

Angry Americans, Hysterical Reactions

▶ Page 2

STAY UPDATED #ViennaTalks

Report

EU sides with France in spat with U.S., Australia

Top EU officials have rallied behind France in criticizing the United States for negotiating a security pact in secret with Australia and Britain that cost Paris a lucrative submarine deal as diplomatic tensions escalate over the issue.

France says it was assessing all options in response to Australia's scrapping of a \$40 billion submarine contract last week in favor of a new deal with the U.S. and UK.

The decision enraged France, and earlier in New York, the French Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian accused U.S. President Joe Biden's administration of continuing his predecessor Donald Trump's trends of "unilateralism, unpredictability, brutality and not respecting your partner."

European Council President Charles Michel, speaking in New York on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly gathering, stressed that he found the move by Australia, Britain, and the United States difficult to understand.

"Why? Because with the new Joe Biden administration, America is back. This was the historic message sent by this new administration, and now we have questions. What does it mean - America is back? Is America back in America or somewhere else? We don't know."

He also questioned that "If China was a main focus for Washington, then it was very strange for the United States to team up with Australia and Britain" he described the new agreement, dubbed AUKUS, a move that weakened the transatlantic alliance.

Top officials from the United States and European Union had been due to meet in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, later for the inaugural meeting of the newly established U.S.-EU Trade and Technology Council. Still, Michel says some EU members have been pushing for this to be postponed.

The EU commissioner for internal markets told American media that "something is broken between our relations in Europe and the U.S." before adding there was a "growing feeling" in Europe over the past few weeks and there had been a "lack of trust and confidence between allies." ▶ Page 5

Interview

Ex-ambassador: From Pakistan's view Taliban government is not inclusive

By Saeed Azimi

TEHRAN – In a live interview with the Tehran Times on Tuesday, former Pakistan's ambassador to Iran says from viewpoint of his country the caretaker Taliban government is not inclusive.

However, Asif Durrani says it depends how one defines inclusiveness in a tribal and traditional society like Afghanistan.

"I think we have to look at Afghanistan as per its culture," the former diplomat notes.

He also believes that the Taliban have "evolved" like any other society, and it is different from the time it was ruling Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001.

This is the text of the interview:

Let's begin with the hot trend of these days, Afghanistan. How do you assess the Afghanistan events?

The Taliban gained control but found out that the government coffers were empty. The American-led government by Mr. Ashraf Ghani left nothing in the country. The big challenge now is how to sustain Afghanistan's economically.

Do you think that the Taliban government, the caretaker government, is based on the people's demands? Many countries, including Pakistan, Imran Khan in particular, and Iran, have called for an inclusive government. Do you see the current government as an inclusive government?

Well, that depends on how you describe "inclusive". The people who fought the Taliban or those with whom the Taliban fought are ▶ Page 2



TEHRAN – After years of on-again, off-again talks with the West over a 2015 nuclear deal that overwhelmingly dominated its foreign policy, Iran is slowly moving toward a broader foreign policy that is not confined to the tattered nuclear deal.

During his stay in New York, the new Iranian foreign minister, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, has made it clear to his foreign interlocutors that Iran is embarking on a new foreign policy course, one that is based on "economic multilateralism" and broader relations with the world,

particularly the neighboring countries.

This course is being charted out after decade-long nuclear diplomacy with the West failed to produce tangible results for Iran. ▶ Page 3

STAY UPDATED #NewForeignPolicy

Container operation rises 13% in Iran's ports in 5 months yr/yr

TEHRAN- As announced by an official with Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), container operation has increased 13 percent in the ports of country during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Farhad Montaser Kouhsari, the PMO's deputy Head for Ports and Economic Affairs, said 906,218 twenty-foot equivalent units (TEUs) of container

goods have been unloaded and loaded in the country's ports.

Referring to the important measures taken by the Ports and Maritime Organization to increase container operation, Kouhsari said: "Increasing container operation in the country's ports is one of the most important issues considered by the PMO."

In this regard, the completion and operation of the third phase of the container terminal of Shahid

Rajaei port is one of the measures that with its operation, the capacity of this port will increase from 6.5 million TEUs to 8.5 million TEUs, he added.

Loading and unloading of goods in the ports of Iran rose 14 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year, as compared to the same period of the previous year, the portal of the Ports and Maritime Organization has previously reported. ▶ Page 4

Opinion

Iran tourism prepares for a comeback

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – Iran considers reopening borders to foreign vacationers as its new tourism minister has said the government will soon scrap visa restrictions.

Months of steep recession has taken its toll. Many travel insiders, hoteliers, and tour operators have faced big dilemmas such as bankruptcy, unemployment, debts, and the prospects of not being competitive on the international level.

They now have good grounds of hope as Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Ezza-tollah Zarghami announced on September 19 that the country plans to lift visa restrictions to help the severely hit tourism industry.

Zarghami made the remarks following his conversations with President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi, however, the minister did not specify the date upon which those regulations would be scrapped. Some sources say that fully vaccinated travelers would be embraced under the updated regulations.

Meanwhile, the number of people testing positive for COVID-19 has continued to fall in the Islamic Republic, curbing a stubborn fifth wave of the pandemic, which has seen daily mortalities of up to 700 in recent weeks. ▶ Page 6



IRGC keeps spark of Holy Defense memory alive

TEHRAN — The largest floating exercise of the Basij force of the IRGC Navy was held on Wednesday, September 22, in the general area of the blue shores of Bandar Abbas and the Strait of Hormuz on the occasion of Holy Defense Week. More than 1,000 speed gunboats were involved in the exercise at the presence of the IRGC Navy commander.

Infertility treatment costs under health insurance

TEHRAN – Infertility treatment costs are currently covered by health insurance, Seyed Sajjad Razavi, the secretary of the supreme council of health insurance, has announced.

Outpatient and inpatient services of infertility treatment are covered by 70 and 90 percent, respectively, and the Ministry of Health is supposed to allocate an amount of budget in this regard, he explained.

Previously, these services were provided through state-run centers in a limited way, which

is now supposed to be provided in non-governmental centers as well, Razavi stated.

Infertility is the inability to become pregnant after one year of intercourse without contraception involving a male and female partner. There are many causes of infertility, including some that medical intervention can treat.

Infertility occurs in 10 to 15 percent of couples. Causes of infertility can be female or male, or both. Male infertility is responsible for 40 percent of infertility cases, while 40

percent are due to female infertility, and 10 percent are due to combined problems in both parts. In 10 percent of cases, no cause is found. In other words, in these couples, both people do not have a problem according to the available tests, but they do not have children for unknown reasons.

In the last two decades, great strides have been made in diagnosing and treating infertility, and about 65 percent of infertile couples have had children using new methods. ▶ Page 7

From Inside

- Prospects for Iran's admission to SCO from viewpoint of Russian experts **P2**
- Iran FM meets foreign counterparts in New York **P3**
- Tehran hosting 3 international exhibitions **P4**
- IMIDRO conducting mining development projects worth over \$10b **P4**
- Iran plans to attract \$125b of investment in oil industry **P4**
- Ancient petroglyphs discovered in central Iran **P6**
- Sassanid-era earthenware urn unearthed in central Iran **P6**
- Archaeological survey finds traces of metalworking in northwest Iran **P6**
- 10 national plans to promote medicinal plants **P7**
- Iran's anti-narcotics measures 'commendable': German official **P7**
- Iran confirms import of Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson **P7**
- Sadeq Ahangaran, "Khomeini's nightingale", releases his memoirs **P8**
- Belgian Iranologist Pierre Lecoq decorated with Mahmud Afshar Award **P8**
- Outsider Pictures signs rights to U.S., Canadian sales for Iranian drama "Pinto" **P8**

Interview

Women's handball's success can motivate Iranian girls: coach

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN – Nashmin Shafeian, coach of Iran women's handball team, hopes that their qualification to the world championship will motivate the young girls interested in handball to follow their dreams with eagerness.

Iranian women made history in the 2021 Asian Women's Handball Championship by advancing to the semifinals of the 2021 Asian Women's Handball Championship underway in Jordan.

"The players did excellent during the competition. We started the games with a loss against Japan. However, we played well in that match and could control the game, especially in the second half. Our players did their job without any stress and even deserved to win the game. Such a performance gave us all hope and optimism for the next games," said Shafeyan in her interview with Tehran Times.

Iran were defeated 23-20 against Japan but won all their next four matches against Kuwait (38-11), Palestine (52-9), hosts Jordan (28-22), and Syria (38-19) respectively to seal their ticket to the 2021 World Women's Handball Championship. ▶ Page 3

Interview

Canberra subsidizing Washington's failing ambitions: Australian professor

By M. A. Saki

TEHRAN – An Australian academic says that Canberra is bankrolling U.S. ambitions with the fancy of undermining China.

"They are taking advantage of Australia's limited democracy to subsidize Washington's failing global ambitions, in a quixotic attempt to subjugate China, a country which was, until recently, Australia's main trading partner," Professor Tim Anderson tells the Tehran Times.

On Wednesday, September 15, Australia, the United Kingdom, and the United States signed a trilateral partnership titled AUKUS. It was meant to provide Canberra with nuclear-propulsion technology for submarines.

"The Canberra regime led by Scott Morrison is engaging in a treacherous, massive misappropriation of Australian public money which will certainly endanger the Australian people," Anderson remarks.

The AUKUS pact created a huge controversy all around the world, from China to the European Union.

The pact angered Paris because in 2016 France and Australia had signed a deal which required France to provide Canberra with submarines.

EU foreign ministers voiced solidarity on Monday with France, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said.

"The ministers expressed clear solidarity with France. This announcement ran counter to calls for greater cooperation with the European Union in the Indo-Pacific," Borrell told reporters after EU ministers met on the sidelines of the annual United Nations conference. ▶ Page 5

Prospects for Iran's admission to SCO from viewpoint of Russian experts

TEHRAN - With the official accession of Iran to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), according to Russian experts, while a new chapter in the relations between Iran and the countries of the region is on the horizon, a clear prospect of increasing the organization's authority in military and economic, security aspects is expected.

At noon time on September 17 and on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the official acceptance of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the beginning of a new chapter in relations between Iran and countries was marked, IRNA reported on Monday.

Iran, which has been an observer member of the SCO until now, officially began its membership process on Friday (September 17th) at the 21st Summit of the organization held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

The SCO is a regional intergovernmental organization formed for various cooperation, especially security and economic cooperation. The organization was established on June 15, 2001 with the membership of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan in Shanghai. Over these years Pakistan, India and Iran have joined the organization

The Islamic Republic News Agency (IRNA) asked a number of Russian experts about the official admission of Iran to the SCO and its importance for Iran and its member states.

"Iran's membership in SCO has positive regional implications"

"Iran is a reliable partner for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, and its membership is important and effective in increasing regional security," said Leonid Ivashov, director of the Russian Center for Geopolitical Studies.

Stating that Iran is a powerful country and has a superior position in the region, he added: "Iran plays a good role in regional developments and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization uses the official membership of Iran to strengthen regional security and stability."

The head of the Center for Geopolitical Studies in Russia noted: "Accepting Iran's membership in this organization will strengthen cooperation with key members, especially Russia."

Ivashov stated that the entry of the great country of Iran into the SCO, which is a nascent regional organization, will increase the role and capability of this group and its level of influence on regional developments.

"Iran's official membership helps SCO to achieve strategic goals"

Sergei Lozinin, a professor at the Russian University of International Relations, supported Iran's permanent membership in the SCO and called it very important.

He called Iran's membership in the organization effective and constructive in achieving the strategic goals of this regional pact.

"Relations between Iran and Shanghai members will be consolidated"

Adlan Margoviev, an expert at the International Research Institute at the Russian Foreign Ministry's Magimo University, said: "Iran was an observer member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and actively participated in all its meetings."

He noted that in terms of relations between Iran and the SCO member states, the situation will improve and better relations will be established.

"But the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, which coordinates its policies in areas such as politics, military and economy and decides in these cases, Iran will actively participate in this process and will have the right to vote," Margoviev said.

"SCO needs Iran"

Russia's international correspondent, Abbas Juma, also told Radio Sputnik that Iran is a very important player and a powerful country in the southeast of the Eurasian region, which separates it from West Asia.

According to him, Iran is a very important country in the fight against terrorism and in recent years has shown that it has cooperated very effectively with Russia in the fight against terrorism in Syria, which is a very significant issue.

"Iran's membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization showed that the members of this organization considered

Iran's full presence in this organization necessary," he added.

"Iran also needs this organization," the Russian correspondent said. "The member states of this organization constitute a very large market and half of the world's population lives in these countries."

Juma noted that Iran has been striving for its own prosperity and independence for decades, and the United States and Israel have always taken anti-Iranian positions.

"The decision to admit Iran to the Shanghai Cooperation Organization is very important," Juma said, stressing that the country can participate in the big projects of the Shanghai pact.

He also referred to Iran's confrontation with the arrogant behavior of the United States, saying: "The United States is definitely upset about Iran's membership in the Shanghai Organization."

"Iran's membership in SCO will reduce Western pressure"

The head of the Faculty of Global Politics at Moscow State University says that Iran's membership in the SCO will reduce Western pressure on the country and will have a positive impact on the structure of its foreign economic cooperation.

"Iran, Russia and China are under intense pressure from the West led by the United States, but given the economic characteristics, Iran suffers more from sanctions than the other two countries," Andrei Sidorov said.

According to him, Iran's membership in the SCO as a full member will create new opportunities for Tehran to face oppressive and illegal unilateral sanctions.

Iran serves as a bridge linking Europe to Asia, Persian Gulf to Caspian Sea and Central Asia, and also to the Caucasus in southern Russia.

He said that Iran has a lot of experience in dealing with sanctions, adding that Iran shares this experience through cooperation with the SCO, and there is no doubt that interaction with Russia and China, the other two countries sanctioned by the West, will bring great achievements.

The head of the Faculty of Global Politics at Moscow State University noted that the SCO is gaining more power and that Iran's membership will increase the alliance's global prestige and that more countries will join the organization in the coming years.

He added that the SCO is becoming a heavyweight against the West and can successfully counter excessiveness and its hegemonic system, especially the United States.

According to the Russian university professor, the SCO is working to counter the unipolar U.S. system, and in the future it will play a key role in establishing a multipolar system with new poles of power, including Russia, Iran, China and India.

"Official membership of Iran will promote SCO credibility"

A member of the Council for Interethnic Relations, which operates under the auspices of Russian President Vladimir Putin, said: "I believe that the membership of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization will increase the prestige and global position of this organization and will bring many achievements for both sides."

Shabanov noted, "Iran is an important and serious player in the Middle East. Iran has a privileged position in the region, connecting Europe to Asia on the one hand, and the Persian Gulf and the Caspian Sea and the countries of Central Asia and the Caucasus on the other which Russia is also located."

The Russian socio-cultural activist noted that Iran is actively involved in the political equations of the West Asia region, and that joining the SCO will help the country participate in resolving regional issues.

Noting membership in the SCO is very important and beneficial for Iran, he said through the organization Iran can improve its economic, political and military position and cooperate freely with neighboring countries and major world powers.

The member of the Council for Interethnic Relations said that the SCO members are a very large market for the export of goods and Iran can use this important opportunity to develop its export structure.

Shabanov believes that Iran's membership in the organization is also very important and beneficial for the organization because it is a powerful player.

Shabanov added: "Undoubtedly, Iran's membership in this organization will help increase the country's image and also ensure Iran's security, and after this, Iran is not alone and a great organization supports it."

Angry Americans, Hysterical Reactions

TEHRAN — After Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi virtually addressed the 76th United Nations General Assembly, many political analysts commented on the contents of his speech. However, what is interesting is that the authors of the JCPOA are crying over an empty coffin.

To examine this issue, let's review what the president told the UN General Assembly on Tuesday.

"Sanctions are the U.S. new way of war with the nations of the world," Raisi said at his speech.

Is this a remark that anyone can object it? No. The fact that the United States has imposed crippling sanctions against Iran cannot be denied. Even the American or hardline Israeli analysts admit this. As the Iranian president rightfully said at his speech, sanctions against the Iranian nation started "not with my country's nuclear program; they even predate the Islamic Revolution and go back to the year 1951 when oil nationalization went underway in Iran..."

The United States went too far in its illegal sanctions on Iran to the extent that strict financial sanctions even impeded the import of medicine and medical equipment to Iran at the time of global Coronavirus pandemic. There is little doubt that the Americans committed medical terrorism against the Iranian people. Raisi also pointed to this fact in his speech.

"Sanctions, especially sanctions on medicine at the time of the

COVID-19 pandemic, are crimes against humanity," he said at his virtual address at the UN General Assembly.

He also emphasized, "I, on behalf of the Iranian nation and millions of refugees hosted by my country, would like to condemn the continued illegal U.S. sanctions especially in the area of humanitarian items, and demand that this organized crime against humanity be recorded as a symbol and reality of the so-called American human rights."

On Tuesday night, a network of analysts and commentators started bashing Raisi's speech, as well as screaming over a revival of the JCPOA. Since the new Raisi administration took the power in early August, Iran started to patiently evaluate the situation to return to the negotiations table. In a phone call on Sept. 14 with former British Foreign Secretary Dominic Raab, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said that Iran, while is naturally in the process of "consultations on how to continue the Vienna talks, it has reiterated that it will welcome negotiations that have tangible results and secure the rights and interests of the Iranian people."

This is what the Iranian president



had previously touched on during first TV interview on September 5.

"Negotiations is an option as a tool for diplomacy, but negotiation under pressure and threats is not acceptable at all," Raisi insisted.

After Raisi's speech, Ali Vaez, Director of Iran Project and Senior Advisor to the Crisis Group, tweeted, "@raisi_com's speech at #UNGA was one of the most anti-American speeches I've heard from an Iranian president in years."

Barbara Slavin, Director of the Future of Iran Initiative at the Atlantic Council, replied to Vaez's tweet, saying, "As harsh as @Ahmadinejad1956 but more coldly rational. did you notice at the end, tho, that #Raisi said #Iran wanted 'large scale economic and political cooperation with all countries of the world.' We need to remember, as well, that he is only the frontman, not the decider."

Yet, the most predictable strategy was outlined by the notorious CEO of The Foundation for Defense of Democracies (FDD), Mark Dubowitz.

He tweeted, "Raisi's new negotiating team will ask for total sanctions relief and give less than the JCPOA. @USEnvooyIran @Rob_Malley will give them 97% and then pretend that they held the line and that there's a 'longer and stronger'"

It seems that the thinkers, who helped draft the JCPOA, don't agree with the text anymore

Ex-ambassador: From Pakistan's view Taliban government is not inclusive

From page 1 ► included in the government. Therefore, such an assumption would be problematic as we talk about predominantly tribal Afghanistan. You're talking about a society where they are still not familiar with the Western kind of democracy.

Traditionally, in Afghanistan's tribal structure, people have been accustomed to using muscle power. From the Taliban's perspective, they think that the Americans toppled them after 9/11. They claim to be the rightful government, forcefully removed by the Americans. Since the Taliban have captured the country by force, their definition of inclusiveness may, in my personal view, would be at variance with what you and I may define as "inclusive." In this respect, I don't know whether by "inclusive" you mean that Ashraf Ghani should have been part of the government, or Mr. Qanouni or Mr. Karzai. Another definition of inclusiveness, propounded by the Taliban, would be whether Uzbeks, Tajiks, Hazaras, who have been part of the Taliban movement, are included in the government, or it is the one you and I would prescribe for the Taliban to include in the government. Therefore, it all depends on how we define inclusiveness.

Let's define it from Iran's point of view. It says inclusive forms of all ethnicities and minorities and women in the government.

What if the Taliban say, we don't discuss women; this is our tribal tradition which represents the overwhelming population of Afghanistan. Have you seen Hamid Karzai's wife in public? Have you seen Ashraf Ghani's cabinet people and their wives in public? Why don't people question them while they plead to be democrats and progressive?

No, but I've seen their ministers and members of the parliament.

They were representatives of the government and the people, and they claim to be progressive. We are discussing Afghanistan. So your level of standards and threshold may not apply.

When we talk about women, during the initial days of the Iranian revolution, the hijab was quite strict, but the situation gradually changed.

I think it is a political evolution with time. We evolve every day. We grow with time and with interaction with people.

Ten years ago, I had some ideas to which I may not subscribe today. We are discussing politics. We are not discussing gender.

Take the example of China. Americans are lecturing the Chinese to introduce democracy, but the Chinese response to the Americans have been that "democracy is not like Coca Cola that tastes the same everywhere." The Chinese system is based on meritocracy. If you come to the merit, then you are fit for the job. Democracy differs from place to place, country to country, and culture to culture.

I think we have to look at Afghanistan as per its culture. We are trying to impose our understanding on the Afghan people. Let them



decide for themselves what is good for them.

You mentioned political evolution. Do you think that the Taliban in 2021 has grown in the time since 1996 or 2001? What are the signs?

I think they have evolved. Look at Kabul. It just looks like Tehran, where women are walking in the city without hindrance, which was impossible during the Taliban's first regime. Previously, the Taliban were reclusive. They would not meet with the people, but now they meet the outsiders.

Now, they have approached all the countries of the world, especially the neighbours. They have a much better relationship with Iran as compared to before 9/11. Earlier, Russia, Iran and India were on one side. They were supporting the erstwhile Northern Alliance, but the situation is different now. The Taliban have a political office in Doha, which maintains a relationship with the Americans and other European countries. I think they have evolved, but we expect many other improvements in their behavior from international standards.

How do you assess ISI chief's visit to Kabul? He then travelled to Iran, and then he returned to Pakistan and held a meeting with the presence of all intelligence chiefs. How do you assess these three moves by the ISI?

If there were something sinister, the ISI chief would have undertaken a secret visit to Kabul. Pakistan should not be apologetic that the ISI chief was in Kabul. He was there to discuss security issues that are of concern to Pakistan. When he went to Iran, he discussed security issues that were of interest to Pakistan and Iran. Then there was a meeting of the intelligence chiefs of immediate neighbors of Afghanistan in Islamabad.

May I ask about Pakistan's initiatives for the Afghanistan developments.

Well, I don't think that Pakistan has initiated any unusual action. There are issues that the neighbors of Afghanistan have discussed at the regional level. We are all part of that regional initiative. There is no exclusive initiative by Pakistan.

There is no exclusive initiative by Pakistan regarding Afghanistan?

No.

What do you see as the current solution personally to the Afghanistan issue?

Immediately, we have to address the

humanitarian crisis, which is looming large in Afghanistan. We all know that almost three fourth of Afghanistan's budget came from outside. It means that Afghanistan has been dependent on foreign aid. That source is closed, and the U.S. has already frozen Afghan Central Bank's 9.5 billion dollars. IMF has also frozen 460 million dollars. So the immediate crisis is the supply of food and medicines. It is important to note that the winters will set in in few weeks, especially in northern Afghanistan. Afghanistan needs urgent humanitarian assistance. The United Nations secretary general's office has said almost 1 billion dollars have been committed by the member states. Hopefully, the aid will reach out to the people of Afghanistan on an urgent basis.

There's a challenge in this regard. Taliban's government has not been recognized internationally and according to international law humanitarian aid should be given to an internationally and legally recognized governments. How do you think humanitarian aid would reach Afghanistan?

The United Nations agencies are already in Afghanistan, and some international NGOs are present there. The international assistance is channeled through the United Nations, not through the Afghan government. But I think the Taliban will generate their revenues through duties on imports and local taxes. A section of analysts also opines that the Taliban would not be as corrupt as their predecessors were. If that assessment is correct, then the waste of national resources would be far less than what we have seen in Ghani's government.

Reportedly, government officials have not been paid for over a month, and poverty rate is rising. How long do you think these economic challenges would take for the Taliban to resolve and get people's lives back in order?

I don't know.

Do you have an estimate?

I have no idea about the current situation. However, one thing is clear that three fourth of Afghanistan's workforce in the government sector comprise teachers or medical staff, including women. If the government does not have money to pay, how will you open the schools and pay the teachers and medical staff's salaries, including female staff? These are serious issues that the international community must look at.

Imran Khan has called for the formation of an inclusive government and I think my judgment was that based on your remarks, the current caretaker government is inclusive enough. Is that satisfying for the Pakistani government?

No. That's why the Pakistani government has raised this. I spoke with you about the term inclusiveness and how you will interpret it. If you ask the Taliban, they will say it is inclusive, but we would also improve it and include more people in the future, so we have to wait and see. As far as Prime Minister Imran Khan is concerned, he articulated the regional consensus calling upon the Taliban to establish an inclusive dispensation.

SPORTS

Women’s handball’s success can motivate Iranian girls: coach

From Page 1 ► “We did not know much about the Kuwait team because they were in training camp for two months. Fortunately, we could handle the game against them with proper pace and movement in the game. Against Palestine and Syria, we already expected to win the games and did our job in the best way possible,” she said.

“The most crucial game for Iran was against the host country, Jordan. Two hours before the game, we were informed that I and two other members of technical staff had contracted Covid19. It was a big shock for us, but our players did their best during the game with their commitment and hardworking and earned victory against the strong opponent. With that win, we were relieved about qualifying for the world championship,” Shafeian added.

Iran will meet the Korea Republic in the semifinals on Thursday.

“Korea are a high-level team with the experience of playing in the Olympic Games. We want to keep our players safe and without injury in this game and focus on the third-place play-off match. As a coach, I should be logical. Korea are strong and hard to beat for us,” she added.

To book a place at the 2021 World Women’s Handball Championship in Spain can motivate the Iranian girls to follow the sport, she said.

“I am delighted that we could make Iranian people happy. I hope that this success will motivate all Iranian girls and also inspire Iran’s junior and youth teams as they are also on their way to the world championships qualifiers,” Shafeian concluded.

Iranian woman Rekabi wins first ever medal at IFSC World Championships

TEHRAN – Elnaz Rekabi from Iran became the first country’s woman to win a medal at the International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) World Championships.

She won the bronze medal at the Women’s Combined. Austrian climber Jessica Pilz won the gold medal and the silver medal went to Slovenian Mia Krampf.

“I am very happy to win the medal because the best climbers in the world have participated in the competition and I didn’t think I could win the medal,” Rekabi said.

Rekabi, nicknamed spider woman, started climbing in her youth when her brother had become an Asian vice champion in competitive climbing at a competition in Zanjan, a city in northwestern Iran.

The final stage of the 2021 International Federation of Sport Climbing (IFSC) World Championships commenced in Moscow, Russia on Sept. 16 and brought 167 athletes (70 women and 97 men) together.

Iran look to defend Volleyball U21 World title

TEHRAN – Four days after inspiring Iran to win the title at the 2021 Asian Volleyball Championship, Behrouz Ataei’s ambition is to defend the title at the 2021 FIVB Volleyball Men’s U21 World Championship.

Two years ago in Bahrain, Iran, headed by Ataei, defeated Italy 3-2 to make history by winning the title at the Volleyball U21 World Championship for the first time ever.

On Thursday, Iran will start their journey with a match against Belgium in Pool C. Morocco and Argentina are in the pool as well.

Russia are the most decorated team in the competition, with six titles out of 20.

There are 16 teams in the competition if four pools of four teams. Following the preliminary round, the top two teams from each pool will qualify for the last eight in two pools of E and F. The bottom two will play for the ninth to 16th places in Pools G and H.

The 2021 FIVB Volleyball Men’s U21 World Championship, contested by the men’s national teams under the age of 21 of the members of the FIVB, the sport’s global governing body.

The tournament will be held in Italy and Bulgaria from Sept. 23 September to Oct. 3.

For the first time, the tournament will be jointly-hosted by more than one country.

Iran FM meets foreign counterparts in New York

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has met many foreign officials during his visit to the United Nations in New York.

In New York, Abdollahian has many meetings on his agenda. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said the new Iranian foreign minister will have about 45 meetings in New York. Speaking at a press conference on Sunday, the spokesman said about 45 meetings with foreign counterparts have been scheduled for Abdollahian.

The situation around the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), and the situation in Afghanistan, as well as other bilateral issues, were among the issues discussed during Abdollahian’s stint in New York.

The Iranian foreign minister began his scheduled meetings by meeting UN High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) Filippo Grandi to discuss the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan in the wake of the Taliban takeover of Kabul.

In the meeting, the top Iranian diplomat underscored the necessity of ameliorating the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan.

“Unfortunately, we are seeing Afghan people being forced from their homes inside the country and [seeing] their exodus to neighboring countries,” said Abdollahian.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran has hosted its Afghan brothers and sisters for four decades now, and has tried to be a good host throughout all these years despite sanctions and economic pressure, and recently the coronavirus pandemic” he added.

“But it is essential that international organizations more actively discharge their responsibilities with regards to the humanitarian situation in this country in order to prevent more noble Afghan people from being displaced,” said the Iranian foreign minister.

The first bilateral meeting by Abdollahian was held with his Indian counterpart Subrahmanyam Jaishankar on Tuesday.

During the meeting, the two top diplomats reviewed bilateral relations and exchanged views on regional and international issues. They emphasized the need to increase consultations to promote trade relations and finalize ongoing negotiations on vaccine supply.

Abdollahian and Jaishankar also discussed the situation in Afghanistan. They stressed the need for the realization of the Afghan people’s will and the formation of an inclusive government without foreign interference. In the meeting, the Iranian foreign minister announced Tehran’s readiness to promote cooperation and hold joint consular and economic commissions with India. He also said the preferential trade agreement between the two countries and their cooperation in the field of energy must be finalized, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

The Indian foreign minister also congratulated Iran on becoming a permanent member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and renewed his invitation to the Iranian counterpart to visit New Delhi.

Jaishankar also announced the Indian government’s readiness to immediately send Covid vaccines over which the two sides are negotiating. India has already promised to send the vaccines to Iran.

Following his bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly in New York, Abdollahian on Tuesday met with top Luxembourgian diplomat Jean Asselborn.

Iran lays out new foreign policy doctrine at UNGA

From Page 1 ► It also marks the start of an era of decoupling Iran’s foreign policy for the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). For about a decade, the JCPOA has dominated Iran’s foreign policy. It has been raised in almost every meeting between Iranian foreign ministers and their counterparts from Europe and elsewhere in the world.

This domination has also resulted in severe fluctuations in Iran’s economy.

But now it seems that the new Iranian government is ultimately coming to a conclusion that the country’s foreign policy should by no means be limited to the JCPOA.

The early signs of this policy come to the surface during the recent visit by Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi to Tajikistan, where he initiated the process of Iran’s joining the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO).

Addressing the 21st SCO Summit in Dushanbe, Ayatollah Raisi said, “When I took over the presidency of the Islamic Republic, I introduced my foreign policy orientation as focusing on ‘economic multilateralism’

and strengthening ‘neighborhood policy’ in its broadest sense, and strengthening its presence in regional organizations.”

The Iranian president added, “The combination of the Eurasia and One Road-One Belt initiatives can be an objective realization of this approach, and the vast potential of the Islamic Republic of Iran in terms of geopolitics, population, energy, transportation, human resources, and most importantly spirituality, culture and civilization can cause a significant stimulus to this outlook.”

Iran’s membership in the SCO was achieved during the first foreign visit by Ayatollah Raisi in his capacity as Iran’s president. So, it gave the Raisi team a boost at the start of their Asia-oriented foreign policy.

The 67th United Nations General Assembly is another occasion for this team to further elaborate their newly-crafted foreign policy. Abdollahian put Iran’s new orientation into practice during his meetings with foreign officials at the UN. He met with many counterparts including top diplomats from Europe.

Abdollahian spent much of his meeting with

U.S. President Joe Biden’s policy is a continuation of his predecessor’s policy to impose sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

Abdollahian further noted that the Iranian government is bound to make sure a parliamentary act regarding the sanctions is implemented, calling the European troika’s excuses about its failure to stick by its part of the JCPOA “unacceptable.”

The Iranian foreign minister added that the other signatories to the JCPOA must have flexibility and understand the new situation following the inauguration of the new Iranian administration. Abdollahian also underscored that the administration’s definite policy is to not tie the Iranian economy to the nuclear deal, declaring Iran’s readiness to forge ties irrespective of the JCPOA. He stressed that the Iran-Germany trade and economic ties are not satisfactory at all and that Tehran and Berlin must find a solution to this problem.

The German foreign minister also said his country is committed to the nuclear agreement and will do its utmost to revive and safeguard the deal. He welcomed the recent agreement between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency following its chief Rafael Grossi’s visit to Iran. Maas underlined the need for all sides to do their best to make sure the Vienna talks pay off.

The top German diplomat also referred to his country’s determination to boost ties with Iran and blamed the current state of the economic relations on circumstances over which neither Iran nor Germany has any control.

Iran, Germany stress formation of inclusive government in Afghanistan

The two foreign ministers also discussed regional and international issues and the situation in Afghanistan and stressed the formation of an inclusive government in the country.

As part of his meetings on Tuesday, Abdollahian met with Croatian Foreign Minister Gordan Grlic-Radman.

During the meeting, in addition to bilateral issues, topics including the crisis in Afghanistan, refugees and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action were discussed.

The Iranian foreign minister referred to the importance of the Balkan region, especially Croatia, in the foreign policy of the new Iranian administration, stating that the two countries have great potential for developing cooperation in political and cultural spheres.

He further said that two agreements are on the agenda of the Iranian parliament in the field of customs cooperation and encouragement of mutual investment, and that with the final approval of these agreements, new opportunities will be created for cooperation.

During this meeting, the Croatian foreign minister also highlighted the importance of relations with Iran, stating that Croatia seeks to strengthen relations with the Islamic Republic. The joint economic commission is one of the mechanisms that help to expand ties.

Referring to negotiations between Iran and the 4+1 group and the Vienna agreement (JCPOA), he said that part of the benefits of this agreement will help improve Iran’s economy.

He said the visit of the director general of the IAEA to Tehran and the technical agreement between the two sides was an important step, adding that the goal of the JCPOA is clear and there is no better alternative to it.



During the meeting, Abdollahian praised Luxembourg’s efforts to improve relations with Tehran and said that he holds the country in high regard.

Abdollahian emphasized Iran’s new balanced foreign policy and the readiness of the new government to review relations with the European Union. He stressed the need to promote relations with Luxembourg based on mutual respect and interests.

The Iranian foreign minister said Tehran has fulfilled all its obligations under the nuclear deal, or JCPOA, for many years, but the other parties have distanced themselves from fulfilling their part of the agreement in various ways. He added that the United States has committed a wide-ranging and complete violation, and the European troika is also inactive and indifferent to their commitments and to Iran’s interests under the JCPOA.

Asselborn also wished Abdollahian success in his post as Iran’s foreign minister. Referring to his three previous visits to Iran, the Luxembourgian foreign minister said the two sides have many possibilities to expand their relations. He also supported bilateral consultations aimed at reviving the nuclear deal.

Abdollahian has met with his Vietnamese counterpart in New York. Abdollahian and Bui Thanh Son discussed Iran-Vietnam ties and reviewed issues of mutual interest.

Abdollahian thanked Vietnam for its principled stance on the Islamic Republic at the UN.

Abdollahian further said Iran is ready to export Iranian-made vaccines to Vietnam to help improve the Covid situation in the country and to cooperate with Hanoi in the fields of industry, agriculture and tourism. Abdollahian added that a joint economic commission is expected to be held as soon as possible.

During the meeting, the Vietnamese foreign minister first thanked the Islamic Republic of Iran for its support of Vietnamese candidates in international organizations. Then, he presented a report on the latest Covid situation in his country and the problems that have arisen. He also welcomed cooperation with Iran in the fields of economy, investment, science and technology.

Abdollahian held talks with his Finnish counterpart in the last meeting of Tuesday morning with other top diplomats.

Abdollahian and Pekka Haavisto discussed the latest developments in Afghanistan and the wider region as well as issues of mutual interest.

The Iranian foreign minister said the new administration in Tehran is willing to more diligently pursue relations with Finland. He added that, to this end, holding the Iran-Finland political committee can give an impetus to bilateral ties and that Tehran is pushing for boosting relations.

Abdollahian noted that Iran is quite ready to expand economic, trade, industrial and agricultural ties with Finland and to also establish a direct flight between Tehran and Helsinki. He underlined the need to support the activity of the private sectors of Iran and Finland.

Haavisto also reviewed ties with Iran, including political, economic and environmental relations. He said Helsinki is ready to expand the ties. The Finnish foreign minister also expressed pleasure at the establishment of the Iran-Finland chamber of commerce, saying that marks a step forward in strengthening economic relations between Helsinki and Tehran.

Foreign Minister Haavisto also said his country is ready to give any necessary help to revive the Iran nuclear deal. He referred to the history of hosting regional talks within the framework of the Helsinki process and extended an invitation to the Iranian foreign minister to attend the upcoming meeting.

Following his bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly, Abdollahian on Tuesday met with German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas.

He outlined Iran’s foreign policy under the new Ebrahim Raisi administration as well as the Iran nuclear program and the Vienna talks aimed at reviving the agreement, otherwise known as the JCPOA.

Abdollahian underlined the importance of the Vienna negotiations being result-based. He said the Iranian people rightfully expect to enjoy the economic benefits of the nuclear deal this time around. The foreign minister noted that this expectation has not been realized yet because the other sides have failed to live up to their part of the JCPOA.

The U.S. should understand that all transactions were made once during the JCPOA talks, so the Vienna talks are not meant to lead to a new agreement but to ensure Washington’s return to compliance with its commitments under the deal and also UN Security Council Resolution 2231, the Iranian foreign minister highlighted.

He added the administration of

Iran beat Bangladesh at AFC Women’s Asian Cup 2022 Qualifiers

TEHRAN – Iran started the AFC Women’s Asian Cup qualifiers with 5-0 win over Bangladesh at Bunyodkor Stadium on Wednesday.

The win brought Maryam Irandoost’s side level with Jordan at the top of Group G, with the winner of Saturday’s clash between the two sides to decide who advances to January’s final tournament in India.

Iranian captain Behnaz Taherkhani scored twice from the penalty spot, with Melika Motevalli, Golnoosh Khosravi and Hajar Dabbaghi also finding the back of the net to eliminate a Bangladesh side which had lost their first match 5-0 against Jordan on Sunday.

The 2022 AFC Women’s Asian Cup will be held in India from Jan. 20 to Feb. 6.

Japan are the defending champions.

Ataei will remain as Iran volleyball coach for two more years

TEHRAN – Head of Iran volleyball federation Mohammadreza Davarzani said that Behrouz Ataei will remain as Iran coach for two more years.

The 51-year-old became the first Iranian coach to lead Iran to a gold medal in the Asian championship.

Ataei replaced Vladimir Alekno after the 2020 Olympic Games and helped the West Asian team win the Asian Volleyball Championship for the fourth time.

Iran defeated hosts Japan in the final match.

Now, Davarzani has said that the National Team will continue the cooperation with Ataei.

Hossein Vafaei advances into English Open Snooker 2021

TEHRAN – Iranian snooker player Hossein Vafaei booked his place at the English Open Snooker 2021.

Iran’s number one Vafaei dismissed prodigious Norway potter Kurt Maflin with a 4-1 victory in the English Open qualifiers in Barnsley.

Another Iranian snooker player Soheil Vahedi has previously secured its place in the competition.

Vafaei will start the English Open with a match against English potter Joe O’Connor and Vahedi face English Robbie Williams.

The English Open 2021 will bring the top 16 snooker players in the world together in England in November.

The tournament that will take place from November 1 to 7 at the Marshall Arena in Milton Keynes, England.

Ali Karimi undergoes surgery

TEHRAN – Iran international midfielder Ali Karimi underwent pelvic surgery in Munich, Germany.

Karimi, who joined football club Kayserispor from Al-Duhail of Qatar in August, suffered the injury during the training in the Turkish team.

The surgery will keep him out until the winter.

In a message posted on his Instagram account, Karimi expressed gratitude to those ones who sent him encouraging message.

Farid Saebi named Iran sitting volleyball coach

TEHRAN – Farid Saebi was named as new head coach of Iran sitting volleyball team on Wednesday.

At the end of the 2020 Paralympic Games, Hadi Rezaei announced his resignation from the national team.

Saebi will lead Iran at the Paravolley Asia Oceania Sitting Volleyball Championship in late October in Kish Island, Iran.

He has been assistant of Rezaei for many years.

Maryam Iranmanesh will also continue as head coach of Iran’s women’s sitting volleyball team.

IMIDRO conducting mining development projects worth over \$10b

TEHRAN – Subsidiaries of the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) are currently conducting mining development projects worth over \$10 billion across the country, an official with the organization announced.

“IMIDRO subsidiaries have more than \$10 billion in development projects underway and appear to be able to complete them using domestic resources and funding from the capital market,” IMIDRO’s Director for Planning and Strategic Supervision Amir Sabbagh said on Tuesday.

As IRNA reported, the official noted that following the new policies of the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, IMIDRO’s strategy will henceforth be focused on quality rather than quantity.

“Instead of increasing our output tonnage, quality production and producing products with more value-added will be our guideline,” Sabbagh said.

He went on to say that IMIDRO is currently carrying out projects in the field of steel, aluminum and copper chains, adding: “IMIDRO has conducted studies in the aluminum downstream sector and in this regard, Salco Aluminum Production Unit has gone operational which is producing minerals and products with higher added value; such products are expected to account for a major part of the country’s future exports, especially since we have already had talks with China in this regard.”

Sabbagh further mentioned the shortcomings of the country’s mining industry, saying: “The country is weak in the field of infrastructure, especially in the field of energy, water, and gas, and a major part of IMIDRO’s investment in the next three to four years will be in the field of energy infrastructure.”

“If the infrastructure is provided, we can definitely have more maneuver in quantity, then we will be able to move towards increasing quality, which ensures consuming less energy and has more added value,” the



official stressed.

Stating that the organization’s strategy is to also ensure creating employment in the downstream sectors of the mining chain and mining industries, he added: “Indigenization of the knowledge for manufacturing equipment and machinery, investment in the field of exploration in collaboration with the private sector, education and research to create better conditions for growth in development and investment, the use of domestic capacities and implementation of the law of the Seventh National Development Plan, which will soon be on the government’s agenda, are other IMIDRO programs.”

Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation, known as IMIDRO, is a major state-owned holding company active in the mining sector in Iran. IMIDRO has eight major companies and 55 operational subsidiaries active in steel, aluminum, copper, cement and mineral exploitation fields.

IMIDRO’s strong will for materializing the domestic production target bore fruit as the organization has recently announced that the domestic production and indigenizing technology in the mining sector has saved Iran nearly \$1 billion in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

Iran plans to attract \$125b of investment in oil industry



TEHRAN – Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji has said his ministry is making necessary arrangements and planning for attracting \$125 billion of foreign and domestic investment in the country’s oil industry within the next four to eight years, Shana reported.

Making the remarks in a meeting with the Head of China Petrochemical Corporation (Sinopec)’s Tehran office on Tuesday, Oji said the 13th administration is determined to bolster cooperation with Chinese companies.

The minister mentioned the long history of cooperation with Sinopec and stated that he

was familiar with Sinopec’s ability to implement upstream and downstream projects.

“Last week, during my visit to the operational areas of Khuzestan province, I visited Yadavaran field, the first phase of which was developed by this company (Sinopec), and I was informed about the details of the development of the first phase of this field,” he stated.

The official stressed the importance of completing the development of the Yadavaran field as a joint field between Iran and Iraq, and said: “Fortunately, Sinopec is fully acquainted with Iran and its oil and gas fields and has been present in the first phase of Yadavaran field development.”

The oil minister further stated that the 13th administration presided over by Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi, is ready to cooperate fully with Chinese companies to develop oil industry projects in the upstream and downstream sectors, adding: “We expect to have many partnerships and agreements between Iran and China.”

Emphasizing the 13th administration’s view of China as a friendly and closely aligned country with Iran, he said: “We plan to attract \$145 billion of investment for the development of the upstream and downstream oil industry over the next four to eight years; hence I welcome the presence of domestic and foreign investors in the industry.”

Container operation rises 13% in Iran’s ports in 5 months yr/yr



From page 1 ► According to PMO’s Ports Affairs Director Ravanbakhsh Behzadian, loading and unloading of goods at the country’s commercial ports reached 58.99 million tons in the mentioned period, while the figure stood at 51.73 million tons in the past year’s same five months.

During the said five months, unloading and loading operations in the container sector reached 8.66 million tons, for dry bulk the figure stood at 17.77 million tons, in liquid bulk the figure was 1.94 million tons, while for general cargo (general and miscellaneous goods) it was 8.37 million tons and for the petroleum products loading and unloading volume amounted to 22.24 million tons, Behzadian said.

He noted that the loading and unloading operations in the dry bulk sector grew by six percent in the mentioned period compared to the last year’s same time span, while in the liquid bulk sector the figure increased by 47.9 percent, in

the general cargo sector the growth was 19.4 Percent and the petroleum sector also experienced a growth of 22.6 percent compared to the same period last year.

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country’s ports as the major gates of exports and imports play some significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition, to facilitate loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

It is worth mentioning that PMO has defined a high number of projects

to develop and improve the country’s ports, as the country aims to double the capacity of its ports in a course of five years.

Meanwhile, as Kouhsari announced last week, the PMO plans to modify the financial framework of its operatory contracts.

Given that the framework of PMO contracts has been drafted in the past, there is a need to quickly review and update existing contracts to address the recent challenges posed by sanctions and rising exchange rates, the official said.

“The private sector has been investing in ports in the face of sanctions and the outbreak of the Covid 19 pandemic, and it is therefore necessary to pay serious attention to their problems and issues,” he added.

PMO has defined many projects to develop and improve the country’s ports.

Iran-India trade conference held in Tehran

TEHRAN – The International Institute of Iran Industries Research (MPSIran) in collaboration with the Iran-India Joint Chamber of Commerce hosted a conference on Iran-India trade cooperation in Tehran on Tuesday evening.

The event was attended by senior officials from both sides including Head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) Saeed Rasouli, the Head of the Foreign Affairs Ministry’s Asian Office Ahmad Sadeghi, and the MPSIran Managing Director Sina Sanjari.

The attendees of the meeting discussed a variety of issues in this event and explored ways for removing the barriers in the way of the expansion of two countries’ trade.

Speaking in the meeting, Sanjari, said: “The purpose of this conference is to raise awareness and help increase the knowledge of traders and exporters because, in the conditions created by sanctions, the existence of accurate information and necessary resources for providing correct consultation can solve many problems for Iranian companies in foreign markets.”



“Considering the recent developments regarding Iran’s membership in Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) and other areas of trade next year, while updating the information, we will hold this conference annually to serve as a reference to facilitate trade between the two sides,” he added.

Sanjari further noted that the path for cooperation is becoming smoother and hopefully the new government will put more importance upon trade consultations along with political negotiations.

Elsewhere in the conference, Rasouli addressed the conference saying: “Today, we have more than 14,000 kilometers of the rail network in our country and about 26,000 types of freight wagons are currently used in the public fleet. Iran’s railway network transported over 50 million tons of cargo in the Iranian calendar year 1395 (ended in March 2017).”

He further underlined the need for using the capacities of the country’s railway network for the expansion of transit and trade and said: “Railway accounts for 11 percent of the country’s transportation and the figure is expected to be increased to 30 percent by the end of the country’s Sixth National Development Plan (2022).”

Finally, Sadeghi in his turn pointed to the importance of foreign policy and trade diplomacy for pursuing the country’s foreign trade goals, saying: “By following trade diplomacy in our foreign policies, we can pursue two goals, the first is to create a favorable political atmosphere in the country, and the second is to provide upstream documents to expedite the work.”

Completing value chain, diversifying product portfolio; NPC’s main strategy

TEHRAN- The managing director of Iran’s National Petrochemical Company (NPC) said the strategy of this company is to complete the value chain and diversify the portfolio of valuable products.

Behzad Mohammadi made the remarks on Tuesday during his two-day visit to the country’s major petrochemical hup in Assalouyeh, southwest of the country.

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

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

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



sector and broaden its scope.

As recently announced by NPC’s Director of Planning and Development Hassan Abbaszadeh, Iran’s share in West Asia’s petrochemical trade has increased by two percent.

Abbaszadeh said the country’s share of petrochemical trade in the region was 20.2 percent in the Iranian calendar year 1398 (ended in March 2020) and it reached 22.1 percent at the end of the previous fiscal year (March 2021), indicating a two percent

growth.

“In terms of production capacity, Iran had a 2.5 percent share of world petrochemical production in 1398, which increased to 2.7 percent at the end of last year following the implementation of the projects defined for the second leap of the petrochemical industry,” the official said.

Iran’s share of the world’s petrochemical production capacity is increasing while most countries are working to upgrade their capacity, he added.

According to Abbaszadeh, the Islamic Republic accounted for 24.9 percent of West Asia’s total petrochemical production in the Iranian calendar year 1398, while the figure reached 26.5 percent at the end of the previous fiscal year.

Stating that about 70 percent of Iran’s petrochemical products are exported, he said: “Iran’s share in the

world petrochemical products trade in 1398 was about 5.3 percent and at the end of 1399, due to increased exports, the country’s share rose to 5.9 percent.”

“Iran now has a production capacity of 30 million tons of petrochemical products such as methanol, olefins, ammonia, aromatics, etc., and stands at the second place in West Asia after Saudi Arabia but with the implementation of ongoing petrochemical projects by the end of [the Iranian calendar year] 1405 (March 2027), Iran’s petrochemical production capacity will reach 57 million tons per year and the country will become the top petrochemical producer in the region,” Abbaszadeh stressed.

According to Abbaszadeh, by the end of the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2026), the production capacity of petrochemical products in Iran will increase to 136 million tons and the total revenues of this industry will reach \$37 billion.

TEDPIX loses 4,800 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 4,834 points to 1.391 million on Wednesday.

As reported, over 8.041 billion securities worth 71.6 trillion rials (about \$1.704 billion) were traded at the TSE.

The first market’s index lost 2,005 points, and the second market’s index dropped 14,511 points.

After several days of drops, TEDPIX climbed 7,279 points to 1.427 million on Monday.

Over 6.251 billion securities worth 43.734 trillion rials (about \$1.041 billion) were traded at the TSE on Monday.

The first market’s index rose 5,688 points and the second market’s index gained 13,556 points.

TEDPIX lost 38,000 points, or 2.5 percent, to 1.488 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on

Friday).

During the past week, the indices of State Retirement Fund, Social Security Investment Company, Sepid Makian Company, Behsaz Kashaneh Tehran Company, and Barekat Pharmaceutical Group were the most widely followed indices.

It’s over two years that stock market in Iran has been playing an outstanding role in the attraction of the people’s investment.

Iranian people, who used to invest their money in some traditional ways such as buying gold, or deposit money in the banks, have taken a new approach for investment over the past two years, as they have been investing more and more in the stock market.

The rising number of new shareholders in Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), which is Iran’s major stock exchange, is an indication of this new approach.

Different factors have created such



condition, among them it could be referred to the efforts made by the stock market to attract people’s more investment through laying the proper ground, for example via introducing new financial instruments, and also by making people more acquainted with this market.

The other factor is the government’s policy and new approach toward the stock market, and putting emphasis on this market’s role in funding and economic growth.

The status of the parallel markets such as forex, housing, and gold markets has also made stock market

a more attractive place for the people to invest in.

Meanwhile, the government’s policy of lowering the interest rate of the bank deposits has redirected a huge amount of people’s investment to the stock market.

In a recent interview, a director in Iran Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) has announced that the fixed income funds have lagged the banks behind in attracting the people’s investment.

Saying that the risk of investing in the fixed income funds is very low and these funds now pay regular returns to investors at good rates, Meysam Fadaei, the SEO’s director for supervising the financial entities, underlined that these funds are one of the largest mutual funds that have been welcomed by the people, and some of them have even grown more than some banks and attracted more capital.

Tehran hosting 3 international exhibitions

TEHRAN - Three international exhibitions opened on Wednesday at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds and will wrap up on September 25, IRNA reported.

The 28th International Exhibition of Food, Food Technology and Agriculture of Iran (Agrofood 2021) is underway with 300 Iranian and foreign companies in attendance.

Companies from Spain, Italy, Germany, Brazil, Turkey, and the Netherlands are showcasing their latest products and achievements in the four-day event.

Also, the 20th Iran International Confectionery Fair is participated by 158 Iranian and foreign exhibitors.

Introducing the most important achievements and up-to-date technologies in the food, confectionery, and chocolate industries is one of the goals of this international exhibition.

Meanwhile, the 13th International Grain, Flour, and Bakery Industry Exhibition (IBEX 2021) is also underway with full compliance with the health and safety standards.

The opening ceremony of the mentioned exhibitions was attended by senior officials from the country’s industrial sectors, including Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki.

Back in December 2020, the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control allowed the country’s exhibition events to be held physically in full compliance with health and safety measures.

The National Coronavirus Control Headquarters announced health conditions and protocols for holding new exhibitions, and events would be able to operate only if these protocols are observed.

The said entity also requires the exhibition centers to control the national ID of the visitors to prevent the entry of people who have been checked positive for Covid-19.

According to Iran International Exhibitions Company (IIEC), the number of exhibitions in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) declined by 40 percent due to the outbreak of the coronavirus.

From page 1 ► Also, political critics are raising questions about the Australian people's view of such a huge military spending.

"If the Australian people were asked: do you agree that Canberra should spend \$100 billion of public money in nuclear-powered submarines to help Washington compete with its rival China? I have no doubt they would strongly reject the idea," Anderson argues.

Following is the text of the interview:

Why has the Australian government inked a deal with America to produce nuclear-powered submarines while its fallout is clear: losing China's market? What are the main reasons?

The Canberra regime led by Scott Morrison is engaging in a treacherous, massive misappropriation of Australian public money which will certainly endanger the Australian people. They are taking advantage of Australia's limited democracy to subsidize Washington's failing global ambitions, in a quixotic attempt to subjugate China, a country which was, until recently, Australia's main trading partner.

If the Australian people were asked: do you agree that Canberra should spend \$100 billion of public money in nuclear-powered submarines to help Washington compete with its rival China? I have no doubt they would strongly reject the idea. But there is no such mechanism for consultation and approval in Australia's limited democracy.

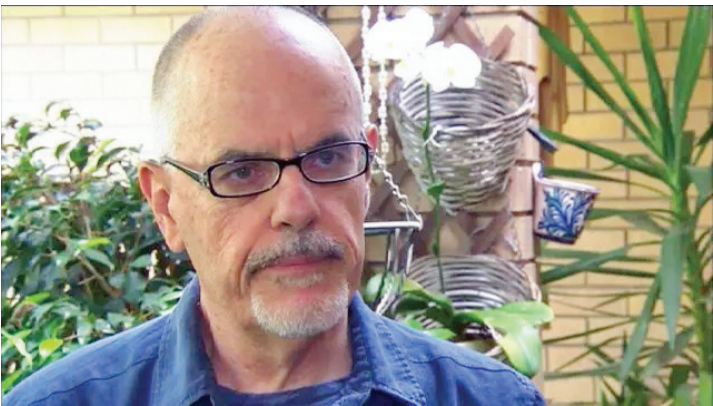
Canberra's support for U.S. gambits in the South Sea, aimed at threatening China, has already cost the country many billions in export contracts. It is said that much of this has been recovered through alternative markets. Nevertheless, there is a huge loss in trade with China.

Canberra's message to China seems to be: we have chosen the traditional, losing side in the death throes of American imperialism. The risk of a pointless and avoidable war, which Australia would certainly lose, underlines the depth of the Morrison regime's treachery.

While much of the Western corporate media tries to blame China for the heightened tensions, any honest analyst knows that the U.S. in decline is pathologically jealous of the rise of China.

The U.S. is trying to restrict Iran's peaceful nuclear program while it is going to share technology with Australia for building nuclear-powered submarines. Add to this Israel's nuclear weapons arsenal. What is your view of such double-standards?

First of all, double standards are the norm for imperial and colonial powers. They have never accepted post-colonial international law. To cover their obvious illegality they speak of 'exceptionalism' and invent deceptive doctrines like 'humanitarian intervention', 'pre-emptive defense' and a 'responsibility to protect'. In imperial eyes, international law is a



Canberra subsidizing Washington's failing ambitions: Australian professor

'Australia's message to China seems to be: we have chosen the traditional, losing side in the death throes of American imperialism'

tool to be used against others.

The attempt to deploy extended IAEA protocols against Iran has always been a pretext to subjugate the country. Some years ago Washington managed to muster wide international support for this project, today there is much less of that.

Ignoring Israel's nuclear weapons while raising alarm about Iran's nuclear energy is not just double standards, it is a transparent and shameless ruse. It comes from the only country on earth to have used nuclear weapons in war, twice against civilian cities in Japan.

Why is France angry about the United States and United Kingdom's nuclear submarine deal with Australia and called it a betrayal? Aren't European states concerned about China's rise?

The French reaction is simply a squabble over contracts and money. Australia had the beginnings of an agreement to buy French submarines; they recently canceled this and shifted to the U.S. offer. It seems that Australia will pay a few billion dollars to France for terminating that contract.

It is Washington which matters to Canberra. Since 1942, when Canberra's allegiance switched from Britain to the USA, each new Australian administration

(Conservative or Labor) has attached itself to Washington in order to gain some type of security and finance market guarantees. Each new regime in Canberra has only been able to exercise limited autonomy in strategic and international matters. They may be influenced by the Europeans, but France and Britain, since World War 2, have been seen as secondary imperial players.

The Europeans are less concerned about China's rise than the USA because they do not share Washington's obsessive jealousy. Much the same could be said about their relations with Russia. At a popular level, there is even stronger support for normal relations with Russia and China.

However, some of the European elites are deeply embedded in 'Atlanticist' ideology that is, committed to remaining an appendage of Washington, particularly through NATO.

Secondly, and especially since the takeovers and mergers of the 1990s, many large European companies are deeply embedded in the U.S. economy. This means that, when the European states try to act differently towards independent countries like Cuba and Iran, Washington can blackmail them into accepting Washington's unilateral coercive measures (UCMs,

wrongly called "sanctions"), by threatening to damage their U.S. business interests. Indeed the Obama administration took the initiative of arrogantly 'fining' the European banks several billion dollars for assisting transactions with Cuba and Iran.

All this helps explain why the INSTEX mechanism (designed to bypass U.S. UCMs) has been mostly ineffective and why the Europeans could not properly comply with the JCPOA after Trump renounced it. Simply put, they have not had the capacity or the political will to stand up to Washington, even when they did disagree.

Do you predict that the EU would go a separate way independent from the U.S.?

The problem here is that key European states like Germany and France are deeply embedded in Washington's project, not least through NATO. The EU has also become deeply committed to 'Atlanticism' and to political-economic norms driven by Washington, on behalf of its voracious giant corporations, like privatizing health and social services. There has been talking of a European Army, to replace NATO, but this idea has not gone far.

In my view, the more likely change might be in further fracture of the EU – after the departure of Britain – for example through a financial crisis and subsequent discipline which alienated Italy. In the event of a wider EU split, there might be a greater chance of some emerging independent foreign policy. This need not involve a great ideological change. For pragmatic reasons, some of the European states, if cut loose from EU common policy, might see it to their advantage to develop better relations with Russia and China.

What would be China's response to this provocative move in your view? Do you think that accepting Iran as a full member of the Shanghai Cooperation (SCO) is a part of China's reaction?

China has already reacted to the U.S.-UK-AUS move, which is really not new except in the sense that little Canberra has deepened its loyalty to Washington and reaffirmed its status as a neo-colonial outpost in the Asia-Pacific. The once-booming China-Australia trade relations are already seriously damaged by China's response.

But Iran's accession to the SCO is not directly linked to the U.S.-UK-AUS move. Rather, both represent a deeper and growing polarization of strategic blocs in the world. On the one hand, there is the growth of the East Asian and Eurasian network and on the other an old guard trying to maintain declining U.S. supremacy. Washington (an American power) fears losing its role in Asia and Europe. It launched half a dozen bloody wars in West Asia to obstruct the rise of new power blocs in West and Central Asia, but that project has been steadily failing.

Meanwhile, we should observe that the new regional Latin American blocs, particularly CELAC, are building relations with Europe and China. The world is changing.

EU sides with France in spat with U.S., Australia

From page 1 ► Speaking after a closed-door meeting on the sidelines of the annual UN gathering of world leaders and top officials, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell says

"Certainly, we were caught by surprise by this announcement"

Borrell added that "more cooperation, more coordination, less fragmentation" was needed to achieve a stable and peaceful Indo-Pacific region.

In a concrete sign of the EU's outrage, EU ambassadors postponed preparations for an inaugural trade and technology council on September 29 with the United States. This gathering was being publicized as a significant advance in the transatlantic alliance.

In defense of France, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen has said, "one of our member states has been treated in a way that is not acceptable, so we need to know what happened and why."

Speaking from New York, where she is also attending the UN General Assembly, von der Leyen went on to say that the EU "will step up" to build its own defense capabilities.

Diplomats within the bloc say von der Leyen's EU executive has requested preliminary talks for the U.S. trade and technology council to be taken off this week's agenda. A spokesperson says the Commission was still determining whether the U.S. meeting should go ahead as planned.

Germany has sided with its biggest European ally. Berlin says Washington and Canberra had damaged trust between partners that would be difficult to rebuild.

The German European affairs minister Michael Roth said the EU needed to overcome its differences and speak with one voice. Speaking to reporters before meeting his counterparts in Brussels, he said, "we all need to sit down at a table; lost trust has to be rebuilt – and this will obviously not be easy."

Lithuania's deputy European affairs minister echoed Germany and referred to a "transatlantic mistrust"

The dispute follows what NATO's European allies also said was Washington's failure to communicate and consult with the EU during the chaotic Western

withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Australia says the United States' offer of access to U.S. nuclear technology to build nuclear-propelled submarines was too good to refuse.

It will be only the second country after Britain in 1958 to be given such technology that will supposedly allow Canberra to help Washington prevent China from gaining military supremacy.

Australia said it would cancel its order for submarines from France, which were conventional, diesel-electric powered, and instead turn to U.S. and British nuclear technology under a new security partnership.

France says it could have provided the same nuclear technology if Australia had asked. French Foreign Minister Le Drian has said he wanted to know why his country, which has a strong military presence in the Indo-Pacific, was left completely in the dark.

The spat has also put in doubt free-trade talks between the EU, the world's biggest trading bloc, and Australia.

In his speech to the UN General Assembly, U.S. President Biden made no direct reference to the controversial new security pact with Canberra and London. On the sidelines of the General Assembly, Biden said, "The United States has no closer or more reliable ally than Australia." Biden has yet to arrange a call with the French president, Emmanuel Macron, who has been left seething following the deal's announcement.

To make matters worse, according to France's defense ministry, Australian officials had written to their French counterparts to say they were "satisfied" with how a \$90 billion submarine deal was progressing.

The ministry says it received the communication on the same day the U.S. Australia, and the UK announced the deal was being canceled.

A spokesman for the defense ministry also told U.S. media the French feel they have been cheated and blindsided by the announcement.

The spokesman added, "We received an official letter from the Australian ministry of defense, saying that they were satisfied with the advancement of the project and with the submarine's performance, which meant that we could launch the next phase of development of these submarines... we were very surprised by the announcement, which was not at all in line with the official letter we had received"

Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison said he had tried to call French President Macron on the evening before the announcement. Still, France's Foreign Minister Jean-Yves Le Drian said Canberra only informed Paris one hour before Morrison joined a video link-up with British counterpart Boris Johnson and U.S. President Joe Biden to announce the new deal.

Morrison has also come under attack back home from former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd, who accused the current PM of not following "basic diplomatic protocol by failing to inform the French government of his decision."

The former Australian Premier added, "such a failure is not acceptable between adversaries. It is even less so between allies. Besides, Morrison failed to understand the wider implications of his decision for foreign policy, and this is perhaps the most appalling of the whole story"

French European affairs minister Clement Beaune described relations with Australia now as "very difficult."

"We cannot act as if nothing happened. We need to look into all options," Beaune told reporters in Brussels.

EU foreign ministers, meeting in New York, also expressed solidarity with France.

Beaune warmly welcomed the EU support, stressing that this was a European matter, not just a French problem, and the bloc should be more assertive in defending its interests. However, it remains unclear what steps the European Union will take in response.

Are Justin Trudeau's "sunny ways" over?

Trudeau's electoral gambit failed and that might be the beginning of the end for his premiership.

By Andrew Mitrovica

The days of Justin Trudeau's "sunny ways" may be over.

The jejune Canadian prime minister's cocky gambit to call an unnecessary election in the midst of a stubborn pandemic has proven to be a strategic miscalculation of blunt, historic proportions.

Like any vapid politician more interested in seizing a parochial political dividend than pursuing the national interest, Trudeau abandoned – faster than Usain Bolt dashed to Olympic gold – a flimsy pledge not to hold a national vote while a lethal virus gripped Canada.

Trudeau had one aim: win a majority. He failed. Last night's sharp rebuke is the second time in less than two years that many Canadians have, in effect, told him that his youthful, inconsequential sheen has lost much of its allure. As such, they were disinclined to grant him the broad mandate he was, no doubt, confident he would secure.

So, today, the Canadian Parliament mirrors, almost to a seat, the Parliament that was dissolved a touch over a month ago to satiate Trudeau's irresistible yearning for the elusive prize of a majority.

While he may still be prime minister leading a minority government, Trudeau, I suspect, understands that the Liberal Party's only attachment is to absolute rule, unperturbed or constrained by other parties it considers little more than irritating obstacles to its rightful destiny.

Trudeau's defining hypocrisy is that he claimed to represent a departure from the old, tired modus operandi. He was the embodiment of a new kind of politics that put country over party, people over power, modesty over hubris.

It was a slick, hollow mirage. Trudeau was motivated by the petty impulses he insisted his "sunny ways" were meant to reject. Canadians may, on occasion, be somewhat complacent peoples, but they are not blind.

The lie that Trudeau is became apparent throughout a short, cynical campaign that most Canadians did not want and did not need.

On the eve of the election, the Liberals' abiding cynicism prompted the party to dangle before voters – like a confection-filled piñata – what amounted to a universal day-care plan that was needed by struggling families years earlier.

Trudeau made more promises on the seminal test of climate change when he should have acted long ago with the urgency the escalating heating of the earth demands.

If this gratuitous election constituted, as Trudeau said unconvincingly, a "referendum" on his handling of the COVID-19 pandemic, then Canadians delivered their verdict: the prime minister scored a C+, edging towards a B.

The "referendum" was code, as I explained in a column last week, on whether enough Canadians loved Trudeau to reward him with two years of unconditional authority. Turns out that their affection for him is, to put it charitably, lukewarm.

The upshot is that Trudeau likely knows that he is confronting the sunset of his tenure as Liberal leader. He will be afforded the opportunity to make a "dignified" exit within a year or so. All the while, his possible successors, including Deputy Prime Minister Chrystia Freeland and former Bank of Canada Governor Mark Carney – who is whispered to be interested in the job – will quietly design unofficial leadership plans.

It will be a sad but, frankly, fitting denouement to Trudeau's facile, undistinguished career.

As for the pablum-spouting Conservative Party leader, Erin O'Toole, denying Trudeau his vaunted



majority and a return to the parliamentary status quo may not only keep rivals at bay but permit him to retain his job as opposition leader for a spell.

O'Toole sought to refashion his party's identity as a more empathetic, less draconian version of Stephen Harper's ugly, retrograde administration.

As I noted, Canadians may be complacent, but they are not blind. O'Toole's history as a loyal, faithful member of the tainted Harper alumni club, had lots of Canadians doubting his calculated designs to move the Conservatives to the so-called "centre" of the political spectrum.

O'Toole's blatant duplicity on gun control and his obtuse, shifting views on social issues had the effect of making voters wonder what, if any, convictions he held. This ambiguity also sapped the party of the surprising momentum it enjoyed as Trudeau faltered early on.

Traditional, rural Conservatives supported him. Beyond that, O'Toole failed to widen his appeal. He is stuck, like his predecessor, in a sort of political no-man's land, grasping frantically for a route back to the prime minister's office that is as far out of reach today as it was yesterday.

O'Toole will be pressured to re-capture the insular, xenophobic faction of the party that defected to the (Pestilent) People's Party of Canada, led by an unapologetic anti-reason, anti-human demagogue, Maxime Bernier.

That is a prescription for even deeper, debilitating losses.

The pretend socialist party of Canada, the New Democratic Party (NDP), returns, yet again, as the "conscience of parliament". It is a trite pantomime.

The NDP is a party of cliché. Led by Jagmeet Singh, it lacks the will to reclaim – honestly and openly – its fast evaporating socialist roots in order to appear more "reasonable".

It has not worked. It will not work.

Singh and the NDP are facing the proverbial Rubicon: continue being nice and palatable or finally share, in an intelligent and unabashed way, the radical solutions necessary to address the entrenched, systemic injustices and inequalities that blight the lives of scores of Canadians.

If it fails to pursue the latter strategy, the NDP will slip further into irrelevancy.

Annemie Paul, the Green Party head, should recognise the inevitable. She needs to go mercifully away and allow a once-promising environmental movement to regain the ingenuity and enterprise she has deserted out of a selfish and corrosive stubbornness.

The intelligentsia insisted this election was about nothing. That is not true. It was clarifying.

Trudeau and the age of colourful socks and sophomoric antics is, hopefully, over soon.

Canada needs to get serious to meet the challenges of these serious times.

(Source: Al Jazeera)

U.S. reviewing waiver on Iranian fuel exports to Afghanistan after Taliban takeover

TEHRAN – The administration of U.S. President Joe Biden is reportedly reviewing a 2018 sanctions waiver, which allowed Afghanistan to purchase Iranian gasoline and diesel.

An unnamed State Department spokesperson told London-based Middle East Eye online news outlet that the waiver put in place by former president Donald Trump's administration "remains under active review" after the overthrow of the Afghan government last month.

An amendment to repeal a part of the waiver reached the House Foreign Relations Committee last month but was blocked by the committee chairman Gregory Meeks, the report said.

According to Alex Zerden, who led the Treasury Department's office at the U.S. embassy in Kabul from 2018 to 2019, the sanctions waiver on Iranian fuel exports to Afghanistan

was intended at the time to protect Kabul even as Washington was pushing ahead its "maximum pressure campaign" against Tehran.

"There were real concerns about Iran sanctions harming Afghanistan's economy and a waiver to import Iranian fuel was seen as crucial," Zerden noted.

Trump left the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), in 2018 and returned the sanctions that had been lifted against Tehran as part of the agreement.

Zerden said the 2018 waiver on Iranian fuel sales to Afghanistan was intended to allow fuel traders to skip the sanctions imposed on Tehran, but not Taliban sanctions.

The Taliban have already been subject to a range of U.S. sanctions under an executive order enacted after the 9/11 attacks.

Howard Shatz, a senior economist at the Rand Corporation, said that even if Washington wanted to enforce the sanctions, it could prove difficult. "We don't have a lot of leverage with Iran and Afghanistan," he said.

Zerden said, "Enforcing violations of sanctions would be difficult because this occurs outside formal financial channels."

The fuel sales take place in cash at the Iranian-Afghan border. Most of the transactions occur through Afghanistan's informal Hawala banking system.

The main Iranian fuel exports to Afghanistan are gasoline and diesel. Iran exported about 400,000 tons of fuel to its eastern neighbor from May 2020 to May 2021, according to a report published by PetroView, an Iranian oil and gas research and consultancy platform.

(Source: Press TV)



Iran tourism prepares for a comeback

From page 1 ► As of September 22, the figure dropped to below 300 as the government has devoted a great deal of effort to vaccinate citizens against the nasty virus.

Several estimates have been released so far on the extent of the tourism-related losses incurred by the pandemic. Only months into the outbreak, Zarghami's predecessor, Ali Asghar Mounesan, lamented that the number of foreign travelers to Iran was drastically plunged due to the pandemic.

"Tourism of the country was growing before the corona [outbreak], its revenues reached \$11.7 billion in 2019, which accounted for 2.8% of GDP, nearing the average share of tourism in the world GDP, which was 3.2 percent," Mounesan said.

He added 8.7 million foreign nationals visited Iran during the past [Iranian] year (1398), adding that Iran was ranked as the second fastest-growing country in tourism based on data compiled by the World Tourism Organization.

So far, panels of travel experts have mapped out new marketing strategies hoping the sector would get back on its feet once again. Earlier this year, the Head of the Iranian Tour Operators Association Ebrahim Pourfaraj 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."

The expert 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."

Iran is potentially a booming destination for travelers seeking cultural attractions, breathtaking sceneries, and numerous UNESCO-registered sites. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

Even before the pandemic, Iran's tourism was already grappling with some challenges, on top of those Western "media propaganda" aimed at scaring potential travelers away from the Islamic Republic. Some experts believe Iran is still somehow "unknown" for many potential travelers due to such a "media war".

They, however, consider bright prospects for the tourism sector of the country if it vigorously pursues comprehensive strategies to counter U.S.-led propaganda and strict sanctions, yet does its best to loosen tough travel regulations.

Some experts believe Iran is still somehow "unknown" for many potential travelers due to Western "media war".

16 historical mansions in Bushehr restored for tourism

TEHRAN – A selection of 16 aging mansions, which are located in the historical core of Bushehr, have been restored to the former state so as to attract visitors to the southwestern Iranian port city.

"11 of the monuments restored using the government funding and five ones were restored by private investors aimed to support economic prosperity and job creation," CHTN quoted the deputy provincial tourism chief as saying on Tuesday.

At present, several other buildings in this historical texture have been handed over to the private sector, and their restoration operations will begin soon, Nasrollah Ebrahimi added.

Ebrahimi said the re-creation of the historical core of Bushehr requires the cooperation of all executive bodies.

To gain a UNESCO statue for this historical core, our attitude and efforts must be serious, special, and comprehensive so that the owners [of historical monuments and sites]



are encouraged for having their properties restored, which will be beneficial to the public sector, the official explained.

Over the past couple of years, hundreds of historical places and monuments have been similarly ceded to the private sector across the country.

Upon an initiative scheme, the Fund (known by its Persian acronym Saabta) provides the opportunity for privately-owned businesses to run certain old structures to be maintained and repurposed into hotels, traditional restaurants, or lodging places.

According to cultural heritage officials, this sort of investment seems to be attractive for private investors, because accommodation in [well-preserved] monuments is attractive for both domestic and foreign tourists.

Bushehr province is home to various archaeological mounds including Tall-e Khandaq with Sassanid architectural style, Tall-e Marv located near an Achaemenid Palace, and Qajar era Malek al-Tojar Mansion.

It lies near the head of the Persian Gulf at the northern end of a flat and narrow peninsula that is connected with the mainland by tidal marshes. It embraces significant monuments from the Elamite, Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras.

Siraf in Bushehr province was the most important Iranian port during the Sassanid period bearing plentiful evidence of Persian mastery and genius in seafaring, international relations, and interaction with other near and far cultures and civilizations. Between 1966 and

1973, the British Institute of Persian Studies conducted seven seasons of excavation and survey at Siraf, which was a major city on the Iranian shore of the Persian Gulf that played a leading role in the network of maritime trade that supplied Western Asia with the products of India, the Far East, and Eastern Africa between 800 CE and 1050.

Siraf had a population of about 300,000 during the early Islamic era and this fact shows that it was a large city. However, today, just about 7,000 people live in Siraf in a small area. The historical and architectural monuments of Bushehr include Islamic buildings like mosques and praying centers, mansions, old towers, castles, as well as gardens.

Iran hosts some of the world's oldest cultural monuments including bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, gardens, rich natural and rural landscapes, 26 of which are UNESCO World Heritage.

Sassanid-era earthenware urn unearthed in central Iran

TEHRAN – A centuries-old earthenware urn has recently been discovered in Mobarakeh county, central Isfahan province, Mobarakeh's tourism chief has announced.

The historical relic, which is estimated to date back to the Sassanid-era (224–651), was unearthed during an illegal excavation, Valiollah Rahbari said on Wednesday.

Iranian police arrested the illegal diggers and confiscated the urn they had dug up after being tipped off by cultural heritage aficionados, the official added.

The historical object has been moved to the county's cultural heritage department and is set to be restored and strengthened as soon as possible, he explained.

He also noted that the culprits were surrendered to the judicial system for further investigation and trial.

The Sassanid era is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Experts believe during the Sassanid era the art and architecture of the nation experienced a general renaissance. In that era, crafts such as metalwork and gem-engraving grew highly sophisticated, as scholarship was encouraged by the state; many works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the official language of the Sassanians.

The Sassanid archaeological landscape also represents a highly efficient system of land use and strategic utilization of natural



topography in the creation of the earliest cultural centers of the Sassanid civilization.

In 2018, UNESCO added an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran -- titled "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region"-- to its World Heritage list. The ensemble is comprised of eight archaeological sites situated in three geographical parts of Firuzabad, Bishapur, and Sarvestan. It reflects the optimized utilization of natural topography and bears witness to the influence of Achaemenid and Parthian cultural traditions and of Roman art, which later had a significant impact on the architecture and artistic styles of the Islamic era.

The dynasty evolved by Ardashir

I and was destroyed by the Arabs during the period of 637 to 651. The dynasty was named after Sasan, an ancestor of Ardashir I. Under his leadership who reigned from 224 to 241, the Sassanians overthrew the Parthians and created an empire that was constantly changing in size as it reacted to Rome and Byzantium to the west and the Kushans and Hephthalites to the east, according to Britannica Encyclopedia.

At the time of Shapur I (reigned 241 CE–272), the empire stretched from Sogdiana and Iberia (Georgia) in the north to the Mazun region of Arabia in the south; in the east, it extended to the Indus River and in the west to the upper Tigris and Euphrates river valleys.

42 historical properties identified in ancient northern village

TEHRAN – 42 cultural-historical properties have been identified across the ancient village of Darestan, northern Gilan province, the deputy provincial tourism chief has announced.

Studies and excavations conducted in the Darestan village and its surrounding areas have revealed 42 significant historical and cultural monuments so far, Vali Jahani said on Wednesday.

Their antiquities are estimated to range from the Iron Age to the Qajar era (1789-1925), with the oldest being an ancient hill and the latest being a tree, the official added.

The village is also home to five historical mills, according to the studies conducted, he noted.

Construction materials for these mills include stone and mortar materials, and their architecture and locations maximize the potential of the land slope, he explained.

He also noted that the protection and



preservation of these historical monuments require the full cooperation of the relevant organizations.

Watermills were typically constructed in accordance with the then design requirements for instance they featured dome-shaped roofs with high-enough vestibules to allow camels or other livestock to move back and forth with ease in order to convey grains or flour.

Ancient petroglyphs discovered in central Iran

TEHRAN – A giant piece of rock bearing some 30 petroglyphs has recently been discovered in Mahallat county of Markazi province in central Iran.

"A collection of petroglyphs has been found in a mountainous areas situated northwest of Mahallat," a local tourism official announced on Wednesday, ISNA reported.

"It bears about 30 figures and motifs the majority of which images of antelopes," the official noted.

According to experts, these motifs belong to the Sassanid period (224–651 CE) and their carving and engraving tools included flint, iron, and thick hunting bones, the official explained.

Back in April, some 70 rock-carved petroglyphs, which experts believed to date back to the Sassanid era, were discovered in Mahallat. They depicted various motifs including mountain goat and hunter, horseman holding a spear.

In many ways, Iran under the Sassanian rule witnessed tremendous achievements of Persian civilization. Experts say that the art and architecture of the nation experienced a general renaissance during Sassanid rule. In that era, crafts such as metalwork and gem-engraving grew highly sophisticated, as scholarship was encouraged by the state; many works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the official language of the



Sassanians.

Of all the material remains of the era, only coins constitute a continuous chronological sequence throughout the whole period of the dynasty. Such Sassanian coins have the name of the king for whom they were struck inscribed in Pahlavi, which permits scholars to date them quite closely.

The legendary wealth of the Sassanian court is fully confirmed by the existence of more than one hundred examples of bowls or plates of precious metal known at present. One of the finest examples is the silver plate with partial gilding in the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. The dynasty was destroyed by Arab invaders during a span from 637 to 651.

Archaeological survey finds traces of metalworking in northwest Iran

TEHRAN – Archaeologists have discovered new evidence of prehistorical metalworking in Tepe Kuzechi, northwestern Zanjan province, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

The ancient hill contains a number of metal melting kilns, which provides evidence that the site dates back to the late Iron Age, when metalworking and pottery were practiced, Mohammadreza Mohammadpur announced on Wednesday.

Tepe Kuzechi is situated adjacent to the historically rich Chehrabad Salt Mine in Zanjan province, where several salt men and their personal belongings have been discovered so far.

Excavations at this site focused on determining the sequence of layers and identifying cultural periods, as well as determining whether or not there is any connection between the site and Chehrabad Salt Mine, the official explained.

Since Kuzechi hill is the only ancient site around the mine that had superficial evidence from the Iron Age and the Achaemenid period, it became the subject of several archaeological surveys, he noted.

Iron Age is in fact final technological and

cultural stage in the Stone–Bronze–Iron Age sequence. The date of the full Iron Age, in which this metal, for the most part, replaced bronze in implements and weapons, varied geographically, beginning in West Asia and southeastern Europe about 1200 BC but in China not until about 600 BC, according to the Encyclopedia Britannica.

Although in West Asia iron had limited use as a scarce and precious metal as early as 3000 BC, there is no indication that people at that time recognized its superior qualities over those of bronze.

Glimpses of metalworking in Iran

During the 5th and 4th millennia BC in Iran, craftsmen were able to create enough heat to reach temperatures required for the melting of most of the then known raw materials, and thus extract metals, according to Encyclopedia Iranica.

On top of that copper-smelting techniques became well known in various parts of Iran in this period. With the advancement of the knowledge of metallurgy in the Achaemenid era, finely crafted copper and bronze objects were created, continuing through ancient times.

Although copper is mentioned in

geographical texts much less often than precious metals, it appears to have been mined over wide areas of Persia in early Islamic times.

In a travelogue inscribed by the medieval Arab traveler Abu Dolaf, he wrote about the Neyshabur copper mine though the extent of the deposits in Iran became known only from accounts of European travelers from the Safavid period onwards.

Sir John Chardin (1643-1713), for instance, wrote that "copper is found in Sari, Khorasan, and Qazvin. However, Iranian copper is not malleable. It has to be mixed with copper from Sweden and Japan to make it soft".

The physician and traveler Engelbert Kaempfer, who resided in Persia in the 1680s during the reign of the Safavid Shah Solayman (r. 1666–94), wrote: "Kerman possesses enormous resources of copper. Copper is found in Khorasan also".

In the arena of coppersmithing, it should be mentioned that less luxurious objects might be inlaid only with copper, but on more sumptuous pieces it was used in combination with silver and a black bituminous compound to give polychrome effects. The balanced use of copper and silver on one 12th-century

inkwell suggests that some metalworkers turned to such inlays as a way of transposing polychrome book illustrations into the medium of metalwork.

As metalworkers drew away from manuscript sources and evolved their own decorative traditions, copper was less favored than the more prized metal, silver, as a material for inlays.

Iranian salt men

Salt mummies are the highlights of the findings in the mine. In 1993, miners in the Douzlakh Salt Mine, near Hamzehli and Chehrabad villages in Zanjan Province, accidentally came across a mummified head,

dated to 300 CE. The head was very well preserved, to the extent that his pierced ear was still holding the gold earring. The hair, beard, and mustaches were reddish, and his impressive leather boot still contained parts of his leg and foot.

However, in 2004, the miners discovered yet another "saltman", which was followed by further excavation unearthing remains of a human body along with a large number of artifacts made of wood, metal tools, clothing, and pottery. In 2005, a systematic excavation began, three more mummies were excavated, and a sixth remained in situ, due to lack of funds for its storage. The context of the remains suggested that a collapse in the mine had caused the death of the miners in question.

The first mummy, dubbed the "Saltman", is on display in the National Museum of Iran in Tehran. He still looks very impressive. This particular "saltman" was originally dated based on the archaeological material found with him. Later, the mummy was carbon dated, which placed him in 500 CE (1750 BP; that is, "before present" or 1750 years ago), the height of the Sasanian Empire. The second "saltman" was carbon-dated to 1554 BP, which placed him in

the same era as the first "saltman", the Sasanian era.

The third, fourth, and fifth "saltmen" were also carbon dated. The third body was dated and placed in 2337 BP, the fourth body in 2301 BP, and the fifth mummy was dated to 2286 BP, placing them all in the Achaemenid period. The individual "saltman" has a few secrets of their own, for instance, the first "saltman" that was discovered had the blood type B+, and 3D imaging of his skull revealed fractures around his eye and other damage that occurred before death by a hard blow to the head. His clothing (the impressive leather boot) and his gold earring, show a person of some rank; the reason for his presence in the mine still remains a mystery.

Saltman No. 5 had tapeworm eggs from the Taenia sp. genus in his system. These were identified during the study of his remains. The find indicates the consumption of raw or undercooked meat, and this is the first case of this parasite in ancient Iran and the earliest evidence of ancient intestinal parasites in the area. The best preserved and probably the most harrowing of the saltmen is saltman No. 4, a sixteen-year-old miner, caught in the moment of death, crushed by a cave-in.

Iran confirms import of Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson

TEHRAN – Two vaccines of Pfizer and Johnson & Johnson are licensed for emergency use in the country and will be allowed to be imported, Seyed Heidar Mohammadi, deputy head of the Food and Drug Administration, has announced

At present, six vaccines including, Sputnik V, AstraZeneca, Sinopharm, Bharat, Pfizer, and Johnson & Johnson have been licensed for emergency use in Iran, he stated.

“A contract is being prepared for the import of 2 million doses of Pfizer vaccines from Belgium over the next one to two months, provided that there are no international problems with currency transfer.

The Johnson & Johnson vaccine, manufactured in Germany, is also awaiting the finalization of international agreements. The country of origin has promised up to 5 million doses,” he said, Khabaronline reported on Wednesday.

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.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokes-



man Saeed Khatibzadeh said on September 11 that the country is facing no red lines in importing coronavirus vaccines, even Pfizer and Moderna.

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.

Vaccination paces up, mortality drops

In July, delta variant mortality peaked and recorded over 700 daily deaths, but the increase of vaccination pace reduced the toll.

Today, more than one million doses of vaccine are injected daily in the country, and many age groups of the elderly, rare diseases patients, teachers, university professors, health professionals, veterans, etc. have been vaccinated and now the process of vaccinating students is underway.

Studies show that people who are not vaccinated are 4.5 times more likely to develop COVID-19 than those who are fully vaccinated, and 10 and 11 times more likely to be hospitalized and die, respectively.

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 40 million doses of foreign vaccines have already been imported and others are expected soon.

Iran is also producing vaccines jointly with three countries of Russia, Cuba, and Australia.

Iran’s anti-narcotics measures ‘commendable’: German official

TEHRAN – The actions of Iran in the fight against drug trafficking and transit are commendable, Christian Hoppe, a criminal investigator at Germany’s Federal Criminal Police, has stated.

He made the remarks in an online meeting with Iran’s anti-narcotics police chief, Majid Karimi, held on Wednesday.

The countermeasures of the Islamic Republic in the field of drug trafficking are considerable, he said, expressing readiness to enhance bilateral cooperation in this regard.

Referring to the challenges facing Germany, including the production of marijuana and methamphetamine, the smuggling of cocaine from Latin America, and the production of heroin in Afghanistan, said that we are ready to cooperate in areas such as the exchange of experiences and sciences, anti-narcotics police dogs, and technical equipment for narcotics detection.

Karimi also expressed hope that by improving the joint cooperation, we will see desirable and appropriate measures in the field of counter-narcotics at the regional and international levels.

According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), more than 224,000 hectares of farms in Afghanistan were planted with poppies in 2020, which is a 37 percent increase compared to a year before.



The discovery of more than 20 tons of methamphetamine transited from Afghanistan into Iran over the past year (March 2020–March 2021), shows the multiplication of the production of narcotics in the neighboring country, police chief Majid Karimi, said.

The discovery of more than 76 percent of narcotics on the eastern and southeastern borders indicates the success of the police force in this area, he further stated.

Iran is the leading country in the fight against narcotics worldwide; despite its proximity to Afghanistan, which is the largest producer of narcotics, he explained.

According to the UN Office, the Islamic Repub-

lic’s continuous efforts to combat narcotics trafficking came up with the seizure of more than 90 percent of opium, 70 percent of morphine, and 20 percent of world heroin.

Despite the conditions caused by the coronavirus outbreak and the imposition of harsh sanctions against the country, fortunately, with the efforts of anti-narcotics police in 2020, drug detection increased by 41 percent.

After the Islamic Revolution (in 1979), 3,800 were martyred, 12,000 were wounded and disabled in the fight against drug trafficking.

The UNODC has praised Iran’s efforts to fight against narcotics trafficking on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The organization also officially announced that the world’s first place in the discovery of opium, heroin, and morphine belongs to Iran.

According to UNODC, Iran remains one of the major transit routes for drug trafficking from Afghanistan to European countries and has had a leading role at the global level in drug-control campaigns.

UNODC World Drug Report 2020 estimates that in 2018, 91 percent of world opium, 48 percent of the world morphine, and 26 percent of the world heroin were seized by Iran.

10 national plans to promote medicinal plants

TEHRAN – Ten national plans have been defined to promote the culture of production and consumption of medicinal plants, according to the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology.

The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology has taken technological steps to flourish this ancient industry in the country. Among these measures, we can mention the development of a promotional package to develop the production and use of these products.

“Using the capacity of national media and supporting national and international exhibitions and festivals in the field of medicinal plants” and “Using the capacity of education to promote the importance of medicinal plants in primary to secondary education” are

among other actions.

Also, “culture promotion and reform of society’s attitude towards traditional medicine and promotion of healthy lifestyle” and “establishment of a database of available traditional medicines” and “establishment of a system for registering traditional and herbal medicines and providing pharmaceutical information” have also been implemented.

Iranian traditional medicine is one of the most ancient forms of traditional medicine. It is grounded in the concept of four senses of humor: phlegm (Balgham), blood (Dam), yellow bile (Safra), and black bile (Sauda). The concept of four senses of humor is based on the teachings of Rhazes and Avicenna into an elaborate medical system.



Iranian traditional medicine strongly focuses on prioritizing health maintenance and disease prevention over treatment.

8,000 herbal species grow in Iran

So far, about 30,000 plant species are identified in the world, with Iran’s share of about 8,000 species that its plant diversity is more than the whole of Europe.

Fauna of Iran

(Part 7)

The Persian lion was present in the oak forests throughout recorded history into the 20th century but is now extinct throughout its Eurasian range, except for a small population in the Gir forest of western India. The Caspian tiger was also known in the Caspian region but has not been seen since 1337 A./1958 and is almost certainly extinct.

Two species of mongoose are found in southern Persia, both primarily Oriental in distribution but ranging into the Arabian peninsula. Of seven species in the family Mustellidae six are widespread Palearctic taxa; the seventh, the honey badger (*Mellivora capensis*), is Afrotropical, extending well into Asia.

DeBlase (1980) analyzed the distribution of thirty-eight Persian bat species: twenty-seven restricted or nearly restricted to the Palearctic faunal region, one common to all four major faunal regions of the eastern hemisphere, two widely distributed in both Palearctic and Afrotropical regions and a third more widely distributed in the Afrotropical than in the Palearctic, and six that are essentially Palearctic, extending into the Palearctic only in the region of southwestern Asia that links the Oriental and Afrotropical regions.

The Egyptian fruit bat is the only member of Megachiroptera in Persia, occurring in the south-east, though it is not common.

The small mammals of Persia are generally less noticed by travelers, partly because most have secretive habits and many are nocturnal. Among the



insectivores there are four species of hedgehogs, eight of shrews, and two of moles.

There are only two lagomorphs in Persia, the rufescent pika (*Ochotona rufescens*), a species of the eastern Iranian plateau, and the Cape hare (*Lepus capensis*), which occurs in Africa, as well as in Eurasia and every province of Persia. The largest group of Persian mammals is the rodents, forty-seven species from nine families.

It includes squirrels, porcupines, nutrias (introduced), jerboas, dormice, murid rats and mice, hamsters, gerbils and jirds, and voles. Jochen Niethammer (1987) has provided a list of all recently observed Middle Eastern rodents and has discussed their distribution in terms of small and far-ranging species, species of different origins, and endemic species.

(Source: Encyclopaedia Iranica)

Italian embassy hosts energy transition, environment seminar

TEHRAN – The Italian Embassy in Tehran hosted on Monday a bilateral seminar on energy transition and the environment.

The event was organized in cooperation with the Italian Trade Agency and The European House Ambrosetti.

“The challenges posed by sustainable development are of a truly global nature, and today’s seminar is an indication of Italy’s deep interest in environmental issues,” said Italy’s Ambassador Giuseppe Perrone in his introductory remarks. “We are convinced that only by establishing a positive agenda it is possible to foster confidence at the regional level and to tackle effectively and collectively pressing global challenges”, he continued.

Placed along an ideal itinerary going from Ambrosetti’s Cernobbio Forum and in anticipation of the 7th edition of the ROME MED DIALOGUES scheduled this coming December, the event brought together, in a hybrid format, partly online and partly in presence, representatives of Iran’s Presidency of the Republic, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Energy, members of the private sectors from both countries, analysts from international think tanks and research centers. Over 600 Italian and Iranian companies have also followed the event online.

On this occasion, Italy’s objectives as co-President of the United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) as well as of the G-20 Group were highlighted, particularly through the screening of the speech delivered by Italy’s Minister for environmental transition Cingolani at the latest edition of the Cernobbio Forum.

In the panel devoted to energy transition and the housing and construction sector, Italian and Iranian speakers presented their views and best practices, with a special focus on working out ideas and proposals to develop cooperation increasingly consistent with the principles of energy efficiency, decarbonization, and minimizing the impact on the environment.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON SEPTEMBER 22

New cases	17,433
New deaths	286
Total cases	5,477,229
Total deaths	118,191
New hospitalized patients	2,164
Patients in critical condition	6,632
Total recovered patients	4,846,771
Diagnostic tests conducted	31,331,261
Doses of vaccine injected	45,899,434

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Special plan prepared to attract overseas Iranian researchers

The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology has prepared a special plan to attract scientists and researchers living abroad, IRNA news agency reported on Saturday.

The project aims to promote “supporting technological activities and startups”, “postdoctoral facilities”, “supporting employment in innovation centers and accelerators as a trainer and consultant”, “providing facilities for opportunity studies”, “providing housing facilities”, “supporting employment in reputable domestic companies”, “support for lectures and specialized workshops” and “support for cooperation as invited and appointed professors”.

It is estimated that about one percent of all Iranian students are studying abroad, which is not above the international average of around 3 percent.

طرح ویژه برای جذب پژوهشگران ایرانی مقیم خارج

جذب محققان و پژوهشگران خارج از کشور یکی از اولویتهای کشور محسوب می‌شود و بر این راستا معاونت علمی و فناوری ریاست جمهوری طرحی ویژه پیشنهاد کرده است.

به گزارش ایرنا، معاونت علمی و فناوری ریاست جمهوری، این طرح شامل «حمایت از فعالیتهای فناورانه و ایجاد شرکتهای نوپا»، «تسهیلات پسا دکتری»، «حمایت از اشتغال در مراکز نوآوری و شتابدهنده‌ها به عنوان مربی و مشاور»، «تسهیلات دوره فرصت مطالعاتی»، «تسهیلات مسکن»، «حمایت از اشتغال در شرکتهای معتبر داخلی»، «حمایت از برگزاری سخنرانی و کارگاههای تخصصی» و «حمایت از همکاری به عنوان اساتید مدعو و معین» است.

بر اساس برآوردها نزدیک یک درصد از کل مجموع دانشجویان ایرانی در خارج از کشور تحصیل می‌کنند. این رقم در مقایسه با میانگین بین‌المللی که حدود ۳ درصد است، رقم بالایی محسوب نمی‌شود.

