

Baghdad Talks Pave the Way for Iranian-Saudi Rapprochement

▶ Page 3

Opinion

Industry Ministry determined on massive offering of goods through commodity exchange

By Mahnaz Abdi

In a bid to bring transparency of prices to the markets of some major goods, Iran's government is determined to offer such commodities through the commodity exchange.

Steel is one of those commodities being offered through Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME).

Iranian steel industry, which plays a significant role both in materializing the country's motto of achieving self-reliance and in boosting the non-oil exports, has been in a development route in recent years.

Reports released by renowned international organizations such as World Steel Association (WSA) show that how the Iranian steel industry has been constantly developing against all the pressures and obstacles created by outside forces like the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus outbreak that has severely affected the performance of the world's top producers.

The steel sector is being noticeably developed, and through implementing different projects in recent years a good market has been formed for the steel and steel products, but there is still some controversy over the prices, and some dispute between the upstream and downstream industries in this regard.

Offering the complete steel chain in Iran Mercantile Exchange is said to be the solution to this problem.

It is believed to put an end to all the challenges in terms of price, as this strategy will let the market discover the real price, considering the benefits of upstream and downstream units.

Also as stated by the IME Managing Director Hamed Soltaninejad, the IME lays the ground for transparent competition.

"Transparency should not be just for some sectors of the industry, while the whole industry including the downstream sector should enjoy transparent condition", according to Soltaninejad.

Cement is the other strategic product to be offered through commodity exchange. ▶ Page 4

Report

High Qatari delegation visits Afghanistan

In the highest-level foreign visit to Kabul since the Taliban seized the capital last month, Qatar's foreign minister has held talks with the new prime minister of Afghanistan.

Qatar's foreign ministry says Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman Al-Thani called upon the country's new rulers to "involve all Afghan parties in national reconciliation" when he met Prime Minister Mullah Muhammad Hasan Akhund.

According to the Qatar foreign ministry, Sheikh Mohammed and the new Afghan Premier Akhund also discussed "concerted efforts to combat terrorist organizations that threaten the stability of Afghanistan", ways to enhance peace in the country and the safe passage of people.

According to the Taliban, Sheikh Mohammed met the Prime Minister and a number of other senior ministers, a Taliban spokesman said.

"The meeting focused on bilateral relations, humanitarian assistance, economic development and interaction with the world"

Sunday's meeting in the presidential palace was attended by a number of other Afghan ministers including Deputy Prime Minister Abdul Salam Hanafi, Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi, Defense Minister Yaqoob Mujahid, Interior Minister Sirajuddin Haqqani and intelligence chief Abdul Haq Wasiq. ▶ Page 5



Addiction of Zionism to Killing
The regime is choking democracy despite of the claim.



© Mehr, Marwan Kamvab

Vice president says Iran-Iraq cooperation will help stabilize the region

TEHRAN - Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber said on Sunday that cooperation between Tehran and Baghdad will help stabilize the region.

Mokhber made the remarks in a meeting with Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi in Tehran late on Sunday.

Mokhber pointed to the capacities of the two countries, especially in the economic field, saying that Tehran and Baghdad can broaden cooperation by relying on their capacities.

Referring to huge capacity of Iran's public and private sectors, especially in the engineering field,

he voiced Iran's readiness to participate in Iraq's reconstruction.

For his part, the Iraqi prime minister underscored the importance of the Khorramshar-Basra railway project which can connect China's railway to the Mediterranean Sea. ▶ Page 2

STAY UPDATED #KadhimiVisit

Grossi confirms demolition of IAEA surveillance cameras in Iran attributed to Mossad

TEHRAN — IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi said on Monday that an accident at Iran's Karaj nuclear plant attributed by many to Mossad may have destroyed some of the IAEA's monitoring equipment.

Grossi did not mention who caused the incident, but said the data loss was a negative development and appeared to disapprove of sabotage acts against the Iranian nuclear facilities.

Subsequently, he claimed that his Agency does not know how much monitoring data has been lost regarding the Iranian nuclear program from its broken and damaged cameras.

"We have yet to see the extent of the gap," Grossi said, qualifying that he hoped other IAEA monitoring

redundancies would help uncover any missing data from individual cameras.

Grossi has not yet explained how or why the cameras were broken or damaged.

Driven by the fact that the Islamic Republic has ignored pressure by him to explain about alleged illicit nuclear material and undeclared nuclear sites for nearly two years, he replied, "More or less hard is in the eye of the beholder."

On Sunday, Grossi said he had a new agreement with the new Iranian government to allow immediate "assistance" of its monitoring equipment, as well as plans for follow-up meetings by the end of September with top Iranian officials.



© IRNA

Fakhra vaccine enters third phase of human test

TEHRAN — The third phase of the Fakhra vaccine's human trial started on Monday by being administrated to 40,000 volunteers, IRIB reported.

Fakhra vaccine, the third domestically-developed COVID-19 vaccine, named after nuclear scientist Mohsen Fakhri-zadeh, who was assassinated in November last year near Tehran, was unveiled and started the clinical trial on March 16.

Through the first phase, some 135 people have received the vaccine, but the second phase was conducted on 500 people. ▶ Page 4

Interview

Persepolis more experienced than Istiklol: expert

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Reza Torabian says that Persepolis are more experienced than their rival, Istiklol of Tajikistan, but they will have a serious challenge on Tuesday.

Iran league's five-time winners in the last five season and runner-up of the last edition of the AFC Champions League (ACL) have traveled to the Tajik capital to face the Istiklol side in the 2021 ACL Round of 16.

Torabian, who has played and scored for Persepolis in continental competition during his spell, expressed his concerns about the Tajik team.

"They are an unknown team, and the Iranian teams have rarely played against Tajik's representatives in the recent years. Istiklol defeated Saudi's Al Hilal in the group stage with a shock 4-1 win, and they proved their strength against big rivals.

"Persepolis have been runners-up in two of the last three seasons of the AFC Champions League. So, they are more experienced than their rivals and are the favorites to win the game," said the former Standard Liege player.

"Tajikistan's football has improved a lot in the recent years. Moreover, they have the advantage of playing at home and in front of their supporters. They have an artificial turf, making the condition more difficult for Yahya Golmohammadi's side, which are used to playing in natural turf. So, nothing is easy for Persepolis, and it is a tough test for our team," he added. ▶ Page 3

From Inside

- Iran sets foot in backyard of the U.S. **P2**
- Ex-nuclear chief: Agreement with IAEA prevent inventing excuses **P2**
- Russian envoy begins economic consultations **P2**
- IAEA access to cameras' memory is subject to agreement: spokesman **P3**
- Azerbaijan inspecting Iranian trucks traveling to Armenia: report **P3**
- Tehran hosting intl. exhibition of construction industry **P4**
- Energy Ministry to implement program for improving hydropower plants **P4**
- 'Domestic production of industrial machinery needed' **P4**
- Persian mosque in Russia to undergo restoration **P6**
- Iran and Iraq agree to ease visa restrictions **P6**
- Govt. supports 7,000 technological projects in 8 years **P7**
- 'No red lines in importing COVID vaccines, even Pfizer and Moderna' **P7**
- SDSs, drying wetlands increasing alarmingly **P7**
- IBBY picks three Iranian books for Honor List 2020 **P8**
- 'Sami', 'Parizad' honored at Kazan International Muslim Film Festival **P8**
- 'Echo', 'Haboob' to compete in Portugal CineEco festival **P8**

Interview

U.S. invaded Afghanistan in order to loot its mineral wealth: philosopher

By M. A. Saki

TEHRAN - A retired professor of philosophy at the University of Minnesota says the U.S. war on Afghanistan was intended to loot the country's mineral wealth. "Osama bin Laden had nothing to do with 9/11," James Fetzer claims.

"The U.S. invaded Afghanistan in order to loot its vast mineral wealth - including the largest lithium deposit outside of Bolivia, where lithium is used for components in computers, triggers for nuclear devices, and electric car batteries - and to resurrect the poppy fields," Fetzer tells the Tehran Times.

After the U.S. exit from Afghanistan, many critics have raised questions about the reasons for the twenty-year war waged under the pretext of fighting terrorism.

Unlike American officials who say that the war was launched to track down down terrorist groups, some political observers point to economic interests that attracted Americans to Afghanistan.

The other question is if America is serious in combating terrorism, why it refused to collaborate with other powers in this regard. Despite the role of despotic regimes like Saudi Arabia in supporting extremism, Washington prefers to turn a blind eye to their activities and instead considers regional powers like Iran as a sponsor of terrorism.

"AIPAC exercises massive influence over Congress and Israel over the media. Taking out Gen. Soleimani was a colossal blunder, where Bibi convinced him that Qassem Soleimani was orchestrating terrorists in the region when the opposite was true," Fetzer argues.

Following is the text of the interview:

How do the American public view the U.S. exit from Afghanistan? Republicans are blaming Biden. But what about ordinary people?

Recent polling from Rasmussen showed 52% disapproving of Biden's presidency, where the numbers critical of his clumsy and misconceived withdrawal from Afghanistan are easily in the 70%. College students are chanting, "F--- Joe Biden!" at football games. Only die-hard liberals continue to support him. Even progressives are critical. ▶ Page 5

Amir Abdollahian: Iran having internal consultations on how to continue Vienna talks

TEHRAN — In a telephone conversation on Monday, British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab spoke with his Iranian counterpart and congratulated him on his appointment.

Raab also expressed hope that following the establishment of a new administration in the Islamic Republic of Iran, relations and interactions between the two countries would expand in various fields based on mutual understanding.

In the conversation, Amir Abdollahian, while expressing regret over the effects of the wrong policies of the United States and some Western countries towards Afghanistan, said achieving security and stability in the country ▶ Page 2

Vice president says Iran-Iraq cooperation will help stabilize the region

From page 1 ► Khorramshahr is port city in southwestern province of Khuzestan and Basra is a city in southeastern Iraq.

The prime minister added creating infrastructures such as roads can strengthen strategic co-operation between the two countries and make the dream of the Mashhad-Karbala-Najaf highway come true.

Mashhad is a shrine city in northeast Iran. Karbala and Najaf are also shrine cities in Iraq.

“Deepening ties Iran-Iraq ties will have positive effect on neighbors”

In a separate meeting, Iranian Parliament speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf said “deepening ties” between Iran and Iraq will have positive effect on the region, including neighbors.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Qalibaf said extra-regional countries have been seeking to create insecurity in the region.

“It has been proven to us that extra-regional countries never take decisions to serve the interests of Iran and Iraq, and the two countries should resolve problems by relying on their capacities,” the parliament speaker remarked.

Heading a high-ranking political and economic delegation, the Iraqi prime minister visited Tehran on Sunday morning for talks with top Iranian officials about bilateral relations, issues of mutual interest as well as regional and international developments.

Prior to the prime minister’s visit to Tehran an Iraqi government source said Kadhimi will raise “issues of security, energy, and relations between Saudi Arabia and Iran” with Raisi.

Prime Minister al-Kadhimi first held talks with new Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi who has said his administration prioritizes developing relations with neighbors and regional countries.

During the meeting, Raisi said closer economic cooperation will benefit the nations of Iran and Iraq.

The relations between the two nations go beyond the geographical and neighborly levels, Raisi said, adding that nothing can damage the unshakable bond between the two nations, IRNA reported.

President Raisi called for implementation of the agreed projects, saying an enhanced mutual cooperation is instrumental for economic progress in the region.

Raisi also called for efforts to speed up implementing the Basra-Shalamchah railway project.

President Ebrahim also called on Iraq to pay its debts to Iran. Iran is a major supplier of electricity and gas to Iraq.

Reportedly, Baghdad currently owes Tehran six billion dollars for energy supplied.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Raisi said Iran supports intra-regional dialogue without intervention of foreign states.

He also called for decisive investigation into the political and legal aspects of the assassinations of martyrs General Qassem Soleimani and Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis by legal and international bodies.

In a joint press conference with the visiting Iraqi prime minister, Raisi said despite what enemies of the two nations intend, Iran and Iraq will expand their relations at all levels with every passing day.

“Despite what enemies want, relations between Iran and Iraq will expand every day... [because] development of bilateral relations can boost the role that Tehran and Baghdad play in regional and global relations, and will strengthen international relations as well,” Press TV quoted Raisi as saying.

Referring to the “good news” by the Iraqi premier about the waiver of travel visas for the two countries, Raisi said despite special conditions that the two countries and the entire world are facing due to the Coronavirus pandemic, Kadhimi has promised to increase the number of Iranian pilgrims who want to head to the holy Iraqi city of Karbala to commemorate Arbreen, the 40th day after the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Shia Imam.

“Mr. al-Kadhimi told us about the waiver of visa between the two countries and this was a good news,” the president pointed out.

Reportedly, Kadhimi’s office has said that 60,000 Iranian pilgrims would be allowed to attend Arbreen rituals, up from 30,000 previously announced.

Last year, Iraq banned foreign pilgrims traveling to the country for Arbreen due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Every year on Arbreen, millions of people from around the world flock to Karbala. Large groups of mourners travel on foot toward the holy city to take part in the largest annual Islamic gathering on earth. The ceremony falls on September 27 this year.

At the press conference Prime Minister Kadhimi also lauded Iran’s support for his country in the fight against the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group, emphasizing that the Iraqi government and nation will never forget Iran’s support in this regard.

Iran stood by the Iraqi people from the very beginning in the fight against Daesh terrorists and the Iraqi people will always be thankful for Tehran’s support, Kadhimi said.

He emphasized that Iraq pursues a fixed and stable position vis-à-vis Iran, reaffirming his country’s constant support for the Iranian people and government in all fields.

He noted that he held talks with the Iranian president on ways to expand mutual relations, saying that both Tehran and Baghdad are resolute to develop ties to serve the two nations’ interests.

TEHRAN - Now, with a serious test of Iran’s naval capability for a long-term mission in distant waters, Iran has set its feet in the backyard of the Americans in the North Atlantic Ocean or any other body of water in the world.

The 75th Naval Fleet of the Army, consisting of Makran big ship and Sahand destroyer, finally entered the territorial waters of Iran in the past few days after 133 days of navigation and 44,000 kilometers of sea route in the most unprecedented mission in the history of Navy of Iran’s Army and docked in Bander Abbas, Fars reported on Sunday.

What sets this mission distinct from its previous seventy-four missions is not only the long, without docking journey along the route, but also Iran’s first presence in the North Atlantic, which has always been considered the backyard of the United States, Britain and France.

The beginning of the adventurous mission of the 75th Fleet dates back to May 2. The Makran warship and the Sahand destroyer, both of which among Iran’s indigenous defense achievements, are embarking on a mission that have been under the scrutiny of Western countries and international security analysts from the very beginning.

At the beginning of the fleet’s journey, the Western media, citing satellite images that showed several speedboats on the deck of the Makran warship, concluded that the fleet’s destination would be Venezuela and that Iran intends to provide these high-speed missile launchers to Venezuela to challenge the U.S. Navy in the Caribbean. This goes so far that the Politico website quotes three informed American sources as saying “the U.S. national security community is monitoring two Iranian naval vessels whose ultimate destination may be Venezuela. U.S. officials do not know for sure the destination of the Iranian ships, these officials said, but believe they may be ultimately headed for Venezuela.”

Politico, however, goes on to acknowledge that the presence of Iranian warships in the U.S. backyard is a challenge to U.S. hegemony in the region.

Makran navigator in the North Atlantic Ocean

Shortly afterwards, on June 10, U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austen, in response to a question from Democratic Sen. Richard Blumenthal in a hearing in Congress, expressed concern about the presence of two Iranian warships that, according to some reports, may be heading to Venezuela. “I am deeply concerned about the proliferation of weapons of any kind in the American neighborhood.”

Such analyses continue in Western circles, and they are every day proposing Venezuela as the destination of this fleet, unaware that the main destination of Sahand and Makran is somewhere else! However, on June 21, Admiral Amir Sayyari, the Deputy Chief of the Army of the Islamic Republic of Iran for Coordination Affairs, held a press conference and, without mentioning the destination of the fleet, announced that Sahand and Makran are now in the Atlantic Ocean and will sail to the North Atlantic.

With this announcement, the Westerners realized that they had been confused about the destination of this

Iran sets foot in backyard of the U.S.



fleet so far, but this confusion persisted, because they continued to state other destinations for the fleet, including Lebanon and Syria, which again showed their ignorance of the destination of the fleet.

Finally, in the mid days of July, Sahand and Makran, sailing in the North Atlantic, sailed to the English Channel (the waterway between Britain and France), at which point the Westerners discovered the destination of the fleet, which is the port of St. Petersburg, Russia.

In September 2020, Russia invited Iran to participate in a naval parade marking the 125th anniversary of the founding of its navy; in February, the Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces agreed to send the 75th Naval Fleet to St. Petersburg, after which preparations for were made for the mission, and finally on May 2 the Sahand and Makran sailing began.

With the start of the Fleet 75 mission on the above date, the fleet arrived in the port of St. Petersburg on the July 25, and the Sahand destroyer proudly participated in the naval parade on the anniversary of the founding of the Russian navy. The event was attended by three foreign countries: Iran, India and Pakistan.

For long-haul journeys, flotilla units usually have to dock at ports in order to meet their needs, while in the 75th Fleet mission, due to U.S. sanctions and the imposition of its will on African countries, it was impossible to provide support and mooring services in their ports.

Last year, however, a capacity called the Makran big ship was created in the Navy, which made it unnecessary to dock at any port for long-term navigation. The Makran big ship is in fact a mobile and multi-purpose naval base that meets a wide range of operational and intelligence needs in the field of electronics, UAVs, missiles and

helicopters and supports a variety of ships and vessels with long-term durability in the seas and oceans.

Only three countries in the world, the United States, China and Iran, have such a ship as Makran big ship, and today the navy will be able to be present in any part of the world using the Makran.

Dangerous route and epic of Sahand in most violent waters of world

The route taken by the Navy’s 75th Fleet, especially in the Cape of Good Hope and the Atlantic Ocean, is one of the most violent water areas in the world due to ocean currents, including the Gulf Stream, and sea power is usually high in these areas, which can be dangerous for many ships.

In general, the Cape of Good Hope and the Atlantic Ocean are known as ship cemeteries in the maritime terms because of these characteristics, as the harsh conditions of this body of water have sent many ships of lower tonnage to the bottom of the sea. It is even worth mentioning that most of the maritime industries operating in the African countries of the Atlantic are involved in the reconstruction of shipwrecks in these areas.

Naturally, crossing such a waterway is not a major challenge for the Makran big ship due to its high tonnage (121,000 tons), but for the native Sahand destroyer weighing 1,300 tons, crossing the roaring waves in very unfavorable Atlantic conditions is a record and unprecedented challenge which Sahand was able to defy this challenge proudly.

Crossing American threats!

In addition to the natural challenges facing the 75th Fleet, there was a perceived threat to the fleet: maritime terrorism and machinations of the United States.

Of course, the fleet did not face any

threat of maritime terrorism during the mission, but the godfather of terrorists, namely the U.S. Army, tried to identify and obtain information from the fleet on three occasions. In all three cases, Sahand and Makran, using electronic warfare equipment, prevented the United States from carrying out its intended activities.

The Seahawk helicopter, the RQ-4 drone and the P-8 reconnaissance and patrol aircraft were the three American aircraft that tried to obtain information from the fleet during the mission.

Attending the backyard of America

The North Atlantic region has long been the backyard of the United States, Britain, and France because other countries have either not wanted to or have not been able to navigate in the body of water in that size.

However, by being present in this important region of the world, the 75th Fleet disrupted the privacy of these countries and showed that it will be able to be present not only in the Atlantic, but also in any other sea, point and ocean. In fact, the passage of Sahand and Makran through critical waterways such as the English Channel, the Dover Strait, the Bay of Biscay, the Skagerrak Strait, the Great Belt Canal, the Strait of Gibraltar, the Suez Canal, etc. is the most valuable achievement of this historic mission before the eyes of countries that did not think that a warship from the Iranian navy could one day reach their nearest territorial waters.

Of course Sahand and Makran, on their way back, crossed the Mediterranean Sea, the Suez Canal, the Red Sea and the Gulf of Aden, etc. These areas have been the scene of serious terrorist attacks in recent years, especially in recent months and this passage has its own messages for the Zionist regime.

But this presence in the backyard of the United States and Britain has another significant aspect: Sahand.

The Sahand destroyer, the third destroyer in Moj (wave)-class produced in the Navy’s factories, takes its name from another destroyer of the same name that was purchased from Britain before the revolution; Sahand played an effective role in defending the waters of the Persian Gulf during the Holy Defense in the 1980s until in 1988, during a direct confrontation with the United States, the ship was attacked by several American fighter jets and despite the courage and perseverance of its staff, it eventually drowned in the Persian Gulf due to several big explosions.

30 years later, in 2018, the Navy named its Moj class after the Sahand ship in April 1988 with the same name. Sahand’s deployment to the Atlantic mission was, in fact, to show its resurrection to those who one day sold the first Sahand to Iran and then drowned it, but saw that the Iranians could build the Sahands themselves.

Now, with this presence, the Islamic Republic of Iran has in fact seriously tested its operational-support capability for its presence in distant waters. The Makran big ship, which is the huge naval capacity of the army to support these missions and is able to sail three rounds of the earth without mooring once with one refueling, will be sent to such a mission only 4 months after joining the fleet of the Iranian Navy and proves that it can support any mission.

Ex-nuclear chief: Agreement with IAEA prevent inventing excuses

TEHRAN - The former chief of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, (AEOI), Fereydoon Abbasi, says that the agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will prevent excuses.

IAEA chief Rafael Grossi came to Iran late on Saturday in order to begin his consultations with the new Iranian administration.

Iran had vetoed the IAEA’s request to have “full” access to the footages and memory cards of the nuclear sites. The decision followed a parliamentary legislation in December 2020, which tasked the AEOI to limit inspection of Iran’s nuclear activities in response to the Western side’s lack of commitment to the terms of the JCPOA, the official name for the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

The legislation, titled “Strategic Action to Lift Sanctions”, requires the government to raise uranium enrichment levels to 20% and install advanced centrifuges.

“If the parties in the Iran deal live up to their commitments, data will certainly be provided to the International Atomic Energy Agency to perform its legal duties,” Abbasi said, IRNA reported on Monday.

The new chief AEOI Mohammad Eslami on Sunday described his talks with IAEA Director General Grossi as “good and constructive”.

“Mr. Rafael Grossi came to Tehran at the invitation of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and we had good and constructive talks with him,” Eslami said in a joint press conference with Grossi.

Eslami also said he will hold talks with Grossi on the sidelines of the IAEA Board Governors meeting.

“We decided to participate in the next meet-



ing and continue our talks on the sidelines of the meeting,” Iran’s new nuclear chief stated.

Eslami added, “The spirit governing the negotiations is to create opportunities for the development of interactions, cooperation within the framework of the rules and regulations of the International Atomic Energy Agency.”

On the visit of Grossi to Iran, Abbasi noted: “According to the published news, the saved films are to be sealed and stay in Iran and new memories will be replaced.”

The former head of Iran’s atomic organization added: “This issue prevents countries that have doubts about Iran’s activities from inventing excuses.”

This means that the IAEA inspections in Iran will continue and no data will be destroyed in terms of supervision, Abbasi noted.

He added if the Western parties to the JCPOA fulfill their obligations, this data will certainly be provided to the IAEA to perform its legal duties.

Abbasi described the agreement with the IAEA as a sign of Iran’s goodwill, saying: “Our partners in the JCPOA - those who are signatories - must live up to their commitments because we cannot fulfill our obligations unilaterally. The JCPOA agreement is multilateral, and each of the signatories must live up to their commitments.”

He went on to say that Iran “should not accept anything new,” stressing that sanctions should be lifted.

Abbasi who sits on the Parliament Energy Committee added: “The data is being recorded and this data will be provided to the Agency when other countries fulfill their obligations.”

The parliamentarian also said the IAEA should not just monitor Iran’s nuclear activities, suggesting it should also monitor the JCPOA parties and their commitments.

“Otherwise, it should report that their obligations have not been fulfilled, and this should be considered as ‘verifiable documents’ in international forums and courts”.

In July 2015, when the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action was signed between Iran and the 5+1 group (the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and Germany), the IAEA was tasked to monitor Iran’s commitment to the agreement.

According to the JCPOA, Iran agreed to put limits on its nuclear activities in exchange for termination of economic and financial sanctions. However, in May 2018 Trump quit the nuclear agreement, returned sanctions and imposed new ones. The sanctions were in line with Trump’s “maximum pressure” campaign against the Islamic Republic.

Russian envoy begins economic consultations

TEHRAN — The Russian ambassador to Iran met with Minister of Transport and Urban Development Rostam Qassemi to discuss the implementation of the Garmsar railway electrification project.

The Russian embassy in Tehran wrote in an article on its social network that Ambassador Levan Dzagharyan was invited to meet with Qassemi.

During the talks, the two sides

paid special attention to the implementation of the Garmsar-Incheh Borun railway electrification project. The interaction between Russia and Iran is considered in the framework of the North-South Interna-

tional Transport Corridor. “Other promising areas of cooperation in the field of transport were also discussed.”

The contract for the project was signed by the two sides in 2015.

Amir Abdollahian: Iran having internal consultations on how to continue Vienna talks

From page 1 ► depends on establishing an inclusive government with the participation of all ethnic groups.

He called for peace, meeting public demands and practical confrontation against terrorism.

Referring to the fact that Iran has been hosting over 3 million Afghan refugees over the past four decades, the Iranian side stressed the need to fulfill a sustained international responsibility in the face of new waves of asylum seekers and countering smuggling of narcotics.

Abdollahian also noted Iran’s readiness to facilitate humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

In response to his British counterpart, the Iranian minister stressed Iran’s insistence on lifting all illegal sanctions and said that the consultations are underway within the new Iranian government on how to continue the Vienna nuclear talks.

He clarified that the Iranian government will welcome negotiations that have tangible results and serve the rights and interests of the people.

The top Iranian diplomat also stressed the need that the British government take trust-building



Abdollahian

Dominic Raab

steps to resolve problems in bilateral relations and noted that constructive and practical steps by London will be welcomed by Iran.

In this regard, the British Foreign Secretary stressed the practical commitment of his country in repaying Iran’s dues.

The two foreign ministers also agreed to continue their talks on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, in addition to discussing the most important international and regional developments.

Grossi confirms demolition of IAEA surveillance cameras in Iran attributed to Mossad

From page 1 ► On July 6 then government spokesman Ali Rabiei said, “Israel carried out these actions with the presumption that it would signal it can stop Iran and say the world has no need to negotiate with Iran.”

Rabiei said the attack “caused a hole in the roof” of the building – which is sus-

pected of being used for manufacturing centrifuge parts – and repairing it meant taking that part off to be replaced.

This clearly shows that the Israelis see no limit when it comes to such brazen acts.

In April, Iran’s main nuclear facilities in Natanz were hit by a sabotage attack for the second time in less than one year.

Iran pointed the finger at Israel, and began enriching uranium to its highest rate ever in response.

With Grossi’s confession, the narrative is complete. Israel conducted an attack on a nuclear-related facility in Karaj, in order to undermine negotiations over possible revival of the JCPOA.

Baghdad talks pave the way for Iranian-Saudi rapprochement

TEHRAN – With the Iranian transition period completed and the Hajj pilgrimage concluded in Saudi Arabia, the restoration of diplomatic ties between Tehran and Riyadh appears to be in the cards, especially after the Iraqi premier's visit to Iran.

After years of rivalry and lack of diplomatic relations, Saudi Arabia and Iran are slowly moving toward mending ties thanks to at least three rounds of behind-closed-doors talks mediated and hosted by the government of Iraqi Prime Minister Mustaf al-Kadhimi, who arrived in Tehran on Sunday as the first foreign high-ranking official to visit Iran since the new Iranian president, Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, took office in early August.

Al-Kadhimi had many issues on his agenda during his meetings with Iranian officials, including Ayatollah Raisi and Secretary if Iran's Supreme National Security Council Ali Shamkhani. These issues included visa abolition for Iranian citizens, completion of a joint railway project, increasing the level of trade between Iran and Iraq, withdrawal of U.S. forces from Iraq, and the presence of anti-revolutionary dissident groups in Iraqi Kurdistan.

During a joint press conference, Ayatollah Raisi and al-Kadhimi stressed the importance of deepening the Iran-Iraq relations at all levels. "The deep bonds between Tehran and Baghdad stems from the beliefs and hearts of two nations, two countries and two governments," Ayatollah Raisi said. "Despite the wishes of the enemies, the level of relations between Iran and Iraq will develop day by day."

But in addition to bilateral issues, the Iraqi prime minister also discussed regional issues, according to Arab press reports. Arab media outlets reported that during his visit to Tehran, al-Kadhimi would pursue a mediation between Tehran and Riyadh among other issues. Informed sources



revealed to Al-Araby Al-Jadeed that al-Kadhimi planned to discuss with Iranian officials four important issues during the visit, which are the Iraqi elections issue, the energy issue, and the mediation between Iran and Saudi Arabia, as well as other mediation between Tehran and Washington.

Regarding the mediation between Tehran and Riyadh, these sources told Al-Araby Al-Jadeed that al-Kadhimi will bring with him new proposals to push this mediation forward and achieve practical results for it in light of the failure that accompanied the Baghdad conference recently to persuade the leaders of the two countries to participate in the conference on the one hand, and hold a meeting between the foreign ministers of Iran and Saudi Arabia on the sidelines of the conference on the other hand.

The sources indicated that Baghdad is seeking to hold a meeting between the foreign ministers of the two countries during the next stage, noting that the Saudi side had suggested that Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian visit Saudi Arabia, but the Iranian side refused, and for its part suggested that Saudi Foreign Minister Faisal bin Farhan visit Tehran.

The sources added that the Iranian foreign minister had held detailed talks

with Kuwaiti Prime Minister Sheikh Sabah Khaled al-Hamad al-Sabah on the sidelines of the Baghdad conference, and the Kuwaiti official also held a similar meeting with the Saudi foreign minister, and exchanged messages between the two sides.

"These multilateral contacts created a comfortable atmosphere for a meeting at the level of the foreign ministers of Iran and Saudi Arabia," the sources noted.

Tehran and Riyadh have been involved in security-oriented talks in Baghdad ever since April when Tehran also resumed talks with major world powers over reviving a 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). So far, three rounds of talks have been held, with the fourth round is expected to go ahead soon.

Before al-Kadhimi's visit, Iranian Ambassador to Iraq Iraj Masjedi, who has been involved in the Iran-Saudi talks, announced that they would resume soon. "So far, we have had three rounds of talks with the Saudi side, and the fourth round will be held following the formation of the new Iranian government," he said at an event in Baghdad held on the sidelines of the August Baghdad summit.

Underlining that Iran is a large and civilized country and is ready for any kind

of dialogue with other countries, including Saudi Arabia, Masjedi said, "Iran has declared its readiness for dialogue and peace and has extended its hand to help neighboring countries and the region."

During the past three rounds, the Saudis have been cautiously treating the talks with Iran as "exploratory." They brought up the issue of Yemen at an early stage, possibly to gauge the seriousness of Iran in the talks. Yemen is the most important point of contention, which explains why Tehran and Riyadh have agreed to form an Iranian-Saudi-Iraqi "thinking cell" to exchange ideas and opinions to set broad lines for resolving the Yemeni crisis, according to the Lebanese newspaper Al-Akhbar.

Citing diplomatic sources, the newspaper said that the Baghdad talks between Tehran and Riyadh are up and running. The sources confirmed to Al-Akhbar that the Iraqi capital will witness "soon" the fourth round of Iranian-Saudi talks after they were postponed due to the Hajj season and the Iranian presidential elections.

The sources confirmed that the previous three rounds of dialogue led to "results that will appear soon" through the reopening of each country's consulates in the other country, paving the way for the resumption of diplomatic relations between them.

The same sources stressed that the Baghdad dialogue approaches the contentious issues between the two countries and sets the general contexts for implementing some measures in a way that helps bridge views, and works to bring about de-escalation between the two parties, which resulted in the "Oman dialogue."

According to Al-Akhbar, the Oman talks deal with technical issues and procedural details. It also serves as a platform for the exchange of "security information" in the context of confidence-building measures.

added that the Islamic Republic is in contact with groups in Afghanistan.

"Iran is one of the few players in Afghanistan that has relations with all parties; with some more inclusive conversations and with some more limited ones, we always tried to talk to these groups. As you know, the first round of comprehensive inter-Afghan dialogue was held in Tehran, and we tried to involve all groups, not just the government and the Taliban."

The Foreign Ministry again lamented bloody violence in Afghanistan, saying "fratricide" will lead to nowhere.

"We have repeatedly stressed that the path leading to fratricide in Afghanistan is not the right one," said the spokesman. He warned that no government can survive without including all groups.

"We have said that an inclusive government can bring peace and prosperity. No minority government can bring maximum peace, stability and tranquility in the long run."

Emphasizing that there should be no foreign interference in the country, Khatibzadeh said: "The Afghan people do not accept the presence of foreign forces on their territory and various regional and trans-regional parties should facilitate inter-Afghan dialogue."

"After the outbreak of the current crisis, we tried to move forward in a serious and focused manner at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs," he said. "We tried not to deprive the Afghan people of our necessary access and consular relations".

"We decide based on Taliban's actions"

About the Taliban's invitation to Iran to attend the inauguration of their government and the possibility of recognizing them, he said, "It is too early to talk about this. We have to see the formation of the future government of Afghanistan and then decide on other issues. Based on the Taliban's actions, we decide on their request and invitation".

Iran expresses dismay over Turkey's participation in drills in Caspian Sea

Khatibzadeh also expressed dismay over a joint maneuver in the Caspian Sea by Turkey and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

"The Convention on the Legal Status of the Caspian Sea has made this very clear. The agreements of the five littoral states are based on the illegality of the military presence of countries other than these five countries. This issue is under investigation at the Foreign Ministry," he stated.

Conflicting voices from capitals not constructive

The spokesman said that the different and conflicting voices heard from the capitals were not constructive.

"The very nature of these statements shows how far those who copy and paste these statements are from the developments in the region and understand the obviousness of developments in the region. As a powerful country in the region, Iran does not compromise on its national security and territorial integrity."

The Goris-Kapan Road by the Republic of Azerbaijan," the official said.

Orujali Alizadeh, the head of Eastern Azerbaijan's Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization, added that "a part of Iran's land route to Armenia, which is located in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, was closed by the Azerbaijani side following the escalation of disputes between the two countries."

He also underlined that Iran was following the issue with Azerbaijan.

IRAN IN FOCUS

SEPTEMBER 14, 2021

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

Persepolis more experienced than Istiklol: expert

From Page 1 ► The former assistant coach of Persepolis had some advice for his friend and former teammate, Golmohammadi: "I think that Persepolis should start the game cautiously and analyze the opponent at the beginning of the game, and then Golmohammadi can apply the best tactic for the remaining time of the game," he said.



Torabian also talked about the recent changes in Persepolis's squad: "Persepolis have lost some key players in all three lines. Hossein Kananizadegan in defense, Ahmad Nourollahi in midfield, and Shahryar Moghanlou in the attacking line were important players that left the team.

"I hope that the new players can be able to adapt with other players as soon as possible. Yahya is forced to use his new faces in a challenging tournament like the Champions League and it carries a lot of risks for the team.

"Persepolis should have done better in the transfer window. I expected that they keep the main players of the winner group of last season and add some more to strengthen the team. But it was not the case," he added.

Persepolis coach Golmohammadi wary of dangerous Istiklol

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team coach Yahya Golmohammadi says that Tajikistan's Istiklol are a dangerous team and they must be careful of the team's attacking power.

The Iranian giants will meet Istiklol on Tuesday at the Central Republican Stadium in Dushanbe in the 2021 AFC Champions league Round of 16.

"First of all, I would like to thank the Tajik people for their hospitality. There are many cultural similarities between Iranians and Tajiks. We feel we are at home here in Tajikistan. I hope the good relationships between two countries become stronger. We speak the same language. Farsi is a poetic and an important language in the world. We must be proud of our language and cultural heritage," Golmohammadi said in the pre-match news conference.

"Istiklol are an organized team and they defend well. They are a dangerous team on the counter attack. We are well aware of their attacking power and have ways to control their players. I hope we can perform our tactics in the match against them," he added.

"We endured hardship to reach this stage. Persepolis players are experienced and we will fight till our last breath. I trust my players and hope we advance to the next stage," the Persepolis coach stated.

"Persepolis have not played on their home soil for about 900 days due to the Covid-19 restrictions and also sanctions. We are the most popular football team in Asia and need to play at our home. Our players have always shown that they play with winning mentality. We always play for victory and honor.

"Football is for friendship and we respect our opponents. Tomorrow can be a celebration for friendship between the nations and governments," Golmohammadi concluded.

DPRK foreign minister congratulates Iran FM appointment

TEHRAN – Foreign Minister of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Lee Sun-kwon, has congratulated Iran's Foreign Minister Hussein Amir Abdollahian on receiving the vote of confidence and taking office.

In his congratulatory message, the top DPRK diplomat said, "I believe that the friendly relations and cooperation between the two countries are based on the common struggle against imperialism and the preservation of our independence, and that these relations have developed in various fields."

Lee Sun-kwon expressed hope that these relations would expand further.

Abdollahian has received many congratulatory messages over the past few days congratulating him on his new job as Iran's foreign minister.

Iran overpower Thailand in Asian Volleyball C'ship

TEHRAN – Iran beat Thailand 3-0 (25–17, 25–12, 25–18) in Pool B of the 2021 Asian Men's Volleyball Championship on Monday.

Behrouz Ataei's team, who had started the campaign with a 3-0 win over Hong Kong on Sunday, will play Pakistan in their last preliminary match.

The 21st edition features 16 teams comprising hosts Japan, India, Qatar and Bahrain in Pool A and reigning champions Iran, Pakistan, Thailand and Hong Kong China in Pool B. Pool C consists of Australia, China, Uzbekistan and Kuwait, with Korea, Chinese Taipei, Kazakhstan and Saudi Arabia in Pool D.

As of September 6, 2021, world No.10 Japan are the Asian team with the best world ranking, followed respectively by Iran (11), Korea (21), Qatar (27), China (29), Australia (30), Chinese Taipei (32), Thailand (39), Pakistan (52) and Kazakhstan (58).

The 21st Asian Senior Men's Volleyball Championship is being held from Sept. 12 to 19 in Chiba, Japan, and the teams vie for two spots in next year's FIVB Volleyball Men's World Championship in Russia

Tractor looking to better their record against Al Nassr

TEHRAN – Iran's Tractor are going to better their previous record in the AFC Champions League when the team faces Al Nassr of Saudi Arabia for the first time.

The match in the 2021 AFC Champions League Round of 16 will be held in Doha's Khalifa International Stadium on Tuesday.

Fresh from a domestic fourth place finish in the Iran Professional League, the Tabriz-based side will hope to at least achieve a quarter-final finish to better their previous best in the competition, when they reached the Round of 16 in 2013 before losing out to the UAE's Al Nasr.

Wholesale changes took place at Tractor since the group stage, with over a dozen players out the door including Ashkan Dejagah and Masoud Shojaei, as well as head coach Rasoul Khatibi who was replaced by Firouz Karimi. No new signings were made with all three additions to the squad being promoted from the U21s.

Qualifying as one of the best runners-up, they are the only West Zone side to not suffer a loss throughout the group stage, but they also managed only two wins, one of which came on Matchday Six against host Sharjah FC, sealing its progression, the-afc.com wrote.

Fans are our trump card against Persepolis: Mubin Ergashev

TEHRAN – FC Istiklol coach Mubin Ergashev says that their fans are trump card against Persepolis in the 2021 AFC Champions League Round of 16.

The match will be held on Tuesday at the Central Republican Stadium in Dushanbe.

Ergashev said the presence of up to 20,000 home fans can greatly help the Tajik club's cause.

"This is a great event for our country," he said. "For the first time in the history of Tajik football a match of this level will take place. We are very serious about the match, and we hope for a positive outcome.

"Our main trump card in this confrontation will be our fans, who will provide us with tremendous support. With their help, we hope to win the match."



IAEA access to cameras' memory is subject to agreement: Iran

TEHRAN - Spokesman for the Iranian Ministry of Foreign Affairs has stressed that the International Atomic Energy Agency's access to cameras' memory is possible only when an agreement is reached on the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

The comments by Saeed Khatibzadeh came one day after IAEA Chief Rafael Grossi held talks with Mohammed Esلمي, the new chief of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI).

At the end of their meeting Iran and the IAEA issued a joint statement that part of which stated, "IAEA's inspectors are permitted to service the identified equipment and replace their storage media which will be kept under the joint IAEA and AEOI seals in the Islamic Republic of Iran. The way and the timing are agreed by the two sides."

Khatibzadeh said, "Iran-Agency relations are normal and technical, and as long as the non-political and non-discriminatory aspects of the Agency are maintained vis-a-vis Iran, Iran will pursue its relations seriously."

Grossi's visit to Iran before the meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors was within the framework of some issues between the two countries, which was done with the superiority of the technical approach of the IAEA and good consultations were held, Khatibzadeh stated.

"These are not new issues and were in the context of cooperation between the two sides, and these talks took place because of the meeting of the Board of Governors".

The IAEA board started its regular meeting on Monday.

Khatibzadeh assessed Grossi's visit to Tehran as successful and said, "Iran-Agency cooperation was to continue within the framework of technical cooperation without the intervention of others."

The spokesman confirmed that Iran's nuclear chief Esلمي would travel to Vienna in the near future to attend the IAEA General Assembly.

"It was also agreed that Grossi will make his visits to Tehran more regular," he added.

Grossi is scheduled to travel to Tehran after the board meeting to discuss other issues, the spokesman stated.

Khatibzadeh stated that there was an understanding between the two sides and the two sides are moving forward in a good faith.

"If some people with political motives want to overshadow the cooperation that was reached between Iran and the Agency on the basis of a technical understanding, Iran will respond accordingly. Some may have been looking for a resolution (against Iran by the IAEA board), but this is not what has been done in the technical framework between Iran and the Agency."

Azerbaijan inspecting Iranian trucks traveling to Armenia: report

TEHRAN –The Azerbaijani police are inspecting Iranian trucks carrying goods from Iran en route to Armenia, according to an Armenian report.

Pan Armenian news website quoted reports by the National Security Service of Armenia as claiming that the Azerbaijani police are inspecting trucks with Iranian license plates, which are carrying goods and products from the Islamic Republic to Armenia.

"The border guards of the National Security Service of the Republic of Armenia

and the guards of the border service of the Federal Security Service (FSB) of the Russian Federation are working together to resolve the situation," the NSS said in a statement, according to the website.

The news outlet also said that Azerbaijani police forces earlier set up a checkpoint on Goris-Kapan Highway – the one also used by Iranian truck drivers – in Armenia's Syunik Province, a week after blockading the road altogether.

Baku officials have so far not responded to Yerevan's allegations that the police

of the Republic of Azerbaijan inspected trucks with Iranian license plates. Recently, reports about the stoppage of Iranian trucks and passenger cars in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan made headlines.

In late August, a local Iranian official confirmed that Azerbaijan had closed the highway. "More than 120 trucks and passenger cars of our country were stopped on this part of the Iran-Armenia communication route, which is located in Azerbaijan, following the blocking of

the Republic of Azerbaijan inspected trucks with Iranian license plates. Recently, reports about the stoppage of Iranian trucks and passenger cars in the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan made headlines.

Energy Ministry to implement program for improving hydropower plants

TEHRAN – Iran Water and Power Resources Development Company, as a subsidiary of the Energy Ministry, is going to implement a program for maximizing the use of potentials in the country's hydropower plants, IRIB reported.

According to the company's Managing Director Seyed Hassan Razavi, optimal use of existing capacities, updating worn-out plants, increasing the efficiency of power plants, and increasing the level of technology are among the goals of the mentioned program.

Making the remarks in a meeting of the Parliament Energy Committee for reviewing the status of the country's dams and hydropower plants, Razavi stressed: "We can make better use of the country's capacities to generate electricity from water resources."

The said program is part of a comprehensive plan called "development and elimination of obstacles in the country's electricity industry", the official said.

Razavi pointed to the construction of medium- and small-scale hydropower plants as one of the programs pursued by the Energy Ministry and added: "These power plants will generate up to 10 megawatts of electricity and can be built in many provinces because they can be constructed along the water transfer paths."

In this meeting, the members of the mentioned committee and other attendees also made suggestions regarding the support of the hydropower industry including allocating the funds for the implementation of priority



hydropower projects in the next year budget bill and preparing the ground for the development of such power plants in the Seventh National Development Plan.

Considered the recent drought and severe decline of rainfalls across the country the electricity provided by the country's hydropower plants has declined significantly.

Iran's current power generation capacity stands at about 85 GW of which the share of hydroelectric power stands at nearly 16 percent.

The country's total power generation capacity stood at about 83,350 MW at the end of the past Iranian calendar year 1398 (March 19), up from the 80,000 MW of its preceding year.

Currently, combined cycle power plants account for the biggest share in the country's total power generation capacity followed by gas power plants.

'Domestic production of industrial machinery needed'



TEHRAN – The Research Center of the Iranian Parliament (Majlis), in a report, has said the industrial machinery sector in the country has a great potential for indigenization that should be considered by the government in future planning, IRNA reported.

"The statistics regarding the trade balance of industrial machinery indicate the high dependence of the country's industries on the import of such machinery and the existence of high potential and demand for indigenization of products in this sector," the report stated.

According to the report, the machinery-manufacturing industry, as a strategic and parent industry, has played a significant role in the development of industrialized countries. The growing need of the country to develop industries and industrial products reveals the need to pay attention to this industry.

One of the most important challenges of the country's machinery industry is the lack of performance guarantees regarding the strategic documents of this industry, also the focus on imports, and the lack of effort in using domestically made industrial machinery and adopting the wrong tariff system.

The report put the global trade of the mentioned sector in 2018 at about \$20 trillion, while the share of Iran has been only \$97 billion or less than 0.5 percent.

Majlis Research Center further proposed some suggestions for the development of the country's industrial machinery sector in the report.

Maximum use of the country's production and service capacity and support for Iranian goods, referring work to Iranian contractors, and preventing imports in this industry are some of the suggestions made in this regard.

Strengthening the industrial machinery trade promotion desk at the Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), providing a platform for provincial working groups and think tanks to further connecting the province's industries with the country's machinery sector, defining indicators for measuring and evaluating the development of industries that use domestic products, and supporting the presence of the machinery-building industry in specialized exhibitions, especially in neighboring countries like Russia were also among the suggestions for developing the mentioned sector.

Tehran hosting intl. exhibition of construction industry

TEHRAN – The 21st International Exhibition of Building and Construction Industry (Iran Confair 2021) was opened by Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qassemi at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Monday.

AS IRNA reported, over 630 domestic and foreign exhibitors from Finland, Canada, China, Turkey, Indonesia, South Korea, and Germany are participating in this four-day exhibition.

Several trade delegations from Turkey, Iraq, Afghanistan, Kenya, Indonesia, Syria, and the United Arab Emirates (EAU) are also attending this year's event.

The third Iranian Architecture Festival and various training workshops in the field of export markets are also scheduled to be held on the sidelines of the mentioned exhibition.

Major companies active in the field of construction materials, equipment, and parts are showcasing their latest achievements and products in this exhibition.

This exhibition, which is the largest event of the country's construction industry, is also attended by the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, specialized and professional organizations in the field of construction industry, and the Construction Engineering Organization.

From page 1 ► Last week, the secretary of Iran's Cement Industry Employers Association said that the supply of cement in the commodity exchange ensures the rights of producers and consumers.

Emphasizing the strategy and supportive role of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade in the entry of cement into the commodity exchange, Abdolreza Sheykhan described the requirement to offer this commodity only in the commodity exchange as a right decision that protects the rights of producers and consumers.

Some experts and also those active in the cement market say that ordinary pricing for cement has always challenged producers, so this product is offered on the commodity exchange.

Gholamreza Shariati, a member of the parliament's development committee, is one of those supporting this idea.

He says cement is one of the basic commodities that should be offered in the commodity exchange and get rid of government pricing. Market surveillance should replace dictatorial interference in commodity price trends.

Achieving transparency in trades is made possible by the supply of cement on the stock exchange, he believes.

Cars, lands, and houses are the other items to be offered through stock exchange.

Last month, the deputy transport and urban development minister announced that the real estate stock exchange to trade lands and houses will be set up in Iran Mercantile Exchange in the second half of the current Iranian calendar year (September 22, 2021-March 20, 2022).

Mahmoud Mahmoudzadeh, the deputy minister for housing and construction affairs, said that there has been cooperation in this due between the ministry and IME since some months ago and some positive results have been already achieved in this regard.

The establishment of such exchange is in line with the government's policy of providing housing units for the underprivileged, and many efforts have been already made to prepare the required in-

Industry Ministry determined on massive offering of goods through commodity exchange



frastructure in this due.

The head of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE) had previously announced that the exchange was due to be established in the middle of the previous Iranian calendar month (early July 2020).

Deputy Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) says the establishment of the country's real estate stock exchange is going to promote transparency in this market.

According to Hossein Selahvarzi, establishing this stock exchange is going to be an opportunity for making the transactions in the housing market more competitive and transparent, and will gain people's trust for participation in mass construction projects.

And for the vehicles, the offering of cars in the commodity exchange is said to bring transparency in prices, as the price of cars in the free market has become significantly different from the factory price.

Offering goods in commodity exchange to prevent mandatory pricing, bring transparency

While offering the mentioned commodities through the stock exchange has its own supporters and opponents, the deputy industry, mining and trade minister announced on Sunday the ministry's decision on massive offering of goods via

this market.

"Our effort is to provide as much as possible the supply of important and effective products in people's livelihoods in the commodity exchange, and so far a large part of the products have been offered in this market and the rest should be

ICOFC prepared for sustained gas supply during winter

TEHRAN – Managing director of Iranian Central Oil Fields Company (ICOFC) announced his company's readiness for the sustained supply of gas during winter.

Ramin Hatami announced the realization of plans and readiness for the sustained supply of gas for domestic and industrial consumers.

"Due to the efforts of the company's staff, especially in technical and operational units, major repairs have been carried out in a significant part of facilities and gas transmission lines with the aim of continuous and safe production. These repairs will continue until the middle of the next Iranian calendar month (early October), and the installations will be completely ready to supply winter gas with all the power and capacity", he explained.

Last week, the head of National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC)'s Pro-



duction Coordination and Supervision Directorate said the country's natural gas refineries are completely ready for the sustained supply of gas in the cold season.

Masoud Zardovian said the annual overhaul program of the country's refineries is progressed over 65 percent, explaining: "During the first seven months of the year, an intensive overhaul program is defined and implemented at a specific schedule for the 18 gas refineries that are now operational so that we can get

through the winter smoothly."

"By implementing this program, which aims to maintain the system in an efficient condition, the reliability of the refineries will increase, and in this way, we can maximize the amount of processing and ensure that clean, safe, and efficient gas is supplied to various sectors," he added.

Stating that the overhaul of gas refineries began in the first Iranian calendar month of Farvardin (started on March 21) and will continue until the end of the seventh calendar month of Mehr (October 22), Zardovian said: "Obviously, timely repairs will be promising for sustainable gas production in winter."

"Due to the preparations, risk assessments and technical inspections using the latest equipment, the overhaul time has been continuously improving in recent years, and now

offered", Mohammad-Sadeq Mofateh said, adding, different planning and coordination have been conducted in this regard.

He referred to the plan of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade in the 13th government (current government) to cooperate with the commodity exchange and said, "Many times in various market regulation meetings, there has been talk of using the commodity exchange to offer products and discover commodity prices."

Industry, mining and trade minister believes in using the commodity exchange to regulate the market for various products and the ministry has more emphasis on cooperating with the capital market in the current government than the previous government, the official noted.

The policy of the ministry is that prices in the commodity exchange cannot be set in an orderly manner, he said, adding that the economic actors will have forecasts of a commodity market and prices based on the amount of production and consumption of market participants.

According to Mofateh, the commodity exchange is a platform for the confrontation of supply and demand and the real discovery of price, and the price is not to be presented to the commodity exchange in the form of a notification or a circular.

Commodity exchange is a market in which the prices of commodities are determined only on the basis of supply and demand, he emphasized.

The deputy minister further pointed to the orderly pricing and the consequences of using it in the country's economy and added, "We have had the experience of mandatory pricing in the country for several years, this measure not only never led to calm in the market, but also increased the problems in the country's economy."

It does not seem that there is anyone in the country who agrees with the orderly pricing, but the prices should be determined through the supply and demand mechanism, and the commodity exchange is the only tool for determining the exact and transparent price, the official concluded.

we are able to allocate the least possible time to such operations in order to be able to have the maximum amount of production," the official explained.

He noted that out of the country's total 18 gas refineries (12 South Pars gas refineries and six gas refining companies), the overhaul operations of 10 refineries have been completed and the repairs of the other five are also underway and will be completed by the beginning of the cold season.

"We have made the necessary arrangements and made the necessary predictions. All our colleagues in the production, processing and distribution sectors are ready to deliver this clean, safe, stable and sustainable energy to all people, even in remote rural areas, so that we do not see pressure drops or gas outages at any point," Zardovian said.

Auto imports not on the agenda: industry minister



TEHRAN – Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister said on Monday that his ministry currently does not have any plans for the imports of automobiles, IRIB reported.

"The decision for not importing cars was made in [the Iranian calendar year] 1397 (ended on March 20, 2019) when following the U.S. sanctions we faced some problems for providing the foreign currency needed for our imports and as a result, the import of some items including automobiles was banned," Seyed Reza Fatemi Amin said.

The official noted that his ministry has two comprehensive programs for the improvement of the country's auto industry.

"The Industry Ministry has defined two programs including a six-month and a two-year program to develop the country's automobile industry with a focus on domestic capacities."

A short-term plan is aimed to achieve the goals set for the current fiscal year (ends in March 2022), he said.

"Another plan is to be able to sell 30 percent of domestically produced cars in export markets by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (starts in March 2025), which requires the carmakers to be more competitive," he added.

'Lack of strategic roadmap a hurdle to economic growth'

TEHRAN – The head of the Iranian parliament's economic committee has said lack of a strategic roadmap has been the main hurdle in the way of the country's economic development, IRIB reported.

"Lack of a strategic document for development in the country's economy has overshadowed many parts of the economy," Mohammadreza Pour-Ebrahimi told the national TV on Sunday evening.

He pointed to the home appliance industry as an example and said: "Advanced knowledge, resources, and skilled manpower are among the advantages in this field, but it seems that lack of comprehensive strategies in using the necessary capacities to



partner with other countries in regional and global scale is one of our main gaps in this sector."

The official further mentioned some other problems in the way of expanding domestic production and economic growth and said that smuggling is a major problem that has created serious problems in the way of domestic production

and the government is taking serious measures to battle it.

Speaking to the same TV program, Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki mentioned the insufficient growth in the production of home appliances in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21), saying: "In the first four months of the current year, 40 percent growth was recorded in production compared to the same period last year, however, the growth for the previous year's same period compared to its preceding year was recorded to be 70 percent."

"In recent months, however, a suitable amount of foreign currency has been provided in order

TEDPIX drops 14,700 points on Monday

calendar week (ended on Friday).

During the past week, the indices of Bandar Abbas Oil Refinery, Mobarakeh Steel Company, State Retirement Fund, Social Security Investment Company, Isfahan Oil Refinery, and Barekat Pharmaceutical Group were the most widely followed indices.

A capital market analyst has said the trades at the Tehran Stock Exchange are going to follow an upward trend in the re-

maining 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 last week.

Emphasizing the parameters affecting stock market transactions, he said: "A few days of cor-

rection 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.

U.S. invaded Afghanistan in order to loot its mineral wealth: philosopher

From page 1 ► **While Trump is slamming Biden's policy toward Afghanistan, many commentators say that the Biden administration followed exactly what Trump had planned. What is your comment?**

Trump wanted to get the U.S. out of these wars in the Middle East (West Asia), but he was boxed in by advisors who were not dedicated to him and the best interests of the United States but were putting Israel rather than America first! Trump made blunders under pressure from Israel but set a firm date and would have stood by it. Biden has no integrity.

Why does Washington refuse to co-operate with its foes (including China, Russia and Iran) in critical issues like Afghanistan?

AIPAC exercises massive influence over Congress and Israel over the media. Taking out Gen. Soleimani was a colossal blunder, where Bibi convinced him that Qassem Soleimani was orchestrating terrorists in the region when the opposite was true. If you view U.S. foreign policy as under the control of Israel it all begins to make consider-



ably more sense.

How do you see the future of Afghanistan after U.S. withdrawal? Do you expect China or Russia to take the lead in Afghanistan under Taliban rule?

Osama bin Laden had nothing to do with 9/11. The U.S. invaded Afghanistan in order to loot its vast mineral wealth - including the largest lithium deposit outside of Bolivia, where lithium is used for components in computers, triggers for nuclear devices, and electric car

batteries - and to resurrect the poppy fields. China will be the major beneficiary.

Is there any possibility of the U.S. return to Afghanistan in case the situation in the country leads to catastrophic results?

After the mess, the U.S. has made in Afghanistan, including leaving Americans and our Afghan allies behind, there is no reasonable prospect of the public supporting any future involvement there. Our whole post-9/11 Middle East (West Asia) policy has come apart at the seams and Trump's political revival appears to be surging in America. Stay tuned!

AIPAC exercises massive influence over Congress and Israel over the media.

Professor says U.S. foreign policy is driven by greed and powerful military-industrial complex

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN - Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, professor of politics and religious studies at Northwestern University, says that the U.S. foreign policy is based on greed and the military-industrial complex. "It (U.S. foreign policy) cannot be justified. It is best understood as driven by greed, and in particular, a powerful military-industrial complex as identified by President Eisenhower decades ago combined with certain ideas and ideals of American exceptionalism," Hurd says in an interview with the Tehran Times.

U.S. behavior in West Asia, especially when it comes to Iraq and Afghanistan, has prompted political pundits to ask about the logic of U.S. foreign policy.

While American officials claim to defend human rights and democracy, their foreign policy is based on greed and militarism.

Following is the text of the interview with Professor Hurd:

How do you evaluate the position of religion in U.S. decision-making given that modern politics has marginalized religions?

I don't think there is a generic category of "religion"



that can be separated from other aspects of human social life for the purposes of explaining politics or political outcomes.

Some people try to attribute extremism to religions while other pundits say that this is political interest that causes extremism under the pretext of religion, not religion itself. What is your comment?

Politics and religion are enmeshed in each other and cannot be disentangled so as to place "blame" on one

or the other for extremism.

How could religious values be used to tackle modern woes including environmental crises, invasions, racism, etc.?

Again, I'm not sure which values are "religious" and which aren't, so this is not the right question for me. The question is how (and if) we want to live and flourish in a community with others should we organize our public lives, laws and institutions? There are all kinds of resources to address this question including, for example, great literature.

Regarding U.S. foreign policies many outside the U.S. believe that they are immoral and colonialist. How can we justify U.S. behavior (faults) when we look back at U.S. fundamental values promoted by founding fathers? I mean faults like the Iraq war, supporting tyrannical regimes in the Middle East, or selling more deadly weapons to regional countries.

It cannot be justified. It is best understood as driven by greed, and in particular, a powerful military-industrial complex as identified by President Eisenhower decades ago combined with certain ideas and ideals of American exceptionalism. I recently co-edited an open-access free volume called "Theologies of American Exceptionalism" on these issues.

High Qatari delegation visits Afghanistan

From page 1 ► The Taliban said its leadership thanked the Qatar government for supporting the Afghan people.

Qatar is considered one of the countries with the most influence over the Taliban and played a pivotal role in the massive U.S.-led airlift of its own citizens, other Western nationals and Afghans who assisted Western countries.

The foreign ministry also says Qatari's Sheikh Mohammed met Abdullah Abdullah, a senior official in the previous Afghan government, and former Afghan President Hamid Karzai.

The Taliban have released photos of the Qatari foreign minister meeting Akhund, while pictures of him with former President Karzai have been circulating on social media.

The Qatari capital Doha also hosted the Taliban's political office, which oversaw the negotiations with the United States that eventually led to the withdrawal of U.S. forces from Afghanistan.

The Taliban added, the Doha agreement, signed by the United States and the Taliban, was a "landmark achievement, all sides should adhere to its implementation."

But former acting CIA Director Michael Morell expressed concern on the agreement telling U.S. media "the Taliban is saying, we just didn't defeat the United States, we defeated NATO. We defeated the world's greatest military power, ever. So, there's a celebration going on."

Morell, who served as acting CIA director twice between 2011 and 2013, said he believes terrorists will now "flow back" into Afghanistan and make the country "more dangerous than other spots on the planet."

He says "after 9/11 they all scattered from Afghanistan. I think we're going to see a flow back in and that's one of the things that makes Afghanistan more dangerous than other spots on the planet."

Senior U.S. diplomat Jeffrey DeLaurentis told the United Nations Security Council "the Taliban seeks international legitimacy and support. Our message is simple: any legitimacy and support will have to be earned."

This is as former U.S. President Donald Trump has slammed the cur-

rent administration's departure of America's presence from Afghanistan saying "I guarantee that China and Russia already have our Apache helicopters and they're taking them apart to find out exactly how they're made. They're the best in the world by far. And they're taking them apart so they can make the exact same equipment. They're very good at that. It's a disgrace."

The U.S. military left behind 73 aircrafts in Afghanistan, some of which were disabled before the chaotic August withdrawal.

According to Pentagon officials, U.S. service members operated Apache attack helicopters at Kabul International airport. Afghan pilots are reported to have flown some of the advanced aircraft to foreign countries and abandoned much of the rest.

The former President also slammed the whole withdrawal process saying "the leader of our country was made to look like a fool and that can never be allowed to happen."

Trump added "[the withdrawal] was caused by bad planning, incredible weakness, and leaders who truly didn't understand what was happening."

Meanwhile, the United Nations has held an aid conference in Geneva in an effort to raise more than \$600 million for Afghanistan, warning of a humanitarian crisis there following the Taliban takeover.

The Geneva conference will be attended by top UN officials including Guterres, the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross, Peter Maurer, as well as dozens of government representatives including German foreign minister Heiko Maas.

Health experts have warned the health care system in Afghanistan is teetering on the edge of collapse, endangering the lives of millions and compounding a deepening humanitarian crisis.

After the Taliban seized power, the World Bank and other organizations froze more than \$600 million in health care aid. An abrupt end to billions of dollars in foreign donations following the collapse of Afghanistan's Western-backed government and the ensuing victory of the Taliban has heaped more pres-



sure on UN programs.

Humanitarian groups say If World Bank funding is not restored quickly, an exodus of health care workers may result. Many have remained on the job despite significant personal risks; already some have not been paid for months.

UN Secretary-General, Antonio Guterres, has already warned that his organization is struggling financially: "At the present moment the UN is not even able to pay its salaries to its own workers."

Along with the loss of supplies, the cutoff would effectively end health care services in 31 of the nation's 34 provinces.

About a third of the \$606 million being sought would be used by the UN World Food Program which found that 93% of the 1,600 Afghans it surveyed in August and September were not consuming sufficient foods, mostly because they could not get access to cash to pay for it.

The World Food Program

deputy regional director says "It's now a race against time and the snow to deliver life-saving assistance to the Afghan people who need it most."

Anthea Webb warned that "we are quite literally begging and borrowing to avoid food stocks running out."

Most Western countries have greeted the make-up of the new government in Afghanistan with caution and some with dismay last week after

the Taliban appointed veteran figures to top positions.

Others are still examining whether to recognize the new government or not.

In any case, countries like China and others have pledged to send humanitarian aid regardless of who is in office. The RIA news agency cited Russia's foreign ministry as saying that Moscow is also planning to send food and medicine to Afghanistan soon.

Elsewhere, one of the most central issues facing the Taliban has been women's education as they seek to persuade the world that they have changed since their last rule in the 1990s.

The Taliban's new Higher Education minister says women will be allowed to study in universities as the country seeks to rebuild after decades of war.

The minister, Abdul Baqi Haqqani, said the new Taliban government, named last week, would "start building the country on what exists today" and did not want to turn the clock back 20 years to when the movement was last in power.

Speaking at a news conference in Kabul he said "thanks to God we have a high number of women teachers. We will not face any problems in this. All efforts will be made to find and provide women teachers for female students."

Taliban officials have previously insisted women will be able to study and work.

Palestinian prisoners: This is not the time to despair

By Susan Abulhawa

For four days, Palestinians inside Palestine and living in exile in the diaspora were euphoric. In an act of extraordinary creativity and determination, six brave Palestinian political prisoners tunneled their way out of an Israeli maximum-security prison.

It was presumed they did so with a spoon, as they would have had no other tools. Certainly, they had no heavy machinery typically necessary for such a feat. The tunnel openings were exceedingly narrow, leaving everyone baffled how six grown men were able to pass through them.

I was immediately reminded of these lines from a Mahmoud Darwish poem:

The Earth is closing on us

pushing us through the last passage

and we tear off our limbs to pass through.

Indeed, when two of them - Yaqoub Qadri and Mahmoud Abdullah al-Arida - were captured on the fifth day, images released of them showed they had shed a tremendous amount of weight, presumably to fit through the opening. It was life imitating art - they tore off parts of their bodies to make the passage to freedom.

The following day, Zakariah Zubeidi and Mohammad al-Arida were captured. Ayham Kamamji and Munadil Infaat remain free, fighting for their lives, holding out as long as they can.

Israeli police snapped photos of the men they shackled, distributing ones that showed the most anguish in their expressions. Someone promptly photoshopped smiles on the faces of Yaqoub and Mahmoud, and the edited pictures went viral.

Many have criticized the alteration of those photos. They argue that we have to look squarely at their pain and defeat as if we are too stupid to understand what this moment means for them.

I believe whoever altered the photo did our society a great service, and I hope he or she does the same for Zakaria and Mohammad's photos. The Israeli authorities disseminated those painful photos for a reason.

They want to reflect the heavyweight of them onto all of our hearts and let defeat and depression set in, as it seems to be doing. They want our deflation to be as big or bigger than our initial celebration.

They want to erase from our minds the knowledge that six defenseless, emaciated men with nothing but perhaps a spoon, shook the colonial Zionist project to its core. It terrifies them that we could collectively contemplate the depths of hope and determination that propelled those six heroes to accomplish what everyone assumed was impossible.

Because if we did truly ruminate on that primal impulse for freedom, on the boundless hope in the heart of every revolutionary and fighter, we might find our own individual and collective power.

We might begin to understand that nothing is impossible, and freedom is within our reach. We might begin to organize a collective system to protect the remaining two - Ayham and Munadil - to keep them free and alive and encourage more defiance and resistance.

We might rise up to rid ourselves of the treacherous and illegitimate regime of Mahmoud Abbas, and install a revolutionary leadership, willing to protect its own people, instead of protecting those who occupy, rob, and oppress Palestinians.

Our brave political prisoners knew the risks they were taking. This is what revolutionaries do. They would rather fight than capitulate. No matter what happens now, what they did cannot be undone. The blow they dealt with "Israel" cannot be undealt. They sacrificed so much to give us all hope. How dare we now give in to depression and the sense of defeat?

It was not defeated or depression that motivated them to spend sleepless hours digging a massive tunnel without adequate tools. It certainly was not a belief in Israel's carefully cultivated perception of omnipotence.

The least we can do to honor them is to carry forth the torch of hope and the impulse for liberation that surely were at the heart of their heroism. We can solidify our defiance and refusal to live forever exiled or captive on our knees. We can understand that nothing is impossible, including ending this cruel Zionist regime. In the face of the horrors, we know those heroic political prisoners are now facing, we have no right to depression or defeat at this hour. We can be certain that is not what they sought to inspire in us.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

Israel strikes Gaza Strip to hide its failure in preventing Palestinians from escaping high-security prison: Hamas

The Palestinian Islamic Resistance Movement, Hamas, has denounced the latest round of Israeli airstrikes against targets across the Gaza Strip, saying the Tel Aviv regime continues its aggressions against the besieged enclave to cover up its fiasco in the wake of the recent escape of six Palestinian prisoners from a high-security jail in the northern part of the occupied territories.

"Through bombing of Gaza, the occupying Israeli regime is making attempts to cover up its weakness and failure following Operation Freedom Tunnel, or its inability to stop the freedom struggle," Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said in a post published on his Twitter page on Monday.

He added, "The response of the resistance [front] in Gaza to the Israeli bombing and engagements with occupation forces across West Bank cities and al-Quds validate the continuation of the freedom struggle of heroic [Palestinian] prisoners and the inability of the occupying regime to impose equations against Palestine and the resistance."

Israeli military aircraft launched a series of aerial attacks on the besieged Gaza Strip in the predawn hours of Monday, with no reports of casualties.

The Palestinian Shehab news agency reported that Israeli warplanes bombed Hamas compounds east of the border town of Rafah.

The report added that a site belonging to Gaza-based resistance fighters was also targeted in al-Yarmouk area, which lies east of Khan Yunis city in the southern Gaza Strip, with multiple air-to-surface missiles.

Moreover, Israeli fighter jets and reconnaissance drones attacked a site belonging to resistance factions west of Deir al-Balah city in the central Gaza Strip.

The Israeli army said in a statement that it hit four bases, including an underground tunnel and weapons storage and production facilities, during the airstrikes.

The military added that it carried out the raids after Palestinians in the Gaza Strip fired a rocket toward Israeli-occupied land late on Sunday night.

During the Israeli attacks, resistance fighters in the Strip launched the second rocket toward southern part of the occupied territories.

In the predawn hours of September 6, Zakaria Zubeidi, a former commander of the al-Aqsa Martyrs' Brigade in Jenin and five Islamic Jihad members tunneled their way out through their cell's drainage system and escaped from Gilboa prison.

Israeli prison officials were alerted by farmers who noticed them running through fields.

Four of the Islamic Jihad members were serving life sentences, while the fifth had been held without charge for two years under a so-called administrative detention order, according to Israeli media.

On Saturday, Israeli media outlets reported that four of the escapees had been arrested in the northern part of the occupied territories.

Iran and Iraq agree to ease visa restrictions

TEHRAN – Iran and Iraq have agreed to ease tough visa restrictions, Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi announced on Sunday, as a step forward in broadening bilateral relations.

The announcement came during a visit by Iraqi Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi to Tehran, where he discussed various issues including visa waiver, a joint railway project, and increasing the level of trade.

This is good news that the two countries have reached an agreement to abolish visa requirements, Raisi said at a joint presser, without giving any timeline.

Early on Monday, Tehran's Ambassador to Baghdad Iraj Masjedi said for the first stage air travelers benefit from the visa waiver program.

"Currently, only Iranian passengers entering Iraq by flight will not need a visa," IRNA quoted the envoy as saying on Monday.

"For the time being, visa waivers for travel to Iraq will be limited to air travel, however, it may be extended to land travel after the coronavirus crisis is over."

Before the coronavirus pandemic, Iraqi



constituted Iran's largest source of tourists. In return, hundreds of thousands of Iranian pilgrims head for the holy Iraqi cities of Najaf and Karbala each year to attend the Arbäeen pilgrimage, aka the Arbäeen trek.

The event marks an end to the 40-day mourning period following the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (AS), the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH), and his loyal companions at the Battle of Karbala on Muharram 10 in the year 61 AH (680 CE).

Exquisite carpet patterns restored in Kerman



TEHRAN – A panel of Iranian cultural heritage experts has restored 20 delicate carpet patterns, which date from the Safavid to Pahlavi eras.

"The carpet patterns [being kept in Kerman province] had suffered many damages over time... fortunately are now completely repaired by a team of experts who carried out the work in two months," the deputy provincial tourism chief said on Monday.

Mojtaba Shafiei stated making carpets, rugs and other handicrafts have rich histories in the southern province.

"Kerman has a long history in the field of carpets and handicrafts, and there is no doubt that there are many historical documents in this field that need to be repaired and protected."

For millennia, Iran's eminent carpets, which

are adored for their intricate designs, lavish colors, and matchless craftsmanship, have been produced by hand along the nomad trail across the foothills and high plains of the ancient land.

Weavers, the majority of whom women, spend several months in front of a loom, stringing and knotting thousands of threads. Some practice established patterns, some make their own.

It is a scene that seems ageless, a procedure that can take as long as a year, these efforts have long put Iran's carpets among the most complex and labor-intensive handicrafts in the world. When the weaving is finally done, the carpet is cut, washed, and put out in the sun to dry.

Persian carpets are sought after internationally with the medallion pattern being arguably the most characteristic feature of them all. However, there is tremendous variation in the shapes and sizes of the medallions as well as the way they are used in various rugs. It's not wrong to say that no two rugs will have the same medallion layout.

The big and sprawling Kerman province has been a cultural melting pot since antiquity, blending Persians with subcontinental tribe dwellers. It is home to myriad historical sites and scenic landscapes such as Bazaar-e Sartasari, Jabalieh Dome, Ganjali Khan Bathhouse, Malek Jameh Mosque, and Shahdad Desert to name a few.

Online exhibit to display handmade rings, jewelry in Qom

TEHRAN – An online exhibition featuring handmade rings and jewelry by the artisans from the central province of Qom is scheduled to be held in the near future, the provincial tourism chief has said.

Since the number of domestic and foreign tourists visiting the province has gone down due to the outbreak of the coronavirus, one of the most important problems for the crafters is the sale of their items, Alireza Arjmandi announced on Monday.

"Having handicraft products available on the internet is a solution that can have a direct impact both during and after the coronavirus outbreak," the official explained.

Offering online training courses and selling traditional jewelry and handmade rings can be one way to break the deadlock in the handicraft sector, he added.

Qom, national city of handmade rings

Qom has been designated as the national city of handmade rings as almost 1,200 crafters and artisans are active in the production of handmade jewelry and rings in workshops across the province.

The semi-precious stone mines, which are scattered across the province, are also one of Qom's potential to be developed in this field of handicrafts.

Besides domestic travelers, foreign tourists, who are mostly from Arab countries and the Persian Gulf littoral states, are traditionally the main customers of these handmade products.

Last July deputy tourism minister Pouya Mahmoudian announced that such national status can help promote Qom becoming a principal "brand" in this field of handicraft.

The second-holiest city of the country after Mashhad, Qom is home to both the magnificent shrine of Hazrat-e Masumeh



(SA) and the major religious madrasas (schools).

Apart from sightseers and pilgrims who visit Qom to pay homage at the holy shrine, the city is also a top destination for Shiite scholars and students who come from across the world to learn Islamic studies at its madrasas and browse through eminent religious bookshops.

The antiquity of Qom goes back to the Sassanid era (224 CE–651) and several historical mosques, mansions, and natural sceneries have been scattered across the city as well as towns and villages nearby.

Iranian handicrafts

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

In January 2020, the cities of Shiraz, Malayer, and Zanjan and the village of

Iranian hotels suffer \$4.8 billion loss since start of pandemic

TEHRAN – Iranian hotels have lost 202 trillion rials (some \$4.8 billion at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) of potential revenues as the COVID-19 pandemic drastically curbed travel in the country, the Iranian Hotel Association has said.

"Hotels and other official accommodation centers in Iran have suffered 202 trillion rials of financial losses from Esfand 1398 (February 20, 2019) to the end of Mordad 1400 (August 22, 2021)," ISNA quoted the association's head Jamshid Hamzehzadeh as saying on Sunday.

"Unfortunately, two-thirds of the hotel staff have lost their jobs, while many of them were experts in their field," he stated.

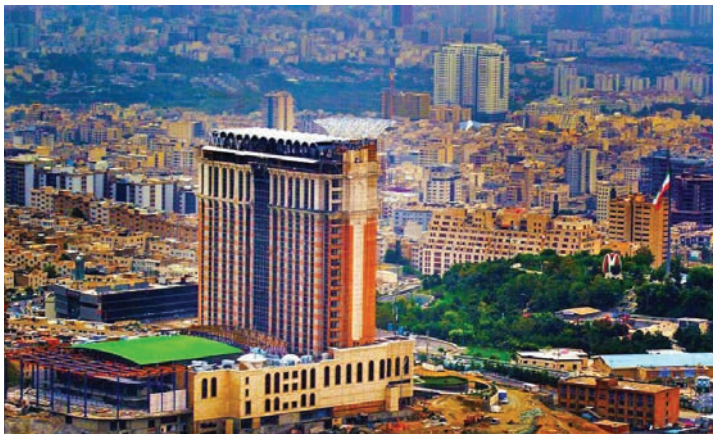
Elsewhere in his remarks, Hamzehzadeh referred to a recent scheme put forward by the tourism minister Ezzatollah Zarghami based on which travel insiders are tasked to design affordable packages to jumpstart domestic tourism.

"Most hotels are willing to cooperate in this project and they are willing to contribute to such a markdown without compromising the quality of their services," Hamzehzadeh added.

"If this plan is implemented, both the people and travel insiders will benefit from... and the "stagnant wheel of the hotel economy" will be turning to some extent."

Earlier this month, the newly-appointed minister called on travel agencies and tour operators to design affordable packages to enliven domestic tourism.

"I have two recommendations and requests; one is to offer a variety of tour packages and the other is to design cheap packages [for domestic travels], and of



A view of Tehran with the five-star Espinaz Palace Hotel in the foreground.

course you have to help in this regard," the minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts said.

"I hope this pandemic is resolved quickly and a tsunami of tourism is created," he stated.

The ministry was previously considering some plans to reopen doors to vaccinated travelers from across the globe. "The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts have already started extensive consultations with other government ministries for the reopening of borders to vaccinated travelers," the deputy minister, Vali Teymouri, announced in May.

"One of the issues that we are pursuing strongly through various committees is the arrival of international citizens who have

been vaccinated so that won't pose a threat or concern to the Iranian society," the official said.

In an interview with the Tehran Times, Teymouri explained how traveling and hospitality sectors of the country are adopting the virus-related limitations, stressing the need to re-analyze target markets, redefine tourism products and improve the level of e-services.

"Unfortunately, two-thirds of the hotel staff have lost their jobs, while many of them were experts in their field."

"We need to revise marketing strategies, and to redefine tourism products by paying great attention to nature tours, rural tourism, ecotourism, agricultural tourism as a tool to empower local communities and travel businesses."

Furthermore, the head of the Iranian Tour Operators Association Ebrahim Pourfaraj has asked the government to issue tourist visas

for the international applicants who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. "The Ministry of Health and the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control can at least agree that the international tourists who have received the [second dose of] coronavirus vaccine would be allowed to enter Iran," Pourfaraj earlier this year.

He also lamented that the continuation of such a trend would result in losing international tourist markets more than before. "Or at least they should make it clear so that we can respond appropriately to foreign companies and tourists to not to miss the international tourist markets more than before," he said.

According to available data compiled by the tourism ministry, the number of foreign visitors to Iran plunged 94% in the first nine months of the past Iranian calendar year (ended March 20, 2021) as the coronavirus pandemic takes a heavy toll on the tourism industry.

"Some 450,000 foreign travelers arrived in Iran for mainly medical or trade purposes during the first nine months of the year... tightened measures to tackle the new coronavirus has reduced international travel to the country by 94 percent," Teymouri said.

The ancient land embraces hundreds of historical sites such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, the country aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

Tourism projects to generate 600 jobs in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad

TEHRAN – Underway tourism projects are estimated to generate more than 600 jobs when they come on stream across the southwestern Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

"The completion of 41 tourism-related projects being carried out across the province is expected to result in the creation of 611 jobs," Majid Safai said on Monday.

The projects include accommodation centers such as hotels and eco-lodge units as well as water parks and tourist complexes, which are being implemented in close collaboration with the private sector, the official added.

"Such projects improve the region's tourism infrastructure as well as increase employment opportunities for locals," he noted.



Last September, a provincial tourism official announced that over one trillion rials (some \$24 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) was allocated to nine tourism projects

across the province.

He also mentioned that developing tourism infrastructure in the province is one of the province's tourism department priorities and is being pursued seriously.

The lesser-known province is home to various nomads and is a top destination for those interested in visiting in person the nomadic life. Sightseers may live with a nomadic or rural family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, their agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.

Before the coronavirus pandemic, the province attracted over four million people, mostly domestic travelers, during the Iranian year 1397 (ended March 2019), according to data announced by the provincial tourism department.

Persian mosque in Russia to undergo restoration

TEHRAN – Iran seeks to help revive and reconstruct the Persidskaya (Persian) Mosque situated in Russia's Astrakhan, IRNA reported on Monday.

"It is unfortunate that such a sacred place and the symbol of Iranian culture has been destroyed over the years," the Iranian Ambassador to Russia Kazem Jalali said during his visit to the mosque last week.

Iran is willing to help with the renovation and restoration of the mosque, so it will be able to serve the Muslim community nearby, he added.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the envoy expressed hope that some existing issues concerning the legal properties of the mosque would be resolved soon through intergovernmental negotiations.

the mosque's property and legal issues will have to be resolved through negotiations with local government officials, the ambassador explained.

The brick mosque was built in 1860 by the Persian Shiite community of Astrakhan, which emerged during the 18th century as a result of the presence of Persians in the region for trade between Iran and Russia.

A special council managed the mosque, which was located in an area known as the Persian corner. An octagonal base supported a cube-shaped dome with four short minarets on each corner. Classical elements were incorporated into the facade of the building with elements of



Islamic architecture.

At first, the mosque had a wooden arch wall and gate but was later rebuilt with stone, part of which remains.

After the 1917 communist revolution, many Iranian merchants left Astrakhan. After the building lost its original function in 1939, it was used as a garment factory for several years. Later, it was available for use by other organizations as well. The mosque was rebuilt several times during this time, causing severe damage. Although the main part of the building has been preserved, the dome and minarets have been destroyed.

Upon the pursuit of Iranian officials in late January 2018, the legal issues of the mosque building were resolved, and this building became the property of the Russian Muslim community.

18 historical buildings in Fars made national heritage

TEHRAN –A total of 18 historical mansions along with a hospital and a college, which are located in Fars province, have been added to the national heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts on Monday announced the inscriptions in separate letters letter to the

governor-general of the southern province, CHTN reported.

The ancient region of Fars, also spelled Pars or Persis, was the heart of the Achaemenian Empire (550–330 BC), which was founded by Cyrus the Great and had its capital at Pasargadae. Darius I the Great moved the capital to nearby Persepolis in the late 6th or early 5th century

BC.

The capital city of Shiraz is home to some of the country's most magnificent buildings and sights. Increasingly, it draws more and more foreign and domestic sightseers flocking into this provincial capital which was the literary capital of Persia during the Zand dynasty from 1751 to 1794.

Govt. supports 7,000 technological projects in 8 years

TEHRAN – The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology has paved the way for research and production of technological products by supporting 7,000 projects.

Since 2013, the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology has supported more than 7,000 research projects, doctoral and postdoctoral dissertations, and research grants to develop research and ultimately technological achievement.

This support will also help solve the country's problems, as it is based on the country's scientific priorities in various branches of science, ISNA reported on Monday.

Empowerment of faculty members and graduates is another goal that is pursued. However, its important achievement is the development of Iranian-made products, and in addition, it helps researchers to continue research and achieve results.

According to the Vice Presidency, more than 11 scientific and specialized working groups in mathematics and physics, medical sciences, economics, engineering, economics, intergroup, arts and architecture, basic sciences, agriculture and natural resources and animal sciences



receive and evaluate the projects, which will be supported if they are finally approved.

Some 141 national macro technology projects have been launched across the country until June 21, according to the Center for National Macro Technology Projects.

Supported by the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, "national macro technology projects" are knowledge-based and techno-

logical projects with commercialization abilities, implementation of which requires the extensive cooperation of various players.

However, these projects respond to the strategic and fundamental needs of the country. Given their impact on production, self-efficacy, and job creation, these projects must be supported as important tools for the realization of a knowledge-based econo-

my in the country.

Technology development in Iran

Despite sanctions putting pressure on the country, a unique opportunity was provided for business development and the activity of knowledge-based companies in the country.

Currently, over 7,000 knowledge-based companies are active in the country, manufacturing diverse products to meet the needs of the domestic market while saving large amounts of foreign currency.

The fields of aircraft maintenance, steel, pharmaceuticals, and medical equipment, oil, and gas are among the sectors that researchers in technology companies have engaged in, leading to import reduction.

Over 7,000 knowledge-based companies are active in the country.

SDSs, drying wetlands increasing alarmingly

TEHRAN – The occurrence of sand and dust storms (SDSs) phenomenon is increasing alarmingly across the country due to drying up wetlands, which is worrisome, head of deserts at the Forests, Rangelands, and Watershed Management Organization has stated.

The occurrence of drought and lack of water rights for wetlands are the most important causes of land degradation and desertification, which are caused by climate change and human involvement, ILNA quoted Vahid Jafarian as saying on Monday.

Emphasizing that the vegetation of floodplains plays a key role in stabilizing the soil and preventing wind erosion, Jafarian said that the occurrence of flood currents is vital for soil moisture and the regeneration and survival of plants in these areas.

More than 30 million hectares of land in the country are affected by wind erosion and about 13.9 million hectares of this area, located in cities and villages, agricultural land, and industrial towns, are causing significant damage to the infrastructure, he explained.

Wind erosion incurs an annual loss of 30 trillion rials (nearly \$714 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) for the country, according to the study conducted in 2019, he lamented.

The crisis is rooted in the imbalance between the amount of available water and its consumption and the lack of a comprehensive program for sustainable management of water and soil resources and the lack of approaches based on promoting resilience and adaptation to water scarcity, Jafarian stated.

"At present, the methods of rehabilitating desert areas are based on the pattern of prevention of destructive factors and the implementation of projects such as conservation and control of livestock grazing, development of compatible native species, and wastewater management.

However, the stability and durability of such measures against wind erosion depend on a series of external factors that in case of inefficiency and improper

management of soil and water resources; vegetation and sensitive ecosystems in desert areas will be the first victims," he said.

Preventing land degradation and desertification should be a priority on the agenda of national and provincial planning and sustainable land management, as well as the participation of local communities and effective cooperation of related bodies, he suggested.

SDS a major challenge to sustainable development

Dust storms are a major challenge to sustainable development, especially in arid and semi-arid regions, where more than 151 countries are directly affected, and 45 countries are classified as SDS source areas, according to UNCCD.

Dust storm belts range from the Sahara Desert and West Asia to the Great Desert of India and the deserts of central latitudes of Central Asia, China, and Mongolia. Thus, with such a wide range of cross-border effects, managing dust storms requires global and regional cooperation.

The most important factors of dust storms are land degradation, desertification, climate change, unsustainable land, and water use, strong winds, increasing drought, and its severity over time.

Natural sources of SDSs (including dried lakes and rangelands affected by vegetation depletion) account for 75 percent of the world's dust emissions and the share of human-caused SDSs (such as land-use change, agriculture, water diversion, and deforestation) is about 25 percent.

Dust storms have both internal and external origins, but their negative consequences are very wide and include serious risks to human health up to major economic losses in the fields of transportation, agriculture, water, and air quality.

Internal SDSs hotspots

Masoud Tajrishi, deputy head of the Department of Environment (DOE) for the human environment stated in June that a total budget of €450 million has been ear-



marked to contain sand and dust storms (SDSs) nationwide over the past three years.

Accordingly, in 2017, a special working group called "national headquarters for SDSs control" was formed, which has been able to manage this issue to a very good extent, he further highlighted.

Tajrishi went on to state that the headquarters first identified internal and external dust hotspots, based on which it was determined that about 35 million hectares are generating dust in the country, two million hectares of which are in critical condition.

Studies have shown that 40 percent of the critical dust sources are dried wetlands. To manage this section, we are going to have a meeting with the Ministry of Energy, he added.

About 350 million hectares of surrounding countries affect Iran, which is mainly raised from Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Turkmenistan, he noted, adding, so that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs started negotiations with the international community to tackle the problem.

During this period, about 110,000 hectares undergone seedling plantation, more than 750,000 hectares of protection, trapping and grazing operations in pastures with dust-raising potential, soil stabilization in 150,000 hectares, including mulching, construction of live and non-living windbreaks, equipping 100 stations for forecasting and warning, about 360 thousand cubic meters of dredging operations, improving routes for water to reach wetlands and about 100 kilometers of water transmission channels to humidify areas with dust potential in 27 dusty provinces were among the actions have been taken, he explained.

Fakhra vaccine enters third phase of human test

From page 1 ► The third phase will be completed after three months, and soon will receive the emergency use permit from the Food and Drug Administration, so that it will join vaccination rollout by November.

Mohammad Reza Qaraei Ashtiani, Minister of Defense, said that the production capacity of Fakhra vaccine will reach five million doses per month in the fall (starting September 23), and we will deliver 20 million doses of the vaccine to the Ministry of Health by the end of the year (March 2022).

Mass vaccination against COVID-19 started on Iranian citizens with the Russian-made Sputnik V vaccine on February 9.

While Iran continues efforts to mass-produce local candidates, over 18 million doses of foreign vaccines have already been imported and others are expected soon.

Iran is also producing vaccines jointly with two countries of Cuba and Russia.

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 infor-



mation 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, developed jointly by the Pasteur Institute of Iran and Cuba's Finlay Vaccine Institute, is another homegrown vaccine, which has received the emergency use license, after COVIRAN.

Fauna of Iran

(Part 1)

The Persian fauna is known in piecemeal fashion from studies of various groups of animals, but there has so far been no coordinated effort to record the entire range systematically, as there has been for the Persian flora (e.g., Rechinger) and for the fauna of the former Soviet Union, former British India, and the Arabian peninsula (Buttiker; Buttiker, Wittmer, and Krupp).

In Persia some invertebrate groups have been studied systematically, and studies have been undertaken for all vertebrate groups, but the scientific literature is vast and scattered; a preliminary attempt to include the most important works in an annotated bibliography was undertaken by R. L. Burgess and his colleagues in 1966; Henry Field's bibliography, also prepared with the assistance of colleagues, is even larger.

Bashir E. Allus's bibliography on the vertebrates of Iraq and neighboring countries is also very useful, as are comprehensive bibliographies on the fish, amphibians, and reptiles of Turkey by Ibrahim Baran and his colleagues and on the mammals by Hans Kumerloewe.

Survey of literature on the Persian Fauna

The first European naturalist to visit Persia was Samuel Gottlieb Gmelin, employed by the Russian government to explore parts of Gilan and Mazandaran in 1770-72 (1774; 1784; Pallas).

Subsequent explorers who made zoological collections included Guillaume A. Olivier, who went to Isfahan and Tehran in 1796; Carl Eduard von Eichwald (1834-37; 1841), who touched at two or

three places on the Persian coast during his exploration of the Caspian shores in 1825-26; Remi Aucher-Eloy, a French botanist who made zoological collections on his visits to Shiraz, Bushehr, Bandar-e Abbas, the Baā, μ tiari mountains, Hamadan, Tehran, and Tabriz but failed to note the precise locations where each sample was taken; William K. Loftus, who collected some zoological specimens along the Persian-Turkish border region in 1849-52; Alexander Keyserling, who collected a few reptiles and fish in Khorasan in 1858-59; and Theodor Kotschy, a botanical collector who brought some reptiles, without adequate location notes, to the Naturhistorisches Museum in Vienna.

Apparently the first attempt to compile a list of all the vertebrates known from Persia was that of Filippo De Filippi, who included 30 mammals, 167 birds, 39, 3 amphibians, and 22 fishes. He also provided a list of land and fresh-water mollusks.

A more thorough and systematic synopsis of the vertebrates, exclusive of fish, was prepared by the Persian Boundary Commission of 1870-72 under the direction of Frederic Goldsmid (q.v.). William Thomas Blanford listed 89 mammals, 383 birds, 92 reptiles, and 9 amphibians, as well as providing a survey of scientific natural history in Persia up to 1876.

He included a brief descriptive analysis of the fauna and considered the relations between the faunas of various regions of Persia and those of neighboring regions. No other author has attempted such a comprehensive survey of the Persian fauna.

(Source: Encyclopaedia Iranica)

‘No red lines in importing COVID vaccines, even Pfizer and Moderna’

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said on Monday that the country is facing no red lines in importing coronavirus vaccines, even Pfizer and Moderna.

"Of course, the health ministry has always been the sole authorized and eligible source for approving the vaccines which are allowed to be imported, and the foreign affairs ministry has used all its facilities towards this goal," Khatibzadeh said speaking at his weekly press briefing on Monday.

One of the strategies of the new administration is to take advantage of approaches that are not dependent on the nuclear deal in order to ensure the economic interests of the country, he said, adding that the same strategy was adopted regarding imports of coronavirus vaccines.

"We have proceeded to import tens of millions of doses of vaccines through COVAX and cooperation with countries such as China," he explained.

Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz, head of the

Iranian Food and Drug Administration, said on September 10 that not any number of Pfizer vaccines have been imported to the country so far, ISNA reported.

So, any vaccine sold under Pfizer in the open market is counterfeit, he emphasized.

Pfizer Public Relations even announced in a statement that Pfizer is only traded by governments and not provided to private sectors of any country. They even announced that

what is sold in the Iranian market as Pfizer is fake, he explained.

"It should be noted that the storage temperature of the Pfizer is minus 70 degrees Celsius and it has special conditions for transportation," concluded Shanehsaz.

Earlier in August, Alireza Raisi, the spokesman for the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, said that negotiation was underway with one or two European countries to purchase

Pfizer and Moderna coronavirus vaccines.

In his August 11 televised address, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei suggested that containing the rapidly increasing wave of the Coronavirus is the first and foremost issue of the country.

Placing great emphasis on the fulfillment of duties and the implementation of decisions regarding the Coronavirus pandemic, Ayatollah Khamenei said "the vaccine, whether imported

or domestically produced, must be provided with double effort and in any way possible made available to all people."

"Fortunately, with the production of the domestic vaccine, its foreign import route is also paved, while before that, despite the payment for the vaccine, foreign sellers failed to fulfill their commitments," the Leader said, urging officials to take importation and production of vaccine seriously.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Existing vaccines are effective against mutated coronavirus: Iranian expert

The COVID-19 vaccines, which have been so far produced in the world are also effective on the mutated virus, so people who receive the vaccines will be protected against the new virus strain, Massoud Mardani, a member of the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, has said.

What raised concerns about the newly-produced vaccine was the ineffectiveness against the mutated virus, which fortunately studies show, the mutation of the virus and the chromosomal alteration are not enough to change its general nature, he explained.

According to Mardani, it is possible to detect the new coronavirus in Iran. All British and European passengers are tested at the airport for a quick and PCR test, while so far no case has been confirmed in the country, IRNA reported on Tuesday.

واکسن کرونا بر روی ویروس جهش یافته هم اثر می کند

مسعود مردانی عضو ستاد ملی مقابله با کرونا می گوید واکسن تولید و تایید شده در دنیا بر روی ویروس جهش یافته هم اثر می کند و افرادی که واکسن تایید شده را بزنند علیه این ویروس هم مصونیت پیدا می کنند.

مردانی روز سه شنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: آنچه نگران آن هستیم این است که واکسن تولید شده برای کووید۱۹ در دنیا نسبت به ویروس جهش یافته بی اثر باشد که خوشبختانه بررسی ها نشان می دهد، جهش ویروس و تغییر کروموزومی ویروس به قدری نیست که ماهیت کلی آن تغییر کند.

به گفته او، امکان تشخیص ویروس کرونا جهش یافته در ایران وجود دارد. از همه مسافران انگلیس و اروپا در فرودگاه تست سریع و از موارد مشکوک تست دقیق تر «پی سی آر» گرفته و بررسی می شود و تاکنون موردی از این ویروس در ایران تایید نشده است.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON SEPTEMBER 13

New cases	22,541
New deaths	448
Total cases	5,318,327
Total deaths	114,759
New hospitalized patients	3,163
Patients in critical condition	7,206
Total recovered patients	4,568,360
Diagnostic tests conducted	30,597,215
Doses of vaccine injected	35,337,329

