led by the son of resistance fighter Ahmad Shah Massoud, who was assassinated in 2001 by al-Qaeda shortly before the September 11 attacks in the United States.

Nazary said the Afghan population has transformed over the past 20 years and currently wants freedom and justice. He wondered how the Taliban, which first took power in 1996 until the 2001 U.S. invasion, are “going to rule a country like this.”

“Look at the images from Kabul... Women and men courageously going in the streets, unarmed, and telling the (Taliban) ‘shoot us we don’t care we want freedom and justice,” Nazary said.

“You have a population that hates them. How is the Taliban going to rule a country like this?”

Hundreds of Afghans staged a protest in Kabul on Tuesday, a day after Massoud called for “a national uprising” against the Taliban rule.

Nazary said the NRF would continue its fight, noting that both Massoud and his ally, former Afghan Vice-President Amrullah Saleh, are safe and still in the country.

“The Taliban might control more geography but they lack the legitimacy that the National Resistance Front has,” he said. “There’s a nationwide resistance that is forming.”

The European Union has also censured the new government for a lack of diversity, saying the Taliban failed to honor the vows to include various groups.

“Upon initial analysis of the names announced, it does not look like the inclusive and representative formation in terms of the rich ethnic and religious diversity of Afghanistan we hoped to see and that the Taliban were promising over the past weeks,” an EU spokesperson said Wednesday.

The formation of an “inclusive and representative” transitional government was one of five conditions set out by the EU’s 27 nations for increasing their engagement with the Taliban.

The United States also said it was “concerned” about members of the government, but would judge it by its actions.

US Secretary of State Antony Blinken will meet German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas in Ramstein on Wednesday before they lead a virtual meeting of foreign ministers from 20 nations aimed at discussing how to approach the new government.

Washington also seeks to shore up international pressure on the Taliban to make good on their commitments to allow Afghans to leave freely if they want.

of Afghanistan and the now impending war on Iraq as if the future depended on it, which it did.

It was one of the most inspiring and also tragic periods I have ever lived through – the inspiration of seeing millions of people in every corner of the world coming together as one in a desperate if futile attempt to drown out the growing drumbeat to war with a cry of peace. That we failed is a human tragedy measured in the shedding of ocean blood of the innocent.

9/11 was an act of terror against innocent civilians for the crimes committed not by the powerful in their name but by the powerful in the name of the powerful. The hatred that fueled it was a long time in the making, hatred produced by Western foreign policy. When it comes right down to it, the salient lesson to be drawn from 9/11 is really quite simple. It is that the best way to stop terrorism is to stop committing acts of terrorism – and that the best way to ensure ‘your’ children are safe is to make sure that ‘their children are safe.

When, for example, then U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright opined in her infamous 1996 interview with Lesley Stahl on the U.S. current affairs show 60 Minutes that the ‘we think the price is worth it’, when asked about the deaths of half a million Iraqi children as a result of U.S. sanctions, she paved the way for 9/11. The unending oppression of the Palestinians with the connivance of the West paved the way for 9/11.

This, to be clear, is not in any way to defend 9/11 or the barbarians responsible. It is to understand it, however, in the interests of those yet unborn if the right lessons are to be learned from it – lessons required in the cause of forestalling the possibility of anything like it happening again.

A catastrophically misplaced sense of exceptionalism, a mistaken belief that might is right and that your values are universal values, has since 9/11 been the underlying cause of carnage and misery on a truly biblical scale. Wars unleashed in the name of democracy, human rights and security, but in truth in the name of imperialism, hegemony and domination, have killed and displaced millions, produced failed states, and given succor to Salafi-militancy. Heroin-production and corruption, not new roads and women’s education is the real story of Afghanistan over two decades of Western military occupation, while ISIS rather than democracy is the most significant outcome of the occupation of Iraq.

Despite such a grim balance sheet, the direction was taken by the West after 9/11 is still defended by its truest of true believers. Like one of those Japanese soldiers who only emerged from the jungle decades after the war was over, out of the jungle of his own madness comes Tony Blair to publicly defend the slaughter of which he was a prime mover in the wake of 9/11. Not one second of justice has he or George W. Bush faced for their role in the heinous crimes committed against the peoples of Iraq and the wider region at their direction.

Even so, being self-declared religious men, there still must be a voice somewhere deep inside warning them of the justice that awaits them in hell. There Bin Laden and al-Baghdadi will be waiting to greet them – not as foes but as kindred spirits.

(Source: Press TV)



## Polish travelers cross Iran on their expedition to Himalayas



From page 1 ► They travel across ten countries, including Iran en route to Nepal. They started their journey from Jelenia Góra in Poland on August 21, and after crossing Slovakia, Hungary, Romania, Bulgaria, and Turkey, they arrived in Iran on September 5.

On Tuesday, the Embassy of Poland in Tehran hosted an exhibition on “The History of Polish Mountaineering”. Three prominent Polish travellers, Ryszard Włoszczowski, Arkadiusz Peryga and Maciej Pietrowicz presented a photo exhibition on the history of Polish mountaineering.

Welcoming the guests, the Deputy of the Polish Ambassador to Iran and Minister Counselor Wojciech Unolt at the beginning of the exhibition said, “Three brave Polish mountaineers travel from Poland to Nepal in their historic truck to present the achievements of Polish mountaineers over the past 50 years. They have arrived in Iran now to show the achievements of Polish mountaineers in a

special photo exhibition for those interested in this field.”

About the effects of holding such cultural events in deepening ties between Iran and Poland, Wojciech Unolt told MNA correspondent, “We are trying to hold cultural events that may be of interest in Iran. We held some events before the pandemic and now in this situation, holding such events is a little difficult. One of the topics that are of interest in Iran is mountaineering. I think this photo exhibition will be interesting for them.”

He further described cultural diplomacy as useful for expanding trade and political relations between Tehran and Warsaw, saying that such events can make big changes in the good relations between the two countries. Two countries also can exchange a lot of information through cultural diplomacy.

Referring to the joint history of Iran and Poland in World War II, he added that holding such events are effective in promoting diplomacy. Diplomacy improves relations between the two countries.

During the event, the President of the Iran Mountaineering Federation Reza Zare who also attended the exhibition pointed to the cultural commonalities between Iran and Poland and the role of Poles in the development of mountaineering, saying that in the 1970s the Polish climbers traced the Polish route on the northern face of Alam-Kuh, Iran's second-highest peak.

He also described the Polish conquests as a model for Iranian mountaineers.

# Tange Vashi: a getaway to escape the summer heat



TEHRAN – Summertime has always been synonymous with relaxation and adventurous trips and in this regard, Tehran and its surroundings do not disappoint.

A few kilometers east of Tehran province, there is a recreational summer spot with plenty of natural attractions such as freshwater lakes, spas, and roaring rivers.

Situated near the village Jalizjand on the road to Firouzkuh, Tangeh Vashi (or Tangeh Savashi) is a place with tourist attractions. Its pleasant climate draws a huge crowd of passengers and tourists in the summers. In the Mazandarani language spoken by the locals, Vashi means grass.

One of the most attractive parts of one's trip to the gorge is perhaps passing a river which is located in the middle of a stone valley.

This place includes two gorges. At the end of the second gorge, there is a waterfall as high as 15 meters where you can dive into to

enjoy a natural shower!

The path to the first gorge includes a deep crack among tall mountains; rocks that in some cases are as high as 100 meters and even more and are the only path to the flat and level track between the two rocks. The height of surrounding rocks blocks the sunlight in most hours of the day and brings you a cool path. It would get even cooler when you have to pass most of the path through the water.

According to Let's Go Iran, after passing the 250-meter path in the first gorge, you reach a beautifully flat plain through which, after walking for almost 2000 meters in this gorgeous plain and along the river, you arrive in the second gorge.

If you keep walking through

the path of the second gorge, you would reach a not-so-high, but the gorgeous waterfall at the end of the path. Due to being located at the heart of the mountain, the path of the second gorge includes small but beautiful waterfalls pouring down the mountain.

The waterfall pours down a rock on which there is a depression that provides the possibility of going behind the waterfall and being surrounded by the waterfall and the rock.

The scarce plant galbanum, which has significant uses in industry and pharmacy, is found in Tangeh Vashi. Because of its scarcity, picking this plant is a crime and would lead to prosecution.

In addition to its beautiful nature, Tangeh Vashi enjoys numerous his-

torical works as well. One of the three famous inscriptions from the Qajar era is in this gorge. The inscription located at Tangeh Savashi is sis by seven meters around which the accidents of the Fath Ali Shah era are carved and narrated.

The largest relief of these inscriptions is the figure of the hunting ground with the picture of a horse, a spear, and the hunts around which we can see Abbas Mirza, Aliqoli Mirza, and Alinaqi Mirza, sons of Fath Ali Shah, as well as his descendants hunting. This inscription, which is almost 185 years old, is carved at the heart of the mountain in a way that it has been immune from rain and sunshine.

One of the souvenirs of Jalizjand village or Savashi is “Five-Herbs Doogh”. This local doogh contains the aromatic herbs of garden thyme, mint, thymus, and two types of pennyroyal. Plum sauce and sour Lavashak are among other souvenirs of this region.

## Bathhouses, mansions, cistern in North Khorasan made national heritage

TEHRAN – A total of 12 historical sites and aging structures scattered across North Khorasan province have recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts announced the inscriptions on Wednesday in a letter to the governor-general of the northeastern province, CHTN reported.

Five hammams (public bathhouses), four mansions and a cistern were among the properties added to the magnificent list.

Local travel insiders believe that traveling in North Khorasan is gaining momentum by degrees, creating lucrative opportunities for the tourism industry.

According to Lonely Planet, most foreign tourists pass straight through North Khorasan in transit between Mashhad and Gorgan, but if you have time to explore, it's worth diverting south from the capital, Bojnurd, towards Esfaraen, famed for its wrestling tournaments, the remarkable citadel of Belqays and the partly preserved stepped village of Roien some 20km north.

### Hammams in Iran

Bathhouses or ‘hammams’ in Iran were not



only places for bathing and cleaning up. They had a social concept for people who gathered at these places weekly.

It was a place where people talked with each other about their daily life and shared humor and news. There are still bathhouses in Iranian cities but they do not have their social function anymore since most people have bathrooms in their homes due to the modern lifestyle.

Some cities had separate bathhouses for men and women. They were usually built next to each other. However, there were some bathhouses, which were used by men and women at different times of the day.

There were also male and female public

bathhouses; at daybreak, a longhorn (booq-e javaz) was blown to announce that the bath was ready. Men came to the baths from daybreak till the afternoon. Women could use the bathhouses from then to sunset. In some cases, five days were allocated to men and two days to women.

Persian literature is full of proverbs, narrations, and folk stories about bathhouses, which indicate the importance of the place in the past time.

### Iranian Ab-Anbars (cisterns)

The term Ab-Anbar (cistern) is common throughout Iran as a designation for roofed underground water cisterns. It associates with water management systems in arid areas that are reliant on permanent springs or seasonal rainwater.

Such underground reservoirs or Ab-Anbars are parts of the iconic qanat systems, which rely on snow-fed streams flowing down from surrounding mountains. Qanats, according to UNESCO, provide exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate.

## Landscaping project on Sassanid fortress reaches its end

TEHRAN – A landscaping project has refurbished the surroundings of the imposing Falak-ol-Aflak Fortress that dominates the skyline of Khorramabad, the capital of Lorestan province in western Iran.

“For this purpose, traditional building materials have been utilized in accordance with the [architectural] elements of the fortress,” the provincial tourism chief said on Tuesday.

“Moreover, the landscaping was carried out according to a traditional pattern... for instance, the flooring was done using bricks and stones,” Seyyed Amin Qasemi said.

Also known as Falak-ol-Aflak Castle, the unmissable eight-towered



monument is one of the most visited travel destinations in the region for both domestic and foreign sightseers.

In the past couple of years, the historic castle was faced with lots of problems that were resolved in close

cooperation of provincial officials by the means of both essential and urgent repair projects.

The fortress dates from the Sassanid era (224–651). It seems particularly imposing and dramatic when floodlit at night, offering picturesque views of its encircling crenelated battlements.

The Sassanid era (224 CE–651) is of very high importance in Iranian history, under which Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance.

“The architecture of the Sassanid monuments in the property further illustrates early examples of construction of domes with squinches on square spaces, such as in

the Chahar-Taq buildings, where the four sides of the square room show arched openings: this architectural form turned into the most typical form of Sassanid religious architecture, relating closely to the expansion and stabilization of Zoroastrianism under Sassanid reign and continuing during the Islamic era thanks to its usage in religious and holy buildings such as mosques and tombs,” the UN cultural body says in its website.

The Sassanid archaeological landscape also represents a highly efficient system of land use and strategic utilization of natural topography in the creation of the earliest cultural centers of the Sassanid civilization.

## Iranian museums remain shut due to virus

TEHRAN- Countrywide museums and historical sites affiliated with Iran's Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts will remain closed due to the coronavirus outbreak, ISNA reported on Wednesday.

Although most businesses have reopened following the end of coronavirus restrictions in most cities, museums, historical sites, and landmarks remain closed to visitors by an order from the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control and the ministry of tourism, the report added.

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, almost all cultural heritage museums have remained shut as of April 7; some of them have reopened for a time due to the disease's decline and favorable conditions, but then they have been closed again.

### Museums at forefront of closures

Last November Mohammadreza Kargar, the director of museums and historical properties at the tourism ministry announced that Iranian museums have taken 1.7 trillion rials (some \$42 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000



rials per dollar) hit from the coronavirus outbreak over the previous months.

If the country was in normal condition, the museums would host over 25 million visitors, but now they have faced a huge loss as there is almost no visitor to the museums, he noted.

In October former Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan warned that Iran's cultural heritage and tourism will be in a critical situation if the crises are caused by the outbreak of the coronavirus continue.

With the outbreak of the coronavirus, museums were at the forefront of closures and for several months now, they have not had any revenue from the sale of tickets, Mounesan explained.

Currently, 740 museums are active across Iran, in which some three million historical

objects are being kept.

Iran is home to one of the world's oldest continuous civilizations, embracing settlements dating back to 4000 BC. It also hosts some of the world's oldest cultural monuments including bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, gardens, rich natural, rural landscapes as well as 26 UNESCO World Heritage sites.

The name of Iran, formerly known as Persia, mostly conjures up the first Persian Empire, ruled by the Achaemenids (ca. 550 – 330 BC) and sites such as Pasargadae and Persepolis. However, there are tens of prehistorical sites as the Burnt City in Sistan-Baluchestan, Tepe Sialk in Kashan, Susa, and Chogha Zanbil in the Khuzestan province, and Ecbatana in Hamedan which predate the Achaemenid period.

From a wider point of view, Iranian history can be divided into Pre-Islamic and Islamic eras. The Medes unified Iran as a nation and empire in 625 BC. The Islamic conquest of Persia (633–656) that put an end to the mighty Sassanid Empire (224–651) was a turning point in the history of the nation.

within two months, the official added.

The historical bazaar of Ardabil was once an important trade center during the Safavid era (1501–1736). At that time, Ardabil had a special prestige and enjoyed a remarkable political, social, and cultural status.

Inscribed on the National Heritage list in 1985, the bazaar was extensively restored during Qajar-era (1789–1925).

In the Iranian culture, bazaars have been traditional public spaces in the Iranian cities with great contributions to commercial activities in urban life meanwhile their extended activities can be traced to social, cultural, political, and religious roles. People watching and even mingling with them in the bazaars is one of the best ways to take the pulse of the country. Bazaars have traditionally been major economic and social centers in any Iranian city.

Most mazes and passages offer certain commodities such as carpets, metalwork, toys, clothing, jewelry, and kitchen appliances,

traditional spices, herbal remedies, and natural perfumes. One can also bump into colorful grocery stores, bookbinders, blacksmiths, tinsmiths, coppersmiths, tobacconists, tailors, flag sellers, broadcloth sellers, carpenters, shoemakers, and knife-makers.

Several divided carpet sections across the bazaar enable visitors to watch or buy hand-woven Persian carpets and rugs with different knot densities and other features. From another point of view, bazaars are also synonyms of foods, with their unmissable colorful stalls of vegetables, herbs, and spices. Yet, most of these ingredients might be mysterious to a foreign eye.

Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, whose altitude averages 3,000 meters above sea level, Ardabil is well-known for having lush natural beauties, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition. The province is very cold in winter and mild in summer, attracting thousands every year. The capital city of Ardabil is usually recorded as one of the coldest cities in the country in winter.

## People watching in bazaars is one of the best ways to take the pulse of the country.

## Domes of historic bazaar of Ardabil being restored



TEHRAN – Domes of Zargaran covered passage of the Seljuk-era (1037–1194) bazaar of Ardabil, which is situated in northwest Iran, have undergone some rehabilitation works, Ardabil's tourism chief has announced.

A budget of four billion rials (\$95,200 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been allocated to the project, which is being carried out in collaboration with the shop owners, Mohammadreza Shayeqi said on Wednesday.

The project is scheduled to be completed

## UNWTO invites all to celebrate World Tourism Day

TEHRAN – The United Nations World Tourism Organization has invited all member states, businesses, and individuals to celebrate the upcoming World Tourism Day in an intervention to support the virus-hit industry.

“UNWTO invites its member states, as well as non-members, sister UN agencies, businesses, and individuals to celebrate tourism's unique ability to ensure that nobody is left behind as the world begins to open up again and look to the future,” the UN body wrote in a press release.

The COVID-19 pandemic has had a massive social and economic impact. Both developed and developing economies have been hit. And marginalized groups and the most vulnerable have been hit hardest of all, the UNWTO said.

Authorities of the organization believe the restart of tourism would help kickstart recovery and growth. And its benefits must be enjoyed widely and fairly.

UNWTO has designated World Tourism Day 2021 as a day to focus on tourism for inclusive growth aimed to grasp an opportunity to look



beyond tourism statistics and acknowledge, saying “behind every number, there is a person”.

World Tourism Day, celebrated each year on September 27, is the global observance day fostering awareness of tourism's social, cultural, political, and economic value and the contribution that the sector can make towards reaching sustainable development goals.



# Are Iran’s actions sufficient for adapting to climate change?

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – Climate change has been a major environmental concern for decades, and international agreements have required countries, including Iran, to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and use fossil fuels. However, some experts believe that our country's actions in this area have been insufficient.

Although climate change and global warming may occur as part of natural processes due to fluctuations in sunlight intensity, deviations in the Earth's path, and volcanic activity; after the Industrial Revolution and the increasing consumption of fossil fuels, the earth is increasingly under the impact of human activities.

Greenhouse gases emitted from sources such as cars, airplanes, landfills, etc., cause global warming in the long run, and in the short term, will cause more severe and unusual weather events such as increased floods and droughts.

Since 1992, climate change has attracted the world's attention, following the UN Convention on Climate Change, which aims to stabilize the volume of greenhouse gases in the Earth's atmosphere to prevent future climate problems.

The Paris Agreement was ratified in 2015 with the participation of 174 countries and the European Union within the framework of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

The purpose of the Paris Agreement is to control climate change by reducing greenhouse gas emissions by countries and preventing global warming by more than 2 degrees Celsius and trying to limit it to 1.5 degrees Celsius. Currently, Iran is a member of the international treaty.

Hossein Khajepour, a faculty



member at the Sharif University of Technology, pointing to the impact of human action and greenhouse gas emissions on climate change by 50 percent, highlighted that the remaining 50 percent is beyond human control and solar activity is the most important factor.

Not serious actions taken on reducing climate change in Iran, while developed countries are taking ambitious action nationally, with 36 countries seeking to zero greenhouse gas emissions; so that Iran ranks sixth greenhouse gas emitter in the world, he explained.

Referring to the 40 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions in the European Union, he said that "These changes make us know that oil can be used other than incineration and the country can take advantage of opportunities in this area."

Amir Sarkardeh, a meteorologist, stated that in temporal variability, the rainfall that should occur during

the year for a city falls in a few days, and in spatial variability, annual precipitation decreases than before.

Criticizing the infrastructure for adaptation to climate change in the country, he said that "While everyone in the world is concerned about climate change, there has been no adaptation policies in the country, as well as crisis management."

## Iran working with Green Climate Fund

The Department of Environment (DOE) is working with the United Nations Green Climate Fund (GCF), under the auspices of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), to reduce the effects of climate change.

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Department of Environment (DOE), as the National Designated Authority (NDA) of Green Climate Fund (GCF), partnered to bring together local, national, and international stakeholders in a three-day

workshop, the last one in a series of iterative events held under the project "Green Climate Fund Readiness and Preparatory Program of Iran."

The GCF Readiness Project has contributed to the Low Carbon Economy and Climate Change Outcome of the current United Nations Development Assistance Framework and has been able to achieve all of its planned results over the past two years. The project focused on empowering the NDA and strengthening capacity in the country. Moreover, different mechanisms, procedures, frameworks, and strategies were developed during the project's lifetime.

## Sustainable Development Goal

The Sustainable Development Goal 13 is a global call to action to end poverty, protect the earth's environment and climate, and ensure that people everywhere can enjoy peace and prosperity; it includes "strengthening resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards and natural disasters in all countries, integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning.

Improving education, awareness-raising, and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning; implement the commitment undertaken by developed-country parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change to a goal of mobilizing jointly \$100 billion annually by 2020.

Promoting mechanisms for raising capacity for effective climate change-related planning and management in the least developed countries and small island developing States, including focusing on women, youth and local and marginalized communities."

## Iran ranks sixth greenhouse gas emitter in the world.

## Pastu Covac vaccine approved for children under 18

TEHRAN – Pastu Covac, developed jointly by the Pasteur Institute of Iran and Cuba's Finlay Vaccine Institute, is the only homegrown vaccine that includes use in children aged under 18.

Pastu Covac is one of the safest vaccines available for injection in children aging 2-18, Alireza Biglari, head of the Pasteur Institute said.

He went on to say that the Ministry of Health will announce the plan to inject the vaccine into children within the next two weeks.

The study of Pastu Covac (called Soberana 02 in Cuba) was performed in Cuba on children and the emergency use license has been obtained, he added.

The results of the study showed that this vaccine should be injected in adults with a booster dose, but in children, a third dose is not needed and 2 doses are enough to achieve immunization, he highlighted.

Pastu Covac vaccine is a conjugate vaccine with two injectable doses. It consists of the re-



ceptor-binding domain of the SARS-CoV-2 spike protein conjugated chemically to tetanus toxoid.

The two first phases of the human trial have been conducted in Cuba, while the third phase was carried out on 24,000 volunteers in Iran and 44,000 volunteers in Cuba.

It is the only vaccine in the world that can fight several mutations simultaneously, Biglari

said in July.

## Homegrown vaccines

Made by researchers at the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, COVIRAN BAREKAT was unveiled on December 29, 2020, and received the license for public use on June 14.

It proved effective against Indian strain, according to Hojjat Niki-Maleki, head of the information center of Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam.

Eleven countries from Asia and South America, and a European country have asked for importing COVIRAN vaccine, Hassan Jalili, the vaccine's production manager, said in June.

According to the Food and Drug Administration, 14 vaccines are being domestically developed in the country which are in different study phases.

Pastu Covac is another homegrown vaccine, which has received the emergency use license, after COVIRAN.

## Iran vs. “unsanctioned” countries: who dealt better with the pandemic?

From page 1 ► In this study, the “population” of countries according to the statistics of 2019 and the COVID-19 mortality rate has been extracted from the worldometers.info website from the beginning of the outbreak till August 21, when the number of coronavirus-related deaths in Iran was about 100,000 people.

The United States has a population of about 328 million which is almost 4 times of the 83 million population of Iran. However, the infection claimed the lives of about 640,000 Americans.

Given that the U.S. population is about 4 times that of Iran, if the “medical facilities” and “access to medical equip-

ment” are “equal” in both countries, the U.S. should have lost 400,000 people, however, 640,000 people have died of coronavirus, which means the U.S. battle against the pandemic has been 62 percent worse than Iran's.

The population of Brazil is about 211 million, which is about 2.5 times of Iran's population. But 570,000 Brazilians died of the virus.

Given Brazil's population in comparison to Iran, the death toll should have been a maximum of 250,000. In other words, Brazil's management has been 125 percent weaker than Iran's.

Considering Russia's population of

about 145 million, or about 1.75 times that of Iran, coronavirus mortality has been estimated at 173,000. In other words, Russia's management has been only one percent better than Iran's. Moreover, Russia has the technology to make vaccines and has given some to Iran.

Germany and Iran both have an equal population of 83 million, while the death toll in Germany was estimated at about 92,000, which is

slightly less than in Iran. So that, Germany, with all its facilities, has managed the pandemic only 8 percent better than Iran.

## Iran controlled the pandemic 94 percent better than the United Kingdom.

If “medical facilities” and “access to resources” were “equal” in both France

and Iran, the pandemic should have killed a maximum of 80,000. So, the management of France has been 49 percent worse.

Italyans with a population of 60 million, 28 percent less than Iranians, have lost 128,000 people due to the infection. In comparison to Iran, Italy's death toll should have been 72,000. In other words, Iran fought the pandemic 77 percent better than Italy.

Given that 56 million people are living in the United Kingdom, a population of 33 percent less than Iran, the pandemic claimed the lives of about 131,000 British people.

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## Flora of Iran

(Part 11)

Dwarf scrub is rich in species and highly differentiated, as Zohary (1963; 1973) was the first to establish. He distinguished a large number of associations between the predominant dwarf shrubs and accompanying species, for example, *Artemisia fragrans* and *Atraphaxis spinosa*, *Artemisia herba-alba* and *Stipa hohenackeriana*, *Artemisia herba-alba* and *Ephedra intermedia*, *Artemisia herba-alba* and *Zygophyllum atriplicoides*. Some of the associations serve as transitions to associations with thorn cushions: Zohary mentioned among others *Artemisietum herbae-albae astra galetosum glaucacanthi*, *Astragaletum phyllokentri*, and *Artemisietum herbae-albae astragaletosum gossypini*. Within *Artemisia* the species *Artemisia fragrans* and *Artemisia herba-alba* predominate (for the large number of species in this genus, see Zohary, 1963, 1973).

Dwarf scrub formations are subject to heavy grazing and use as fuel. As a result, thorny plants can be equally dominant or even predominant (e.g., *Astragalus glaucacanthus*, *Astragalus phyllokentrus*, and *Astragalus squarrosus*). A special feature of the Irano-Anatolian vegetation zone at the subalpine and lower alpine belts of the Alborz and Zagros mountains between 2000 and 3000 m are tall umbelliferae communities (*Prangetea ulopterae*) and xerophytic orophilous thorn cushions (*Onobrychidetia cornutae*), which seem to proceed from thermophilous pleistocene juniper stands after their destruction by man. Common discriminant factors for their development are a level of precipitation between 900 and 1300 mm, 50% of which falls in spring; a summer period of four months almost totally free from precipitation; and a rather cold thermal regime (Kürschner, 1986). They have been studied in detail by Klein (1987, 1988). Especially in Khorasan, the degraded *Juniperus* woodlands were obviously invaded by thorn cushions, an indication that these extensive units of thorn cushions are often secondary and would inhabit much smaller areas under natural conditions.

Terrestrial herbaceous communities. Herbaceous meadows play an important role in the mountains, especially in the subalpine and alpine belts. Although they do not cover such large surfaces as the dwarf scrub, they encompass a large number of endemic species of the genera *Salvia*, *Phlomis*, *Nepeta*, *Eryngium*, *Ferula*, *Euphorbia*, *Rheum*, *Cousinia*, *Onopordon*, and others. In the highlands herbs frequently occur in association with dwarf scrub, for example *Rheum* ribes in the area between Kermān and Sīrjān. Originally, grasses probably played a greater role in the vegetation units of the Persian highland than they do today. They have been sharply reduced through millennia of overgrazing. In formations of dwarf scrub species of *Stipa* and *Stipagrostis* can predominate. The semidesert scrub of the Persian Gulf region turns green during the heavy rainfalls of late winter and spring; annual grasses play the most important role in this greening.

Herbaceous and semi-woody salt swamps (PLATE IX). Characteristic of the extensive saline depressions in Persia are plant communities of *Halocnemum strobilaceum*, species of *Salsola*, *Salicornia* described by Mobayen and Tregubov (1970). The innermost zone includes only *Halocnemum strobilaceum*. It is succeeded by a mixed formation of that species and *Limonium carnosum*. Next is a band of *Limonium carnosum*, *Atriplex verruciferum*, and *Salsola incanescens*, then plants of the surrounding dwarf-scrub formations, like *Artemisia herba-alba* and *Alhagi camelorum*.

On other salt flats the zone of *Halocnemum* is succeeded by a zone of tamarisks and small *Seidlitzia rosmarinus* bushes. On the shores of the Maʼarī salt lake near Shiraz Reinhold Carle and Wolfgang Frey (1977; cf. also Frey, 1982; idem and Kürschner, 1983) established the following sequence of vegetation zones: *Salicornia europaea* and *Haloepelis pygmaea* on the innermost edge; next a band with such additional halophytes as species of *Suaeda*, *Spergularia marina*, *Cressa cretica*, *Polypogon monspeliensis*, species of *Cyperus*, *Aeluropus littoralis*, *Frankenia persica*, and *Frankenia pulverulenta*; and on the outer margins *Juncus rigidus* and *Juncus subulatus*.

(Source: Encyclopaedia Iranica)



*europaea*, *Halocharis sulphurea*, *Cressa cretica*, *Haloepelis pygmaea*, *Noaea mucronata*, species of *Anabasis* and *Suaeda*, *Spergularia marina*, *Bieneria cyclop-tera*, and species of *Aeluropus*, *Frankenia*, and *Juncus*. Shrubs such as *Tamarix aphylla*, *Tamarix passerinoides*, *Tamarix hispida*, *Tamarix laxa*, *Prosopis farcta*, species of *Haloxylon*, and *Seidlitzia rosmarinus* also play an important role.

The distribution of plants on the salt plains differs greatly. This vegetation complex is still one of the least known on the Persian highland. According to geographic and climatic data, four types of biotopes can be distinguished: the salt flats (kavʼrs) of the central Persian endorheic basin; the shores of the salt lakes; the coastal areas along the Persian Gulf with marked tides and a hot, dry climate; and the southern Caspian coast, characterized by a generally constant water-level and a fairly humid climate. The salt concentration in these habitats is different, which is reflected in a marked succession of vegetation zones. One example from each of the four main biotopes for halophytes will serve as a brief illustration. The characteristic zonal division of the vegetation on the margins of the Dašt-e Qazvīn has been described by Mobayen and Tregubov (1970). The innermost zone includes only *Halocnemum strobilaceum*. It is succeeded by a mixed formation of that species and *Limonium carnosum*. Next is a band of *Limonium carnosum*, *Atriplex verruciferum*, and *Salsola incanescens*, then plants of the surrounding dwarf-scrub formations, like *Artemisia herba-alba* and *Alhagi camelorum*.

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(Source: Encyclopaedia Iranica)

If the two countries had an equal amount of “medical facilities” and “access to resources”, only 67,000 people would have died. So that, Iran controlled the disease 94 percent better than the United Kingdom.

The last country to compare with Iran is Spain, which is home to 47 million people, showing 43 percent less population compared to Iran.

If the conditions in Iran and Spain are assumed to be equal, the pandemic-related deaths should have been reported at 56,000, but now it has killed 83,000 people. So, the management of Spain has been 46 percent weaker.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Iran pioneer in cancer innovation, research among Islamic countries

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

Referring to the great progress in cancer research, he said that “We have been able to play a role in this area globally.”

He added that one of the hopes for early detection of cancer is the use of urine and blood tests for people who are susceptible to cancer.

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

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

## ایران بیشترین نوآوری و تحقیقات سرطان را بین کشورهای اسلامی دارد

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

دکتر رضا ملک زاده روز شنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار علمی ایرنا با اشاره به اینکه ما در زمینه تحقیقات سرطان پیشرفت های خیلی خوبی داشتیم، گفت: ما در سطح جهانی هم توانستیم در این حوزه نقش آفرین باشیم.

وی افزود: یکی از امیدهای خیلی روشن برای تشخیص زودرس سرطان، استفاده از آزمایش ادرار و خون برای افرادی است که استعداد سرطان را دارند.

معاون وزیر بهداشت گفت: در ایران تحقیقات خیلی خوبی در زمینه بومارکهای ادراری و خونی در دست اجرا داریم و امیدواریم با این کار، امکان کنترل سرطان ها در کشور میسر شود. ملک زاده با اشاره به اینکه در حال حاضر تعداد ۲۵۰ هزار مبتلا به سرطان در کشور داریم، گفت: هر سال حدود ۵۰ هزار نفر براثر این بیماری می‌میرند و ۱۲۵ هزار بیمار جدید اضافه می شوند. در نتیجه هرساله تعداد مبتلایان این بیماری بیشتر می شود.

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON SEPTEMBER 8

New cases	26,854
New deaths	538
Total cases	5,210,978
Total deaths	112,430
New hospitalized patients	3,713
Patients in critical condition	7,534
Total recovered patients	4,453,651
Diagnostic tests conducted	29,791,562
Doses of vaccine injected	31,450,694



