

Iran Warns of Third-Parties Malign Influence Over Tehran-Baku Ties

Page 3

Report



After twelve years of charades, Naftali Bennett acknowledges Netanyahu’s attitude towards Iran as embarrassing

By Mohammad Farahani

TEHRAN – The cabinet of Naftali Bennett, the new Prime Minister of the Israeli regime, has acknowledged the fruitlessness of the former prime minister’s propaganda charades against Iran in his speeches to the UN General Assembly.

According to Israeli media reports, Bennett is scheduled to address the 76th session of the UN General Assembly for the first time next Monday.

In the past 12 years, Benjamin Netanyahu has spoken ten times in the UN General Assembly on behalf of the Israeli regime, each time presenting often ridiculed propaganda shows, claiming that Iran would soon acquire a nuclear weapon.

For example, in his 2012 speech, he claimed that Iran would soon have such a weapon by presenting a drawing of an atomic bomb. In his 2020 speech, he also showed images that he claimed were satellite images of a Hezbollah arsenal in Lebanon.

According to western news media, on the eve of Naftali Bennett’s visit to New York, Mossad and Israeli military intelligence officials asked him if he intended to provide information about Hezbollah or Iran in a General Assembly speech. However, Bennett’s aides said they did not want to use “visual aids, poster boards, drawings, and the like.”

However, according to some Israeli media, like Netanyahu, much of Naftali Bennett’s speech would focus on Iran. ▶ Page 5

Report



Venezuela, Cuba slam American foreign policy

TEHRAN – Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro says his country has been the victim of a “fierce campaign” of permanent and systematic aggression through economic and financial sanctions from the United States and its allies.

Last year, U.S. sanctions were believed to have killed around 40,000 Venezuelans as the unilateral measures prevented Caracas from importing vital medical supplies, especially during a Pandemic.

Maduro made the remarks during a speech he delivered at the annual session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York. He said, “[the assembly] must be liberated from any hegemony or any empires’ attempts at economic, financial, military or political domination; liberated from those who over centuries plundered, dominated, exploited and oppressed people throughout the world with their old, rapacious colonialism.”

He says, “there are those who are today attempting to impose new forms of colonialism on our people, new forms of domination, looting, oppression and exploitation of people throughout the world... That is why in this General Assembly... Venezuela is calling for a new world free from colonialism, a new world without imperialism, a new world without any dominant hegemony”.

The Venezuelan leader’s speech had been pre-recorded and came when his government was engaged in talks with the U.S. backed opposition to try and solve the political problems in the South American country. It also follows his participation in the recent Community of Latin American and the Caribbean States summit. ▶ Page 5

Iran-EAEU trade up 96% in 5 months yr/yr

TEHRAN – The value of trade between Iran and the members of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) exceeded \$1957 billion in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21 – August 22) to register 96 percent growth compared to the previous year’s same period, IRNA reported.

According to Hossein Kakhaki, director-general of the International Cooperation Department of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran exported over \$420.823 million worth of commodities to the EAEU members in the period under review, 37 percent more than the figure for the previous year’s same period.

During the said five months, the Russian Federation with \$222.743 million, Armenia with \$99.683 million, Kazakhstan with \$63.677 million, Kyrgyz-

stan with \$26.981 million, and Belarus with \$7.738 million of imports were the top destinations for the Iranian exports to the EAEU, according to Kakhaki.

Iran’s imports from the block exceeded \$1.526 billion in the mentioned period, to register a 59 percent rise compared to the same period in the previous year, the official said.

Russian Federation with \$1.327 billion, Kazakhstan with \$195.584 million, Belarus with \$9.616 million, Armenia with \$3.542 million and Kyrgyzstan with \$269,000 were the top five sources of Iranian imports.

Iran and Eurasian Economic Union reached a free trade agreement in October 2018 based on which about 862 commodity items were subjected to preferential tariffs.

The interim agreement enabling the formation of a free trade area between Iran and the EAEU was signed on May 17, 2018, and officially came into force on October 27, 2019.

Iran is a very important market in the region and the development of ties with this country is of high significance for the EAEU members (Russia, Belarus, Armenia, Kazakhstan, and Kyrgyzstan).

The free trade agreement between Iran and this union has laid the ground for the expansion of trade ties between the two sides.

The agreement with the bloc has increased Iran’s exports to the EAEU member states significantly, which is a turning point for the Islamic Republic’s plans for boosting non-oil exports during the U.S. sanctions.

COVID-19 outbreak: an opportunity to revive caves

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – The outbreak of COVID-19 gave the whole ecosystem an opportunity to breathe. Caves are no exception, so the pandemic helped them repair some of the damages caused by the human in recent years.

Caves always evoke a nostalgic concept for humans. From the first paintings of humans on their walls to be the first human house. Even today, in the age of technology, caves are the mirror of natural history.

For several years, in Iran, September 24 has been celebrated as “National Clean Cave Day”, showing the importance of the ecosystem and the need to care for these natural reserves.

Caves are important in several different dimensions. From an ecological point of view, they have a completely unique ecosystem and are host to creatures that have adapted to cave conditions for millions of years, and changes will cause serious damage to these creatures, Mohammad Medadi, head of National Museum of Natural History and Genetic Resources said. ▶ Page 7

Discoveries cast new light on history of life near Masouleh

TEHRAN – Iranian archaeologists have discovered important clues about early human life in mountainous areas adjacent to the touristic Masouleh village in northern Iran.

Their survey was carried out as part of a preliminary process to compile an all-inclusive dossier for the village to be presented to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization. The scenic village is famed for its Lego-shaped earthen houses built on another’s rooftop.

According to Mohammad Sanaei, the director of the Masouleh Cultural Heritage Base, in order to complete the nomination file “Cultural landscape of the historical city of Masouleh” for the UNESCO World Register list, a preliminary archaeological survey was carried out under the direction of Fereidoun Biglari, a senior researcher at National Museum of Iran, on the mountain

ranges in the core and buffer zones of Masouleh, in the Gilan province.

The results of this preliminary survey show that this mountainous landscape was probably occupied by ancient herders and nomads at least since the late Bronze Age.

In the survey archaeological remains of late pre-historic, historic, and Islamic times were recorded on the mountain top above 2500 meters above sea level.

He added that according to the research team, the new finds show that humans have been using these highlands seasonally, at least since the late Bronze Age (2000-1500 BC), that continued during the Iron Age I (1500-1100 BC), Iron Age III (800-500 BC), Parthian (247 BC to 224 CE), Buyid (943-1029 CE), Seljuk (1043-1051 CE) and Ilkhanid (1306-1335 CE) periods. ▶ Page 6

Iranian Film Days feature war dramas for Azerbaijanis

TEHRAN – The Iranian Cultural Center in the Azerbaijani capital of Baku is organizing the Iranian Film Days by streaming a number of war dramas on YouTube.

Five films have been selected to be screened in the program, which has been organized to commemorate the anniversary of the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, the center has announced.

The five-day program, which has commenced on Wednesday, has been arranged after consultation

with Azerbaijani cineastes, including Ayaz Salayev, Anvar Abluc and Hamida Omarova, and film critic Aygün Aslanova.

Director and writer Bahram Tavakkoli’s acclaimed film “The Lost Strait” is one of the films on the lineup.

The film scored a big success at the 36th Fajr Film Festival in 2018 by winning awards in six categories including best film and best director. ▶ Page 8



© FIFA

Iran beat Uzbekistan to advance to 2021 Futsal World Cup quarters

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Uzbekistan 9-8 in a thrilling match on Friday to book a place at the 2021 FIFA Futsal World Cup quarter-finals.

Aliasghar Hassanzadeh opened the scoring for the Iran just one minute into the match. Mahdi Javid made it 2-0 in the fifth minute but Khusniddin Nishonov pulled a goal back four minutes later. Saeid Ahmad Abbasi scored Iran’s third goal in the 16th minute but Uzbekistan’s Anakhon Rakhmatov and Ikhtiyor Ropiev scored two goals to equalize the match. With two minutes remaining, Farhad Tavakoli scored Iran’s fourth goal. ▶ Page 3

From Inside



- Top general says Iran won’t allow action on part of U.S.-led proxies **P2**
- Irish embassy in Tehran to reopen soon **P2**
- Amir Abdollahian: Iran to return to nuclear talks soon but Biden has sent negative sign **P2**
- Iran FM meets Azerbaijani counterpart amid border tensions **P3**
- Russia says Iran’s decision to join SCO is beneficial **P3**
- Khojasteh-Mehr appointed as new NIOC head **P4**
- Exports from mining sector rise 126% in 5 months on year **P4**
- New secretary of Free Zones High Council appointed **P4**
- Traces of Neolithic settlements discovered in northern Iran **P6**
- Lorestan’s museums begin to reopen **P6**
- Some 10,000 multiples born in Iran since March **P7**
- Employment for 80% of prisoners targeted **P7**
- Medical emergency measures for Arbaeen pilgrims **P7**
- Iranian Film Days feature war dramas for Azerbaijanis **P8**
- Iranian, Russian centers to celebrate Fyodor Dostoevsky’s 200th birthday **P8**
- “I Won’t Remain Alone” named best short doc at Saratov Sufferings filmfest **P8**

Interview



Asian-Americans are sick of existing anti-Asian hate crimes: activist

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – Pointing to the rise of hatred against Asian-Americans in the U.S., an American anti-racist activist says Asians are sick of racism.

“I think that Asians are sick of the existing anti-Asian hate crimes over the years and have finally started to speak out,” Leanna Louie tells the Tehran Times.

As a former Army intelligence officer, Leanna believes that “the media has finally brought a bit of attention to the anti-Asian hatred over the past 18 months, since March 2020.”

“When an elected official, especially someone in the position of President use racially charged words like ‘Chinese Virus’, ‘Kung-flu’, or ‘Wuhan Virus’, it sends a subliminal message to those who are ignorant to believe that we are the virus,” said the Chinese American activist who founded a neighborhood watch group called the United Peace Collaborative. ▶ Page 5



Irish embassy in Tehran to reopen soon

TEHRAN — Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and his Irish counterpart Simon Coveney met on Wednesday on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly to discuss bilateral relations and cooperation, the Iran nuclear deal, and the situation in Afghanistan.

During the meeting, the Irish foreign minister congratulated Abdollahian on his appointment as foreign minister and said it was a great pleasure for him to visit Iran as the first top Irish diplomat in the last 20 years.

Coveney expressed hope that this trip would serve as a cornerstone to expand relations between the two countries. Coveney also said the final stages of reopening the Irish embassy in Tehran were under way.

The Irish Foreign Minister expressed his

satisfaction with his country's readiness to play a facilitating role in the implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 2231 during Trump's presidency in the U.S. He said Ireland is now ready to take any action necessary to revive and maintain the nuclear deal, known as the JCPOA. Referring to the two dimensions enshrined in the JCPOA, namely Iran's nuclear program and the removal of anti-Iran sanctions, Coveney reiterated his country's commitment to these two dimensions and lamented Trump's actions that have led to the current situation.

The Iranian foreign minister also welcomed the imminent reopening of the Irish Embassy in Tehran, describing the growth of relations between the two countries as good, but stressed the need to expand ties.

Amir Abdollahian: Iran to return to nuclear talks soon but Biden has sent negative sign

Iran remains ready to return to nuclear talks "very soon" but the Biden administration has sent a "negative sign" by failing to lift economic sanctions and imposing new sanctions against Tehran, Iran's new foreign minister told NBC News.

The foreign minister, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, told NBC News' Andrea Mitchell that President Joe Biden wanted to back up his talk of diplomacy with concrete actions to show Iran that Washington is serious about restoring a 2015 nuclear deal.

"They say, 'We are ready to return to the fulfillment of our commitments.' However, there is no action taken in order to show and prove the true will to the new Iranian administration, to the Iranian nation. And worse than that, simultaneously, they have managed to put on new sanctions," Abdollahian said.

Abdollahian was named top diplomat by Iran's new president, Ebrahim Raisi, a cleric elected in June.

The foreign minister, echoing previous statements from the new Iranian government, stopped short of saying exactly when Iran would be ready to return to talks with world powers to revive the 2015 nuclear agreement. The talks aimed at restoring the deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), have been stalled since June, when Iran held its presidential election. The new government under President Raisi has said it has been assessing the results of previous negotiations.

Abdollahian said it was up to the United States to demonstrate it was serious about returning to the accord after former President Donald Trump withdrew the U.S. from the deal three years ago.

"In other words, President Biden was and is criticizing the behavior of his predecessor, Mr. Trump vis-à-vis Iran, but at the same time, the volume of the file of sanctions that Mr. Trump built against Iran is being carried carefully by Mr. Biden," he said.

If the United States was serious about pursuing negotiations, then why was it "piling up" actions, the foreign minister asked.

"This is a negative sign, signal to Iran," he said.

The foreign minister said "the reality of the matter is that for years, we have not obtained any benefits from the JCPOA." But the new Iranian government is now evaluating the talks undertaken by the previous Iranian administration, he said.

He said that "we are assessing and I can tell you that we have had many meetings and we will keep

"The volume of the file of sanctions that Trump built against Iran is being carried carefully by Biden."

the window of diplomacy and negotiations open. And we will very soon return to the negotiations."

Since Raisi entered office last month, he and his deputies have signaled a tougher line on restoring the 2015 nuclear agreement, raising the possibility that no deal will be reached between Tehran and Washington any time soon.

Before Raisi's election in June, U.S. and Iranian negotiators appeared close to clinching a deal after six rounds of talks. The two sides had outlined an accord that would see both governments return to the 2015 nuclear agreement.

But the new president and his team appear to be in no rush to restart the negotiations, even though U.S. sanctions continue to inflict damage on Iran's economy.

The 2015 deal, also signed by the UK, China, France, Germany and Russia, limited Iran's nuclear program in return for terminating U.S. economic sanctions. In 2018, President Trump withdrew the U.S. from the agreement, reimposed sanctions on Iran and introduced more sanctions as part of what he said was a "maximum pressure" campaign.

Abdollahian said Iran had held "constructive talks" this week with German and British officials on the nuclear issue and planned to meet with French officials on Friday.

Asked about Americans imprisoned in Iran, he said Iran was open to an exchange of American and Iranian prisoners held in each country.

"We see a prisoner swap and its potential as a purely humanitarian issue," he said.

The foreign minister, addressing a series of assassinations of nuclear scientists and other suspected acts of sabotage that Tehran has blamed on Israel, said Iran was prepared to retaliate as needed to any attack on its national security.

"If we obtain reliable proof beyond dispute, we will respond in kind, swiftly, and without any equivocation," he said.

Commenting on the killing of top Iranian general Qassem Soleimani in a U.S. drone strike in January 2020, he said Iran did not consider the case closed.

"From our viewpoint," he said, "the file so to speak will not be closed. Those who were the perpetrators and carried out that act of terrorism against a national hero and the champion of Iran in the fight against terrorism must be brought to justice."

uranium to another country.

"It is regrettable that the countries that scold Iran for enriching uranium up to 60 percent for humanitarian and peaceful purposes have now decided to sell to Australia military nuclear submarines that will run on uranium enriched to a level of more than 90 percent," Press TV quoted Gharibabadi as saying.

The trio, now known by the acronym as AUKUS, will see Australia cancel a contract to buy diesel-electric French submarines and instead build nuclear-powered submarines for the first time,

using technology provided by the U.S. A transfer of this scale is also the first of its kind.

In his Wednesday remarks, Gharibabadi pointed to Iran's conviction that every IAEA member state has the right to pursue its peaceful nuclear program, regardless of the level of enrichment, solely on the basis of its own needs and in accordance with the IAEA safeguards, but underlined the need for necessary safeguards arrangements in place to ensure civilian nature of their nuclear programs.

It is essential that Australia reach an

Iran FM, UN chief consult on JCPOA

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres have discussed issues of mutual interest, including the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the United Nations Information Center reported on Thursday.

In the meeting, Guterres also congratulated the appointment of Abdollahian as Iran's new foreign minister.

Earlier, it was announced that Abdollahian met with Guterres on Thursday on the sidelines of the 76th UN General Assembly to discuss cooperation with the United Nations and the situation in the region.

The UN chief went on to that he has always supported the JCPOA, commonly called the 2015 nuclear deal, and said the United Nations has principally criticized the U.S. withdrawal from the 2015 nuclear deal.

Recalling that UN consultations and cooperation with Iran on regional issues such as the Yemen crisis have always been going on, the Secretary-General said that the United Nations welcomes broader cooperation with the Islamic Republic.

Guterres called Iran's position on Afghanistan principled and said that a comprehensive government should be formed in Afghanistan so that all groups in the government have a voice.



Earlier, the Iranian Foreign Minister also met with EU foreign policy chief Joseph Borrell in New York on Tuesday to discuss various issues, including the JCPOA and developments in Afghanistan.

During the meeting, Abdollahian emphasized that the administration of Ebrahim Raisi is "pragmatic" based on principles and therefore seeks a practical result in the nuclear negotiations.

As mentioned earlier Iran is seriously reviewing the result of the Vienna talks to revive the JCPOA negotiating, he said.

However, he said, the new Iranian administration "will resume negotiations".

Since April until June Iran and the remaining parties to the JCPOA (Britain, France, Germany, Russia and China) held six rounds of talks to with the aim of revitalizing the JCPOA. Though negotiators made considerable progresses, they failed to fully revive the agreement as the United States, which is taking part in the talks indirectly, raised new issues outside the JCPOA, including Iran's missile program.

The Iranian Foreign Minister emphasized: "Our criterion is the actions of the other parties and not their comments. The new administration of Iran is reviewing the nuclear dossier. It will neither waste time nor will it accept the unconstructive behavior of

the United States."

However, the new chief diplomat added that the new administration in Iran will not wait for the "empty promises" of the United States.

Abdollahian went on to say that unfortunately, the behavior and policies of the Biden administration have been unconstructive in relation to Iran and the JCPOA.

Although Biden has verbally criticized Trump's policies, he has in practice pursued the same policies toward Iran, the new Iranian foreign minister regretted.

For his part, Borrell said in his view a success of the JCPOA is in not just highly important for Iran and the negotiating partners but for the entire world.

"A failure of the JCPOA and negotiations will not benefit any side," Borrell said, according to a translation of his remarks.

Borrell said the EU has openly criticized Trump's "destructive" approach toward the JCPOA but a decision by the new Biden administration to restore the nuclear deal has opened a new chapter for protecting and reviving the agreement.

EU's chief diplomat added all nuclear sides should work to reach a middle ground and this entails confidence-building measures by all sides.

Top general says Iran won't allow action on part of U.S.-led proxies

Fadavi: U.S. and its allies are trying to create a deterrence against Iran

TEHRAN - The second-ranking commander in the IRGC has said while the U.S. itself is not able to do any military adventure it is quite clear the Islamic Republic does not allow its proxies to do so.

"When the United States cannot take action against Iran, we will not even allow its proxies to do so," Brigadier General Ali Fadavi said in a news talk show on Thursday night.

Fadavi made these remarks as Iran is marking the Sacred Defense Week.

Iran refers to defense against the invading Saddam Army in the 1980s as sacred defense.

Saddam invaded Iran on September 22, 1980 with the aim of capturing the oil rich province of Khuzestan in southwest Iran. The imposed war lasted until the summer of 1988.

During the war the former Soviet Union and Europeans sold sophisticated weaponry to the regime of Saddam Hussein. The United States also provided satellite images of Iranian forces to Saddam Hussein's army.

"During the war, the situation was such that the evils of the great devil of America continued not inside our country, but in lands far away from us, and the only force that existed against these evils was the capability of the Islamic Revolution and at the top of these capabilities was the IRGC and the Quds Force."

The top general went on to say: "The Quds Force of the IRGC has the responsibility to take actions in the face of the machinations against Islam, the Islamic Revolution and Iran in distant lands."

The deputy chief commander of the IRGC said that fighting and carrying out the mission is related to all the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps.

He also pointed Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani, saying he stands first among all the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution, the imposed war (1980-88 war), and defenders of holy shrines.

Defenders of shrines refers to those Iranians who were martyred in the battle against terrorists in Syria and Iraq.

General Soleimani was martyred in a terrorist drone strike by the United States on January 3, 2020 near Baghdad's international airport.

"Martyr Soleimani is at the top of the martyrs among the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution, the imposed war and the defenders of the holy shrine, and more than 50 million Iranians participated in different cities for Haj Qassem's funeral," Fadavi explained.

Funeral processions were also held for General Soleimani in Baghdad and shrine cities.

The high-ranking military official stated that the Islamic Revolution under the leadership of Imam Khomeini began in 1963 which affected the whole world, including the arrogant countries.

After the Islamic Revolution in 1979 the enemies imagined that they could undermine the revolution, and from February 1979 they started hatching plots against the Islamic Revolution.

"Of course, they slowly realized that the Islamic

Revolution could not be dealt with so easily. After that, they waged an eight-year imposed war in which we ostensibly fought Saddam's regime."

He said about 80 countries supported Saddam "behind the scenes."

The deputy commander of the IRGC added that for the first time, the two superpowers - the United States and the former Soviet Union - came together and fought against Iran, but they failed to achieve their plots.

Fadavi went on to say that the Americans have not had a single victory against the Islamic Revolution over the past 43 years.

Due to sacrifices that were made by the martyrs during the eight-year war "neither the United States nor any other country dared to fire a single bullet at us," but the war has been continuing with a different dimension on a much larger scale, General Fadavi explained.

The commander said every incident that has happened in West Asia has been primarily aimed at harming the Islamic Revolution but they all these events have made the Islamic Revolution to emerge stronger.

Fadavi reiterated that the purpose behind the presence of the Americans in the east, west and south of Iran and in Syria and Lebanon was to counter the Islamic Revolution, but they failed to achieve even a single victory.

Fadavi, who was the commander of the IRGC Navy before being appointed to the new job, was indirectly referring to the presence of American troops in Afghanistan in eastern Iran, in Iraq in western Iran and in the Persian Gulf in southern Iran.

He also said, "In the last three months, two missile and drone exhibitions have been held in Yemen, and these are the equipment that are produced inside Yemen, a country that is 100% under siege.

Fadavi added, "If all the Arab countries come together, such an exhibition will not be possible."

The commander also said the Islamic Revolution is constantly making progress. For example, he said, the progresses made in 2021 is not comparable with those of 2019.

"Deterrence against Iran"

He added that all countries are looking for three capabilities: first they seek a defense capability but many lack such a capability, but in the 1980s the whole world realized that the Islamic Revolution has the ability to defend itself to the highest level; second is a deterrent capability that the world realized in the 1990s that "we have this capability"; and third is a stage when the enemy is "forced" to create a "deterrence against us".

"The Americans have been announcing for about 10 years that they have to look with their allies for a deterrent force against Iran, which means that we are in the third stage and we can hit the first strike and the enemy is sure about it," The deputy chief commander of

the IRGC stated, adding, "Surely, if the enemy, the great devil, was sure that it could take action against us and it would benefit them, it would not have hesitated and would certainly have done so, as it did in Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Libya, Sudan and Yemen. Of course, it failed there (in all these countries) as well, thanks to the Islamic Revolution, because Iran's role in the global equations is quite clear.

The Americans are "terrified" and announced that Iran has "sneaked into their backyard and they will not be able to stop it," Fadavi highlighted.

He went on to say that the Americans' escape from the region is not related to the past days, the general noted, rather it started from the beginning of the Islamic revolution. However, Fadavi said, all the people of the world, including the Americans, should understand that the Americans are fleeing, because there is a "right front" against them that they cannot win against this front and this is "God's promise".

The general was referring the U.S. scandalous exit from Afghanistan in August which humiliated the Americans at home and made them look weak in the eyes of the world. This happened after 20 years of the occupation of Afghanistan.

"The whole world can understand that the United States fled Afghanistan due to the resistance of the Afghan people and the whole current that has emerged in the region thanks to the Islamic Revolution," The commander remarked.

"Source of insecurity"

General Fadavi underlined, "The Americans in the region could not form an alliance and in all the things they wanted to do, they did not succeed at all because it is impossible for making security to be created by someone who is the source of all insecurity in the world, while we are the source of security in intention and in practice; we did not act against the interests of the nations. And wherever we were present, security was created following our presence."

The deputy chief commander of the IRGC said: "The Americans are not able to create security at all because their goal is to seek their own plans and not security for other countries."

"According to our religious duty, it is not possible for us to go to a place to make insecurity, and if we go somewhere, it is for creating security. Look at our situation in Syria and the sympathy between our people and the people of Syria, Lebanon and Yemen, as if we are one people and we are Muslims."

But wherever the "Americans have gone" they have "created insecurity," he said.

"The Americans have a military presence at about 700 points. The American people should understand that all the misery they have inside the United States is due to officials who cannot do the right thing rationally and spend thousands of billions of dollars without achievement" the IRGC official explained.

countries who can build nuclear weapons.

The submarines used by the U.S. Navy and also the British use highly enriched uranium, or HEU, enriched to a level of 93 percent -- the same level of uranium concentration necessary for a powerful nuclear weapon.

Only six countries -- the U.S., Britain, France, China, India and Russia -- have nuclear-powered submarines.

The latest deal will make Australia the seventh nation to acquire nuclear-powered submarines.

Iran hits out at U.S., Britain over AUKUS deal

TEHRAN - Iran's permanent ambassador to Vienna-based international organizations has lashed out at the U.S. and UK for adopting nuclear double standards amid a decision to help Australia get its first nuclear-powered submarine under a deal known as AUKUS.

Speaking at the 65th regular session of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) on Wednesday, Kazem Gharibabadi criticized the West for falsely accusing Iran of pursuing non-civilian nuclear technology while inking a deal on building submarines fueled with weapons-grade

agreement with the IAEA on necessary safeguards arrangements, he said, adding that the IAEA must have access to high-enriched nuclear material in Australia at any agreed and reasonable time, and no excuse is acceptable in this regard.

While stressing that the IAEA needs to regularly inform the Board of Governors of the developments surrounding the new partnership, the Iranian diplomat raised the alarm about putting the issue of non-proliferation and disarmament at risk.

"The U.S. and the UK have put the issues of non-proliferation and disarmament at

risk. The U.S. and the UK must abandon double standards and hypocrisy, and refrain from jeopardizing their obligations under the NPT (Non-Proliferation Treaty), in particular Article 3, under the pretext of fabricated 'strategic concerns,'" he said.

Experts say the U.S. decision to sell nuclear-powered submarines to Australia has put at risk longstanding but fragile global pacts to prevent the proliferation of dangerous nuclear technologies and could encourage other countries to freely sell their nuclear technology, and thus potentially expanding the number of

Iran warns of third-parties malign influence over Tehran-Baku ties

From Page 1 ► Azerbaijan also reportedly imposed a staggering tax on Iranian commercial trucks which drew criticism from Iranian merchants.

Azerbaijan implicitly confirmed the trucks row by inviting the Iranian ambassador to Baku, Seyed Abbas Mousavi. On August 11, the Azerbaijani foreign ministry issued a statement saying that Mousavi was “invited” to the ministry over the issue of the trucks.

“During the meeting, Ambassador’s attention was drawn to the undesirable facts revealed in connection with the illegal travel of trucks belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran to Karabakh, and Note Verbal was submitted to the opposite side,” the statement said. “Dissatisfaction with the recent continuous entry-exit of various vehicles belonging to friendly Islamic Republic of Iran to Karabakh region of Azerbaijan without the permission of official Baku is expressed in the Note. Our dissatisfaction, which earlier was conveyed to the Iranian side verbally, was once again raised in front of the Iranian Ambassador during the meeting.”

Iran moved to resolve the issue in a low-key way even though after Azerbaijan closed the highway to Iran’s commercial vehicles. In late August, a local Iranian official, confirming the Azerbaijani closure of the strategic road, said more than 120 Iranian trucks and passenger cars were stopped inside the Azerbaijani part of the Goris-Kapan route.

The local official, Orujali Alizadeh, the head of Eastern Azerbaijan’s Road Maintenance and Transportation Organization, noted that the closure of the road followed an escalation between Armenia and Azerbaijan and that Iran following the issue with Azerbaijan.

Amid all this, a series of other issues further complicated the situation between Tehran and Baku. Azerbaijan held joint military drills with Turkey and Pakistan in Baku, a move that prompted Iran to voice reservations about the legality of military presence by non-littoral states in the Caspian Sea. Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said according to the Caspian Sea’s legal conventions the military presence of non-littoral states in this sea is illegal.

Azerbaijan also held another joint military exercise with Turkey in the Azerbaijani exclave of Nakhichevan. To make things worse, Azerbaijani lawmakers unleashed a series of hostile remarks against Iran bearing stern threats against Tehran. One Azerbaijani lawmaker thundered that Pakistan’s army would invade Tehran if it made any hostile move against Baku. Another lawmaker threatened to cut Iran’s tail.

These remarks angered many in Tehran and mounted pressure on officials to respond to Azerbaijan. Thus began a series of Iranian statements reminding Baku of the



dangers of an escalation with Iran.

Fada-Hosseini Maleki, a leading member of the Iranian parliament sitting on the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, advised Azerbaijan to stop its “suspicious moves.”

“The drills carried out by the governments of Azerbaijan, Pakistan and Turkey are worrying,” the lawmaker told Fars News, adding that Iran is closely following the situation along Iran-Azerbaijan borders and “warns about some suspicious movements.”

Underlining that blocking Iran’s trade with Armenia was not the right thing to do, Maleki said, “Armenia is an independent country and the Islamic Republic has trade with the region, and Baku should reconsider its recent actions so that no excuses be provided for countries seeking to create problems which will impinge on Baku more.”

He also called on Turkey and Pakistan to coordinate their steps in Azerbaijan with Iran.

Other Iranian lawmakers were blunter in their reactions to their Azerbaijani counterparts. Ahmad Naderi, a lawmaker, said on Twitter that some Azerbaijani lawmakers have now “gotten carried away” many times and utter words that are “bigger than their size and capacity.” He asked his Azerbaijani counterparts to interpret Iran’s silence as a sign of greatness and pay attention to their duty in maintaining good neighborliness with Iran. “Otherwise, the hand will be restored to the body,” he said in an apparent reference to possible irredentism on the part of Iran.

Mohammad Reza Ahmadi Sangari, another Iranian lawmaker, tweeted leaders of Baku have been “illusioned,” by their Karabakh victory which was achieved by “Turkish doping.”

“The age of your small country is less than that of our youngest lawmaker,” he boasted, adding that the Azerbaijani lawmakers should not discredit themselves by targeting Iran.

These harsh words came after Iran’s low-key approach to resolving the dispute came to naught. The Iranian ambassador to Azerbaijan met several times with high-ranking officials in Baku. But the Azerbaijani lawmakers

continued to make hostile remarks.

Iran then dispatched military reinforcements to its borders with Azerbaijan in a clear show of force. In addition, Iran launched its own military drills in the region. Diplomatically, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian met with his Azerbaijani and Turkish counterparts on the sidelines of the United Nations General Assembly in New York.

Abdollahian and his Turkish counterpart Mevlüt Cavusoglu agreed on a trilateral meeting involving Iran, Azerbaijan Republic and Turkey in Tehran. Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Jeyhun Bayramov welcome the holding of the meeting in a meeting with Abdollahian.

Bayramov told Abdollahian that on behalf of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Shahn Mustafayev is ready to contact his Iranian counterpart within the two countries’ joint commission.

The Iranian foreign minister also said relations between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan are highly important.

Abdollahian also discussed with his Azerbaijani counterpart the facilitation of transit and traffic of Iranian trucks, as well as some consular issues, including two Iranian drivers detained by the Azerbaijani police. The two top diplomats agreed to resolve this issue through contacts between the two sides.

Abdollahian stressed that some third parties should not be allowed to affect the good relations between the two countries.

The Iranian foreign minister did not name these third parties. But MP Maleki said Israel seeks to change the equations in the South Caucasus region and that Azerbaijan should be wary of that.

Also, Ayatollah Seyed Hassan Ameli, the representative of Iran’s Supreme Leader in Ardebil province, said Israel has come to Azerbaijan to hatch plots against Iran. The senior local cleric, who usually addresses Iran-Azerbaijan disputes in Friday prayers, said the drills conducted by the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC) along the Iran-Azerbaijan borders send a message to Israel that it should not make any mistake.

Iran has long expressed dismay over Israel’s growing influence in Azerbaijan which many Iranians see as aiming to Iran by fomenting separatist sentiments among Iran’s sizable ethnic Azeri Turk minority. Regardless of this influence, however, Tehran has always sought good neighborly relations with Baku. During the 44-day Karabakh war, Iran explicitly supported Azerbaijan’s bid to restore its territorial integrity. But despite this support, which was appreciated by the Azerbaijani government at the time, some in Baku tend to portray Iran as a supporter of Armenia, according to Ayatollah Ameli.

As for regional issues, Iran’s foreign minister underlined new developments are unfolding in the region, and highlighted the need for regular consultations between Tehran and Ankara more than ever before.

Abdollahian also touched upon developments in Afghanistan.

“We are in contact with all sides in this country, but what is very important is the necessity of the formation of an all-inclusive government as the lasting solution for peace and stability in Afghanistan,” the top Iranian diplomat said, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

The Turkish foreign minister, in turn, welcomed the upgrading of the level of presidency of the Iran-Turkey Joint Commission, and said on Turkey’ side, too, the vice president will co-chair the committee.

Cavusoglu lambasted sanctions against Iran, and noted illegal and unilateral sanctions against Iran should be lifted.

He expressed readiness to attend a trilateral meeting in Tehran, saying he is ready to travel to Tehran to resume consultations.

He also touched upon regional issues, saying the two countries are facing common regional challenges, including the situation in Afghanistan, which makes closer consultations all the more necessary.

He also emphasized the significance of the formation of a broad-based government in Afghanistan, and voiced concern over the possible escalation of violence and extremism in the country.

It is noteworthy that the two sides also agreed on visits to Iran by Turkish interior and justice ministers as well as the extradition of criminals.

allow Iran to count on expanding transportation structures and ensuring transportation security.

Iran is ready to participate in food security of the Shanghai member states, Hakimov stressed.

The Russian official also called for attention to be paid to Iran’s privileged geopolitical position and the Islamic Republic’s economic and political capabilities in accepting its membership in the SCO.

The SCO summit was held on September 16-17 in Dushanbe, the capital of Tajikistan, and it was decided to start the process of Iran’s full membership in the Eurasian organization.

IRAN IN FOCUS

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Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

Iran futsal captain Hassanzadeh aims World Cup final

TEHRAN – Iran futsal captain Ali Asghar Hassanzadeh says that their goal is to advance to the final match of the 2021 FIFA Futsal World Cup.

The marksman wears the shirt and the captain’s armband of Iran, something of which he is no doubt proud, even if it means he enjoys a lower profile than some of the game’s other leading lights.



Appearing at his fourth Futsal World Cup, Hassanzadeh has a career record like few others and a talent that puts most of the world’s other futsal players in the shade.

“It’s something I talk about a lot with my teammates and they always say to me: ‘If your name was Hassanzadinho, Hassanzadao or something like that, you’d be seen as one of the best players on the planet,’” he joked to FIFA.com. “I honestly don’t see it as all that important, though. The fact that I’m not seen as one of the best isn’t frustrating for me. I just try to focus on my game and to enjoy what I’m doing. That’s enough for me.”

While the modest Hassanzadeh is not at all put out by the lack of praise for his individual skills, he struggles to comprehend the lack of recognition given to his team. “It’s not very often that we’re named among the favorites or the big guns in world futsal,” lamented Hassanzadeh, a key performer in that run to third at Colombia 2016, the best performance ever by an Asian team in the history of the competition. “That’s why we want to do well in the World Cup.

“It shows us where we stand in relation to the other teams and it gives us more visibility than any other tournament. We’re here to change the way people see us, to change people’s opinions of Asian teams and of Iran in particular.”

“We don’t want to go through that again. We’re aiming higher, though we have to be realistic. The matches are getting tougher and tougher and the teams more and more professional. We know it will be hard, but our goal is to go one step further, to the final,” Hassanzadeh said.

Though the Iranians just missed out on the showpiece match five years ago, they enjoyed a magnificent run to the last four, knocking out defending champion and tournament favorites Brazil in the Round of 16. It was an unforgettable achievement, made all the more so by the fact it was the last game of the legendary Falcao’s career.

“It was a very special moment,” recalled Hassanzadeh, a goalscorer that day. “Nobody thought we could beat Brazil. It was a game of contrasting emotions, though. We had the immense joy of beating the world’s best team, mixed with the immense sadness of knowing we’d never see Falcao again, the most spectacular player the game has ever produced,” he concluded.

If Iran’s 2016 campaign was memorable for that and other reasons, their 2021 adventure may yet end with World Cup glory and global recognition, all achieved under a captain who is not called Hassanzadao or Hassanzadinho but Ali Hassanzadeh, one of the best players in the world.

Hassan Yazdani inspired me, Indian wrestler Punia says

TEHRAN – Indian wrestler Bajrang Punia says that he has been inspired by Iran’s Hassan Yazdani.

The Indian freestyler won a bronze medal at the men’s 65kg in the 2020 Olympic Games.

In an interview with newindianexpress.com, Punia

lauded American wrestler Jordan Burroughs and Yazdani.

“I admire and look up to the US wrestler Burroughs who has won multiple titles including World Championships, World Cup and the US Open championships, among others.

“I am also inspired by Hassan Yazdani of Iran, who is also a very good friend of mine. He fights in the 86kg category and is an Olympian and World Champion,” Punia said.

Fans allowed to enter stadium for Iran, S. Korea match

TEHRAN – Up to 10,000 fans will be allowed to enter the Azadi Stadium in Tehran for the Iran-South Korea match.

Iran will host the Korean team on October 12 in Tehran in Group A of the 2022 World Cup qualification Round 3.

Alireza Raisi, spokesman for the Iranian national headquarters fighting COVID-19, has said that it will require proof of vaccination for anyone entering the stadium.

Masks, social distancing and contact tracing measures will all be in place for fans in the stadium.

Iran to play Kazakhstan in Asian Women’s Handball bronze medal match

TEHRAN – Iran lost to powerhouse South Korea 46-21 on Thursday and failed to qualify for the final match of the 2021 Asian Women’s Handball Championship.

Iran will play Kazakhstan, who lost to Japan 38-24 in the same round, in the bronze medal match on Saturday.

Iran had previously made history by securing their place at the 2021 World Women’s Handball Championship in Spain as one of the top six Asian teams.

The 2021 Asian Women’s Handball Championship is being held from Sept. 15 to 25 in Amman, Jordan under the aegis of Asian Handball Federation.

Pourmousavi parts way with Naft Masjed Soleyman

TEHRAN – Siyous Pourmousavi parted company with Naft Masjed Soleyman football club by mutual consent on Wednesday.

The 50-year-old coach was named Naft Masjed Soleyman coach in early September as Mahmoud Fekri’s replacement but parted ways with the club ahead of the 2021-22 Iran Professional League.

Former Padideh coach Mehdi Rahmati is a candidate to take charge of the team.

Naft Masjed Soleyman finished in 13th in the 16-team league last season.

Iran beat Uzbekistan to advance to 2021 Futsal World Cup quarters

From Page 1 ► Ahmad Abbasi and Javid scored twice for Iran in 22nd and 25th minutes, respectively.

Anakhon Rakhmatov reduced Uzbekistan’s deficit in the 28th minute, but Iran’s reply was immediate through Hassanzadeh, before Moslem Oladghobad scored two minutes later to make it 8-4.

Uzbekistan, however, refused to back down and closed the gap with Ilhomjon Hamroev and Nishonov beating Iran goalkeeper Alireza Samimi in the 31st and 33rd minutes.

The goals galore, however, was not yet over as Abbasi completed his hat-trick in the 37th minute but Uzbekistan fought back with Anakhon and Hamroev giving their side hope only for the clock to run out on them.

Iran will play Kazakhstan on Monday in the quarterfinals.

Russia says Iran’s decision to join SCO is beneficial

TEHRAN — The Russian President’s special representative for the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) has stated that Moscow and its partners consider the decision of Iran to join the organization beneficial.

“According to the remarks and promises made by the former president of Iran and the new president of Iran, Ebrahim Raisi, about Tehran’s readiness to use its capabilities to strengthen the Shanghai Organization, a very serious ground is provided based on which the decision on Iran’s membership in this organization will be very beneficial,” Bakhtiar Hakimov noted in an online meeting on Friday, IRNA reported.

The relevant decision on part of the SCO was taken based on the analysis of the outcome of the factors, and in this regard Iran’s membership in the SCO is in line with the positions of partners, the official went on to say.

Hakimov highlighted that the Russian side believes that Iran will actively participate in a wider format in the world, such as the fight against terrorism, the fight against drug trafficking, and restoring stability and security in the region.

“We believe that Iran is an active participant in the One-Belt, One-Road initiative, and North-South international crossover project,” said the Russian president’s envoy to the SCO, noting that the development of transportation infrastructure would

Inflation rate rises 0.6%: SCI



TEHRAN - The Statistical Center of Iran (SCI) has put the average inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on September 22, at 45.8 percent, rising 0.6 percent from the figure for the same twelve-month prior to the mentioned period.

SCI has put the country's point-to-point inflation rate at 43.7 percent in the sixth month of the current Iranian calendar year (ended on September 22), which means families have paid an average of 43.7 percent more for purchasing the same package of commodities and services in the previous month, compared to the same month in the previous year.

As Mehr News Agency reported, the point-to-

point inflation rate has also increased by 0.5 percent in comparison to the figure for the preceding month.

The point-to-point inflation rate for urban households was reported to be 42.9 percent, which is 0.5 percent more than the figure for the previous month. The figure was 47.8 percent for the rural households, with 0.1 percent increase from the figure for the previous month.

The SCI had put the inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on August 22, which marks the end of the fifth Iranian calendar month of Mordad, at 45.2 percent, rising one percent from the figure for the twelve-month period ended on the last day of the fourth month.

The country's point-to-point inflation rate was reported to be 43.2 percent in the mentioned month, according to the SCI data.

The Statistical Center of Iran had put the inflation rate in the twelve-month period ended on March 20 (the end of the previous Iranian calendar year) at 36.4 percent, rising 2.2 percent from the figure for the twelve-month period ended on the last day of the preceding year.

New secretary of Free Zones High Council appointed

TEHRAN - Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi has appointed Saeed Mohammad as the new secretary of the Free Zones High Council, IRNA reported.

In a decree on Thursday, Mohammad was tasked to take all the necessary measures for strengthening the position of the free trade zones in the country's economy by making the zones more attractive for investors and by further supporting of producers and exporters in these areas.

Facilitation of business and offering tax and customs exemptions, submission of a draft for amending the law on how to manage free zones, combating smuggling by establishing customs at the zones, focusing on quality were also among the subjects emphasized by the economy minister in his decree.

Monitoring the performance of the country's

free zones with the aim of expanding exports and increasing economic ties with neighboring countries, encouraging investment and joint ventures, setting rules for dismissal and appointing of qualified managers for zones, reforming the revenue system of regional organizations to reduce imports, strengthening centralized regional management and eliminating inconsistencies and reduction of deprivation in the regions where the zones lie are also some of the duties of the new secretary.

Mohammad is replacing Hamidreza Mo'meni who was in charge of the mentioned position since early March.

Mohammad was previously the commander of the Khatam-al Anbiya Construction Headquarters. He has a PhD in Civil engineering from Tarbiat Modares University.

TSE's main index drops 7.3% in a week

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), fell 7.3 percent in the past Iranian calendar week.

The index closed at 1,386 million points on Wednesday (the last working day of the week).

During the past week, the indices of Social Security Investment Company, Iran Khodro Company, Saipa Company, Sepid Makian Company, Mobarakeh Steel Company, and Barekat Pharmaceutical Group were the most widely followed ones.

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.

"Now, for example, one of the fixed income funds has succeeded in attracting people's investment three times more than a private bank (Middle East Bank) and another fund twice as much as another private bank (Post Bank)", he stated.

Announcing that over 5.3 quadrillion rials (about \$126.19 billion) has been already attracted by the mutual funds, Fadaei said that the fixed income funds, which pay more interest than banks, account for attracting 3.7 quadrillion rials (about \$88.095 billion) of the mentioned figure.

Iran's new Minister of Finance and

Exports from mining sector rise 126%

TEHRAN- The value of Iran's exports from the mining sector stood at \$5,088 billion in the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), registering a 126 percent increase compared to the figure for the same five months in the previous year.

Based on the official data, Iran exported 21,978 million tons of the mentioned products to register an 11 percent rise in terms of weight, IRNA reported.

Steel chain products accounted for the biggest share of the exported products during the period under review, with \$3,089 billion of products being shipped to foreign markets.

Exports of steel products registered a 176 percent growth, followed by copper and copper products with \$621,600 of exports and registering an 82 percent growth year on year.

Meanwhile, the highest export growth in the mentioned period with 373 percent rise was achieved



by ceramic, brick, and ceramic products.

Also, in the first five months of this year, more than \$183.3 million worth of zinc products, \$174.2 million worth of cement products, \$92.2 million worth of sponge iron,

and \$69.6 million worth of stones and related products were exported.

Alumina powder, titanium products, lead products, molybdenum, chromium, granulated iron ore, iron ore concentrate, and mica were other products exported from the

country's mining and mineral industries in the first five months of the current fiscal year.

Iranian mining industry registered a \$4,271 billion positive trade balance in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), according to the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry data.

Based on the mentioned data, some 55,124 million tons of minerals and mining industry products worth \$7,682 billion were exported in the previous year, while the imports of such products stood at only \$3,410 billion.

The Islamic Republic imported 4,156 million tons of mining and mineral products last year, registering six percent and 13 percent year-on-year rise in terms of value and weight, respectively.

The exports of such commodities in the previous year, however, fell 11 percent in terms of value and 21 percent in terms of weight, compared to the preceding year.

Annual pistachio output estimated to fall 70,000 tons

TEHRAN- As announced by the secretary-general of Iran Pistachio Association (IPA), the production of pistachio in Iran is estimated to fall 70,000 tons in the current year.

Hossein Rezaei said that the next year's sprouts have also been destroyed by climate change, and this year it is difficult to keep the market, so government support is required.

"Iran Pistachio Association will announce the exact statistics of pistachio production this year after the end of the harvest, in the eight Iranian calendar month Aban (October 23-November 21), but our estimate is that the output will be 140,000-150,000 tons", he stated.

Almost 20 percent of Iran's pistachio is consumed inside the country and the rest is exported, Rezaei stated and announced that 213,000 tons of pistachio was exported during the past eleven months.

China and India were the major export destinations, while ten percent of the product was exported to Germany, he added.

In August 2020, Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) held a pistachio export desk



meeting to investigate the challenges and barriers in the way of the country's pistachio exports.

Addressing the meeting, TPO former Head Hamid Zadboum put emphasis on the significant status of pistachio in Iran's export basket as the top agricultural export item and said that a national view toward removing the pistachio export barriers should be adopted.

In mid-June, Iran's previous Agriculture Minister Kazem Khavazi said the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and its consequences have imposed serious challenges on the country's agricultural sector.

Speaking at the 42nd Session of the Food and

Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Conference which was held virtually, Khavazi said: "The consequences of the COVID-19 crisis have challenged the functioning of the food value chain and the flow of agricultural products into the market and the pandemic has affected all areas from production to processing, packaging, transportation, marketing, and also consumption."

He further noted that the coronavirus experience has shown that many areas of the food industry have the potential to react early and swiftly to crisis. Many companies have been forced to use alternative channels instead of the usual business approaches; for instance, focusing on new and more local markets, relying on innovative management plans, and investing in human resources to deal with future dilemmas.

The official finally noted that despite all the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic the agriculture sector in Iran is consciously thriving and the production of this sector has increased by 22 percent for grains and seeds and over 50 percent for horticulture products.

Khojasteh-Mehr appointed as new NIOC head

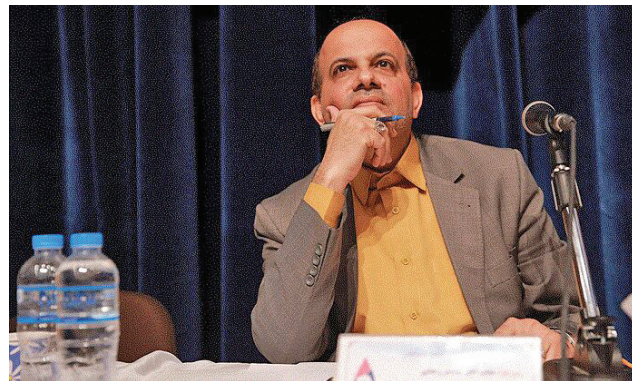
TEHRAN - Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji has appointed oil industry veteran Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr as the new managing director of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC).

Khojasteh-Mehr was appointed as deputy oil minister and NIOC head on Wednesday, according to a statement published by the Oil Ministry's news service Shana.

In his appointment decree, Oji has tasked the new NIOC head with increasing the country's oil and gas production capacity with a focus on South Pars gas field which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf and oilfields shared with Iraq in southwest Iran.

Khojasteh-Mehr replaces Masoud Karbasian who served as the NIOC head since 2018. He was minister of finance from August 2017 until his impeachment in August 2018. He had also held office as deputy economy minister and headed Islamic Republic of Iran's Customs Administration (IRICA).

Khojasteh-Mehr has a PhD



in hydrocarbon reservoirs from Iran's Amirkabir University of Technology, which is generally known in the West as Tehran Polytechnic.

His most senior positions in the Oil Ministry include serving as deputy minister for planning and leading the Tadbir Drilling Development Company (TDDC), a post he has been holding for the past years.

The NIOC is one of the largest oil companies in the world with nearly \$200 billion worth

of assets as per estimates published in 2012. The company oversees large-scale operations in the Iranian oil industry and controls major refineries across the country.

Iran's Oil Ministry hopes NIOC can swiftly increase its output to 3.8 million barrels per day if U.S. removes sanctions of the Islamic Republic in case the two countries and other world powers can revive a 2015 international agreement on Tehran's nuclear program.

Food industry accounts for \$1.8b of Iran's non-oil export in a year

TEHRAN- Iran's deputy industry, mining, and trade minister announced that food industry accounted for \$1.8 billion of the country's non-oil export in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

Making the remarks in the inaugural ceremony of the 28th International Exhibition of Food, Food Technology and Agriculture of Iran (Agrofood 2021), and also the 20th Iran International Confectionery Fair in Tehran on Wednesday, Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki said that the export from food sector registered a 23-percent rise in terms of weight in the past year.

Food industry is one of the main economic priorities and advantages of the country, which accounts for about 12 percent of the industrial units; he said, adding the share of food and beverage industries in the total industrial employment of the country is 15 percent.

The 28th International Exhibition of Food, Food Technology and Agriculture of Iran is underway in Tehran 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.

Iran, Belarus emphasize broadening economic ties

TEHRAN - Foreign affairs ministers of Iran and Belarus in a meeting in New York on Wednesday emphasized the need for expansion of bilateral economic ties.

Hossein Amir Abdollahian and Vladimir Makei met on the sidelines of the UN General Assembly and exchanged viewpoints on bilateral ties and economic cooperation between the two countries, IRNA reported.

The Belarus foreign minister in the meeting emphasized Minsk's willingness for implementing an agreement reached last week in a meeting between the two countries' presidents on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Conference in Dushanbe.

"The oppressive sanctions imposed against both countries can only face defeat based on our joint cooperation," said Makei.

He emphasized that his country is ready for comprehensive cooperation with Iran and establishment of a balanced economic relations



Iranian Foreign Affairs Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian (R) and his Belarusian counterpart Vladimir Makei in a meeting in New York on Wednesday

with Iran.

Makei referred to the numerous meetings at technical level between the two countries, noting that implementing the reached agreements

is in need of the existence of strong political will.

The Iranian foreign minister, for his part, said the two presidents' meeting was quite fruitful, and the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready for opening a new path for improvement of bilateral ties.

Amir Abdollahian expressed regret that the volume of bilateral trade has decreased despite the reached agreements, reiterating that Iran is ready for serious cooperation with Belarus in various fields such as industrial and heavy machines, agricultural machines, electrical buses, car spare parts, and agricultural items.

The Iranian foreign minister referred to the cancellation of the two countries joint economic committee meeting over the past four years, and called for the holding of the mentioned meeting.

Amir Abdollahian said that it is also possible to use the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU) for expansion of bilateral ties.

Asian-Americans are sick of existing anti-Asian hate crimes: activist

From page 1 ► Here is the text of the interview with Ms. Louie:

Reports indicate that the Corona pandemic has exacerbated anti-Asian hate crime in the U.S. What is the reason for that? How do you see the role of the U.S government in this regard, especially Trump's?

Yes, reports have said that anti-Asian hate crimes have skyrocketed in the U.S. since the pandemic. The truth is that anti-Asian hate has been in America since the Chinese immigrants were shipped to the USA to help build the railroad back in the 1840s.

The Chinese workers were treated horribly, got lower wages than Whites and other ethnicities. In 1871, there was a Chinese massacre which is long forgotten. On October 24, 1871, a mob of around 500 Whites and Hispanic persons entered Old Chinatown and attacked, bullied, robbed, and murdered Chinese people there.

By the end, 19 Chinese immigrants were killed; 15 of them were later hanged by the mob in the court of the riot. Let's not forget the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882, the first piece of explicit racist federal legislation regarding immigration signed by President Chester A. Arthur on May 6, 1882, prohibiting all immigration of Chinese laborers.

I think Asians are sick of the existing anti-Asian hate crimes over the years and have finally started to speak out. The media has finally brought a bit of attention to it over the past 18 months, since March 2020.

When an elected official, especially someone in the position of President, use racially charged words like "Chinese Virus", "Kung-flu", or "Wuhan Virus", it sends a subliminal message to those who are ignorant to believe that we are the virus. Therefore, ignorant people believe that beating or killing a Chinese person or someone who looks Chinese is helping save the world. It is wrong on so many levels. There are so many people who make no sense and have no common sense in this world. That is why it is so important for elected officials to speak without implying or explicitly blaming any race of people to be responsible for any pandemic. Wuhan is one of the biggest flight transfer airports in China. The truth is, anyone could have brought the Coronavirus from any part of the world to China.

Is there widespread awareness among American minorities against racism? Some black activists say that Chinese-Americans collaborate with whites to suppress people of color.

I think that most American minori-



ties are aware of racism, and many have experienced it. There are still some people who deny there is any racism, probably because they have not personally experienced it or are blind to the existing racism out there.

Different people say different things, with or without proof. I do not personally know of any Chinese Americans who are collaborating with Whites to suppress people of color.

Who is making those accusations? What do they mean by suppression? Why would they do that? Chinese Americans are "People of Color", so the people who exclude us from the "People of Color" designation are misguided. Do White people think that Chinese are NOT "People of Color"? Whoever is accusing Chinese-Americans of this is not seeking peace. Every human being has the same basic needs: food, water, shelter, clothing, and transportation. All other fancy fancy things are not necessary for survival: abundant money, power over others, abundant properties, monopoly of business enterprises, and massive fame.

Those are human desires that are not always healthy in the grand scheme of things. I have always lived a humble life, and I hope others can see the peace of living humbly. In the USA, we currently live in a system where the poor can apply for and get food stamps, temporary shelter and permanent housing, free clothing, and free public transportation. Why and what are people killing for? It is not necessary to hurt or kill others.

What are the main obstacles that prevent the integration of Asian-Americans into American society?

A: As Asian-Americans, we are not a monolith. There are American Born Asians (ABA). There are immigrant Asian-Americans who later become naturalized Citizens. There are refugee Asian-Americans. Each Asian

American has a different journey and different story. I don't think I can simply answer this question without spending more time asking different people about their personal journeys and their particular struggles that may be obstacles that prevent their integration into American society.

In my personal experience, I am an immigrant from China. My family came to America in different phases. My great grandfather was here shortly after World War II after the Chinese Exclusion Act was lifted. My grandfather was left in China. He came to the U.S. with my parents, my sibling, and me in 1979. My grandfather and parents had an extremely difficult time integrating into American society because of the language barriers. My grandfather ended up working as a dishwasher, then later a kitchen helper at the Empress of China on Grant Avenue in Chinatown. My grandmother was a seamstress at a factory on Powell Street near Vallejo Street. They rarely left Chinatown. They only left Chinatown when one of our uncles or one of us picked them up by car to leave Chinatown. They felt safe in Chinatown but not elsewhere in San Francisco. My father started as a dishwasher, later went to Culinary Art School and became a Chef at the United Irish Cultural Center in the 1980s. He worked for Hotel Nikko in the 1990s until he retired in 2005. My mother started as a seamstress at a factory in Chinatown in the 1980s and then later worked for Holiday Inn on 750 Kearney Street until she retired in 2005. As for myself, I was seven years old when we came to the USA.

I attended public schools in the San Francisco Unified School District. Upon graduation from Mission High School, I enlisted in the U.S. Army at age 18 as a Pharmacy Technician in 1990. After five years, I was recommended to train to be an officer. I did three years of ROTC at Pacific

Lutheran University, then was commissioned to be an officer in 1998 and serviced as an officer until January 2001. I worked with African Americans, Latino-Americans, and European-Americans on a daily basis. I was embraced by some and not by others. I do not attribute it to racism or hate because I cannot read anyone's mind. I think some people don't know how to approach or deal with someone who looks different from them, probably due to lack of exposure or lack of interaction.

Do you see any correlation between deterioration of U.S.-China ties and spread of pandemic and anti-Asian hatred?

Sadly, yes. I firmly believe that the best thing for the world is to WORLD PEACE. It is disheartening to hear undertones of hate and racism from anyone. The blame game needs to stop. Pandemics happen. Let's just deal with the virus and stop pointing the finger.

Is there any holistic solution to eradicate crimes against Asian-Americans?

I have thought of many things that we can do to work towards more peaceful relationships among Asians, Blacks, Hispanics, and Whites. It would require all people to drop their defenses and start meaningful dialogues. I have lived in San Francisco Bayview Hunters Point since the 1980s, and I support my neighbors in rallies, protests, and events that I feel need attention and support. I won't just jump on anything and everything because some things don't make sense. People really need to open their hearts and eyes. It is important to acknowledge the history of Native Americans, African Americans, Latino Americans, Asian Americans, European Americans, etc. It is even more important to live in the present, not in the past. There's free public education from K-12 and in some colleges in America in this day and age. People need to seek out what works for them not instead of going to hurt others for their personal gain.

What are the issues we need to deal with in the present? Academics are a big one. I am working with other Asian Leaders in San Francisco to roll out a tutoring system. There will be opportunities for high-achieving students to tutor students who need help. Our goal is to uplift others around us. I would like to see athletic students teach the less athletic students to play basketball, or baseball, or football. I think that if everyone starts to think about their strengths and gifts, each person can bring something to the table, field, or the court to share.

After twelve years of charades, Naftali Bennett acknowledges Netanyahu's attitude towards Iran as embarrassing

From page 1 ► Although Naftali Bennett and former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu are both considered radical extremist politicians toward Iran, the Israeli media claim Bennett intends to steer Tel Aviv's policies in a new direction.

Western countries, led by the United States and the Israeli regime, have accused Iran of pursuing military goals in its nuclear program in recent years. Iran has denied these allegations.

Iran emphasizes that as a signatory to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and a member of the International Atomic Energy Agency, it has the right to use nuclear technology for peaceful purposes.

In addition, International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors have visited Iran's nuclear facilities several times. However, they have never found any evidence that the country's peaceful nuclear energy program deviates from military purposes.

In addition, in 2015, Iran reached an agreement (JCPOA) with P5 + 1 countries to resolve tensions over its nuclear program. Despite the International Atomic Energy Agency's acknowledgment of Iran's adherence to all of its obligations, the U.S. unilaterally withdrew from the agreement in May 2016.

On the other hand, the Israeli regime is the only possessor of nuclear weapons in the West Asian region. With U.S. support, it has kept its nuclear weapons program out of international control.

The new U.S. administration claims that it intends to return the U.S. to the JCPOA but has refused to fulfill its obligations in this regard.

The Israeli regime and Washington have put co-operation against Iran on their agenda in recent months. Reuters reported two months ago that Israel's new cabinet intends to send a group of sanctions experts to Washington to discuss ways to implement better the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and the sanctions regime against Iran.

The Western media clarified that this strategy is very different from "Benjamin Netanyahu" policy, the former Prime Minister of the Israeli regime, who did not intend to cooperate fully with the



Biden establishment regarding the return of the United States to the JCPOA.

On July 3, Axios reported, quoting Israeli officials, that Tel Aviv intended to use diplomacy to influence the U.S. government's approach regarding Iran's nuclear program.

Although Naftali Bennett and his cabinet, like Netanyahu, oppose a nuclear deal with Iran, Axios writes that engagement with the United States on the issue is on Bennett's agenda.

On September 22, Axios reported that the U.S. and the Israeli regime had held a secret meeting about JCPOA in recent days.

According to the report, the meeting was held in a secret video conference chaired by White House National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan and head of the Israeli regime National Security Council Eyal Hulata. The meeting was to discuss an alternative U.S. plan if Iran does not return to the JCPOA talks.

A senior Israeli official told Axios that the United States intends to impose new sanctions on Iran if the Vienna talks on the UN Security Council do not resume.

Former Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu made many attempts to overthrow JCPOA when he was in power, including urging former U.S. President Donald Trump to step down from the deal. He has repeatedly stressed that Trump, with his encouragement, left the JCPOA and pursued a "maximum pressure" policy against Iran.

Trump and Netanyahu hoped that maximum pressure could persuade Iran to come to the table to discuss a new agreement instead of JCPOA. This policy failed.

Trump stepped down on January 20 this year, failing to achieve his anti-Iranian goals. In addition, he has been widely criticized in the U.S. for not having a strategy for Iran, fomenting tensions with Iran, and advancing Iran's nuclear program during his four years in the White House.

Joe Biden government officials have repeatedly acknowledged the failure of the "maximum pressure" policy, saying they intend to bring the United States back to JCPOA but have so far refused to take the necessary steps to return to the agreement.

UK logs accept responsibility for only 300 Afghan deaths



Government compensation logs show the UK has accepted responsibility for the deaths of less than 300 Afghan civilians, including 86 children, during two decades of war in Afghanistan.

The figures recorded in official Ministry of Defense (MoD) compensation logs, obtained by a series of freedom of information requests, showed the youngest recorded civilian victim was three years old.

The three-year-old boy was killed in December 2009 by "shock from a controlled explosion" during an operation to clear an improvised explosive device.

The information was compiled by Action on Armed Violence (AOAV) charity group following the withdrawal of western forces from Afghanistan last month.

In one of the most serious incidents, the charity group found in the records the award of only £4,233 to an Afghan family following the deaths of their four children who had been mistakenly "shot and killed" in an incident in December 2009.

Moreover, some of the payments were reported to amount to less than a few hundred pounds, with one family receiving just £104 in February 2008 following a confirmed fatality and damage to their property in the southern Helmand Province.

Another family was compensated £586 for the death of their 10-year-old son in December 2009.

Overall, the compensation logs show £688,000 was paid out by the UK military for incidents involving 289 deaths between 2006 and 2013, the last year of British combat operations in the country, meaning the average compensation paid by the MoD per civilian killed was £2,380.

The charity group estimated that more than 20,000 civilians were killed or injured by U.S.-led forces during the 20-year conflict in the war-ravaged country.

"These files do not make for easy reading. The banality of language means hundreds of tragic deaths, including dozens of children, read more like an inventory," said Murray Jones, the author of the AOAV report.

"Sadly, due to the way civilian casualties were recorded, these totals are likely to be just a fraction of the true number."

Most of the deaths were reported to have occurred in Helmand, the scene of some of the fiercest fighting involving UK forces.

The United States and its NATO allies invaded Afghanistan in 2001 under the pretext that the Taliban militants were harboring al-Qaeda. The invasion removed the Taliban from power but it worsened the security situation in the country.

The government of Afghanistan rapidly collapsed on August 15 and President Ashraf Ghani fled the country in the face of the lightning advances of the Taliban that followed U.S. President Joe Biden's decision to withdraw American troops in a disastrous pullout.

The Taliban announced the formation of a caretaker government on September 7.

(Source: Press TV)

Venezuela, Cuba slam American foreign policy

From page 1 ► Maduro stated, "Financial accounts are being chased, gold has been seized and blocked from the legal international reserves of the Central Bank of Venezuela in London, and billions of dollars in bank accounts have been seized and blocked in the United States, Europe and more".

According to Maduro, Venezuelan oil companies are being prevented from trading their products and open bank accounts to make commercial transactions.

"It is a financial, monetary, commercial, economic, energy persecution. It is systematic, cruel and criminal. Venezuela raises its voice to denounce it before the peoples of the world."

Demanding the end of all sanctions against his country, Maduro said he was grateful for the support and effort of UN Member States who are working towards this goal. Maduro said that in 2021, his country had gone from a painful phase to a recovery phase, with sustained growth in science, innovation, technology and "spiritual capacity".

"We have taken the path of recovery and integral growth for our nation. We have taken the path of deploying the productive forces of a country subjected to an infernal blockade, criminal persecution, and the cruel torture of its economic and social body. And can we say to the peoples of the world with courage, decisiveness, intelligence and wisdom: 'Yes, we can face the imperial aggressions and move forward', he underscored.

The President added that this year has also seen Venezuela advance towards an inclusive peace dialogue and the holding of regional and local elections in November.

"We have started several dialogues with business, social, political and union sectors. We have ratified the path of dialogue... recently we had a national peace and sovereignty dialogue on August 13", he told the Assembly.

He also announced that with the support of Mexican President Andrés Manuel Lopez Obrador and the special diplomatic aid of Norway, the Rus-

sian Federation, and the Netherlands, his country was addressing a comprehensive plan to advance in the social and economic recovery.

Maduro called for the "building of a new world", free of hegemony and based on multilateralism and international law principles. He said, "a new world that emerges from Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean, and from the native peoples of the United States of America. A new world that is reborn to end the old hegemonies, to put an end to the pretense of some to become policemen and judges of all the peoples of the world". The Venezuelan leader added that this new world requires reforms at the United Nations as well. "Venezuela stands up with its own voice for that new world."

Maduro also welcomed talks being held between the government and the opposition to resolve their differences without outside interference saying, "I am grateful for the support of the Secretary General of the United Nations, Antonio Guterres, to the Mexican dialogue process and I ask for the full support of the United Nations so that the dialogue process in Mexico advances towards new partial agreements and towards a global agreement to strengthen the peace, sovereignty and the integral prosperity of Venezuela."

The third round of this dialogue process will take place towards the end of this month. Washington has tried on multiple occasions to bring down the Venezuelan government through sanctions, military intervention and recognizing opposition figure Guan Guido as the country's President. This is despite Guido having not contested an election in his life.

Meanwhile, the President of Cuba, Miguel Marion Diaz-Canel, has underlined the importance of multilateralism in his speech to the high-level General Debate at the General Assembly. He strongly denounced the foreign policy of the United States.

Diaz-Canel, who delivered a speech via a pre-recorded video, said that the consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic have rendered the United Nations even more critical. When international coop-

eration has been insufficient, and "neo-liberal formulas" have reduced States' capabilities to meet the needs of their populations.

Diaz-Canel also says that U.S. attacks against Cuba have "exceeded all limits, referring to the U.S. Government's maintenance of his country on a list of countries that sponsor terrorism.

The U.S., said Diaz-Canel, is projecting a false image of Cuba and has done everything to "erase the Cuban Revolution from the political map to the world". He declared that the country would continue to stand its ground.

He went on to denounce the United States' foreign policy, which, he said, is promoting a "dangerous international schism...through the pernicious use and abuse of coercive economic measures".

According to the Cuban President, the U.S. pressures countries to speak and act against adversaries, overthrows legitimate governments and breaks trade agreements. "It is a kind of behavior associated to ideological and cultural intolerance, with a remarkable racist influence and hegemonic ambition purposes", he stated.

He reiterated Cuba's commitment to peace in Colombia, an end to foreign interference in Syria, and a just solution to the conflict in West Asia. The President condemned the "unilateral [U.S.] coercive measures" imposed against Iran and the "unilateral and unjust" sanctions against North Korea and reaffirmed solidarity with the Saharan people.

He also denounced that "the most vulnerable have been left unprotected, while rich nations, the elites and the pharmaceutical transnational corporations have continued to profit"

He also noted throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, Cuba has shown solidarity with other countries, sending more than 4,900 health workers to 40 countries and territories affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. He described them as "the pride of our nation and a symbol of its vocation for justice."

Diaz-Canel suggested that an answer could be transforming what he called the "unequal and antidemocratic international order". Developed countries, he continued, are mainly responsible for the current situation and have a moral obligation to take responsibility.

He declared that the Cuban people have the right to live in peace and security, development, well-being, and social justice, adding that "a revitalized, democratized and strengthened United Nations is called to play a key role in this effort."

Lorestan's museums begin to reopen

TEHRAN – Cultural heritage museums and historical sites across Lorestan province began to reopen Thursday after being closed for weeks due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Among the museums and sites reopening Thursday was Falak-ol-Aflak fortress, an unmissable eight-towered monument, which dominates the capital city of Khorramabad.

"All museums [and historical sites] in Lorestan, including the centuries-old Falak-ol-Aflak fortress will be open to tourists and visitors as of today in compliance with health protocols," CHTN quoted the provincial tourism chief, Seyyed Amin Qasemi, as saying on Thursday.

Dear visitors should wear face masks and observe social distances, the official noted.

Over the past couple of days, 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. 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.

Lorestan is a region of raw beauty that



an avid nature lover could spend weeks exploring. The region was inhabited by Iranian Indo-European peoples, including the Medes, c. 1000 BC. Cimmerians and Scythians intermittently ruled the region from about 700 to 625 BC.

One of the most prominent archaeological findings of the fertile region is the ancient "Luristan Bronzes", which are noted for their eclectic array of Assyrian, Babylonian, and Iranian artistic motifs.

Lorestan was incorporated into the growing Achaemenid Empire in about 540 BC and successively was part of the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid dynasties.

Traces of Neolithic settlements discovered in northern Iran



TEHRAN –A team of Iranian archaeologists has found traces of one of the first Neolithic rural settlements in Tepe Veliki in Neka county, northern Mazandaran province, the provincial tourism chief has said.

During a demarcation project being performed on the ancient hill, excavations revealed the ancient settlement that is estimated to date back 9,000 years, Seifollah Farzaneh announced on Thursday.

The demarcation project, which is still underway, aims at preserving and protecting the hill, the official explained.

Some of the discovered objects and potteries date from the Islamic to Stone Age eras, but the main ones are associated with settlements dating from the Neolithic period, he added.

There are ladder and checkered patterns on the glaze and on the edge of the pottery in shades of red to brown, which also could be seen on the discoveries from Huto Cave and Touq Tepe, he mentioned.

Last November, vestiges of handmade tools, dating back to the Paleolithic era, also called the Old Stone Age, were discovered in the historical site of Takht-e Rostam in Neka county.

The official believes the site, which is adjacent to the Caspian Sea, was home to a two-million-old workshop for the production of stone tools and artifacts.

Based on archaeological studies on the

geological sediments of the area, its deposits date back two million years, and as a cultural heritage site is of great value.

Last August, historical vestiges dating back to various eras of history including the Iron Age, Bronze Age, Copper Age, and Neolithic era, were discovered in another stratigraphy study conducted in Neka's Touq Tepe.

According to experts, the discovery of more than one meter of Neolithic-era layers in that excavation was a very important event in shedding new light on the history of the region in the Neolithic period.

Such finding is said to have been made for the first time in the plains of eastern Mazandaran in general and in the plain of Neka in particular.

Soaked in a vibrant history, Mazandaran (also known as Tabarestan) was a cradle of civilization since the beginning of the first millennium BC. According to Britannica Encyclopedia, it was almost overrun in about 720 CE by the Arab raiders.

Its insecure eastern and southeastern borders were crossed by Mongol invaders in the 13th and 14th centuries. Cossacks attacked the region in 1668 but were repulsed. It was ceded to the Russian Empire by a treaty in 1723, but the Russians were never secure in their occupation. The area was restored to Iran under the Qajar dynasty. The northern section of the region consists of a lowland alongside the Caspian and an upland along the northern slopes of the Alborz Mountains.

Neolithic, also called the New Stone Age, is the final stage of cultural evolution or technological development among prehistoric humans. It was characterized by stone tools shaped by polishing or grinding, dependence on domesticated plants or animals, settlement in permanent villages, and the appearance of such crafts as pottery and weaving. The Neolithic followed the Paleolithic Period, or the age of chipped-stone tools, and preceded the Bronze Age, or early period of metal tools.

Discoveries cast new light on history of life near Masouleh

From page 1 ► According to Biglari, a Paleolithic archaeologist of the National Museum of Iran, the discovery of stone artifacts on these highlands indicates that the area was seasonally visited by prehistoric human groups. He added that archaeological evidence found in other parts of Gilan, such as Darband Rashi Cave, shows that the western half of the Alborz range has been inhabited by Paleolithic hunter-gatherer groups, since the Lower Paleolithic period.

"Therefore, considering the existence of numerous caves and suitable stone raw resources in the study area, we expect to find more definitive archaeological evidence of the Paleolithic occupation of the Masouleh region," Biglari explained.

Vali Jahani, the deputy chief of Gilan's cultural heritage and tourism directorate, stated: "These new findings would help us to complete the Archaeological Atlas of the western part of Gilan, especially in the highlands of Alborz."

He added the discovery of archaeological remains at such high altitudes would help archaeologists to shed new light on the human adaptation to the high Alborz mountains since prehistoric times up to recent centuries.

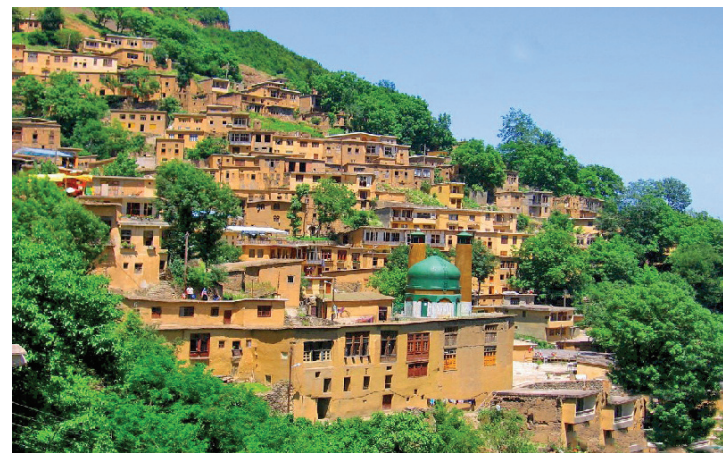
Moreover, the director of the

Masouleh Cultural Heritage base stated that conducting an intensive archaeological survey in the core and buffer zones of Masouleh could be very effective in completing and strengthening the nomination file of the Cultural Landscape of Masouleh for the UNESCO World Register list.

According to UNESCO, the existence of numerous graveyards inner and outside of the city proves its old texture. Storied and terracing plan of the city is in parallel to the mountain slope. The combination of such architecture with natural landscapes can be a national and international touristy center and the only way of the inhabitants' living. As all people could directly see the main façade of houses, the local artists and artisans did their best in this part of building

A guide to Masouleh

Home to some of the most stunning landscapes in the country, Masouleh is one of the many stepped villages that are quite common to find around the country, especially in Iranian Kurdistan and around



Mashhad.

They have been built on a hill so steep that the roof of one house is the pathway for the next.

Whereas practically, all stepped villages in Iran have been able to keep their rural and traditional essence, for some reason, Masouleh has evolved into a popular touristic destination that especially attracts domestic vacationers.

The scenic village is famed for its Lego-shaped earthen houses built on another's rooftop.

Foreigners are less common though, basically because it is far away from the classic Persian route, so most tourists don't have the time to travel that deep into the country.

However, thanks to pretty developed tourist infrastructure, Masouleh is receiving the attention of all the guidebooks,

portraying it as a dreamy mountain village so, slowly, it is becoming the prime destination for those travelers who have a little more than two weeks in Iran.

The village is pretty, composed of some yellowish houses which disappear behind the mist during the early morning hours.

Being the most visited stepped village in Iran, Masouleh has all types of opinions.

On the one hand, the most well-traveled backpackers will tell you that Masouleh is not worth the journey unless you don't mind eating in overpriced restaurants or trying to bargain ridiculous fares with taxi drivers. On the other hand, less demanding travelers will tell you that Masouleh is such a lovely village which you can't miss.

Surrounded by green valleys, misty forests, and 3,000m peaks, Masouleh is the ultimate trekking destination in Iran, offering several trails that include both day treks and multi-day treks.

Along the way, you are likely to find quite a few Iranian shepherds who actually live there, perhaps not in winter, but they have fully equipped shacks and you are likely to be invited to have some chai (tea).

Close to the peak, the landscape turns from misty forests to vast green, gorgeous meadows covered in blankets of flowers, a stream, and a few more shepherd shacks, like in a fairy tale.

You can find both expensive hotels and budget guesthouses. To find a homestay, you just need to walk around town and someone will approach you.

Afzal caravanserai one step closer to UNESCO status

TEHRAN –The Qajar-era (1789-1925) Afzal caravanserai in the ancient town of Shushtar, southwestern Khuzestan province will soon be assessed for possibly becoming a UNESCO World Heritage, Shushtar's tourism chief has said.

The documentation of the caravanserai has been completed and its dossier is ready to be submitted to the UNESCO experts, Ali Mohammad Chaharmahali announced on Wednesday.

A unique and magnificent location inside the city's historical texture, next to its bazaar, makes the caravanserai a landmark worth mentioning, the official added.

The architect of the historic inn, Haj Jafar Memar was one of the leading architects of that era, and he also built the Mostofi Mansion



in Shushtar as well as parts of the historical Selasal Castle, he noted.

Caravansary (also Caravanserai or Caravansaray) is a building that served as the inn of the Orient, providing accommodation

for commercial, pilgrim, postal, and especially official travelers.

According to Encyclopedia Iranica, from the number of surviving caravansaries and their sizes, it is clear that in Safavid and Qajar times there was a state architectural department that was specifically concerned with the construction of caravansaries and stations on the overland routes. Furthermore, in the cities, several caravansaries were erected as lodging houses, depots, and commercial offices in the vicinity of the bazaars.

A typical caravansary consists of a square or rectangular plan centered around a courtyard with only one entrance and arrangements for defense if necessary. Whether fortified or not, it at least provided security against beasts of prey and attacks by brigands.

UNESCO inspectors to visit Sa'd al-Saltaneh caravanserai



TEHRAN – The tourism chief of Qazvin province has said UNESCO inspectors will pay a visit to Sa'd al-Saltaneh caravanserai next month to assess the possible registration of the centuries-old monument.

The inspectors would be arriving in Qazvin on October 13 to inspect the latest situation of the caravanserai. And their visits were deferred due to the coronavirus spread, Alireza Khazaeli said on Thursday, ILNA reported.

The caravanserai that is flanked by a beautifully restored Qajar-era bazaar of the same name is expected to attract more international visitors if it gains UNESCO status.

For many travelers to Iran, staying in or even visiting a centuries-old caravanserai, can be a wide experience; they have an opportunity

to feel the past, a time travel back into a forgotten age!

An all-inclusive dossier of a select of Iranian caravanserais is being prepared to be evaluated during the next session of the World Heritage Committee, which will be held in 2022.

In 2019, the tourism ministry announced that Iran is developing a dossier for a selection of its historical caravanseries for a possible inscription on the UNESCO World Heritage list. In this regard, cultural heritage experts are assessing such monuments that are scattered across

the country to make a shortlist in terms of their architecture, historical and cultural values.

Qazvin was once the capital of the mighty Persian Empire, under Safavids, from 1548 to 98. It is a major tourist destination with a wonderfully restored caravanserai-turned-arts precinct, some quirky museums, and a handful of decent eating options. For most travelers, Qazvin is also primarily the staging point for excursions to the famous Castles of the Assassins and trekking in the sensational Alamut Valley.

First Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 08-38-9940005

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
02	COILED TUBING REEL STRING	17RL

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 2, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 60,701/- EURO or 15,756,570,000/- RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN

PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL

NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex

Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran Tel. No.: 061 34 12 35 89 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

Public Relations www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir

تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۱۴۰۰/۷/۳

1

First Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 08-38-9440027

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	ACCESSORIES FOR COILED TUBING LOGGING REEL REF.CAMESA	1 RL

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 3,739 EURO or 990,000,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN

PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL

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Public Relations www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir

تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۱۴۰۰/۷/۳

1

Some 10,000 multiples born in Iran since March

TEHRAN – Since the beginning of this year (March 21), 9,097 cases of multiples have been born in the country.

Over the past six months, 541,452 infants have been born, of which 522,933 were related to single births and 18,519 were related to multiples, IRNA quoted Seifollah Aboutorabi, the National Organization for Civil Registration spokesman, as saying on Friday.

Out of 9,097 cases of multiple births this year, 8,788 were related to twins, 294 to triplets, 14 to quadruplets, and one higher-order multiple births, he added.

Multiple births are much more common today than they were in the past. According to the US Department of Health and Human Services,



the twin birth rate has increased by over 75 percent since 1980, and triplet, quadruplet, and high-order

multiple births have increased at an even higher rate.

There are more multiple births to-

day, partly because more women are receiving infertility treatment, which carries a risk of multiple pregnancies. However, since the first publication in 1998 of the American Society for Reproductive Medicine's (ASRM's) Guidelines on Number of Embryos Transferred, the number of treatment-related pregnancies with triplets or more has decreased dramatically.

Also, more women are waiting until later in life to attempt pregnancy, and older women are more likely than younger women to get pregnant with multiples, especially with fertility treatment. Although notable medical advances have improved the outcomes of multiple births, multiple births still are associated with significant medical risks and complications for the mother and children.

COVID-19 outbreak: an opportunity to revive caves

From page 1 ► Insects, crustaceans, and even mammals such as bats are some of the species living in caves. These organisms interact with other ecosystems not only inside the cave but also outside it, and their exchange with the outside environment is of great ecological importance, he added.

"One of these species is the pollination of plants by bats. Also, bats, due to their place in the food chain, help to regulate the insect population," Medadi said, adding, on the other hand, many mammals use caves as their sanctuary and resting place, which also shows the high ecological importance of caves.

Most of the caves in the world, especially in Iran, are formed in karst environments. The karst bed is closely related to groundwater resources and, of course, the way we deal with caves can lead to the protection of groundwater resources or, conversely, lead to pollution and damage to these resources, he highlighted.

Referring to the special role of caves in tourism, he said that another thing that shows the high importance of caves is the issue of tourism. Cave tourism is defined in three levels. The first case is the caves that are generally open to tourists. These caves are called "Show Cave". Some 12 caves in our country fall into this category.

"The second case is the caves in which tourism is done in the form of tours. Unfortunately, in recent years, these tours have been operating without complying with the established rules and caused damages to the cave ecosystem.



Also, caving and cave hiking is the third most significant case in relation to cave tourism, which exists in the form of sports and is done through specific disciplines.

The use of the word tourist in relation to caves and the environment, in general, is incorrect and the term "ecotourism" should be used, which describes responsible tourism in nature and emphasizes the promotion of the culture of tourism.

Visitors must be educated about the importance and vulnerability of caves in order to avoid their actions and behavior inside caves causing permanent and irreparable damage," he explained.

The outbreak of coronavirus allowed the entire ecosystem to breathe. Despite the extensive damage that the virus inflicted on human mental and physical health, it brought environmental benefits.

Caves and karst environments are of great importance to international organizations and country officials, and special attention is paid to them in the world. The International Show Caves Association has also designated 2021 as the International Year of Caves and Karst to further highlight the importance of caves.

Medical emergency measures for Arbaeen pilgrims

TEHRAN – Since Wednesday, Medical Emergency Organization has performed 1,227 COVID-19 tests at the border of Mehran, to serve the pilgrims of Arbaeen, ILNA reported on Thursday.

Currently, 50 emergency bases providing services to Arbaeen pilgrims are active in the country and 10 clinics and field hospitals have been set up, Hossein Erfani, Deputy head of Medical Emergency Organization said.

Noting that 153 medical specialists and staff are providing services to the pilgrims, he said that 50 ambulances, 5 ambulance buses, and 9

helicopters and planes are dispatched to provide services during Arbaeen rituals.

Increasing the ambulances at the airports and performing more diagnostic tests on pilgrims, as well as providing more blood products have been taken as other measures, he added.

The Arbaeen pilgrimage, which is one of the largest religious gatherings in the world, comes 40 days after Ashura, the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Imam of Shia Muslims, and the grandson of Prophet Muhammad (PBUH).

Each year, a huge crowd of people flocks to Karbala, where the holy shrine of Imam Hussein (AS) is located, to perform mourning rituals.

This year, pilgrims must take a flight to Iraq. As a rule, all health protocols, such as vaccination, must be observed.

This year Arbaeen falls on September 27.

Before the outbreak of coronavirus, some 2 to 3 million Iranians attended annually in the Arbaeen march. However, last year, the rituals were held virtually to avoid the transmission of the disease.

Employment for %80 of prisoners targeted

TEHRAN – Providing job opportunities for 80 percent of prisoners has been projected in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21), Mohammad Mehdi Haj-Mohammadi, head of the Prisons Organization has stated.

"Unemployment is the root of many crimes and the vocational training and employment of them are one of the

main components of their reform and education.

To empower and help them return to society and family, the employment of 80 percent of prisoners is targeted this year.

So far, 10 provinces of the country have achieved this goal," Haj-Mohammadi tweeted on Thursday.

Sustained employment of prisoners during incarceration and support for the employment of prisoners' families after release is on the agenda.

About 70 percent of prisoners in Iran are directly and indirectly involved in drug-related crimes, Eskandar Momeni, the director of headquarters for the fight against narcotics, said in November 2020.

ber 2020.

Some 40 percent of the inmates in prisons are convicted of drug smuggling directly and 30 percent indirectly, he stated.

According to Momeni, many social harms such as divorce, violent behaviors, robbery, etc. are rooted in drug use.

First Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 01-31-9250049

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
52	PARTS FOR"ATLAS COPCO"SCREW AIR COMPRESSOR MODEL ZT 145	159

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their " Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 5,146 EURO or 1,411,439,500 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN

PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL

NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT

Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex

Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran Tel. No.: 061 34 12 35 89 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

Public Relations www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir

تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۱۴۰۰/۷/۲

1

First Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 01-31-9250047

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
50	PARTS FOR"ATLAS COPCO"SCREW AIR COMPRESSOR MODEL ZT 145	129

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their " Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 1,731 EURO or 474,670,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN

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تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۱۴۰۰/۷/۲

1

First Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 08-38-9640005

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
02	ACCESSORIES FOR COILED TUBING LOGGING	8RL

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their " Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 2., available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 30,175/- EURO or 7,926,975,579 /- RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN

PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL

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Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran Tel. No.: 061 34 12 35 89 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

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تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۱۴۰۰/۷/۲

1

First Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 08-38-9540004

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	SLICKLINE,SPOOLED ON IRON REEL	22RL

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their " Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 2, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 26,881/-EURO or 6,709,600,000/- RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN

PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL

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1

