

Beneficiaries of Disturbing a Brotherhood; or How FDD Makes Way for Rupture?

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Interview

Zahra Ghanbari hails women’s football team success

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN – Iranian women’s national football team passed a complex challenge in the Asian Cup qualifiers because they win two challenging games, according to Zahra Ghanbari, the striker and one of the team’s two captains.

Iran qualified for their first-ever AFC Women’s Asian Cup, defeating Bangladesh and Jordan, respectively. They made history by creating a ground-breaking milestone in the women’s game.

“Thank God we did well in the competition in Jordan,” Ghanbari said at the beginning of her interview with Tehran Times.

“It was a difficult group for us. All the people talk about our win about Jordan, but the game against Bangladesh was so difficult. Bangladesh have progressed a lot during the recent years, and they were a hard-working team,” she said.

Iran’s 4-2 win over Jordan on penalties after a goalless draw at Bunyodkor Stadium in Uzbekistan and leading Group G is considered the biggest surprise of the AFC Women’s Asian Cup qualifiers so far.

“Jordan are a great team. We were in good condition in the match against them and could control the game. Iran had chances to score, but it went to stressful penalty shootouts. Fortunately, we did better in penalties,” Ghanbari said.

Ghanbari, one of the best goal scorers in women’s football, was surprisingly on the bench in both national team games.

“It was the head coach’s decision, and I accepted. However, I was completely ready and had no injuries. But the most important thing is the success of the team. I have no idea about the reason behind the coaching staff’s decision,” said the forward of the Shahrdari Bam. ► Page 3

Op-ed

Afghanistan in the shackles of great power rivalry

By Dost Muhammad Barrech

The recapturing of Afghanistan by the Taliban on August 15, 2021, the aftermath of the U.S. irresponsible and tumultuous withdrawal, has triggered an engrossing debate among the experts. Some experts regard the withdrawal as a defeat and humiliation of the U.S., while others conceive it as a calculated and crafted move by the U.S.

To bear in mind, the U.S. statecrafts are in the habit of overstating their defeats. The U.S. defeat in Vietnam during the Cold War was exceedingly exaggerated, but the Cold War culminated in the disintegration of the USSR, and the U.S. emerged as a sole power. Great powers remain clear in their objectives. Conceiving the U.S. defeat in Afghanistan somewhat requires a reassessment.

The U.S., in the containment of rising power China, is believed to have reassessed the policy. According to Robert Kaplan, the U.S. was supposed to spend U.S.\$43 billion in Afghanistan annually. By assessing the U.S. hasty withdrawal, it can be argued that Washington, by saving U.S.\$43 billion in Afghanistan tends to spend the same whopping amount that used to be squandered in Afghanistan now going to be spent in the Indo-Pacific where the imminent threat of China has been threatening the U.S. core interest.

A recent security pact called the AUKUS signed between Australia, UK and the U.S. is a lucid manifestation of the U.S. shift in policy from Afghanistan to Asia-Pacific and Indo-Pacific. The AUKUS allows sharing of intelligence, giving Australia secret technology to build nuclear-powered submarines. Building nuclear-powered submarines to counter China would, by and large, trigger a new cold war in the Asia-Pacific. ► Page 5

Production by major automakers exceeds 429,000 in H1

TEHRAN – Three major Iranian carmakers, namely Iran Khodro Company (IKCO), SAIPA Group, and Pars Khodro, manufactured 429,414 vehicles during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-Septemehr 22), the data released by Codal website showed.

According to the data, the production by the mentioned companies has risen just 0.837 percent compared to the previous year’s same six months in which the output stood at 425,695.

During the said six months, IKCO manufactured 205,934 vehicles, which was 2.7 percent less than the output in the first half of the previous year.

During this period, this industrial group was able to produce 135,587 vehicles in the Peugeot group, 25,738 vehicles in the Samand group, 25,626 Dena

vehicles, 14,130 Rana vehicles, 2,689 Haima vehicles, and 2,061 Tara vehicles.

SAIPA manufactured 165,463 vehicles in the mentioned period. Production by this automaker rose 0.53 percent in comparison to the previous year’s same time span.

Pars Khodro also manufactured 58,017 vehicles in the period under review, 17.3 percent more than the output in the first half of the past year.

Last month, new Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Seyyed Reza Fatemi Amin said that his ministry has a two-year plan for the auto industry based on which this industry will undergo serious changes and improve significantly.

“We must strengthen competition, improve management and economic mechanisms, and in-

crease production in the auto industry in order to succeed in our plans,” Fatemi Amin said.

“Our plan is to produce 1.6 million vehicles next year (begins in March 2022), which will increase to three million units in [the Iranian calendar year] 1404 (begins in March 2025), and 30 percent of the production, equivalent to about one million units, should be sent to export markets,” he added.

Iran’s major carmakers had manufactured 900,714 vehicles in the previous year (ended on March 20), which was 4.3 percent more than the figure of its preceding year.

According to Codal data, during the past year, IKCO manufactured 480,338 vehicles, which was 21.9 percent more than the output in its preceding year, which was 393,812 vehicles. ► Page 4

Report

Back to normal life: smart quarantine scheme starts

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – A smart quarantine scheme has been launched to identify COVID-19 patients so that restrictions and prohibitions will be lifted and life will return back to normal.

Approved by the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control, the plan aims to identify and restrict people with the disease to break the transmission chain and let other to live their normal life.

By applying smart quarantine, other general restrictions in the society will be removed and the restriction only includes people who are sick, businesses will gradually return to their normal routine and the economic problems will be eliminated, Interior Minister Ahmad Vahidi stated.

So far, 56,596,124 Iranian have been vaccinated, and can once again engage in their social and cultural activities, with the implementation of the plan, he noted. ► Page 7

Reissuance of Iran visas won’t cause a flood of tourists, expert says

Report

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – In a response to some complaints, Iranian Tour Operators Association Director Ebrahim Pourfaraj has said the reissuance of Iranian tourist visas won’t trigger a flood of visitors to the country.

“The start of issuing tourist visas after a hiatus of 19 months won’t mean that a flood of travelers would be arriving in Iran,” Pourfaraj said in a tourism webinar on Friday.

The Islamic Republic is set to resume tourist visas by next month after months of suspension amid strict government measures to prevent the spread of coronavirus, the tourism minister announced on September 27 concurrent with World Tourism Day.

“[Iranian] travel companies are due to start talks to foreign sides... so far these negotiations have

Bahrain’s move in welcoming Israeli minister amounts to open betrayal of Palestinians: Iran FM

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian late on Friday censured Bahrain for welcoming the Israeli foreign minister to Manama, saying the move amounts to a “blatant betrayal” of the oppressed Palestinian people.

“The Bahraini government’s welcoming of the foreign minister of the fake Zionist regime is a blatant betrayal of the oppressed and resilient Palestinian people’s cause,” Abdollahian said in a post on his official Twitter account in Arabic language.

Abdollahian added Iran only recognizes one country named Palestine with al-Quds as its capital, Press TV reported.

The top Iranian diplomat warned there is no doubt that the presence of the Zionist regime of Israel in the Persian Gulf region would result in nothing but insecurity for Bahrain and the entire region.

Israeli Foreign Minister Yair Lapid visited Bahrain on Thursday to open the Israeli embassy in Manama and sign a number of cooperation deals with the tiny Arab country. He met Bahraini King Hamad bin Isa Al Khalifa and Crown Prince and Prime Minister Salman bin Hamad Al Khalifa. Lapid’s visit to Bahrain is aimed at advancing the U.S.-pushed normalization deals between Israel and a number of Arab countries, including the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Bahrain, Sudan and Morocco.

Lapid also toured the Bahrain headquarters of the U.S. Navy’s Fifth Fleet.

“Our opportunities are shared. Our threats are also shared, and they aren’t far from here,” Lapid told reporters, indirectly referring to Persian Gulf power Iran.

He added, “Our three countries (Israel, Bahrain and the UAE) work together because we have similar interests in the region.”

In Gaza, Hamas criticized Bahrain for hosting Lapid. Hamas spokesman Hazem Qassem said this represented “an encouragement” of Israeli “crimes against our people”.

Lapid has already opened the Israeli embassy in Abu Dhabi and promised to establish the regime’s embassy in Rabat soon. However, Sudan’s foreign minister said over the weekend that her country has no plans to open an Israeli embassy in Khartoum.

In a statement on Friday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said Bahrain’s “despicable” welcoming of the Israeli minister is at odds with the will of the Bahraini people, stressing that the visit left an “un-removable stain” on the reputation of the rulers of the Persian Gulf country. ► Page 2

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Report

Britain to deploy army amid fuel crisis

TEHRAN – Despite reassuring the public that the fuel crisis is easing, Britain will start deploying the military from Monday to deliver fuel to petrol stations, many of which are still dry after a chaotic week grappling with a fuel supply shortage. The government has urged the public not to panic, but that is exactly what has happened; panic-buying, fights at gas pumps, and drivers hoarding petrol in water bottles.

With a severe shortage of truck drivers that have strained the supply chain to breaking point, the government says 200 military tanker personnel, 100 of which are drivers, will complete their training by Saturday and Sunday and then start delivering the fuel on Monday.

Queues of often angry drivers waited at the gas stations that were still open in London. The decision to send in the army came as the Chancellor, Rishi Sunak, issued a gloomy warning that shortages of goods could last until Christmas.

“These shortages are very real” Sunak said in an interview. “We’re seeing real disruption in supply chains in different sectors” and admitting that families face a “challenging” winter. ► Page 5



President Raisi meets locals in Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad

TEHRAN — President Ebrahim Raisi visited Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad Province. It was his fifth provincial trip since he took office in early August. With his field trips and talking to the public, the president has won the hearts of masses. Meeting with locals and dignified persons and participating in the meeting of the administrative council in Yasouj, the provincial capital, were among the travel plans of the president.

Iran unveils ‘Hormuz’ tactical radar and ‘Shams’ simulator

TEHRAN - The Hormuz Medium Range Tactical Radar and Shams Simulator were unveiled on Saturday in the presence of Brigadier-General Alireza Sabahifard, Commander of the Army Air Defense Force, and other military officials in the Self-Sufficiency Organization.

The purpose of the Hormuz project is to design and build a medium-range radar so that in addition to extracting the target's speed information, can extract the target distance with high accuracy and send high-quality information to the air defense missile fire control center.

Increased combat power, high durability and minimum time required for maintenance, high accuracy in measuring the direction and height of the target and improving the distinction of targets, improving the antenna coverage angle

and detection speed of targets compared to other radars are among the capabilities of the Hormuz radar.

The goal behind the implementation of the Shams project is designing and constructing a simulator of long-range strategic systems of the Army Air Defense Force against ballistic missiles and a wide range of other targets.

The Shams system, in terms of appearance and function, is designed in accordance with the threats in the class of long-range systems, and through it, modern and up-to-date combat scenarios can be designed and implemented.

Planning fast and decisive operations based on superior technologies and advanced equipment in selecting various targets based on threat is another application of this product.

Iranian commander: Military exercises intended to improve readiness



TEHRAN — Brigadier General Kiomars Heydari, commander of the Army Ground Force, said on Saturday that Iran has never invaded any country over the last two centuries and has no intention to conquer any neighbor, noting Iran's exercises are only aimed to improved military readiness.

The comments by General Heydari comes as army has started drill in northwestern Iran since Friday.

Some officials in Baku have claimed the maneuvers are intended to frighten the Republic of Azerbaijan.

However, General Heydari said, during the decades-long occupation of Nagorno-Karabakh by Armenia, Iran always was insisting on the need to respect the territorial integrity of Azerbaijan and never approved of the occupation.

“The exercises of our armed forces in this region and other regions are based on detailed planning with the aim of testing weapons and equipment and assessing the combat readiness of the armed forces in every scene of the borders of Iran. The timing of the exercises, the location of the exercises and the size of the forces is decided by the armed forces,” he explained.

The commander underlined that these exercises are aimed at improving military readiness, as several exercises are being conducted in the neighboring country (the Republic Azerbaijan) with their own specific goals.

He also said over the last month Iran has been holding 4 to 5 exercises in northern borders.

Right now, Turkey is conducting a military exercise near borders with Iran which has its own purposes, the general highlighted.

Heydari added in this northern region there is an “uninvited and disruptive element of security” that has come from elsewhere, and that is the “illegitimate Zionist regime”.

“Since this regime came (to this region), our sensitivity to this border area has increased; their activities here are completely under our monitoring,” the commander underscored.

He added that apart from these issues, the exit of terrorist forces that have come to this region from Syria has not yet been proven for Iran.

“Iran is sensitive in this regard,” he asserted.

General Heydari went on to say that Iran is completely “sensitive” to changes in the official borders of countries in the South Caucasus region and consider it completely “unacceptable”.

The commander said, “All legal borders must be preserved, and the possible weakness of one country in maintaining its borders does

not mean that another country” has the right to change “borders with foreign help.”

not mean that another country” has the right to change “borders with foreign help. The Islamic Republic of Iran will not allow this.”

The ground force chief added that Iran conducts military exercises lonely.

He also said, “We expect the statements of the officials of the countries in this regard to be based on honesty.”

Heydari also pointed to armed conflict between the Republic of Azerbaijan and Armenia in Sept.-Nov. 2020, saying now the region is secure and reconstruction efforts have begun.

Clashes between Azerbaijan and Armenia started on September 27, 2020 along the Nagorno-Karabakh Line of Contact, which had been established in the aftermath of the First Nagorno-Karabakh War (1988–1994). The war ended on November 10 through mediation with Russia. The war, which was initiated with by Azerbaijan, led to the liberation of the occupied Azeri lands.

“Neighbors in this region are a great witness to stability and security in the region,” the general underscored.

The commander also said that the movement of trucks from Azerbaijan to Iran and from there to Turkey or Nakhchivan, or from Iran to Azerbaijan and Armenia, should be done in complete safety and tranquility.

“In this regard, countries are expected to pay attention to their responsibility, which is to respect security and economic routes and energy transfer, and to stay away from media games,” Heydari concluded.

The Army Ground Force has started a military exercise in the northwestern Iran. It is testing armored, artillery, drone, and electronic warfare units under air cover provided by helicopter gunships.

Unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) initially flew over the zone, conducted a surveillance and transmitted aerial photographs of the area to the command center, before the 25th Rapid Reaction Brigade and the Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF) helicopters carried out a mock air assault.

Army artillery units then fired a series of rounds at designated targets, and subsequently armored units carried out strike force operations.

Throughout the Conquerors of Khaybar drills, IRIAF Bell AH-1 Cobra attack helicopters will reportedly provide air support to operating units.

Iran's Armed Forces regularly hold military maneuvers to elevate their preparedness and prowess.

The drills serve as a warning message to the enemies against any act of aggression against the Islamic Republic.

Beneficiaries of disturbing a brotherhood; or How FDD makes way for rupture?

TEHRAN — As the two brotherly nations of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan face disagreements, some countries and hawkish think tanks tried to meddle in the affairs of the two sides for their own good.

How did the meddling start?

Over the last few weeks, a quiet crisis has unfolded between Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan over a variety of issues that some Iranian officials attribute to the malign presence of foreigners in Baku.

The episode began in early August when social media users in Iran reported mistreatment of Iranian truck drivers by Azeri forces along the Goris-Kapan Highway which links Iran to Armenia through the newly-liberated Karabakh region. The Iranian trucks were carrying Armenia-bound goods from Iran but due to the change in Karabakh's borders during a 2020 war they had to pass through a road curve into Azerbaijan's territory.

Azerbaijan also reportedly imposed a staggering \$130 tax on Iranian commercial trucks which drew criticism from Iranian merchants and drivers, who had to pay the tax in cash.

While Tehran and Baku took a silent, diplomatic approach to solve the issue, social media users tried to put pressure on Iranian and Azeri envoys.

Provocative posts on social media from certain groups were intended to push the two countries beyond limits.

The conflict began to grow when Baku invited Iran's ambassador to Baku, Seyyed Abbas Mousavi, to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs on August 11.

According to the statement released by the Azerbaijani Foreign Ministry, “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

Brenda Shaffer from the Foundation for Defense of Democracies has been actively propagating against Iran and Azerbaijan on her Twitter feed, accusing Iran of drug smuggling

Iran and Azerbaijan can solve their conflicts in a calm and peaceful manner, if Israel and its agents keep their hands away.

through Azerbaijan. She is also blowing in the horn of separatism of Azarbaijan from Iran by trying to provoke the ethnic Iranian Azeris and those from the Republic of Azerbaijan to act against their governments' will.

The Foundation for Defense of Democracies is a “think tank” and a registered lobbying institution in Washington. It is led by Mark Dubowitz. The FDD has been identified as part of the Israel lobby in the United States.

FDD was founded right after the September 11 attacks in 2001. In the initial documents filed for tax-exempt

Bahrain’s move in welcoming Israeli minister amounts to open betrayal of Palestinians: Iran FM

From page 1 ► Khatibzadeh expressed regret that the Bahraini rulers are ignoring the “daily crimes of the Zionist regime against the oppressed but resistant people of Palestine” and said such moves will not give legitimacy to the Zionist regime and have no effect on the move to liberate the holy Quds as the first qibla of Muslims in the world.

The spokesman added, “The people of the region will remain opposed to the process of normalizing relations with the Zionist regime.”

Bahraini protesters on Thursday staged nationwide rallies to express strong opposition to the visit. The demonstrators poured into the streets of the capital Manama to protest Lapid's visit as they carried banners in condemnation of normalization with Tel Aviv, and set ablaze Israeli flags

in rejection of the trip.

Over 240 Bahraini Muslim scholars blast Israeli FM's visit to Manama, reject normalization

More than 240 Bahraini scholars have strongly denounced the first visit by Israel's foreign minister to the Persian Gulf and expressed their solidarity with the Palestinians.

“We denounce the presence of the foreign minister of the Zionist enemy in Bahrain, and renew our rejection of all forms of normalization with the usurping regime [of Israel], including the opening of an embassy and a trade office in Manama,” the scholars said in a joint statement published on Friday.

“We also reiterate our firm support for the Palestinian nation and every iota of the blessed Palestinian lands, which has been drenched in the blood of martyrs through years of resistance and steadfastness. The murderous invaders are now spilling the blood of Palestinians in al-Quds and Jenin.”

Also, on Friday, a group of young Palestinian men converged outside the diplomatic mission and raised national Palestinian flags to condemn the Al Khalifah regime's decision to normalize relations with Israel, and voiced their support for the Palestinian people.

Also, dozens of people took to the streets in Samaheej village on the northern coast of Muharraq Island, waving Palestinian and Bahraini flags. Protesters staged similar rallies in the villages of Abu Saiba and Shakhura, where they carried banners in denunciation of the visit.

Elsewhere in Sitra Island, which lies 5 kilometers south of the capital Manama, Bahraini regime forces attacked demonstrators. The participants were chanting slogans against the inauguration of Israel's embassy in Manama, when regime forces fired shots and tear gas canisters to disperse them.

“A shame”

Canadian author and journalist Eric Walberg denounced normalization with Israel as a “shame”, saying Bahrain was among the first regions to embrace Islam, but the ruling regime is acting against the interests of the Muslim world and in favor of Israel.

“It is just a very sad situation. I don't see how this can contribute to any kind of the remotely

peaceful settlement of the situation. It is just adding more fuel to the fire. There is going to be more protests and uprising in Bahrain followed by cruel suppression, and Israel is just waiting to start a war and leave the whole region in shambles,” Walberg told Press TV.

It is disgraceful and humiliating for those Arab states which have normalized ties with Israel or are possibly on the line to do. They have closed their eyes to Israel's continuous theft of the Palestinian lands and its cruel behavior toward Palestinians.

Richard Falk, an international law and international relations scholar who taught at Princeton University for forty years, says “the lights have remained scandalously dim at the UN” with regard to the sufferings of the Palestinian people.

Wring an article in the Middle East Eye on May 18, 2021 while Israeli forces and extremist settlers attacked Palestinians in Jerusalem early that month, Professor Falk said Israel has already long lost the main legal and moral arguments and is in the process of losing the political argument.

Israeli police used rubber bullets, tear gas and stun grenades against Palestinian protesters in the compound of al-Aqsa mosque. More than 600 Palestinians were wounded and images of the police using force against the protesters at Islam's third holiest site inflamed Arab anger.

As tensions escalated, Hamas stepped into the fray, firing rockets into Israel and demanding that Israeli settlers in the occupied East Jerusalem stop harassing Arab residents who were awaiting eviction orders from Israeli courts. Israel responded by launching its biggest military campaign against Hamas since its 2014 war.

“Western leaders pathetically call for calm on both sides (Israel and Palestinians) as if both sides shared equal blame, while perversely affirming the one-sidedness of 'Israel's right to defend itself”, which supposes that Israel had been attacked out of the blue,” Falk said.

The West's unquestioned and unjustified support for Israel has emboldened Israel's cruel behavior toward the Palestinians. Moves by certain Arab countries to normalize ties with Tel Aviv have made the Israel regime more arrogant.

“Is this but one more cycle of violence exhibiting the unresolvable clash between a native people overwhelmed by a colonial intruder emboldened by a unique religiously grounded settler sense of entitlement? Or are we witnessing the beginning of the end of the century-long struggle by the Palestinian people to defend their homeland against the unfolding Zionist project that stole their land, trampled on their dignity, and made Palestinians victimized strangers in what had been their national home for centuries?” asked Falk, who was also appointed by the UN to serve a six-year term as the Special Rapporteur on Palestinian human rights in 2008.

Falk believes that the Palestinians will never give in their right despite all griefs and hardships.

“Events have made clear that the Palestinians are withstanding prolonged oppression with their spirit of resistance intact, and refuse to

status in Internal Revenue Service, the FDD stated that its mission was to “provide education to enhance Israel's image in North America and the public's understanding of issues affecting Israeli-Arab relations.”

However, they later modified their mission, as they found out that they should not openly support Israel, describing their mission as conducting research and providing education on “international terrorism and related issues.”

It's no secret that the organization is founded to cover up Israeli crimes by trying to search for disagreements and conflicts around the world to make a big deal out of them. There is a division of labor in the organization as well. Mark Dubowitz, the CEO, is responsible for propagating against Iran and the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), while Shaffer is responsible for advocating separatism among the Iranians and Azeris.

Aside from the FDD, Israel is carrying out its operation through another channel: Simon Shercliff, the UK ambassador in Iran. On September 30, new Azeri Ambassador to Tehran Ali Alizadeh submitted a copy of his credentials to Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian. However, on September 29, before submitting his credentials, he met with Shercliff. An unwise move by the Azeri envoy to Iran, which drew a lot of criticism.

Keeping with the low-key approach to solve issues through diplomatic channels, Azeri President Ilham Aliyev called for further cooperation with Iran, Russia, and Turkey on October 2. He also said that he is open to meeting his Armenian prime minister to discuss a possible peace treaty, as well as drawing borderlines.



Bahraini protesters rally in Abu Saiba on October 1, 2021 to condemn a visit by Israeli foreign minister Yair Lapid. (Photo via Twitter)

be pacified regardless of the severity of the imposed hardships,” he commented.

Israel and its Western allies have been demonizing the Palestinian groups, such as Hamas and the Islamic Jihad Movement, which have been fighting to get rid of the Israeli occupation.

“For Israelis and much of the West, the core narrative continues to be the violence of a ‘terrorist’ organization, Hamas, challenging the peaceful state of Israel with destructive intent, making the Israeli response seem reasonable. It is thus framed as not only a response to Hamas’ rockets but also as a harsh punitive lesson for the people of Gaza, designed to deter future attacks. The Israeli missiles and drones are deemed ‘defensive’ while the rockets are acts of ‘terrorism’, even though Israeli human targets are seldom hit, and despite the fact that it is Israeli weaponry that causes 95 percent of the widespread death and destruction among the over two million civilian Palestinians in Gaza,” the international law expert explained.

He adds, “Unlike South Africa, which never claimed to be a democracy, Israel legitimated itself by presenting itself as a constitutional democracy. This resolve to be a democracy came with a high price tag of deception and self-deception, necessitating to this day a continuing struggle to make apartheid work to secure Jewish supremacy while hiding Palestinian subjugation.”

The international law professor predicts that the Palestinians will finally win over Israel as the Blacks won over the Apartheid regime in South Africa.

He says the signs of Israel's defeat in the face of Palestinians' resistance are gradually becoming clear.

“Israel's own sense of vulnerability to a South African scenario has been exposed by this growing tendency to brand supporters of BDS and harsh critics as “antisemites” which seems in the context of present development best described as “a geopolitical panic attack,” Professor Falk remarked.

BDS is the acronym for the boycott, divestment and sanctions movement which works to end international support for Israel's oppression of Palestinians and pressure Israel to comply with international law.

In his May article, the professor added, “I find it appropriate to recall Gandhi's famous observation along these lines: ‘First, they ignore you, then they insult you, then they fight you, then you win.’”

Admiral: Iran's Navy will respond to any threat strongly, devastatingly

TEHRAN - The Iranian Navy has stood firm against the enemies in the seas, the Navy commander has said, reiterating the military commanders' position that Iran will give firm response to any mischievous act.

"We will respond to any threat and naval action of the enemies strongly and overwhelmingly," Rear Admiral Shahram Irani said in an interview with Tasnim published on Saturday.

Talking to the Tasnim reporter in Sanandaj, capital of Kurdistan province, he said the Navy maintains security at maritime borders.

"The navy is present at the sea 24 round-the-clock to restore sustainable security," he insisted.

The Navy chief also said the personnel of the Iranian warships are from different ethnic groups.

"It does not matter where these people are from, because our round-the-clock efforts and strategy is that all together, we should preserve the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the best possible way and with high authority."

The top military official said the friends and foes have reached the conclusion that the Iranian Armed Forces are unitedly standing against the enemies, insisting, "We will respond to any threat and action firmly, and decisively."

Highlighting that the Navy personnel have been standing firm, Admiral Irani said they will keep hoisting the Iranian flag proudly in international waters.

"Although the Islamic Republic of Iran has always faced sanctions, conspiracy and threats, with the powerful presence of the navy personnel at sea, and the production of the best and most up-to-date equipment by the country's youth, we have controlled the enemies' mischief," the military official remarked.

Admiral Irani, elsewhere in his remarks, stated that the people of Kurdistan province always played an important role in guarding national borders.

"The locals living in border areas always protect the borders with a revolutionary spirit, properly and with authority," said Irani, an ethnic Sunni Kurd.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution



Ayatollah Ali Khamenei named Irani as Navy chief on August 17. His appointment won the praise of the Kurdish caucus in the parliament.

In remarks on September 8, the admiral said Iran is now able to navigating all open seas.

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

He was speaking of the Navy fleet that consisted of Sahand destroyers.

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

"Demonstrating self-confidence and capability of the Islamic Republic of Iran at global arena was important in this mission. For those who never believed in the ability of the children of Iran, they now believe in this ability," he explained at the time.

On the other hand, Irani emphasized, this mission sent glimpses of hope for the friends of Iran and created this chance

that they can use this naval capacity in a desirable way.

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

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

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

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

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

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

"Apart from the Indian Ocean, we went to the direction of the China Sea and attended that region with Sabalan destroyer. Then we attended the Mediterranean Sea bypassing the Suez Canal. Then we took another step and

went to the Cape of Good Hope. And in 2012 we honorably passed through three oceans and participated in the parade of the Russian Navy," he explained.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

On September 23, the second-ranking commander in the IRGC, Brigadier General Ali Fadavi, had said while the U.S. itself was not able to do any military adventure against Iran 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," Fadavi said in a talk show.

Fadavi made these remarks as Iran marked the Sacred Defense Week.

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

IRAN IN FOCUS

OCTOBER 3, 2021

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

Zahra Ghanbari hails women's football team success

From Page 1 ► At the beginning of 2021, Iran had been taken out of the latest FIFA rankings list entirely due to not playing an international game for more than one year. Now the team are back in the ranking and sit in 72nd place.

"It was a tragic time for our football," Ghanbari said, "We lost time, and we lost our hopes, while the other teams were working on their plans."

"Fortunately, with the changes in the football federation, we again played in international matches and could back in the FIFA Ranking. I appreciate what Mr. Azizi Khadem, the federation president, and Mrs. Shohereh Musavi, head of women's department, have done to rebuild the national team," Ghanbari added.

Skocic names Iran squad for UAE, South Korea clashes

TEHRAN - Dragan Skocic named his 26-man team for two matches against the UAE and South Korea in the 2022 World Cup qualification Round 3.

Iran play UAE on Thursday in Dubai's Al Wasl Stadium and host South Korea in Tehran's Azadi Stadium five days later. The 'Persian Leopards' lead Group A with six points, followed by South Korea with four points.

Goalkeepers:

Alireza Beiranvand, Amir Abedzadeh, Payam Niazmand

Defenders:

Shoja Khalilzadeh, Hossein Kanaanizadegan, Omid Nourafkan, Sadegh Moharami, Milad Mohammadi, Majid Hosseini, Saleh Hardani, Siavash Yazdani

Midfielders:

Alireza Jahanbakhsh, Saeid Ezatolahi, Milad Sarlak,

Ahmad Nouroollahi, Yasin Salmani, Ehsan Haj Safi, Vahid Amiri, Saman Ghoddos, Mehdi Torabi, Ali Gholizadeh

Strikers:

Mehdi Taremi, Karim Ansarifard, Sardar Azmoun, Mehdi Ghaedi, Kaveh Rezaei

Gelareh Nazemi chosen fourth official at FIFA Futsal World Cup final

TEHRAN - Iranian female official Gelareh Nazemi has been chosen as fourth official in the 2021 FIFA Futsal World Cup final match.

The final will be held between Portugal and Argentina on Sunday. Nurdin Bukuev from Kyrgyzstan will officiate the match at the Kaunas Arena.

He will be assisted by Mohammi Hassan from Egypt and Christopher Sinclair from New Zealand.

Josh Wilkens from the U.S. will be the reserve referee.

Ebrahim Mehrabi was also an Iranian referee who officiated in the competition.

Iran finish 6th at World Deaf Volleyball C'ship

TEHRAN - Iran finished in sixth place at World Deaf Volleyball Championship. Iran lost to Turkey in straight sets (25-20, 25-14, 25-19) in the fifth-sixth playoff.

Iran were headed by Mohammad Torkashvand in the competition.

The 2021 World Deaf Volleyball Championship was held in Chianciano Terme, Italy from September 23 to October 2. The tournament brought six teams together.

Iran won't forget friends after sanctions era, MP says

'We hope the ground for return of Italian companies to Iran will be paved,' says Italian ambassador

TEHRAN - The head of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Parliament says Iran will not forget its friends in the post-sanctions situation, noting countries that stand by Iran in this situation will be given a special position in the Iranian market.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran will not forget its friends in the post-sanctions situation. Countries that are with us in this situation will have a superior position in the Iranian market," Vahid Jalalzadeh said

during a meeting with Italian Ambassador to Tehran Giuseppe Perrone on Saturday.

The MP also pointed to the importance of strengthening Iran-Italy parliamentary relationship, IRNA reported.

"Considering the positive history and abundant capacity of relations between the two countries, the Iranian Parliament welcomes the development of friendly cooperation and the facilitation of mutual relations."

The head of the parliamentary committee also pointed to the decrease in the volume of economic relations between Iran and Italy in recent years, saying the level of economic relations between the two countries is not commensurate with the existing capacities.

"In previous years, Italy was Iran's first economic partner in Europe, but now, despite the interest of two sides, the level of trade is very low, so we hope to see the strengthening



of trade and economic cooperation in the future," the MP remarked.

The MP went on to say that the Italian embassy in Tehran can make an important contribution in this regard by holding economic webinars between the two countries' businessmen and providing the ground for talks between the private sectors of Iran and Italy.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Jalalzadeh pointed to the developments in the region, including the Iran-Saudi Arabia talks, saying: "The Islamic Republic of Iran has always welcomed relations based on mutual respect with its neighbors. The talks with Saudi officials are underway. We assess the constructive relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia in the interest of strengthening peace and stability in the region and the interests of two sides."

Referring to the developments in Afghanistan, he said: "Afghanistan is a country inhabited by different ethnicities, so we support the formation of a national and inclusive government in which all ethnic groups participate."

For his part, Ambassador Perrone said the Italian parliament is seeking strengthening cooperation with the Iranian parliament.

"Italian parliamentarians are interested in developing friendly parliamentary relations with Iran at various levels and the virtual meeting of the chairmen of the foreign policy committees of the two parliaments in recent months is proof of that."

The top Italian diplomat highlighted the long and good relations between Iran and Italy, especially in the field of trade and economic relations, and confirmed that in recent years the volume of relations between the two countries has fallen sharply for various reasons.

"We held a meeting last week with the aim of identifying potential areas of cooperation. We hope that the ground for the return of Italian companies to Iran will be paved and we will be able to reach the former level of exchanges quickly," Perrone underlined.

The Italian ambassador in Tehran also referred to the meeting of the foreign ministers of the two countries in New York and said: "The foreign ministers of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Italy in a meeting in New York stressed the need to strengthen cooperation between the two sides, especially in trade and economic fields."

In the meeting, Perrone also raised questions about regional issues, especially Iran-Saudi Arabia relations and developments in Afghanistan.

Tehran, Yerevan explore ways for transfer of Iranian convicts

TEHRAN - Iran's Ambassador to Armenia, Abbas Badakhshan Zohouri, and Armenian Minister of Justice Karen Andreasyan met on Friday to discuss transfer of Iranian convicts.

During the meeting, the Iranian ambassador expressed satisfaction with the development of friendly relations between the two countries and exchanged views on continuing cooperation in transferring Iranian convicts to prisons inside the

country, accelerating the judicial proceedings for defendants' cases and cooperating in crime prevention, IRNA reported.

During the meeting, which was attended by Harutyunyan, the legal adviser of the justice minister, the two sides also discussed some legal issues related to the economic activity of Iranian nationals in Armenia.

Araqchi named secretary of Strategic Council on Foreign Relations

TEHRAN - Abbas Araqchi, Iran's former top nuclear negotiator and deputy foreign minister for political affairs, has been appointed as the secretary of the Strategic Council on Foreign Relations (SCFR).

Last month new Foreign Minister Amir

Abdollahian appointed Ali Baqer Kani as his deputy for political affairs, replacing Araqchi.

The SCFR, headed by Kharrazi, is responsible for giving foreign policy advices to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution.

The SCFR secretariat provides

appropriate knowledge, research and services to the council and its committees.

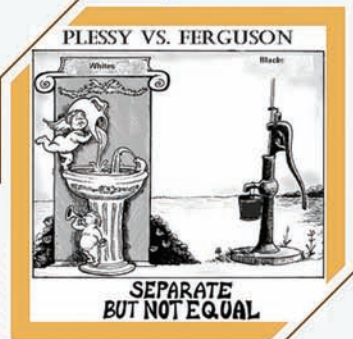
Kharrazi said Araqchi will reform the secretariat and expand its role in explaining policies and enlightening international public opinion.

Critical Race Theory

... A small part of what American students should not be taught ...


Plessy v. Ferguson:

a landmark 1896 U.S. Supreme Court decision that upheld the constitutionality of racial segregation under the "separate but equal" doctrine.




Lynching:

Historians broadly agree that lynching was a method of social and racial control meant to terrorize black Americans into submission, and into an inferior racial caste position.




Jim Crow laws:

were a collection of state and local statutes that legalized racial segregation.



The civil rights movement:

a struggle for social justice that took place mainly during the 1950s and 1960s for Black Americans to gain equal rights under the law in the United States.



Source: www.history.com

Production by major automakers exceeds 429,000 in H1

From page 1 ► SAIPA manufactured 317,321 vehicles, with a 12.6-percent fall from 363,379 vehicles manufactured in 1398. And Pars Khodro manufactured 103,055 vehicles in the past year, showing a 2.8-percent drop from the output of its previous year, which was 106,072 vehicles.

Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry's programs for the current Iranian calendar year show that the manufacturing of 1.2 million cars has been put on the agenda.

According to the Industry Ministry data, since Iranian automakers had produced 984,200 such vehicles in the previous calendar year, the country's car output is planned to



increase by over 21.9 percent in the current year.

Heads of chambers of commerce meet industry minister to discuss export issues

TEHRAN –Heads of Iran's chambers of commerce and some of the country's exporters held a meeting with the country's Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Seyyed Reza Fatemi Amin on Saturday to discuss major issues in the way of export development, IRIB reported.

The meeting was also attended by the Head of the country's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman Pak and Head of Iran Export Confederation Mohammad Lahouti.

Speaking in the meeting, Peyman Pak mentioned the great capacities of the neighboring countries for export and said: "Of the \$2.238 trillion import capacity of the neighboring countries, Iran's share is very low. We hope to increase exports by \$35 billion; however, there is the potential to boost the country's exports to neighboring countries, especially India and China to \$100 billion."

He noted that TPO plans to have close communication with the country's major exporters in order to realize the Industry Ministry's goals set for this area.

"TPO has it on the agenda to coordinate the country's trade and foreign exchange policies to increase Iran's exports to \$70 billion over the next

four years," Peyman Pak stressed.

The official noted that his organization has prioritized the country's trade partners and will mainly focus on the neighboring countries as well as China and India to pursue its export goals.

Trade facilitation, setting preferential tariffs, establishment of green customs routes, establishing financial mechanisms, creating distribution and marketing networks, and forming bilateral monetary channels are among the major programs considered for trade development, he stressed.

"Strengthening the Export Guarantee Fund of Iran is also on the agenda and we will use the capacity of this fund in the field of bilateral LC opening," he added.

Further in the meeting, Lahouti underlined the need for amending the country's export and trade regulations and noted that some unnecessary regulations are currently impeding the country's non-oil exports and should be eliminated in order for the country's export capacities to be fully realized.

"Reviewing the laws of the last three years is another important issue that should be on the agenda," Lahouti said.

CBI supplies \$9.5b for import of basic goods, medicine in 6 months

TEHRAN – Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has supplied \$9.5 billion for importing basic goods as well as medicine in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), an official with the bank announced.

As reported by IRIB, Shiva Raveshi said the government allocated \$8 billion for the supply of basic goods and medicine in the current fiscal year's budget bill, all of which has been supplied in the first half of the year and \$15 billion has also been supplied for the imports of Covid-19 vaccine.

"The \$9.5 billion that has been provided this year is almost equal to the total currency provided for the imports of basic goods in the previous

calendar year (ended on March 20); this shows that this year we performed better in terms of meeting the real needs of the country," she said.

Raveshi pointed to the achievements of the bank despite the difficulties created by the U.S. sanctions, saying: "In the conditions of sanctions and reduction of oil revenues, we were able to meet the basic needs of the country and even the necessary materials for the production units, which is considered a success for the country and shows that the capacity of the country's non-oil exports is increasing."

Back in August, the CBI had announced that the bank supplied about \$15 billion for importing basic



goods, raw materials, and machinery as well as medicine in the first four months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-July 22), \$4.6 billion of which was allocated for the imports of essential goods and medicine, which was 70 percent more than the allocation in the previous year's same time span.

Iranian former President Hassan Rouhani had said in July that enough basic and strategic goods were imported into the country and there are no worries over the supply of such commodities.

The value of Iran's non-oil trade rose 47 percent during the first six months of the current fiscal year as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the head of

the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi said that Iran has traded 79.1 million tons of non-oil products worth \$45 billion with other countries in the mentioned period.

The official announced that Iran has imported 19.1 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$23.1 billion in the first six months of the present year, with a 37-percent growth in value and a 15-percent rise in weight year on year.

According to the IRICA head, out of the total 19.1 million tons of goods imported into the country in the first six months of this year, 14.3 million worth \$8.9 billion were basic goods, which constitutes 75 percent of the total imported goods.

Iran's condensate to help Venezuela boost its oil output

TEHRAN – Venezuela is going to use the gas condensate imported from Iran to boost crude oil production at three key extra-heavy crude projects in its largest oil region, a senior company official told Reuters.

Wills Rangel, a PDVSA board member, and a union leader, said in a late Wednesday interview that the Iranian condensate would help boost crude output at oilfields associated with the Petrocedeno, Petropiar, and Petrolera Sinovensa projects, three of the company's largest.

As reported, the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has reached a deal with Venezuelan state-run oil company PDVSA to swap Venezuelan crude for Iranian condensate, which PDVSA will use as a diluent and mix it with the tar-like crudes from the Orinoco oil belt for transportation and export.

"There are many inactive wells due to a lack of diluents," Rangel said in an interview at his office in capital Caracas. "We will reactivate production."

The diluent shortage is the latest obstacle to beset the OPEC nation's oil industry, which has seen production collapsed due to years of



underinvestment. More recently, U.S. sanctions have cut the company off from key trade partners, including former suppliers of diluents.

The Iran-flagged tanker Dino I, which brought 2.1 million-barrel cargo of condensate, began discharging its first parcel this week for Sinovensa, according to a PDVSA schedule seen by Reuters.

Rangel estimated Venezuela's total crude production at 750,000 barrels per day (bpd),

higher than the 641,000 bpd the country told OPEC it averaged in August. Venezuelan officials say they aim to boost output to 1 million bpd by year-end.

Iran had previously helped Venezuela meet its fuel needs by sending several gasoline cargoes to the country despite the U.S. sanctions on both sides.

In May 2020, Iran sent five oil tankers—Forest, Fortune, Petunia, Faxon, and Clavel—all under the flag of Iran, to Venezuela, followed by another tanker, Golsan, sent in June 2020. Since the collapse of Venezuela's oil refining industry and the 2019 sanctions imposed by the United States preventing fuel suppliers from sending gasoline to Venezuela, the country is experiencing a chronic shortage of gasoline. The Iranian tankers sent in May carried 1.53 million barrels of Iranian gasoline.

Natural-gas condensate, also called natural gas liquids, is a low-density mixture of hydrocarbon liquids that are present as gaseous components in the raw natural gas produced from many natural gas fields.

Manufacturing of refrigerators, freezers up 11% in 5 months yr/yr

TEHRAN- Manufacturing of refrigerators and freezers in Iran has increased 11.9 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the data released by Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry indicate.

As reported, 858,700 refrigerators and freezers have been manufactured in the five-month period of this year.

Manufacturing of home appliances in Iran has risen 8.7 percent during the first five months of the present year, as 2.61 million sets of such products have been manufactured inside the country.

Home appliances manufacturing has also increased 78 percent to stand at 15 million sets in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

Rise in home appliances manufacturing and export has been also planned for the current year.

Last year, the industry was able to achieve 78 percent growth despite the restrictions on the manufacturing sector, Deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki has said, adding, "While foreign brands left Iran, manufacturers were able to achieve this leap by relying on domestic capacities."

Back in April, the official had said that considering the Iranian home appliance industry's infrastructure and capacities, the country will be able to become an exporter of such products in the near future because most of the raw materials needed by the mentioned sector are produced domestically.

Stating that the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry will definitely support domestic manufacturers and national brands, the official added: "Today we have the necessary manpower, knowledge, and infrastructure in the field, so there is no reason to look for foreign sources to meet the country's demands."

TEDPIX rises 36,400 points on Saturday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 36,497 points to 1.473 million on Saturday (the first day of Iranian calendar week).

As reported, over 7.076 billion securities worth 72.873 trillion rials (about \$1.735 billion) were traded at the TSE on Saturday.

The first market's index gained 30,574 points, and the second market's index rose 61,589 points.

TEDPIX rose 3.6 percent in the past Iranian calendar week.

The index closed at 1.437 million points on Wednesday (the last working day of the week).

During the past week, the indices of Social Security Investment Company, Bandar Abbas Refinery, National Iranian Copper Industries

Iran's export to Uzbekistan jumps 370%

TEHRAN – Iran's export to Uzbekistan has risen 370 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the portal of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) reported.

Uzbekistan was Iran's second export destination after the Russian Federation among the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) in the mentioned five-month period.

As TPO reported, the second meeting of expert talks to review the draft preferential trade agreement and the list of preferred items between Iran and Uzbekistan was held via video conference on Tuesday, during which the two sides discussed the provisions of the draft and provided views on planning for the next round of the meeting in October.

Meanwhile, the 14th meeting of Iran-Uzbekistan Joint Economic Committee is expected to be held in the near future as the situation

resulting from the coronavirus pandemic improves.

As the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) has announced, the value of Iran's non-oil trade has risen 38 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi said that Iran has traded 59.3 million tons of non-oil products worth \$34 billion with other countries in the mentioned period, which indicates also 14 percent growth in terms of weight on an annual basis.

The official put the five-month non-oil exports at 45.5 million tons valued at \$17.661 billion, with a 63 percent rise in value and 20 percent growth in weight.

The IRICA head mentioned methanol, natural gas, polyethylene, semi-finished iron products, iron ingots, gasoline, liquefied propane, iron rods, urea, and bitumen as the main exported products in the said



time span.

He said major export destinations of the Iranian non-oil goods were China with about 12.3 million tons worth \$5.9 billion, Iraq with 12 million tons worth \$3.163 billion, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) with five million tons worth \$1.9 billion, Turkey with 1.375 million tons worth \$1.1 billion, and Afghanistan with 2.165 million tons worth \$885 million.

The official further announced that Iran has imported 13.8 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$16.631 billion in the first five months of the present year, with a 21 percent

growth in value and a 0.5 percent fall in weight year on year.

According to the official, the country's trade balance was over \$1 billion positive in the mentioned five months.

Mir-Ashrafi named cellphones, livestock corn, sunflower oil, barley, meal, wheat, soybeans, sugar, and rice as the main imported commodities.

The United Arab Emirates with 4.436 million tons of goods worth \$5.391 billion was the top exporter to Iran in the said period, followed by China with 1.1 million tons of goods worth \$3.6 billion, Turkey with 1.578 million tons worth \$1.8 billion, Germany with 431,000 tons worth \$668 million, and Switzerland with 692,000 tons worth \$572 million, the official stated.

He has put the weight of non-oil trade at 146.4 million tons and said that the figure shows a 25-million-ton annual decline, which is the result of sanctions and coronavirus pandemic.

Commodities worth \$563m traded at IME in a week

TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), 1.8 million tons of commodities worth \$563 million was traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME).

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the weekly trades show a 52-percent rise in value and a 21-percent growth in weight.

The exchange experienced trade of 1.515 million tons of commodities valued at more than \$364 million on its metals and mineral trading floor.

On this floor the IME sold 955,370 tons of cement, 449,356 tons of steel, 80,000 tons of aluminum, 15 tons of precious metals concentrate, 17,410 tons of zinc, 1 kg of gold bars and 7,500 tons of sponge iron.

Furthermore, the exchange saw trade of 360,171 tons of commodities on its oil and petrochemical trading floor with a total trading value of nearly \$194 million.

Commodities sold on this floor included 103,000 tons of vacuum bottom, 93,558 tons of bitumen, 84,736 tons of polymeric products, 34,000 tons of chemicals, 38,000 tons of lube cut, 2,859 tons of base oil, 105 tons of insulation and 800 tons of sulfur.

Last but not least was the IME's side market

with 9,248 tons of commodities traded on it.

As previously reported, the value of trades in Iran Mercantile Exchange rose 50 percent in the sixth Iranian calendar month Shahrivar (ended on September 22), as compared to its previous month.

More than 8.062 million tons of commodities worth \$2.013 billion was traded at the exchange in the mentioned month, showing also 70 percent growth in terms of weight.

The IME sold on its metals and minerals trading floor 6.018 million tons of commodities worth more than \$997 million.

Commodities traded on this floor included 1.050 million tons of steel, 4.649 million tons of cement, 19,180 tons of copper, 720 tons of molybdenum concentrate, 84 tons of precious metals concentrate, 28,010 tons of aluminum, 250,000 tons of iron ore, 16,820 tons of zinc, 400 tons of coke, 31,000 tons of sponge iron and 108 kg of gold bars.

Furthermore, the exchange saw on both domestic and export pits of its oil and petrochemical trading floor, trade of 2.004 million tons of commodities valued at more than \$985 million.

The IME's customers purchased on this floor 521,024 tons of bitumen, 417,787 tons of

polymeric products, 163,169 tons of chemicals, 17,029 tons of base oil, 3,500 tons of slops wax and 643,000 tons of vacuum bottom.

Moreover, the IME sold on the same floor 34,645 tons of sulfur, 1,610 tons of insulation and 194,000 tons of lube cut.

It's worth noting that there was also 860 kg of saffron traded on the agricultural trading floor.

Last but not least, the exchange played host to trading 39,198 tons of various types of commodities on its side market.

The value of trades at Iran Mercantile Exchange in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) rose 108 percent compared to the preceding year.

During the past year, about 3.5 quadrillion rials (about \$83.5 billion) worth of commodities were traded at the mentioned market.

In the past year, several new records were achieved in terms of the volume and value of transactions in the mentioned market's various floors including the industrial, petroleum, and petrochemical floors.

IME is one of the four major stock markets of Iran, the other three markets are Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market known also as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB), and Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX).

Afghanistan in the shackles of great power rivalry

From page 1 ► The AUKUS allows sharing of intelligence, giving Australia secret technology to build nuclear-powered submarines. Building nuclear-powered submarines to counter China would, by and large, trigger a new cold war in the Asia-Pacific. The warmongering policies of the U.S. also buttress its military-industrial complex. Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft's Anatol Lieven argues that a New Cold War "with China ... will continue to lock in place the power of the U.S. military-industrial complex and squander trillions more on wasteful and unnecessary military programs designed to benefit American corporations rather than defend the actual security of actual American citizens."

The U.S. remains engaged in orchestrating troubles for China in its peripheries. The U.S., as a part of its Department of Defense's global posture review in East Asia, has been preparing to accelerate its military posture deepening ties with Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan. An increasing foothold of the Quad known as Quadrilateral Security Dialogue composed of the United States, India, Japan, and Australia, in the Indo-Pacific is also a bulwark against China. The Indian embroilment in rising tensions with China further serves the U.S. interest. After the U.S. withdrawal once again in China's periphery, a turbulent Afghanistan to China's west is a foreseeable dilemma the latter has to withstand. Making matters worse, Islamic State Khorasan, designated IS-K, has warned attacking China.

The threat of IS-K to China evokes us Michel Chossudovsky, who in his classic book "The Globalization of War: America's "Long War" against Humanity" claims that the concept of peace is being undermined by the U.S. and war has become peace. Chossudovsky, in his book, accuses the U.S. of creating Al-Qaeda and IS aimed at presenting a long war across the globe. To him, the U.S. requires ideological justification and pretext of waging a war against the groups being created by it. The emerging of Al-Qaeda and IS in Afghanistan after the U.S. presence for 20 years is the reality one ought to ponder over it.

Arguably, the aforementioned groups in Afghanistan under the shadow of the mighty U.S. appear to be creating instability in Afghanistan; the country is likely to become an epicenter of terrorism and extrem-



ism, posing a grave threat to the region in general China in particular. Admittedly, coping with terrorism and extremism so far has proved as an Achilles heel of China. The U.S., in Chossudovsky's lexicon, is the mastermind of creating non-state actors. China, in this regard, is unskillful due to ideological differences, with militants reluctant to follow the trajectory of the U.S. to create non-state actors. Beijing certainly is extra vigilant in coping with imminent threats emanating from Afghanistan. China's top Afghanistan expert, Zhao Huasheng opines that "To a great extent, Xinjiang's security and stability is the starting point for China's Afghanistan policy."

Tim Marshal, in his fascinating book "Prisoners of Geography," maintains that Xinjiang is the largest province of China, having an area of 642,820 twice the size of Texas, and one can also fit the UK, Germany, France, Austria, Netherlands, and

Switzerland and Belgium in the Xinjiang. Above all, Xinjiang connects China with eight countries Russia, Mongolia, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Afghanistan, Pakistan, and India. The UN Security Council assessment claims that East Turkestan Islamic Movement ETIM militants fighting for Xinjiang independence have worked with jihadi organizations, like al Qaeda Jamaat al-Tawhid Wal-Jihad and Jamaat Ansarullah.

Alarmingly, these groups will likely remain active in Afghanistan, providing ETIM with multiple local allies.

Doha agreement paving the way for appeasement and releasing Taliban, bypassing the U.S. strategically India in the agreement, the irresponsible U.S. exit, and the abrupt takeover of Kabul are some unimaginable stories to believe. Then expecting hardcore Taliban to live up to the commitments of not violating human rights are beyond one's

comprehension. Though the Taliban pledged that they would not violate human rights, the U.S. ought to inculcate that promise is like an ice ball easy to make difficult to keep. The U.S. also did not live up to the promises; it invaded Afghanistan with the hope of installing democracy and rebuilding a country.

Today neither there is democracy nor the rebuilding of the country fairly. Afghanistan heads towards further chaos and destruction; the country, ironically is becoming a hub of terrorism and extremism. A stable Afghanistan in China's periphery serves Beijing's interest; an unstable Afghanistan is likely to serve the U.S. objectives. The U.S. hasty withdrawal, in the final analysis definitely, is a part of great power rivalry in which Washington tends to entangle Beijing in militancy that invariably would enfeeble China economically and politically.

The writer is a Research Associate at India Study Center, the Institute of Strategic Studies Islamabad (ISSI). He is also Ph.D. (IR) candidate at International Islamic University Islamabad (IIUI).

Britain to deploy army amid fuel crisis

From page 1 ► the British Chancellor added, "We're determined to do what we can to try to mitigate as much of this as we can."

Other senior government officials have been alarmed at how slowly the fuel supply disruption is improving, with motorists being forced to queue hours for fuel at petrol stations after more than a week of rarely seen chaos and a sign of what the future holds for the UK.

The country's defense minister Ben Wallace has claimed that "while the situation is stabilizing, our Armed Forces are there to fill in any critical vacancies and help keep the country on the move by supporting the industry to deliver fuel to forecourts."

Downing Street says the military personnel are currently undertaking their training sites across Britain.

Last Sunday, the government announced an unprecedented plan to issue temporary visas for 5,000 foreign truck drivers and 5,500 poultry workers to alleviate shortages.

Petrol retailers paint a bleaker picture saying more than 2,000 gas stations are dry and reporters across London and southern England said dozens of pumps are still closed.

Nevertheless, some of the truck drivers are declining their visas because the timeframe is not long enough.

On Friday, the government changed those plans, instead of introducing a particular scheme which will allow some 300 fuel tanker drivers to arrive in the UK immediately but temporarily. The 300, which form part of the 5,000, can work in the UK until the end of March 2022. The remaining 4,700 drivers will arrive from late October and leave by the end of February 2022.

In addition to short-term fixes, other reports say the government has asked thousands of Germans residing in the UK to drive trucks to assist with the shortage in Heavy Goods Vehicles shortage, even if they have never driven one before.

London says it is also working hard to find long-term solutions to the shortage of Heavy Goods Vehicle drivers through improved testing and hiring, better pay, working conditions, and diversity. To help with recruitment, the government also says it is collaborating with freight associations to drive up standards of lorry parking facilities, helping to make the Heavy Goods Vehicle industry more attractive for prospective drivers and supporting the wellbeing of those currently working

"We're seeing real disruption in supply chains in different sectors."



as lorry drivers. Other moves include an immediate increase in Heavy Goods Vehicle testing, and new skills boot camps to train up to 4,000 more people to become Heavy Goods Vehicles drivers.

The government will also extend the new visa scheme to 5,500 farm workers who will arrive from late October and stay until the end of December. Amid criticism about booting the domestic labor force instead, the government defended the decision. It highlighted the gravity of the situation by saying, "the introduction of this temporary, time-limited visa measures does not detract from our commitment to upskill and increase the wages of our domestic labor, but is in recognition of the extraordinary set of circumstances affecting the stability of the UK supply chain."

The shortages of lorry drivers and farm workers come in the wake of Brexit and the COVID-19 pandemic that has sown disarray through some sectors of the economy, disrupting deliveries of fuel and medicines and leaving more than 100,000 livestock backed up on farms.

A taxi driver who was first in a line of more than 40 cars outside a closed supermarket at one petrol station has been quoted as

saying, "I am completely, completely fed up. Why is the country not ready for anything? When is it going to end? The politicians are not capable of doing their jobs properly. The government should have been prepared for this crisis. It is just incompetence."

Other taxi drivers say they have lost about 20% of their average earnings this week because they have been waiting for fuel rather than picking up customers. The Petrol Retailers Association (PRA)

said members reported that 26% of pumps were dry, 27% had just one fuel type in stock, and 47% had enough petrol and diesel.

The PRA has stated that the fuel situation at forecourts was slightly improving, but far too slowly. Independent petrol retailers were not receiving enough fuel to meet demand more than a week after the first shortages were reported.

Gordon Balmer, who is the executive director of the PRA, says, "Independents, which total 65% of the entire network, are not receiving enough deliveries of fuel compared with other sectors such as supermarkets,"

Ministers in Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government claim the world is facing a global shortage of truck drivers and that they are working to ease the crisis. They deny that the situation is a consequence of an exodus of EU workers following Britain's departure from the bloc and have dismissed concerns the country is heading toward a winter of shortages and power cuts.

However, despite some shortages of truck drivers in other countries, the 27 European Union member bloc of nations from which the United Kingdom withdrew has not experienced any fuel shortages.

The ruling Conservative party of Prime Minister Boris Johnson's government have claimed for days that the crisis is abating or even over. Still, again retailers say more than 2,000 gas stations were dry. Reports across London and southern England indicate dozens of pumps were still closed.

Opposition Labour Party leader Keir Starmer says the government wasn't moving fast enough. "The Prime Minister should be taking emergency action today, but yet again, he's failed to grasp the seriousness of the crisis. If it needs legislation, then let's recall Parliament".

It does appear that Downing Street has come under pressure to act as the government's announcement on sending in the army to tackle the fuel crisis came just hours after Starmer demanded it. It also followed a warning by the Petrol Retailers Association, which represents independent garages, that said more than a quarter of its filling stations have no fuel left.

Calling on Boris Johnson to "take emergency action to get a grip," Starmer called for extended opening hours for petrol stations to help the National Health Service (Britain's health sector) shift workers and other key workers. He also urged the Prime Minister to recall parliament and hold an emergency summit of the road haulage industry, training providers, business groups, government ministers, and transport unions to focus on what he described as an immediate crisis.

AUKUS in breach of NPT, damaging regional security: EU MP

By Zahra Mirzafarjouyan

Trade talks between Australia and the European Union have been postponed with France over the so-called AUKUS security partnership.

AUKUS is a security pact between Australia, the U.S., and the UK. It allows for greater intelligence sharing, but crucially it gives Australia secret technology to build nuclear-powered submarines, though not equipped with nuclear weapons.

Last month, Canberra canceled a \$37bn deal with France to build a fleet of conventional submarines. Instead, it will build at least eight nuclear-powered submarines with U.S. and UK technology. The decision angered Paris, which called the deal a "stab in the back" by the U.S. and Australia.

Soon after the AUKUS agreement was announced, France recalled its ambassadors from both Canberra and Washington. The ambassador to Washington will now return to his post, but it is not clear if the ambassador to Canberra will do the same.

Analysts have described AUKUS as probably the most significant security arrangement between the three nations since World War Two. But France considers the Indo-Pacific region to be of crucial strategic and economic importance, with around 1.5m French citizens in the area.

To shed light on the issue, we reached out to Clare Daly, a member of the European Parliament.

Following is the full text of the interview:

How do you see the effect of the recent submarine deal between Australia and the U.S. on transatlantic relations and NATO?

I don't think there'll be any lasting effect on NATO, unfortunately. We've already seen that the French ambassador is heading back to Washington, and Macron and Biden had a relatively amicable telephone call last week - this is a temporary spat. Other NATO members will have no interest in seeing it escalate beyond that. The NATO military-industrial complex will march on, sadly.

Can such trust-killing acts motivate Europe to be more serious in gaining strategic autonomy and forming a European army?

To be honest, the powers-that-be in Europe will take any excuse to push for a European army - such is their obsessive zeal with that dangerous and destructive project. We saw recently that Ursula von der Leyen used the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan as an opportunity to push for European militarisation - when it's clear to anyone with eyes and ears and a brain that the West's whole ill-fated and disastrous invasion and occupation of Afghanistan is the strongest possible warning against military interventionism that you could possibly imagine. So it's no surprise to see the French foreign and



defense ministers coming out and saying the deal increases the need for European strategic autonomy. No doubt it will be pressed into service by Brussels as an excuse to justify more militarism at an EU level too.

Many believe the deal will affect the non-proliferation treaty negatively. What do you think of this?

What's at stake here is the provision of weapons-grade enriched uranium to a non-nuclear weapons state to military power submarines which will engage in provocative action in an already highly contested region. The Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty allows for the exchange of civil nuclear technology, but only for peaceful purposes - what's happening with AUKUS could hardly be called that, so it would appear to me to be in breach of it.

How do you assess the effect of such moves on the region's security and stability?

More aggressive action from the U.S. towards China is the last thing the world needs, and this deal is clearly meant to be read aggressively by the Chinese. To be honest, the Chinese foreign minister put it well when he said the alliance risks 'severely damaging regional peace... and intensifying the arms race', as well as demonstrating an 'obsolete Cold War... mentality'. This deal is bad for regional stability and, in common with all deals that lead to the proliferation of weapons, bad for the world.

France is going to send back its ambassador to Washington. Does this mean mending the differences?

My understanding is that as well as the French ambassador being sent back to Washington, the French president Emmanuel Macron spoke to Joe Biden by phone last week and agreed to try and find a way forward. It's likely that after the Sturm und Drang of the past few weeks over wounded French pride that the whole thing will now simmer down - the U.S. is too big a market and too significant a part of the Western imperialist power bloc that France is so supportive of for it to dream of cutting off or undermining relations with it.

Torture complaint filed against UAE candidate for Interpol chief

The UAE's candidate to become the next president of international policing body Interpol is facing torture complaints by two British victims.

The complaint was lodged by lawyers of Matthew Hedges and Ali Issa Ahmad who were detained and tortured in the United Arab Emirates in 2018 and 2019.

French lawyer Rodney Dixon submitted the complaints to the French prosecutor in Paris, which hold Major General Ahmed Naser al-Raisi, the general inspector of the UAE's interior ministry, and six other Emirati officials responsible for the unlawful detention and torture of the two men.

Hedges, a British academic, who was arrested in the UAE in May 2018, said he was held in solitary confinement, tortured and coerced into making a false confession. He was accused of spying for the British government.

After seven months, he was sentenced to life in prison, but was released in November 2018 after the UAE came under international pressure.

Ahmad traveled to the UAE in January, 2019 to watch an Asian Cup football match and was allegedly detained for wearing a T-shirt with the Qatari flag, though the UAE has denied this.

At the time, the UAE was involved in a dispute with Qatar and had imposed a boycott on the country alongside Bahrain, Egypt and Saudi Arabia. That diplomatic dispute has since been resolved, with the boycott lifted in January this year.

Ahmad has said he was subjected to racial and psychological abuse and torture, including being beaten, electrocuted, burned and stabbed. He was released after heavy international attention and after agreeing to pay a fine for "wasting police time".

Speaking at a press conference in Lyon, France on Friday, Hedges said he couldn't believe he had to travel to Interpol headquarters to ensure that one of the officials responsible for his torture did not become its next president.

"Imagine if the president of Interpol cannot travel to the headquarters because he could be arrested," he said. "It does not feel real and it shows a complete failure of the system."

"I believe general al-Raisi does not deserve this honor," said Ahmed. "The Interpol presidency should not be given to people who abuse their power and break laws by punishing and torturing innocent people like me and Mathew."

Earlier this year, a group of 35 members of the French parliament wrote to President Emmanuel Macron asking him to oppose al-Raisi's nomination.

The complaint has been made under the principle of universal jurisdiction, which allows French authorities to investigate and detain foreign nationals for specific crimes even if they occurred outside France.

As he is not a head of state, al-Raisi cannot claim immunity. If the French authorities take up the case, he could be arrested and interrogated if he enters French territory, including Lyon where Interpol is headquartered.

The election process of appointing of Interpol manager is secret and no candidates have been officially named, however, Raisi is likely to be one of the candidates along with Nigeria's Commissioner Olushola Subair.

Al-Raisi joined the Abu Dhabi police force in 1980 and rose through the ranks, eventually becoming the General Director of Central Operations of the Abu Dhabi Police in 2005. He was also appointed as General Director of E-Services, Ministry of Interior, UAE. In 2015 he became the General Inspector of the Ministry of Interior in the UAE.

Elections for Interpol's president and executive committee, was to be held in December 2020 during Interpol's general assembly and was postponed due to COVID-19 restrictions. It is planned to go ahead this year, though a date has yet to be announced.

(Source: Press TV)

Evidence pushes back history of human presence in Masuleh to late Bronze Age

TEHRAN – A series of newly-found archaeological evidence indicates the history of human presence in Masuleh and its surrounding mountains in northern Iran dates back to the late Bronze Age (2000-1500 BC), which is extremely older than previously believed.

"According to archaeologists, new findings show that human beings resided in these highlands seasonally, at least since the late Bronze Age," ISNA quoted the director of Masuleh Cultural Heritage Research Center as saying on Saturday.

"Other findings date back to the eras of 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)," Mohammad Sanai added.

The survey was carried out as part of a preliminary process to compile an all-inclusive dossier for the touristic village to be presented to the United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization.

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

The archaeological survey was carried out under the direction of Fereidoun Biglari, a senior researcher at the National Museum of Iran, on the mountain ranges in the core and buffer zones of Masuleh in the Gilan province. It revealed remains of late prehistoric, historic, and Islamic times on highlands top above 2500 meters above sea level.

According to Biglari, 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 Masuleh region," Biglari explained.

Masuleh 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, Masuleh has all types of opinions. On the one hand, the most well-traveled backpackers will tell you that Masuleh 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 Masuleh is such a lovely village which you can't miss.

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

Tourism sector to create more than 14,000 jobs in Mazandaran

TEHRAN – Underway tourism-related projects in Mazandaran province are estimated to generate more than 14,000 jobs upon their completion, CHTN reported on Friday.

Some 14,929 job opportunities are expected to be created upon the inauguration of 214 tourism-related projects, which are being implemented across the northern province, the report added.

Some 186 trillion rials (\$4.4 billion at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been invested in the ongoing projects so far.

The developments will also add over 15,000 beds to the hospitality sector of the province.

In Mazandaran province, one of Iran's most popular domestic vacation spots, serious damage was sustained from the coronavirus outbreak, and tourism facilities in the province went through a significant economic recession.

However, the Iranian government has paid 343 billion rials (\$8.1 million) in loans to the tourism businesses affected by the pandemic in the

province so far.

Last November, Mehran Hassani, the deputy provincial tourism chief announced that the province's tourism industry has taken six trillion rials (about \$143 million) hit from the impact of coronavirus (COVID-19) over the previous months.

He also noted that there are 4,000 active tourism units across the province, generating jobs for about 16,000 people directly.

The lush green region, sandwiched between the towering Alborz mountain range and the Caspian Sea has a rich yet turbulent history. An early civilization flourished at the beginning of the first millennium BC in Mazandaran (Tabarestan).

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.

Clean-up project completed on UNESCO-tagged desert

TEHRAN – A clean-up project has recently been completed on Shahdad, part of the UNESCO-registered Lut desert, a local tourism official has announced.

The project was carried out in collaboration with some eco-lodge owners nearby on the occasion of National Tourism Week (September 27-October 4), Hojjat Ebrahimzadeh said on Saturday.

The project involved cleaning and collecting garbage left by some tourists in this area, the official added.

Shahdad Desert receives a large number of tourists each year, making it imperative to adhere to hygienic principles so they can continue to enjoy its beautiful nature, he noted.

Tourists are hence advised to collect their garbage from the region before they leave, he explained.

Situated in southeastern Kerman province, Shahdad is home to shifting sands, salt plains, meteorite fields, and rocky terrain, which offers visitors breathtaking vistas and unparalleled serenity of the intact nature and wilderness.

It has long been a destination for adventurers, nature lovers, off-roaders, and trekkers.

The Lut Desert, widely referred to as Dasht-e Lut ("Emptiness Plain"), is a large salt desert encircled by the provinces of Kerman and Sistan-Baluchestan, and South Khorasan. It is the world's 27th-largest desert and was inscribed on UNESCO's World Heritage List on July 17, 2016.

Reissuance of Iran visas won't cause a flood of tourists, expert says

From page 1 ► destinations in the world, adding: "While the economies of many countries are affected by the coronavirus, this inexpensiveness is an advantage.

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

In November 2020, the World Tourism Organization announced that international tourist arrivals to Iran plunged 72% during the first eight months of 2020 when compared to 2019, highlighting the severe impact of COVID-19 as the main factor.

Over the past couple of months, Pourfaraj had frequently asked the government to issue tourist visas for the international applicants who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. "The Ministry of Health and the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control can at least agree that the international tourists who have received the [second dose of] coronavirus vaccine would be allowed to enter Iran."

Earlier this year, the expert lamented "the continuation of such a trend would result in losing international tourist markets more than before."

According to Pourfaraj, reasonable

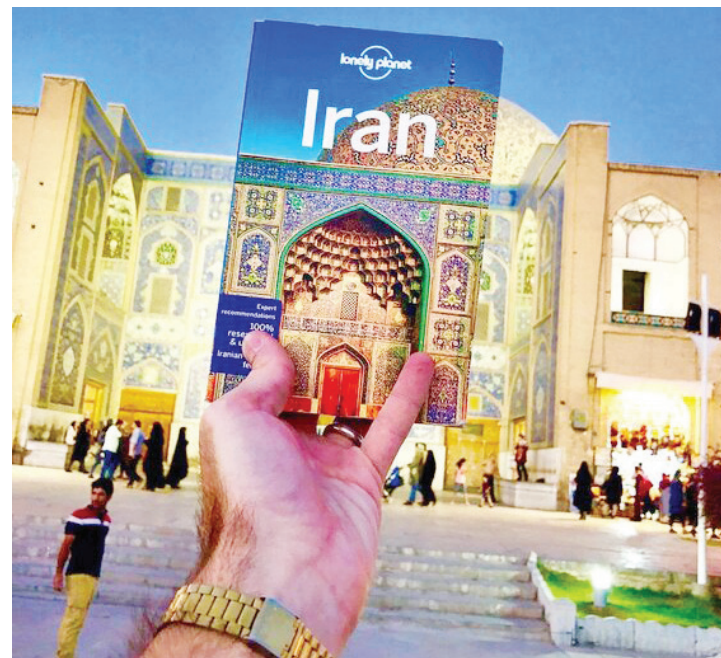
prices of Iran tours are expected to bring back the boom into the tourism sector of the country in the post coronavirus era. "Attractive tour plans are also being prepared for those who are eager to explore the historical attractions and natural wonders of the ancient country and want to experience a vacation here."

He also expressed hope that international tour operators and companies who have worked with their Iranian counterparts for years, would put Iran back on the world's travel route again, considering the facilities they can get at cheaper prices than in other countries.

Referring to health tourism as a popular branch in Iran, he believes that medical services in Iran are provided at a lower price than what may be offered at double the price in other countries.

Back in January, he announced that the tourist flow from across the world to Iran will return to normal in 2022. Although there are requests for traveling to Iran in the current year (2021), most travel agencies and tour operators believe that the flow will go back to normal in the next year, he explained. "Beginning mass vaccination against the coronavirus will provide better and safe conditions for international travels in 2022."

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



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

"Tourism of the country was growing before the corona [outbreak], its revenues reached \$11.7 billion in 2019, which accounted for 2.8% of GDP, nearing the average share of tourism in the world GDP, which was 3.2 percent," Mounesan said. He added 8.7 million foreign nationals visited Iran during the [Iranian] year (1398), adding that Iran was ranked as the second fastest-growing country in tourism based on data compiled by the World Tourism Organization.

Iran is potentially a booming destination for travelers seeking cultural attractions, breathtaking sceneries, and numerous UNESCO-registered sites. Under the 2025

Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

Even before the pandemic, Iran's tourism was already grappling with some challenges, on top of those Western "media propaganda" aimed at scaring potential travelers away from the Islamic Republic. Some experts believe Iran is still somehow "unknown" for many potential travelers due to such a "media war". They, however, consider bright prospects for the tourism sector of the country if it vigorously pursues comprehensive strategies to counter U.S.-led propaganda and strict sanctions, yet does its best to loosen tough travel regulations.

The ancient land embraces hundreds of historical sites such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Iran pavilion hailed by visitors at Expo 2020

TEHRAN - Iran pavilion at the prestigious Expo 2020 Dubai has been hailed by visitors, CHTN reported on Saturday.

Visitors are offered to soak up the ancient land in terms of rituals, handicrafts, cultural heritage, and travel destinations. The pavilion also reveals more about medical tourism, novel startups, and off-the-beaten tracks.

The pavilion is planned to showcase each Iranian province's strengths and assets in tourism, cultural heritage, handicrafts, as well as its natural sites, traditional ceremonial practices, and historical significance.

The world fair opened on Thursday with a lavish ceremony of fireworks, music, and messaging about the power of global collaboration for a more



sustainable future.

Many countries and companies are also looking to the expo - the first major global event open to visitors since the coronavirus pandemic - to boost trade and

investment.

According to organizers, the Expo, an exhibition of culture, technology and architecture under the banner "Connecting Minds and Creating the Future", is expected to be a demonstration of ingenuity, and a place where global challenges such as climate change, conflict and economic growth can be addressed together.

The Persian Gulf state has relaxed most coronavirus limitations but Expo requires face masks to be worn and for visitors over 18 to be vaccinated against, or test negative for, COVID-19.

Iran expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 being inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

New agritourism farm comes on stream in northern Iran

TEHRAN – A vast agritourism farm has been inaugurated in the city of Gorgan, northern province of Golestan, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

Some 140 billion rials (\$3.3 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been invested in the project, which was carried out in collaboration with Gorgan branch of the Islamic Azad University, Ahmad Tajari said on Friday.

With an area of five hectares, the farm has created direct job opportunities for 40 people, the official added.

This is the fourth licensed agritourism farm in the city, which holds the potential to develop tourism in the region, he noted.

Earlier in August, a memorandum of understanding was signed at the provincial level to help develop agritourism across the lush green province. The MOU also aimed to facilitate issuing agritourism permits to selected farms, identifying and developing tourism capacities in the agriculture industry, monitoring the performance of certified farms, and forming advisory committees, and work as a team that will assist the agricultural sector in attracting domestic and foreign tourists.

Back in July, provincial tourism chief Ahmad Tajari announced that agritourism is being developed in the northern province of Golestan by launching new tourist farms.

"The province has issued seven

agritourism permits in less than a year, which is expected to attract more tourists."

Such permits are granted to eligible farm owners in the country to launch agritourism businesses, aiming to set certain standards in a move to ensure the quality of such services in the country.

A total of 720 billion rials (\$17.1 million) has been invested in these tourist farms, which are expected to generate almost 120 job opportunities, the official added.

As tourism and agriculture are the two axes to the development of the province, their combination serves a crucial role in creating jobs and economic prosperity, particularly in the

villages, he noted.

Golestan is reportedly embracing some 2,500 historical and natural sites, with UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus - a one-millennium-old brick tower - which is of high architectural importance as an exemplar and innovative design of the early-Islamic-era architecture.

Narratives say the majestic tower has influenced various subsequent designers of tomb towers and other cylindrical commemorative structures both in the region and beyond. The UNESCO comments that Gonbad-e Qabus bears testimony to the cultural exchange between Central Asian nomads and the ancient civilization of Iran.

First Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 01-31-9780009

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
32	PARTS FOR"BROWN BOVERI-SULZE"GAS TURBINE TYPE NS70	367

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 12,839 EURO or 3,506,925,460 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 ۱۴۰۰/۷/۱۱

First Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 08-38 -9740009

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
	SLICKLINE, SPOOLED PM IRON REEL, H2S, CO2 AND CHLORIDE ION TRIM,TYPE: SUPA-75 OR SANICRO-26, MATERIAL: HIGH CROSION RESISTANCE, STAINLESS STEEL UNS N08926(ALLOY 25-6 MO), NDT TEST INCLUDING EDDY CURRENT TEST AND ALSO WRAP TEST SHOULD BE PERFORMED A& DOCUMENTED,DIAMETER & LENGTH AS SPECIFIED: REF. "SANDVIK(ZAPP-GROUP)" , "BRIDON"	
01	SIZE 0.082 INCH X 18000 FEET	6 RL
02	SIZE 0.092 INCH X 18000 FEET	6 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 14,702 EURO or 3,897,543,026 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 ۱۴۰۰/۷/۱۱

Over 177,000 COVID19- tests conducted at borders

TEHRAN – Rapid and PCR tests have been performed on over 177,000 passengers at the country's official borders based on a plan launched on March 10 to rapidly identify suspected cases of coronavirus.

Some 668,407 passengers have so far been screened for coronavirus at the border points, Mehdi Valipour, head of Relief and Rescue Organization affiliated to the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), said on Saturday.

During the aforesaid period, IRCS forces have conducted 78,677 PCR tests and 98,337 rapid tests, he noted.

He went on to lament that some 212 individuals, who tested positive, have so far been temporarily quarantined, under a plan to rapidly identify suspected cases of coronavirus and prevent the spread of new strains.

A total of 471 members of the IRCS cooperate for carrying out the plan in 16 provinces across the country, Valipour concluded.

With the cooperation of ministries of health and transport, a plan is being implemented with the goal of rapidly identifying and testing incoming passengers and keeping them in quarantine facilities, if necessary.

Thirty border checkpoints have been



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

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

On August 22, Iran announced that all travelers must have a negative PCR test certificate or a health card to enter the country during the Covid-19 pandemic, IRINN reported.

Due to the prevalence of delta variant, negative PCR test is also mandatory for vaccinated passengers, Mo-

hammad Reza Seif, head of safety and quality assurance department of Imam Khomeini Airport Town Co, said.

All passengers entering Iran, even if they have been vaccinated and have a vaccination card, must have a negative test result, he stated.

Land subsidence worrisome: GSI



TEHRAN – Lands across Iran are vastly subsiding, a threat which is being turned into an acute crisis, Alireza Shahidi, head of the Geological Survey and Mineral Explorations Organization (GSI), has warned.

Land subsidence, a gradual settling or sudden sinking of the Earth's surface due to subsurface movement of earth materials is mainly caused by aquifer-system compaction, drainage, and decomposition of organic soils, underground mining, oil and gas extraction, hydro compaction, natural compaction, sinkholes, and thawing permafrost.

Subsidence results in significant economic losses in the form of structural damage and high maintenance costs. This affects roads and transportation networks, hydraulic infrastructure, sewage systems, buildings, and foundations. The

total damage worldwide is estimated at billions of dollars annually.

Stating that the amount of water that penetrates into the ground is not proportional to the amount of water extracted, he said that this has caused the phenomenon of subsidence in all parts of the country except for the provinces of Gilan and Mazandaran.

It is predicted that the provinces of Gilan and Mazandaran will also suffer from subsidence in the coming years, he stated, adding, out of 606 plains in the country, more than 300 are in acute condition and are forbidden to enter.

Referring to the plains of Isfahan province as one of the most critical areas, he stated that the amount of subsidence in Isfahan is about 16 cm and unfortunately the central parts and historical context of the city have been affected.

Stating that the subsidence rate is also very high in the capital city of Tehran, Shahidi said that Tehran suffers from one millimeter of subsidence per day, which is a very large number.

According to the statistics available in the European Union, a subsidence rate of 4 mm means a critical situation, while it reached up to centimeters in Iran.

Major causes

Gholam-Ali Jafarzadeh, head of the National Car-

tography Center, lamented that some 29 provinces are currently at risk of subsidence.

He named two factors of climate change and human intervention as the most important factors of land subsidence in the country and noted that it is expected that we take measures to reduce the pressure on the environment.

Over the past decades, groundwater exploitation has increased dramatically due to permanent droughts, leading to aquifer depletion.

Shahidi said in May that 80 percent of the groundwater is withdrawn annually in Iran, which outpaces the global rate.

In the whole world, water resources withdrawal is between 3 to 20 percent, and when it reaches 40 to 60 percent which is considered problematic, and it will be a crisis when exceeding 60-80 percent, Shahidi noted.

Over the past decades, some of the aquifer levels dropped by 100 centimeters.

Inefficient irrigation methods in addition to digging illegal wells are the other main causes of groundwater extraction-induced subsidence, as out of 50,000 wells pumping underground water resources in the capital, 30,000 are illegal.

It should be noted that over the next 40 years, the country's temperature will rise by 2.6 degrees on Celsius Scale, which will increase the country's need for more water resources.

Climate change and human intervention are the two most important factors of land subsidence.

Cyclone Shaheen reaches Sistan-Baluchestan

TEHRAN – Cyclonic Storm 'Shaheen' has reached Sistan-and-Baluchestan province, southeastern Iran.

Cyclone Shaheen has developed into a severe cyclonic storm and is now at 240 km east-southeast of Chabahar Port in Iran, which is expected to move towards Oman's coast across the Gulf of Oman and weaken gradually.

It closed schools in the cities of Chabahar, Konarak, and Dashtiari.

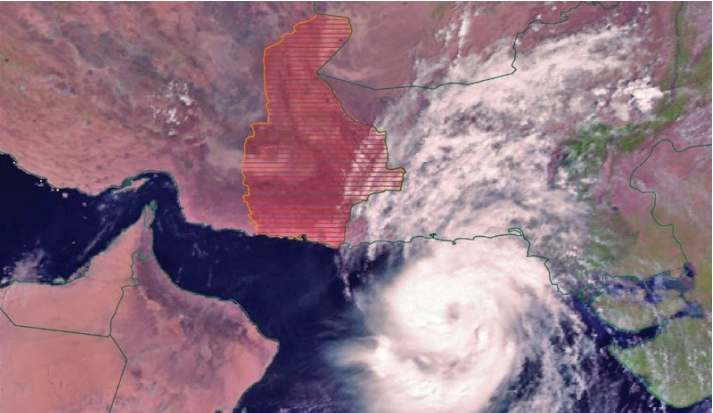
The storm is likely to move west-northwestwards, skirting Iran's Makran coast during the next 24 hours. Cyclone Shaheen was formed from the

remnants of Cyclone Gulab, which had hit the east coast on September 26.

However, fishermen have been warned not to venture into the sea till October.

The tropical storm caused the sinking and breaking of two fishing boats in the port of Pasabander Dashtiari, 100 km from Chabahar.

Following the incident, all operational teams and forces of the Red Crescent Society and vehicles are immediately on standby in the cities of Chabahar, Dashtiari, Konarak, Qasr-e Qand, Nikshahr, Sarbaz, Fanuj, and Pelan.



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Iranian zoos to be monitored online

The Department of Environment (DOE) will launch an online monitoring system in zoos across the country, the Department of Environment's director general for hunting and fishing has said.

"Putting in place the necessary infrastructure for this plan is underway; newly constructed zoos are supposed to have an online monitoring system, and the old ones must launch the system as soon as possible," IRNA quoted Ali Teymouri as saying on Saturday.

Teymouri stated that all provincial departments of environment must supervise the zoo online systems to register all animal species entering or leaving the zoo, casualties and causes.

The necessary infrastructure has been prepared to some extent in two zoos, and the rest of the zoos will launch the in the near future gradually, he added.

باغ وحش های کشور آنلاین پایش می شوند

مدیر کل حفاظت و مدیریت شکار و صید سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست گفت: پایش آنلاین باغ وحش های کشور جزو برنامه های سازمان است و در حال تهیه زیر ساخت برای اجرای آن هستیم.

علی تیموری روز شنبه در گفت و گو با خبرنگار علمی ایرنا افزود: باغ وحش هایی که جدید احداث می شوند باید حتما سیستم پایش آنلاین داشته باشند، مجموعه های قدیمی نیز باید هر چه سریعتر این سیستم را راه اندازی کنند. وی اظهار داشت: باید تمام ادارات کل استان ها آدرس سیستم آنلاین باغ وحش ها را دریافت کنند تا ورود و خروج گونه ها از باغ وحش، ورود گونه های جدید، تلفات و دلایل آن را ثبت و به صورت آنلاین در جریان قرار گیرند.

تیموری گفت: زیر ساخت های این کار تا حدودی آغاز شده و دو مجموعه کار زیر ساخت را شروع کرده اند و بقیه باغ وحش ها هم به مرور انجام خواهند داد.

Cutting methane should be a key Cop26 aim, research suggests

Sharp cuts in methane from leaking gas drilling platforms and production sites could play a major role in the greenhouse gas emissions reductions necessary to fulfil the Paris climate agreement, and should be a key aim for the Cop26 UN climate talks, new research suggests.

Cutting global emissions of methane by 40% by 2030 is achievable, with most cuts possible at low cost or even at a profit for companies such as oil and gas producers. It would make up for much of the shortfall in emissions reductions plans from national governments, according to the Energy Transitions Commission thinktank.

Ahead of Cop26, senior UN and UK officials have privately conceded that the top aim of the conference – for all countries to formulate plans called nationally determined contributions (NDCs), that would add up to a global 45% cut in emissions by 2030 – will not be met.

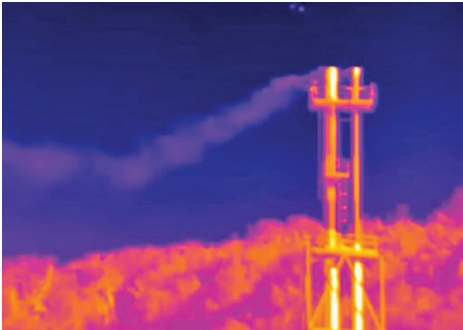
However, the UK as hosts of the summit, to be held in Glasgow in November, still hope for enough progress to show that the world can still limit global heating to 1.5C, the aspiration of the 2015 Paris climate agreement.

Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, about 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide in warming the planet. It is the biggest component of natural gas, used for fuel, and leaks can be caused by poorly constructed conventional drilling operations, shale gas wells, gas pipelines and other fossil fuel infrastructure. Methane is also flared from some oil production sites.

Staunching such leaks or capturing the methane instead can be done at a low cost, and can even be profitable for gas producers, especially now as the international gas price soars. Just a few key producers – Russia, the US, China and Canada – could make a massive impact.

Lord Adair Turner, chairman of the ETC, said: "It is clear that if you add up NDCs they are not big enough to keep us to 1.5C. There is a huge gap left. But there are some actions that you can imagine groups of countries taking that could close that gap."

The US and the EU recently announced a partnership aiming at reducing methane emissions by 30% by 2030, but Turner said more could be achieved and this would help to compensate for the relatively unambitious NDCs that many countries have.



"We have not focused enough on methane, but it can be a really important lever, and cutting it has an impact [on global heating] sooner rather than later, which matters if there are feedback loops in the climate system," he added.

Turner also pointed to other key actions that could be taken at Cop26 which he said would substantially help global efforts to tackle the climate crisis. For instance, helping developing countries to phase out their existing coal-fired power plants was one key way of reducing reliance on coal.

In India, for instance, new coal-fired power stations are now more expensive than renewable alternatives, yet the marginal cost of electricity generation from existing coal-fired power stations is still cheaper than wind or solar. That means companies have an incentive to keep old coal-fired power plants going, but if they could be paid to phase out the oldest, that would accelerate the country's move away from coal.

"Developing countries need financial support to do this," Turner said.

Steel should be another focus, according to Turner. Steel companies could move to "green" steel production, using hydrogen, far more easily than a few years ago, he said. A global agreement among steel producers at Cop26 could achieve that, and similar global agreements were possible among cement producers, the shipping industry and other high-carbon sectors.

Many countries, Turner added, were submitting NDCs that were too cautious or did not reflect how fast businesses were already cutting emissions and moving to green energy and clean technology. "NDCs have not caught up with what is possible and what is actually happening," he said.

Back to normal life: smart quarantine scheme starts

From page 1 ► The most important steps are taken to expand vaccination coverage in the country and today more than 71 million doses of vaccine have been imported and age restrictions have been lifted for injection, he further said.

Smart quarantine system

A smart quarantine system will be launched to allow those who have been vaccinated to reopen businesses, Vahidi explained.

The system will be piloted in Qazvin province in the next one or two weeks, and if it has successful results, it will enter the national stage and be implemented throughout the country, he added.

On the other hand, this system controls all the entrances and exits of public centers, from clubs to the entrances and exits of cities, he highlighted.

He went on to say that if a new mutation occurs in the virus that can infect a population in a different way, the system helps quarantine high-risk individuals.

Mass vaccination

The Ministry of Health is to start a home-to-home program with the aim of vaccinating the whole population against coronavirus, ISNA reported on Friday.

In July, delta variant mortality peaked and recorded



over 700 daily deaths, but the increase of vaccination pace reduced the toll.

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

Vaccination reduced the mortality rate among the elderly aging 60 or above by 30 percent, and the trend is declining.

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

COVID-19 UPDATES ON OCTOBER 2

New cases	10,135
New deaths	217
Total cases	5,611,700
Total deaths	120,880
New hospitalized patients	1,673
Patients in critical condition	5,802
Total recovered patients	5,075,973
Diagnostic tests conducted	32,087,135
Doses of vaccine injected	53,809,661

