



**Congratulations on birthday of the Prophet Muhammad (PBUH) and Imam Jafar Sadiq (AS)**

From Inside **T**

# What's the Main Obstacle to Resuming Vienna Talks?

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Report **T**

## 'Shameful milestone' in Yemen as 10,000 children killed from violence

UNICEF spokesperson James Elder has just returned from Yemen and has more grim news about children living in what the United Nations describes as the world's worst humanitarian crisis. Addressing a press briefing in Geneva, he says, "The Yemen conflict has just hit another shameful milestone: 10,000 children have been killed or maimed since Saudi Arabia's bombing campaign started in March 2015. That's the equivalent of four children every day."

Elder told reporters that the estimates provided by the international UN agency are most likely an undercount of the real toll of children's deaths and injuries go largely unrecorded.

"These are of course the cases the UN was able to verify. Many more child deaths and injuries go unrecorded, to all but those children's families".

"I returned yesterday from a mission that took me to both the north and south of Yemen. I met scores of children, many inspiring, all suffering. I met pediatricians, teachers, nurses – all shared personal stories that mirror those of their country: they are on the brink of total collapse.

He outlined the four main dangers that have taken the country to the brink of humanitarian collapse. ► Page 5

Op-ed **T**

## Global energy shortages as we head out of pandemic

By Salman Parviz

TEHRAN – Unprecedented global energy crisis has suffocated nations like Lebanon and brought about the prospect of a long, cold, and crazy winter for many European countries.

On the one hand, oil-rich nations like Iran and Venezuela have been sanctioned from exporting crude and developing their infrastructure; on the other, nations like Lebanon have been sanctioned from importing their fuel needs.

Iranian Oil Minister Javad Owji has recently said the country is ready to resolve the global energy crisis provided the oppressive sanctions are lifted. The minister made the remarks after a meeting of the OPEC-plus and added that Iran is able to swiftly increase its crude production to help alleviate global fuel shortages.

The global lockdowns drastically reduced the demand for fossil fuels. As we head out of this pandemic towards a more normal life, the demand has surged resulting in global fuel shortages. This development is threatening a green recovery from the economic downturn caused by the pandemic. ► Page 2

**Dear readers,**

The next issue of the Tehran Times will be published on Monday, October 25.

## Petchem output up 8% in H1 yr/yr

TEHRAN– Petrochemical production has risen eight percent in Iran during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to an official in the National Petrochemical Company (NPC).

Jalal Mir-Hashemi, the NPC's director for the production control, put the six-month petrochemical output at 32.8 million tons, and highlighted that the petrochemical plants operated with a good capacity during this period, Shana reported.

According to the official, considering the

country's current needs for the production of healthcare products like face masks, the petrochemical industry is continuing to increase output to supply feed in such areas.

With the measures taken and the sustainable supply of feed in the current year, the production of various products in petrochemical complexes has increased and while meeting the needs of domestic markets, the export programs have also been realized, Mir-Hashemi noted.

Emphasizing that Iran's petrochemical industry is one of the most important pillars of the country's development and the driving force of the economy, he said: "The main ap-

proach of the National Petrochemical Company is to complete the production chain, diversify the products, provide feedstock for domestic industries and increase the added value of the products in this industry."

Mir-Hashemi stated that according to the plans made, the growth and leap of production of Iran's petrochemical industry is on the agenda, adding: "All conditions and infrastructure have been provided to achieve a leap in production in the Iranian petrochemical industry in the current year; with the measures taken this year, the idle production capacities of some existing complexes will also be revived." ► Page 4

## Iran tourism still holds its own despite virus restrictions, official says

TEHRAN – Iran's tourism industry has made every effort to stand on its own two feet despite the considerable damage caused by the virus pandemic.

A country's prosperity depends on its economic and social development, and the tourism industry plays a key role in achieving this goal, the president of Iran's University of Science and Culture Seyyed Saied Hashemi has said.

He made the remarks during the two-day symposium of One Hundred Years of Iranian Tourism, which came to an end on Wednesday.

After the coronavirus crises, tourism can hopefully be a positive influence on people's lives, he added.

Many nations owe their social and economic progress to [their] tourism [industries], so it is hoped that this symposium and such events can provide a meaningful solution for the new [Iranian] government, he noted.

Due to the lack of adequate coordination and cooperation between scientific institutions on the one hand and policy-makers on the other hand, the country may have

faced many problems in the tourism industry during this century, and that is why it could not get enough benefit from the tourism despite having good potential, he mentioned.

Another speaker at the event, Mohammad Hossein Imani Khoshkhu, the head of the industrial park for science also said there is no connection between tourism sectors in the country, while all organizations and devices must help each other to develop tourism.

For instance, currently, medical tourism does not exist in the country, but there are international patients and the medical tourism activists have now become taxi drivers at airports instead of activists for related tourism, he added.

Back in July, ISNA reported that Iran's tourism industry has suffered a loss of some 320 trillion rials (\$7.6 billion at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

The pandemic has also ruined more than 44,000 jobs in the once budding travel sector of the country, the report added. ► Page 6

## Iran to meet Netherlands in 2022 FIVB World Championship opener

TEHRAN – Iran, which captured their fourth Asian title last month after stunning hosts Japan in straight sets in final showdown, will challenge the Netherlands in their first match of the 2022 FIVB Men's Volleyball World Championship in Krasnoyarsk, Russia.

The 2022 FIVB Men's World Championship between August 26 and September 11, 2022 featured 24 teams to chase their world title dreams. Two places were allocated to hosts Russia and current title-holders Poland. Ten spots were given to top two teams from each of the concluded 2021 Continental Championships that had yet qualified as hosts or title-holders, while the remaining places were allocated to the top 12 teams in the FIVB World Ranking that had not yet qualified through the first three criteria.

Four Asian countries are eligible for the next year's World Championship. As current world No.10 Iran and world No.11 Japan qualified through their top two finish at the 21st Asian Senior Men's Volleyball Championship in Chiba. ► Page 3

## U.S. sanctions hurting Iran's 'butterfly kids': UN experts

TEHRAN – Over-compliance with United States-imposed sanctions against Iran is harming the right to health, and people with rare skin disease are among those affected, many of them children, experts appointed by the UN Human Rights Council said on Tuesday.

These patients suffer from epidermolysis bullosa (EB), a severe and life-threatening skin condition, which causes extremely painful wounds. Many are children, who are often referred to as "butterfly kids" because of their fragile skin.

Across the country, 700 people have been diagnosed with EB, but considering that EB is estimated to occur in 1 newborn per 50,000 live births, it is suggested that in Iran 1,200 people are suffering EB.

## Iranian Air Force to stage nationwide drills on Thursday

TEHRAN — The Islamic Republic of Iran Air Force (IRIAF) is set to start a wide scale aerial exercise across the country on Thursday.

The 10th Air Force drills will be held for the first time in a decentralized form with collaboration of all Army air bases with a particular focus on the air bases of Babaei in Isfahan, Fakuri in Tabriz Vahdati in Dezful, Abdul Karimi in Bandar Abbas and Yasini in Bushehr.

Without the bandages, they face difficulties even in their daily routine, including walking, eating, or even breathing, and unfortunately, there is no alternative treatment for such pain.

However, a Swedish company that makes the bandages that reportedly are the most effective treatment for their condition, has decided to halt shipments to Iran due to fear of secondary sanctions as part of over-compliance.

The experts explained that many banks and businesses worldwide, including pharmaceutical and medical companies, over-comply to avoid the risk of any potential penalties. ► Page 7



## Iran hosting Islamic unity meeting on birth anniversary of Holy Prophet

TEHRAN — The 35th International Conference on Islamic Unity started on Tuesday. The conference, which runs until October 24, is being held on the birth anniversary of the Holy Prophet (PBUH). Coinciding with the beginning of Unity Week, the international unity conference is being held in-person and virtually with the participation of a group of Islamic thinkers and scholars from 52 countries.



## Israel's military provocations against Iran has reached alarming level: UN envoy



TEHRAN — The Iranian ambassador to the United Nations, Majid Takht Ravanchi, on Tuesday urged the UN Security Council to take action against the Israeli regime's covert operations against Tehran's nuclear program.

Takht Ravanchi reminded the international community about that the number of the Zionist regime's provocative acts against Iran's peaceful nuclear program, saying they have reached an "alarming level".

Below is the text of Iranian ambassador's remarks:

"I am writing to inform you of yet another explicit threat made by the Israeli regime against the Islamic Republic of Iran and its peaceful nuclear program.

During the past months, the number and intensity of such provocative and adventurist threats have consistently grown and reached an alarming level.

The latest of such threats has been made by the Chief of General Staff of the Israel Defense Forces, who has recently stated, "The operational

plans against Iran's nuclear program will continue to evolve and improve' and 'Operations to destroy Iranian capabilities will continue — in various arenas and at any time'.

Such systematic explicit and public threats by the Israeli regime against a founding member of the United Nations constitute flagrant violations of international law, particularly Article 2(4) of the United Nations Charter.

The fact that the Israeli regime has admitted that it will continue "to destroy Iranian capabilities" proves beyond any doubt that it has been responsible for the terrorist attacks against our peaceful nuclear program in the past.

Given the dark record of the destabilizing practices of the Israeli regime in the region as well as its covert operations against Iran's nuclear program, that regime must be confronted in order to stop all its continuous threats and disruptive conducts.

We warn against any miscalculation and possible military adventurism of the Israeli regime against Iran including its nuclear program. The Security Council must live up to its Charter-based responsibilities and hold that regime fully accountable for the consequences of its unlawful measures.

At the same time, the Islamic Republic of Iran reserves its inherent right to self-defense to decisively respond to any threat or wrongful act perpetrated by the Israeli regime."

## Iran's rights chief: Iraq must bring Gen. Soleimani's assassins to book



TEHRAN — Iran's Deputy Judiciary Chief for International Affairs and Secretary of the High Council for Human Rights has said Iraq must bring perpetrators of the assassination of Lt. Gen. Qassem Soleimani to book as soon as possible.

Kazem Gharibabadi made the remarks during a meeting with Iraqi Justice Minister Salar Abdul Sattar Muhammad in Tehran on Tuesday.

On January 3, 2020, the U.S. military conducted an air operation on the order of then-President Donald Trump to assassinate Gen. Soleimani. The cowardly terrorist act near Baghdad's International Airport also martyred Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the deputy commander of the Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), and his companions.

Also in a Twitter message, Gharibabadi said he had met with the Iraqi justice minister during which he had stressed the need to identify

and put on trial those who were involved in the assassination of the anti-terror legendary commander.

"In a meeting with the Iraqi Minister of Justice, I emphasized the need to accelerate the identification and trial of the perpetrators of the assassination of Martyr Soleimani and his associates, and to convene the first meeting of the Joint Investigation Committee as soon as possible," Gharibabadi tweeted.

Gharibabadi added: "We also discussed bilateral legal and judicial interactions and human rights affairs and the need to address the problems of citizens."

Gharibabadi served as Iran's representative and ambassador to international organizations in Vienna, Austria. He has recently been appointed as secretary of Iran's High Council of Human Rights.

## Iran's military chief urges development of defense ties with Russia

Chairman of the Chiefs of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, Major General Mohammad Baqeri urges development of the country's defense ties with the Russian Federation.

The official made the remarks during a visit to Russia on Tuesday in an exclusive interview with the Russia-24 state news channel.

"Overall, it should be stated that Iran and Russia's relations are deepening further and growing stronger in all areas," General Baqeri noted.

"In the military and defensive areas too, the relations are governed by very favorable conditions," he added.

Baqeri pointed to his talks earlier during the trip with his Russian counterpart Valery Vasilyevich Gerasimov.

As part of the talks, he said, the officials discussed the manner of expansion of the



bilateral military and defense relations, and continued cooperation between the two sides concerning the regional and international issues as well as the fight against terrorism.

Covering the issue of the talks, various Iranian media outlets noted that the negotiations spanned a number of issues in relation to regional matters, including the Russo-Iranian cooperation in the fight against terrorism in Syria.

# Afghans critically wounded in terror act sent to Iran for treatment

TEHRAN — Iran was due to receive a group of Afghan nationals who sustained injuries during last week's terror attack on a Shia mosque in the southern city of Kandahar.

The officials in Kandahar said as many as 30 Afghans, who were in critical condition following the Daesh-claimed attack on the Bibi Fatima mosque, were being transferred by plane to Iran for treatment.

"The process is underway in coordination with the Islamic Republic of Iran," the officials said.

At least 47 people were killed and more than 80 others wounded on Friday after an explosion went off inside the mosque in the southern Afghan city. Al Jazeera put the number of the dead at 68.

The blast came one week after another Shia mosque in Afghanistan's northern city of Kunduz was targeted in a suicide bombing during Friday prayers. It also left about 50 dead and more than 100 injured.



Both tragedies were claimed by a local affiliate of the Daesh Takfiri terrorist group, which has a long history of attacking Afghanistan's Shia minority.

The Iranian embassy condemned the attacks in a tweet, saying, "We hope Taliban leaders take decisive action against these wicked terrorist incidents."

Iran has also sent humanitarian aid to Kunduz and Kandahar.

The terrorist bombings came

after Taliban said they considered Daesh as a "headache" rather than a "threat". The Taliban said the Takfiri outfit lacks popular support in Afghanistan and would certainly very soon be "suppressed."

A new shipment of humanitarian aid weighing 25 tons has been delivered by Iran to the people of Kandahar.

"The ninth shipment of aid weighing 25 tons, including food, medicine, and health items,

arrived in Kandahar," the Iranian embassy in Kabul wrote on its Twitter page.

Following the conflict in Afghanistan, Iran has so far delivered several shipments of aid to the Afghan people, which mostly included food and medical items.

The UN said that at the start of the year more than 18 million people – about half of Afghanistan's population – require aid amid the country's second drought in four years.

The Taliban took power in Afghanistan in mid-August, as the U.S. was in the middle of a chaotic troop withdrawal from the country. The group announced the formation of a caretaker government on September 7.

The Taliban first ruled Afghanistan from 1996 to 2001, when the United States invaded the country and toppled the Taliban-run government on the pretext of fighting terrorism following the September 11 attacks in the U.S.

## Grossi says has no credible evidence Iran is developing nuclear weapon

TEHRAN — Rafael Grossi, director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) who has expressed hope that he would travel to Tehran in the next few days, has said he has no "credible information" that Iran is seeking to build nuclear weapons.

Grossi, who went to Washington to meet with U.S. officials, told Bloomberg news network about the current situation regarding the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) and his intention to visit Iran in the next few days.

The director general said that he hopes to "be back in Tehran within a few days."

Grossi told Bloomberg on Tuesday that there's a new government in Iran, a government coming from a group that expresses very strong views about the nuclear program cooperation with international organizations like the IAEA, "so we need to adjust to each other like in any relationship."

According to Bloomberg, Grossi's visit will have two main goals.

He wants to see whether the new Iranian government and its president, Ebrahim Raisi, will follow through on a September agreement to allow IAEA inspectors to service surveillance equipment, and to try to push the Iranians back to the talks with European nations and the U.S. on rejoining the 2015 nuclear deal.

Grossi said that despite the delays, he still believes Iran wants to get back into the deal, though he said that time is running out to do so as its nuclear program continues to advance.

The director general emphasized he doesn't have "any credible information" that Iran is seeking a nuclear weapon. Iran's leaders have always insisted they don't seek to build nuclear weapon.

A fatwa by Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, against proliferation and use of nuclear weapons dates back to the mid-1990s. The first public announcement was made in October 2003, followed by

an official statement at a meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna in August 2005.

Ayatollah Khamenei has reiterated time and again that he fundamentally rejects nuclear weapons.

Grossi said that nobody is saying, "We are not going back to the negotiating table."

"What every side is saying is what they expect, what they believe and as you know, in the case of Iran, there is a number of unmet expectations," the UN nuclear watchdog chief remarked, confirming Iran's position on the Vienna talks.

Iran's deputy foreign minister, Ali Baqeri Kani is expected to travel to Brussels in the coming days to negotiate the "unmet expectations" of Iran with Enrique Mora, the European Union's deputy secretary general for political affairs.

The IAEA is a guarantor of the original JCPOA, which involved the U.S., Iran, Germany, France, the UK, Russia and China.

## Global energy shortages as we head out of pandemic



nuclear plants and record gas prices are set to boost coal use.

In what many consider an overreaction to the Fukushima nuclear accident, Germany decided in 2011 to phase out all of its nuclear power by 2022. Nuclear power generated 29.5 percent of Germany's power in 2000. All of that has to be replaced by wind, solar, hydro and natural gas, and there is just not enough.

Soaring oil prices due to windless summer and British and German difficulties in getting access to Russian gas has made the situation bleaker. Those increases will soon hit Australia which imports 80 percent of its petrol, diesel and jet fuel.

In Europe, the early closure of

necessary, increasing gas prices by almost 500 percent in the past year and are trading near record. Today Brent is hovering around \$85 a barrel. Some analysts are forecasting for Brent to hit the \$100/b mark.

Regular gas in the U.S. is now fetches a seven-year high of \$3.32 a gallon nationally, up 5 cents in a week according to AAA. Gas averaged just \$2.17 a gallon a year ago, a time when fewer people were driving, flying and commuting.

Shortage of gas has prompted many power stations to switch to oil further increasing the demand.

The International Energy Agency (IEA) predicts that global

oil demand will climb by 5.5m b/d this year and by 3.3m b/d in 2022, when it is forecast to climb slightly above pre-Covid levels of 99.6m b/d.

U.S. President Joe Biden has suggested that if the Vienna talks fail to reinstate the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), then all other options are on the table. Israel has been vehemently opposed to the JCPOA from its inception in 2015 and has been threatening strikes on Iran.

A strike at Iran's nuclear facilities when we are facing the worst energy crisis since 1973 will be suicidal. What if Iran responds by blocking the Strait of Hormuz from where Qatar, the world's largest exporter of LNG and some 25 percent of the world's oil passes through.

The IEA predicts that global oil demand will climb by 5.5m b/d this year and by 3.3m b/d in 2022, when it is forecast to climb slightly above pre-Covid levels of 99.6m b/d.

The crisis suggests a longer-than-expected transition to renewable. It will cast a shadow over the COP26 UN climate change talks due to begin in Glasgow on October 31.

The bomb attack on a bus carrying troops in Damascus has killed at least 14 military personnel and wounded three others early on Wednesday.

Two explosive devices went off as the bus was near the Hafez al-Assad bridge, as a third device was defused by an army engineering unit in what officials said was a "terrorist" blast.

## Iran condemns bomb attack targeting Syrian servicemen

The Iranian Foreign Ministry strongly condemned a terrorist bomb attack that has killed at least 14 Syrian military personnel in Damascus.

In a statement on Wednesday, Iranian Foreign Ministry Spokesperson Saeed Khatibzadeh strongly condemned the "blind and cowardly terrorist" attack on the Syrian military personnel, Tasnim reported.

Expressing sympathy with the Syrian government, nation and families of the victims, the spokesman said such terrorist measures are doomed to failure.



# What's the main obstacle to resuming Vienna talks?

TEHRAN – As nuclear tensions soar between Iran and the West, grievances over the statements of the chief of the UN nuclear watchdog accumulates in Tehran.

The recent remarks by the director-general of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), Rafael Grossi, seem to be weighing heavily on the possibility to resume the stalled Vienna nuclear talks.

During a visit to Washington, where he met with U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Grossi grumbled about the diminished ability of the IAEA to monitor Iran's nuclear program. He warned that "stop-gap" measures to monitor Iran's nuclear activities are no longer "intact" and that he urgently needed to meet Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian to discuss proposals to reinvigorate the fragile surveillance program.

"I haven't been able to talk to [Iran's new] foreign minister," Grossi told the Financial Times during a visit to Washington. "I need to have this contact at the political level. This is indispensable. Without it, we cannot understand each other."

The IAEA chief also warned about the so-called break-out time of Iran "becoming shorter and shorter" by the day, a position that is likely to provide the West with political ammunition to put forth a resolution against Iran in the next quarterly



meeting of the IAEA board of governors slated for November.

The last few weeks have seen simmering tensions between Iran and the West over when to resume the Vienna talks over reviving a 2015 nuclear deal formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA). Iran has said it will return to Vienna "soon" while the United States and its European allies keep underlining that Iran should return to Vienna "as soon as possible."

Enrique Mora, the European Union's deputy secretary general for political affairs, recently paid a visit to Tehran in order to gauge the Iranian seriousness in terms of returning to Vienna and understand when Iran would return to the Austrian capital.

Earlier, Grossi himself traveled to Iran and even succeeded in reaching an agreement with Iran on the continuation of the IAEA monitoring activities in Iran. Despite striking agreement with Grossi, Iran let it be known that it wasn't pleased with the way he is handling the relations between Iran and the IAEA.

With the nuclear tensions rising again, Grossi is seeking to visit Tehran on the grounds that his agency's surveillance over Iran's nuclear activities is not sufficient. But Iran is warily dealing with Grossi due to his track record of ups and downs with Tehran. Iranian news website Nour News reported on Wednesday that Iran has refrained from setting a date for Grossi's visit due to the "continuation" of his "politically motivat-

ed behaviors and his non-compliance with bilateral agreements."

Reviewing Grossi's "destructive role," the news website described the IAEA chief as "one of the serious obstacles to resuming" the Vienna nuclear talks.

"It is safe to say that Grossi's statements and actions since the beginning of his tenure in the IAEA have been very close to the destructive actions of the Zionist regime [Israel] in Iran's nuclear program. He owes his management of the Agency to the strong support of the Trump administration, and after the establishment of the Biden administration in the White House, he is still trying to continue the path of the past with more stunts and consolidate his position," Nour News said.

It added, "The main reason for Grossi's anti-Iran behavior and stance is the influence of the Israeli lobby in the IAEA and his management by Tel Aviv, which has unfortunately severely damaged the IAEA's legal status."

Any further statements by Grossi against Iran in the coming days and weeks would most likely exacerbate this mistrust. Therefore, the IAEA chief may need to alter and soften his rhetoric against Iran and most importantly refrain from paving the way for the West to table a resolution against Iran in the next meeting of the IAEA board of directors.

## Iranian Air Force to stage nationwide drills on Thursday

Frome Page 1 ► "In this exercise, a wide range of manned and unmanned aircraft, including Sukhoi 24 and F-4, F-5, F-7, RF-4, MiG-29, F-14, Saeghe, Boeing-707 and 747- aerial refueling airplanes, transport and support aircraft, P-3F naval patrol aircraft with a variety of drones including Karrar, Kian, Ababil, Arash and Kaman 12 equipped with rockets, guided missiles, long-range smart bombs and radar disruptors are involved," the commander explained.

Vahedi went on to say that the exercise is aimed at reflecting part of the combat capability of the Air Force and making the necessary preparations in guiding and controlling intercepting fighters, upgrading combat readiness, and obtaining a suit-

able model for battle in real conditions by using a variety of manned and unmanned aircraft.

The commander highlighted that demonstration of air power, reflection of part of the capabilities and combat capability of the Air Force, training of long-range operations of fighters outside the enemy's defensive ring, accuracy of guided bombs and rockets in air-to-ground operations and air-to-air missiles and intelligence monitoring of the area of operation are among the goals of the exercise.

"In this drill, all kinds of indigenous and upgraded systems and weapons, including heavy and semi-heavy smart bombs, all kinds of laser, television, thermal, radar missiles, rockets and bombs produced by the specialists of the Ministry of De-

fense and the Self-Sufficiency Jihad Organization of the Army Air Force will be used," the commander added.

The brigadier general also pointed to the involvement young personnel and Armed Forces specialists in the exercise, saying: "Young, brave and experienced pilots of the Army Air Force, using the experiences of veterans and committed and specialized technical staff will showcase their capabilities and tactics in the real combat situations."

The exercise will be led and commanded by the Air Force Command Headquarters in Tehran, he said.

Advanced, multi-layered and secure communication systems will also be used, the commander concluded.

## Iran FM meets ex-Iraqi PM, holds talks with Omani counterpart

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian met on Tuesday with former Iraqi Prime Minister Adel Abdul Mahdi and held phone talks with Omani Foreign Minister Badr bin Hamad Albusaidi.

In his meeting with Abdul Mahdi, the top Iranian diplomat described Iran and Iraq as two lasting friends and two brotherly nations.

Abdollahian said the potential for political, economic, cultural and people-to-people relations can be put into practice, the Iranian foreign ministry said.

The Iranian foreign minister praised the actions of Abdul Mahdi and his government when he was prime minister to expand relations between the two countries. Abdollahian stressed Iran's determination to develop relations with the Iraqi government.

Abdollahian added that Iran has always welcomed peace and stability in Iraq and its constructive role in regional relations. He said the Islamic Republic respects the will of the Iraqi people in political decisions.

In the meeting, Abdul Mahdi also pointed to the numerous affinities between Iran and Iraq, describing them as a great asset for intimacy between the two governments and nations.

Iran has recently congratulated Iraq on successfully holding a parliamentary election, which resulted in fierce disputes between Shia politicians. Some Shia political parties accused the government of rigging the vote, underlining the need to annul the results.

The Iranian foreign minister also held telephone conversation with his Omani counterpart. Abdollahian has

stressed the importance of neighboring countries in the foreign policy of the new Iranian government in the telephone conversation.

Abdollahian emphasized the need for continued consultations with Oman on bilateral, regional and international issues and on ways to expand ties in various political and economic fields. The Iranian foreign minister also pointed to the significance of increasing cooperation in all sectors, saying the Islamic Republic is ready to implement the previous deals as well as projects and plans agreed before by the two countries.

The two sides stressed the need to continue talks between Tehran and Muscat on various regional and international issues. They expressed hope that in this period, Iran and Oman will see an increase in cooperation in various fields.

Meanwhile, Abdollahian expressed deep concern over the escalation of violence in Afghanistan, especially in relation to terrorist attacks by the Daesh terror group. The top Omani diplomat renewed his invitation for his Iranian foreign minister to visit Muscat.

Earlier, Abdollahian also held a telephone conversation with Qatari Foreign Minister and Deputy Prime Minister Mohammad bin Abdul Rahman Al Thani.

The two top diplomats discussed ways to increase bilateral political and economic ties and also developing interactions between the private sectors of the two countries. Abdollahian and Al Thani also held negotiations over issues and latest developments in the Persian Gulf and cooperation in order to maintain peace, stability and security in the Persian Gulf.

## Iran diplomat meets UN, Italian envoys for Syria

TERHAN – Ali Asghar Khaji, a senior advisor to Iran's foreign minister, met on Tuesday with UN and Italian special envoys for Syria Geir Pedersen and Italian Special Envoy for Syria Stephen Ravanan in Geneva.

Khaji met with Pedersen for talks over the 6th session of the Syrian Constitutional Committee which is underway in Geneva. He also met with Ravanan on the sidelines of the constitutional committee meeting.

In his meeting with Khaji, Petersen described this round of talks as positive and underlined that a constructive dialogue is developing between the opposition and the Syrian government. He hoped that these nego-

tiations will result in a breakthrough, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

Khaji also welcomed the positive results from the new session of the constitutional committee and reaffirmed Iran's support for the UN envoy's efforts. The senior advisor underscored that the Syrian constitution must be drawn up without foreign interference and through a national dialogue. He said Iran supports this process in line with the Astana peace talks.

Khaji further emphasized the need for the removal of oppressive sanctions on the Syrian people. He called on the UN to make an effort to collect

humanitarian aid for Syria and grant loans for its reconstruction.

The Syrian Constitutional Committee Small Body convened for the sixth session on Monday.

Khaji and Ravanan also discussed the latest developments in Syria. In this meeting, Ravanan stressed the importance of Iran's regional role, especially in Syria.

He added that the Italian government is involved in the fight against terrorism, pursuing a political solution to the Syrian crisis and providing humanitarian assistance to the Syrian people through the European Union and the United Nations.

The Russian admiral stated that the relations between Moscow and Tehran were becoming more and more substantial and better in different dimensions.

Luminov also said that this year the Russian Armed Forces held several military programs and competitions, and that Iran was a very good host for several of these competi-

tions.

The Russian military official added: "Russia will hold several competitions next year, and we hope that Iran will have even more prominent presence in these military competitions than in previous rounds."

Prior to the meeting, General Bagheri visited the Russian Navy.

# IRAN IN FOCUS

OCTOBER 21, 2021

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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## SPORTS

## Iran to meet Netherlands in 2022 FIVB World Championship opener

Frome Page 1 ► Japan from Sept. 12 to 19, 2021, World No.20 Qatar and world No.22 China made the cut to the world meet via their respective 10th and 12th world-ranked non-qualified teams.

According to the recent drawing of lots ceremony, hosts Russia, Puerto Rico, Serbia and Tunisia are in Pool A, while Pool B features Brazil, Cuba, Japan and Qatar. Bulgaria, Mexico, Poland and the U.S. are in Pool C, with Pool D comprising Cameroon, France, Germany and Slovenia. Pool E consists of Canada, China, Italy and Turkey, while Argentina, Egypt, Iran and Netherlands are in Pool F.

According to the competition system, the qualified 24 teams were split into six pools of four teams apiece, playing pool round-robin preliminaries. Only top two teams from each pool and the four best third-ranked teams will advance to Phase 2. Eight teams ranked from 17th to 24th in the final standing as per the teams ranking system will leave the competition.

In Phase 2, 16 teams will be divided to 4 Pools of 4 teams each and play round robin. Only top team from each pool and two best second-ranked teams among four pools will advance to Phase 3, while 10 teams ranked from 7th to 16th in the final standing as per the teams ranking system will leave the competition.

The remaining six teams will be split to 2 Pools of three teams each to play round robin and only top two teams will advance to semifinals, while 2 teams ranked from 5th to 6th in the final standing as per the teams ranking system will leave the competition, asianvolleyball.net reported.

Regarding the match schedule, hosts and Tokyo 2020 silver medalist Russia, playing under the Volleyball Federation of Russia banner, will play the curtain-raising match against Tunisia on Aug. 26, 2022 in Saint Petersburg.

The following day sees Japan take on Cuba, the U.S. meet Mexico, Tokyo 2020 bronze medalists Argentina fight with Egypt, Slovenia play Germany and Canada pitted against Turkey.

Qatar challenge 2021 VNL winners Brazil and Bulgaria take on defending and consecutive two-time world champions Poland.

On the same day, Asian champions Iran are due to play their first match against Netherlands, Tokyo 2020 gold medalists France take on Cameroon, China challenge Italy and Serbia face Puerto Rico.

Since the FIVB Men's World Championship was first held in 1949 in Czechoslovakia (In January 1993, Czechoslovakia split into two sovereign states of the Czech Republic and Slovakia), Japan became the only Asian team to win medals in the world meet, picking up bronze in 1970 and 1974 editions in Bulgaria and Mexico respectively.

Japan came near to winning their third bronze in 1982, only to go down to hosts Argentina in the third-place playoff. Korea also finished fourth place in 1978 after losing to Cuba in the third-place playoff in Italy.

At the previous edition in Italy and Bulgaria in 2018, Iran emerged as the Asian team with the best performance in this topflight competition after returning with 13th overall. Australia finished 14th, Japan 17th and China 22nd.

## Esetghlal edge Havadar in IPL

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team saw off newly-promoted Havadar in Matchday 1 of the Iran Professional League (IPL) on Wednesday.

Esteghlal captain Vouria Ghafouri missed a penalty in the 55th minute but left-footed Jafar Salmani scored from outside the area on the hour mark.

Zob Ahan earned a late 1-0 win over Sanat Naft in Abadan. Aref Rostami scored the winner.

Earlier in the day, Gol Gohar defeated Tractor 4-1 in Sirjan. Amin Pourali, Morteza Tabrizi and Saeid Sadeghi (two goals) were on target for the hosts.

With four minutes left, Mohammad Abbaszadeh pulled a goal back from the penalty spot.

On Friday, Persepolis will play the last match of the Matchday 1 in Ahvaz against Foolad.

Persepolis are defending champions and look to win the title for the sixth in a row.



## Betim chosen to host 2021 FIVB Volleyball Club World Championship

TEHRAN – Brazilian city Betim was chosen as host of the 2021 FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship.

This is for the fifth time Betim has been chosen to host the campaign.

Iran's Foolad Sirjan, who have recently won the 2021 Asian Men's Club Volleyball Championship, will represent Asia in the competition.

Italian team Trentino are the most decorated team in the competition with five titles.

The FIVB Volleyball Men's Club World Championship is an international men's club volleyball competition organized by the Fédération Internationale de Volleyball (FIVB), the sport's global governing body.

The competition was first contested in 1989 in Italy. It was not held between 1993 and 2008, but since 2009, the competition has been held every year, and has been hosted by Qatar and Brazil.

## Taremi unhappy with his performance against Milan

TEHRAN – Iranian forward of Porto Mehdi Taremi is not satisfied with his performance against Milan.

Porto edged past the Italian side 1-0 in Group B of the 2021 UEFA Champions League Tuesday night.

Luis Diaz scored the lone goal in the 65th minute, off a Taremi assist, and Milan has loads of work to do over the final three group matches.

"I had a few chances to score, but I wasn't happy. When you come from the national team, the first match is very difficult, but the most important thing is that we won this match," Taremi said.

"Everything was perfect, there was a great atmosphere with our fans and the team played very well," he added.

Porto sit third in Group B with four points behind Atletico Madrid with the same points.

Liverpool lead the group with nine points.

## Russian military official says Iranian fleet adorned Russian naval parade

TEHRAN — A senior Russian military official has said the participation of Iranian warships in the Russian Navy parade in the current year "adorned" the naval parade.

Admiral Luminov made the remarks in a meeting with Major General Mohammad Bagheri, Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces of Iran on Wednesday, IRNA reported.

The meeting took place during the fourth day of Bagheri's visit to Moscow.

Referring to the cooperation between the two countries' navies, the Luminov said that Iran's good cooperation and participation in the Russian naval parade showed that the two countries were enjoying good cooperation.



## Petchem output up 8% in H1 yr/yr



From page 1 ► The petrochemical industry plays a crucial role in Iran's non-oil economy, as the petrochemical export is the second-largest source of revenue for the country after crude oil. Petrochemical exports already constitute nearly 33 percent of the country's non-oil exports.

According to the former Iranian Oil Minister Bijan Namdar Zanganeh, the

country is currently producing nearly 70 million tons of petrochemical products annually and by the end of the industry's second development leap, the country's petrochemical production capacity is projected to reach 100 million tons per year.

The minister has pointed to the diversification of products, greater use of liquid feedstock, and land preparation, as some of the important factors to be taken into account for the future development of the petrochemical industry, and said: "In this industry, great work has been done in creating knowledge, indigenizing technologies, and cooperation with universities."

The production capacity of Iran's petrochemical industry is expected to be increased from 100 million tons to 133 million tons at the end of the third leap.

# Bolivia welcomes Iran's investment in various sectors



Bolivian Ambassador to Tehran Romina Guadalupe (L) meets with ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie.

TEHRAN – Bolivian Ambassador to Tehran Romina Guadalupe, in a meeting with the Head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Gholam-Hossein Shafeie on Wednesday, invited the Iranian private sector to invest in her country's major industries.

Guadalupe welcomed the Iranian private sector's investment in medicine and health, mining, gas, and petrochemical projects, the portal of ICCIMA reported.

During the meeting, Shafeie also pointed to Bolivia's recent economic reforms and said: "The [Bolivian] government has pursued reforms in the oil and agricultural industries that have had significant results."

"Given that Bolivia has abundant gas resources, it has always been of interest to its neighbors in the Latin American region," he added.

He referred to the agreement between Iran, Venezuela, and Bolivia in the field of the oil and gas industry, and noted that this agreement has not been properly implemented.

Shafeie further mentioned Bolivia's good potentials in the mining sector and noted the country could benefit from Iran's capabilities in this area.

According to the official, Iranian and Bolivian agricultural products are also complementary, so joint projects can be defined in this field as well.

The ICCIMA head emphasized

the investment of Iranian companies in Bolivia, especially in the field of health, and said: "Years ago, the two countries started good cooperation and even Iranian investors were able to establish a clinic in this country; Unfortunately, these collaborations gradually diminished."

He praised the political relations between the two countries and continued: "Considering that the two countries have good political relations, we should try to improve the level of economic and trade relations between them accordingly."

Elsewhere in the meeting, Guadalupe pointed to the agreements reached between the two coun-

tries in the past and specified: "The most important area of cooperation between Iran and Bolivia is related to a mineral called lithium, which has huge reserves in Bolivia."

She also referred to the Bolivian government's strategy to become an energy hub in the region, adding that her government is defining major projects in gas, mining, and petrochemicals in which Iranian investors can participate.

"Small and medium-sized industries may cover a large part of the country's economy; But the plan is to create and strengthen large industries," she stressed.

## Tehran hosting intl. HVAC&R exhibition

TEHRAN – Iran's 20th International Exhibition of Heating, Cooling, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigerating Systems (IHE 2021) kicked off at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds on Tuesday, IRNA reported.

The opening ceremony of the four-day exhibition was attended by industry officials including Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeghi Niaraki.

More than 275 domestic and foreign companies from various countries including China, Turkey, Japan, Italy, Thailand, Spain, South Korea, Denmark, and Russia are showcasing their latest products, achievements, and services in the current year's exhibition.

The event covers a variety of areas such as heating equipment and systems including boilers, radiators, burners and greenhouses, cooling and air conditioning equipment and systems including chillers, fan coils, splits, air conditioners, refrigeration and related equipment, installation equipment, insulation, converters, pipes and fittings, industrial and sanitary installation valves, pumps and water treatment equipment, electrical and electronic equipment, smart systems, building automation and other equipment.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the exhibition, Niaraki mentioned the progress in the country's industrial sector es-



By M. Namdar Zanganeh

pecially in heating, cooling, and conditioning fields, and said that despite the limitations created by the U.S. sanctions, good things have happened in this industry and we are witnessing an increase in domestic production and development of products such as aluminum radiators, steel radiators, chillers, etc.

Referring to the industrial potentials and capacities in the

mentioned fields, he noted that currently 633 industrial units are active in these areas and said: "Supporting the production of knowledge-based products, including the torches used in power plants, is one of the measures that have been taken in this field."

Over the past nineteen years, the IHE exhibition, as the largest HVAC&R (Heating Ventilation Air Conditioning and Refrigeration) event in West Asia, has always been welcomed by industry owners and exhibitors from all around the world.

The event is being held in full compliance with all health protocols and is only open to special groups like business owners, scholars, and experts.

## Pistachio export rises 8,000 tons in 1st half of year

TEHRAN- Iran has exported 63,000 tons of pistachio in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), which was 8,000 tons more than the figure for the same period of time in the past year, an official with the Agriculture Ministry announced.

Darab Hasani, the director-general of the ministry's office of cold and dry regions fruits, put the worth of exported pistachios at \$426.127 million.

The official stated that 203,637 tons of pistachios worth \$1.371 billion was exported in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), and said that the export is estimated to be about 200,000 tons this year.

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

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

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

Almost 20 percent of Iran's pistachio is



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

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

In August 2020, Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) held a pistachio export desk meeting to investigate the challenges and barriers in the way of the country's pistachio exports.

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

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

Speaking at the 42nd Session of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) Conference which was held virtually, Khavazi said: "The consequences of the COVID-19 crisis have challenged the functioning of the food value chain and the flow of agricultural products into the market and the pandemic has affected all areas from production to processing, packaging, transportation, marketing, and also consumption."

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

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

the stock market, saying that such measures have ensured the growth of the market in the future.

He pointed to the upward trend of the market and noted: "Despite the fact that the market has always experienced some decline in the last two months of summer, this summer the positive news over the nuclear deals and the prospects of lifting the sanctions pushed the market up."

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

## Over 178,000 tons of copper anode produced in 6 months



TEHRAN- Iran produced 178,784 tons of copper anode in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), IRNA reported.

As reported, the figure shows no change as compared to the copper anode output in the first six months of the previous year.

Although, the monthly copper anode production indicates a four-percent year-on-year growth to stand at 31,426 tons in the sixth month of the present year.

The periodical reports and statistics indicate that Iran's metals sector is progressing both in terms of production and export despite the limitations imposed by the U.S. sanctions.

The country's copper industry is moving forward noticeably, as some outstanding projects are implemented.

Iran has posted outstanding figures in terms of copper cathode production and export.

Copper cathode is the primary raw material input for the production of copper rod for the wire and cable industry.

In early April, the managing director of National Iranian Copper Industries Company (NICIC) announced the discovery of one billion tons of new copper reserves in the country.

NICIC carried out 101,000 meters of deep drilling to identify new copper reserves across the country in the previous Iranian calendar

the same period in the previous year.

According to CBI, the country's banking system offered 18,989 quadrillion rials (about \$452.1 billion) facilities to domestic economic sectors in the previous Iranian calendar year of 1399 (ended on March 20), 94.8-percent more than the figure for its preceding year.

CBI has defined supporting production as one of its major plans over the past two years.

Former CBI Governor Abdolnaser Hemmati had repeatedly stressed that supporting production units to flourish production is the priority of the country's banking system.

In early May 2019, Hemmati had outlined CBI plans for neutralizing or relieving the impact of U.S. sanctions on the country's economy and mentioned providing liquidity and working capital to maintain and boost domestic production as one of those plans.

CBI's plans take two major approaches, one of which is to secure finance for production activities and also to provide the working capital needed for such activities.

year (ended on March 20), which resulted in the discovery of one billion tons of new reserves, Ardeshtir Sa'd-Mohammadi said in a press conference.

Sa'd-Mohammadi put the value of the discovered reserves at 350 trillion rials (about \$8.3 billion).

According to the official, NICIC had also discovered 523 million tons of copper reserves across the country during the Iranian calendar year 1398 (March 2019- March 2020).

Considering the new discoveries, NICIC's total copper reserves across the country have currently surpassed eight billion tons.

The official put the country's total copper reserves at 40 billion tons, saying that Iran currently has the world's seventh-largest copper reserves, and hopefully the country will climb to sixth place in the current Iranian calendar year.

Sa'd-Mohammadi further mentioned the new record achieved in the country's copper cathode production and noted that over 280,000 tons of the mentioned product were produced in the country during the previous year which was 12 percent more than the preceding year.

Pointing to the NICIC's new projects for the current year, the official noted that three major copper-related projects will go operational in the current year which is going to add more than 400,000 tons to the country's copper concentrate output, boosting the company's annual incomes by \$800 million.

According to Sa'd-Mohammadi, NICIC has defined more than €2.4 billion plus 300 trillion rials (about \$7.1 billion) worth of projects to be implemented over the next four years, which will increase the company's total copper concentrate capacity to 2.3 million tons.

He further noted that the country's copper exports increased in the previous year despite the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and the U.S. sanctions.

## TEDPIX drops 13,000 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 13,125 points to 1.436 million on Wednesday.

As reported, over 5,404 billion securities worth 41.262 trillion rials (about \$982.4 million) were traded at the TSE on Wednesday.

The first market's index lost 13,822 points, and the second market's index dropped 13,195 points.

TEDPIX fell 6.5 percent in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

The index lost 91,000 points to close at 1.397 million.

During the past week, the indices of Social Security Investment Company, Bandar Abbas Refinery, Isfahan Refining Company, Sepid Makian Company, and Barekat Pharmaceutical Group were the most widely followed ones.

Back in July, Market Analyst Mostafa Safari had said that trades in the Iranian stock market will be much better and more reasonable in the second half of the current year, compared to the first half of the year.

Safari had mentioned the support programs carried out by the government as a positive factor that has impacted the trades in





# ‘Shameful milestone’ in Yemen as 10,000 children killed from violence

From page 1 ▶ “Yemen’s humanitarian crisis – the world’s worst – represents a tragic convergence of four threats: (1) A violent and protracted conflict, (2) economic devastation, (3) shattered services for every support system – that is, health, nutrition, water and sanitation, protection and education, (4) and a critically under-funded UN response.

The war on Yemen began in March 2015 when Saudi Arabia began a bombing campaign to reinstate a former regime that obeyed Saudi orders, in essence maintaining Yemen’s status as a parallel state to the Saudis.

This was before a popular revolution took place in the country that prompted Saudi airstrikes. The United States provided the Kingdom with hundreds of billions of dollars worth of weapons in addition to intelligence and logistic support for Saudi warplanes. The United Kingdom is widely believed to be the second largest arms supplier to Riyadh. Other western countries, including France and Canada, have also made a vast profit from the war.

Rights groups have accused these countries of being complicit in Saudi war crimes in Yemen. One investigation found that a bomb dropped from a Saudi warplane in August 2018 that hit a school bus and killed more than 40 children was made in the United States. But that was just one bomb; Yemeni officials say most Saudi airstrikes have hit residential areas, and all Saudi bombs and missiles are purchased overseas.

The UN Children’s agency chief also provided reporters with these bleak figures concerning the children of Yemen, from malnutrition to education to sanitation.

“Let me share some more

numbers:

4 out of every 5 children need humanitarian assistance. That’s more than 11 million children.

400,000 children suffer from severe acute malnutrition.

More than two million children are out of school. Another four million are at risk of dropping out. Two-thirds of teachers, more than 170,000, have not received a regular salary for more than four years.

1.7 million children are now internally displaced because of the violence. As violence intensifies, particularly around Marib, more families are fleeing their homes.

A staggering 15 million people (more than half of whom are children – 8.5 million) do not have access to safe water, sanitation, or hygiene.

“At the current funding levels, and without an end to fighting, UNICEF cannot reach all these children.

“There is no other way to say this without more international support, more children, those who bear no responsibility for this crisis will die.”

According to Elder, the UN children’s agency influences the ground, albeit on a limited scale.

“And yet UNICEF is having an impact:

We are supporting the treatment of severe acute malnutrition in 4,000 primary health care facilities and 130 therapeutic feeding centers.

UNICEF is providing emergency cash transfers to 1.5 million households every quarter, benefitting around 9 million people.

We are providing safe drinking water to more than 5 million people.

We are responding to the COVID-19 pandemic with the delivery of COVID vaccines through the COVAX initiative.

We are providing psychosocial support, mine risk education, and direct assistance for the most vulnerable children, including those who have survived war injuries.

Through UNICEF’s training and deployment of thousands of community health workers, more than two million people in remote rural areas have access to healthcare services.

“And this year alone we helped 620,000 children to access formal and non-formal education, and provided vaccines – including a polio campaign that reached more than five million children”.

Despite these and other efforts, the severity of the humanitarian situation in Yemen cannot be overstated. The economy is in a critical condition. GDP had dropped by 40 per cent since 2015 when the violence escalated. Vast numbers of people have lost their jobs, and family incomes have plummeted. About one-quarter of people; including many medical workers, teachers, engineers, and sanitation workers – rely on civil servant salaries that are paid erratically, if at all.

And while displacement and the destruction of schools have meant classrooms can have as many as 200 children in them, teachers turn up. Yes, unpaid teachers turn up and teach.

Elders says, “meeting them left me with no doubt as to the selfless commitment of everyday Yemenis, such as the pediatrician who cares for severely malnourished babies. The day I met her, she was treating a child whose life was hanging in the balance just a week earlier. With UNICEF supplies, this pediatrician saved the little girl’s life. The pediatrician had studied for a decade, including a Masters, and had been practicing medicine for eight years. She had not been paid once in 2021. Yet she continues to serve her community.”

In addition to the violence, Elder said many Yemenis are starving not because of a lack of food but from a lack of money to buy it.

“But such people are out of options, which means they are forced to sell everything from jewelry to cooking pots, just to feed their own children.

The bottom line: children in Yemen are not starving because of a lack of food; they are starving because their families cannot afford food.”

“UNICEF urgently needs more than US\$235 million to continue its life-saving work in Yemen till mid-2022. Otherwise, the agency will be forced to scale down or stop its vital assistance for vulnerable children.

Funding is critical. We can draw a clear line between donor support and lives saved.”

Elder went on to call on all sides in the conflict to a ceasefire.

And perhaps the most emotional remark Elders made at the press briefing that captured the level of the suffering was the following:

“Yemen is the most difficult place in the world to be a child. And, unbelievably, it is getting worse.”

He further stated that “even with increased support, the war must come to an end. Today UNICEF stated that Yemen had surpassed 10,000 children killed or maimed in the conflict. Must we really continue to add children to this miserable list month after month, year after year? He asked.

Last month the United Nations warned that 16 million Yemenis, more than half of the population, are “marching towards starvation”, and unless the international community steps up support, food assistance could soon start to run out.

Oxfam has warned a staggering 99 percent of Yemenis had not been vaccinated against Covid-19, with the country battling a third deadly wave of infections.

The charity group says, “we need the vaccines that have been promised, but it is also shameful that having bought up all the vaccines for themselves, rich countries like the UK and Germany are blocking the solutions.”

## UN envoy slams Israel’s land grab policies in West Bank, siege on Gaza



Photograph of a Palestinian child sitting on a fence in the neighborhood of Sheikh Jarrah.

The United Nations Middle East envoy has censured Israel’s unlawful demolitions and settlement expansion in the occupied Palestinian territories as well as the crippling siege the regime has imposed on Gaza, complaining of a lack of progress in efforts to achieve a so-called two-state solution to the decades-long Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

UN Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process Tor Wennesland made the remarks on Tuesday in an address to the Security Council quarterly open debate on the Mideast situation.

He welcomed engagement between senior Israeli and Palestinian officials, adding, however, that “we should have no illusions about the current state of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.”

“The situation in the occupied Palestinian territory continues to deteriorate and no progress has been seen towards realizing a two-state solution. This political stagnation is fueling tensions, instability and a deepening sense of hopelessness,” Wennesland said.

“The security situation in Gaza remains fragile and the security dynamics in the occupied West Bank, including East Jerusalem (al-Quds), are deteriorating, including growing tensions in and around the Holy Sites.”

The UN envoy also complained that the Tel Aviv regime’s settlement construction activities in Area A of the West Bank, as well as demolitions of Palestinian homes, and the blockade on Gaza fuel violence in the occupied lands.

“Israel’s settlement activity, evictions, demolitions and seizures of Palestinian property, military operations, particularly in Area A, and movement and access restrictions, including the severe closures on Gaza, further feed the cycle of violence. A large number of Palestinians, including children, continue to be killed and injured by Israeli security forces. Settler-related attacks against Palestinians and their property – including in the presence of Israeli security forces – also continue,” he said.

Additionally, Wennesland voiced concerns about the Israeli settlement construction plan in

the West Bank’s E1 area, saying, “If constructed, these units would sever the connection between the northern and southern West Bank, significantly undermining the chances for establishing a viable and contiguous Palestinian State as part of a negotiated two-state solution.”

He said, “All settlements are illegal under international law and remain a substantial obstacle to peace.”

“We can no longer lurch from crisis to crisis,” he said, underlining the need to avoid approaching the current situation piecemeal — incident by incident, on a short-term day-to-day basis as stand-alone issues.

The UN envoy also called for “a broader package of parallel steps” by the Israeli regime, the Palestine Authority and the international community to address “key political, security and economic challenges that are preventing progress.”

**Palestine to UNSC: Normalizing occupation won’t lead to peace**

Meanwhile, Hanan Ashrawi, a Palestinian political and civil society leader, told the debate that the absence of accountability for Israel and of protection for the Palestinian people has enabled Israel to tread over the rights of an entire nation, allowing the perpetuation of a permanent settler colonial occupation.

“Peace is not achieved by normalizing the occupation, side-lining the Palestinian question or rewarding Israel by repositioning it as a regional superpower. Generation after generation the Palestinians have remained committed to the justice of their cause and their inviolable right to live in freedom and dignity as equal among nations,” she said.

“It is time to reclaim the narrative of justice and invoke and activate the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirm international law. Time has come for courageous and determined action not just to undo the injustice of the past but to chart a future of hope and redemption,” Ashrawi added.

(Source: Press TV)

## Cold War between China and U.S. is a must: Indian professor

From page 1 ▶ China’s post-Cold War leaders have compulsively studied the Soviet example, sought to avoid repeating it.

“Compared to the USSR, China will be a much more powerful and resilient challenger to the U.S. The world has already started to polarize itself, but at present, the U.S. still has the advantage of keeping more powerful allies,” Swain argues.

Following is the text of the interview:

**Huntington, in Clash of Civilizations, says, “The West’s universalist pretensions increasingly bring it into conflict with other civilizations, most seriously with Islam and China.” Do you think the U.S. disputes with Iran and its differences with China as well as sanctions embody such an idea?**  
I don’t think Huntington’s Clash

of Civilization argument can explain the U.S. differences with Iran or China. Huntington argued that the conflict’s primary nature in the 21st century would be not over ideology or economy but cultural differences. His idea of the clash of civilization was mainly a clash between the West and Islam. However, if that has been the case, how can someone explain the comradery between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia or the U.S. and Vietnam? The U.S. or the West is least interested in the 21st century in culturally or ideologically dominating the world. The economy is still the most important reason, and the U.S. and the West see military and strategic alliances are means to pursue their economic interests.

**What are the challenges and opportunities of alliance between Islam and Confucianism?**



Islam and Confucianism are two different philosophical and moral worldviews, and at the same, they also have similarities. Both are presently flourishing in spreading their influences; however, while Islam is based on religious and monotheistic foundations, Confucianism is less religious but more cultural. In this context, though Confucianism keeps

an open mind about the alliance with Islam, it is fearful of religious rigidness. So, the alliance to be sustainable should be based on national interest, not based on civilizational baggage.

**Do you expect a new cold war between China and the U.S. and the fact that such great commercial ties never existed in the more familiar Cold War, how can America and China enter an escalation?**

Yes, the Cold War between China and the U.S. is a must, and it has already started. The Cold War between these two will be different from the Cold War between the U.S. and USSR of the past. Unlike the last one, the Cold War, this time will be less on military domination but more on the economic front. Compared to the USSR, China

will be a much more powerful and resilient challenger to the U.S. The world has already started to polarize itself, but at Present, the U.S. still has the advantage of keeping more powerful allies.

**“The Arab regimes, for their survival, will shift their loyalty if China offers them a better bargain.”**

Given the ideological fluidity, it is the economy that will ensure ‘peaceful coexistence.’ The escalations will never

reach a Cuban Crisis level; they will be controlled and calculated to gain economic advantages over others.

**Do you predict China can recruit America’s old allies like Arab states into the East bloc?**

Countries choose alliance partners based on their national interests. In the Arab world, the national interest is regime interest. The Arab regimes, for their survival, will shift their loyalty if China offers them a better bargain. China has already entered massively economically in many Arab states and gradually expanding its influence. The Middle East (West Asia) region is the key to achieving global superpower status, and China is aware of that. It is just a matter of time for China to engage in open competition with the U.S. to grab Arab allies.



## Discover Ibn Babawayh cemetery in southern Tehran



TEHRAN – Ibn Babawayh is a vast historical cemetery located in Rey, southern Tehran, in which many Iranian figures have been laid to rest.

It is named after Ibn Babawayh who was an Islamic theologian and the author of one of the “Four Books” that are the basic authorities for the doctrine of Twelver Shi’ism.

Also called Sheikh Saduq, Ibn Babawayh, whose full name is given as Abu Jafar Muhammad ibn Abu al-Hasan Ali ibn Husayn ibn Musa al-Qummi, was born in c. 923 CE, Khorasan, northeast Iran, and he died in Ray in 991.

Originally built during the reign of Samanids (819-999), the cemetery has been ruined many times, and for various reasons, such as the Mongol invasion (1219-1221 CE), several civil wars, and also natural disasters.

There is an interesting story behind the construction of the current cemetery which occurred during the Qajar era. Once, as Haj Mohammad Baqer Khansari writes in Rozat al-Janat, heavy rain destroyed and made a hole in the old cemetery.

Workers went to repair the destruction, but they found an intact corpse and an inscription in the cellar of the mausoleum. Based on the inscription, the mausoleum was built 800 years ago. By the way, the news of finding an intact corpse in the mausoleum of Sheikh

Saduq reached the court and the king sent an envoy to the site to confirm the truth of the story.

His current tomb consists of a groin stone vault with eight pillars decorated with beige and blue tiles and is the site of pilgrimage for the Muslims.

In addition, the atmospheric cemetery built around the tomb of Sheikh Saduq is one of the most revered graveyards in the ancient town of Rey.

Wandering around the cemetery, you come across the graves of famous Iranian figures like Gholam-Reza Takhti, the popular Olympic gold medalist wrestler, Ali-Akbar Dehkhoda, the well-known linguist, poet, and scholar, Hossein Behzad, the eminent miniaturist, Jalal Al-e Ahmad, the contemporary writer, and many others. There used to be many private family mausoleums featuring beautiful historical buildings in Ibn Babawayh, many of which are destroyed now due to urban development projects.

Rey was one of the capital cities of the Parthian empire (3rd century BC–3rd century CE) and it was captured by the Muslim Arabs in 641 CE. During the reign of the Muslim caliph al-Mahdi in the 8th century, the city grew in importance until it was rivaled in western Asia only by Damascus and Baghdad.

According to Britannica, Islamic writers described it as a city of extraordinary beauty, built largely of fired brick and brilliantly ornamented with blue faience (glazed earthenware). It continued to be an important city and was briefly a capital under the rule of the Seljuqs, but in the 12th century, it was weakened by the fierce quarrels of rival religious sects. In 1220 the city was almost destroyed by the Mongols, and its inhabitants were massacred. Most of the survivors of the massacre moved to nearby Tehran, and the deserted remnants of Rey soon fell into complete ruin.

## Three historical windmills restored for tourism

TEHRAN – Three historical Asbads (windmills) have recently been restored in the khaf county of Khorasan Razavi province to attract travelers.

Three historical windmills have recently been restored in khaf county by private investors, a local tourism official said on Tuesday.

“Debris removal, masonry, thatching, re-installation of millstones, and repair of wheels and wooden blades were the most important restoration measures,” Mahmoud Ba’aqideh explained.

Two of the windmills are located in Nashtifan village and the other is situated in the village of Barabad. Moreover, an aging house was renovated in khaf, the official added.

“Up to the moment, 105 historical or natural sites, relics, as well as tangible or intangible cultural heritage elements, which are located or being kept in khaf, have been registered on the national cultural heritage list,” Ba’aqideh said.

Iran seeks UNESCO recognition for arrays of its ancient windmills that can be found in the provinces of Sistan-Baluchestan, South Khorasan, and Khorasan Razavi. In 2002 the windmills were recognized as a national heritage site by Iran.

In addition, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts has almost completed preparations for a chain of ancient vertical-axis windmills for possibly becoming a UNESCO World Heritage.

## Centuries-old cemetery in Yazd to turn into museum

TEHRAN – The centuries-old cemetery of Juy-e Horhor in the central province of Yazd is planned to be turned into a grave-stone museum, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

With regards to its historical significance and the fact that this historical cemetery buried many scholars and elders of Yazd, its restoration and establishment of a museum of ancient tombstones seems necessary, Seyyed Mostafa Fatemi said on Wednesday.

Covering an area of 52 hectares, the cemetery dates back to centuries ago, however, the structures and some mausoleums inside it belong to the Qajar-era (1789–1925), the official added.

Juy-e Horhor belongs to both Muslims and Jews with two different entrance gates on the north and south sides. There are several graves of scientists, mystics, literati, and clergymen from different historical eras in the cemetery.

Although there are currently no burials in the Muslim section of the cemetery, the Jewish section, with its 22,000 square meters of area, still retains its use, and religious services are also performed there apart from burying the dead.

The historical monument has recently been inscribed on the National Heritage list.

In July 2017, the historical structure of the city of Yazd was named a UNESCO World Heritage. Wedged between the northern Dasht-e Kavir and the southern Dasht-e Lut on a flat plain, the oasis city enjoys a very harmonious public-religious architecture that dates from different eras.

With its winding lanes, a forest of badgirs (wind catchers), mud-brick houses, atmospheric alleyways, and centuries of history, Yazd is a delightful place to stay, referring to as a ‘don’t miss’ destination by almost all travel associates in the region.

Water is brought to the city by the qanat

system. Each district of the city is built on a qanat and has a communal center.

The use of earth in buildings includes walls and roofs by the construction of vaults and domes. Houses are built with courtyards below ground level, serving underground areas. Wind-catchers, courtyards, and thick earthen walls create a pleasant microclimate.

Partially covered alleyways together with streets, public squares and courtyards contribute to a pleasant urban quality. The city escaped the modernization trends that destroyed many traditional earthen cities.

It survives today with its traditional districts, the qanat system, traditional houses, bazaars, hammams, water cisterns, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples, and the historic garden of Dolat-Abad. The city enjoys the peaceful coexistence of three religions: Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism.

# Iran tourism still holds its own despite virus restrictions, official says

From page 1 ► As a result of the outbreak of the coronavirus in Iran and the subsequent unemployment and financial losses, accommodation centers suffered the most. These statistics cover the period between February 2020 and the spring of 2021.

Only months into the outbreak, Zarghami’s predecessor, Ali Asghar Mounesan, lamented that the number of foreign travelers to Iran was drastically plunged due to the pandemic.

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

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

So far, panels of travel experts



have mapped out new marketing strategies hoping the sector would get back on its feet once again. Earlier this year, the Head of the Iranian Tour Operators Association Ebrahim Pourfaraj asked the government to issue tourist visas for the international applicants who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19. “The Ministry of Health and the National Headquarters for

Coronavirus Control can at least agree that the international tourists who have received the [second dose of] coronavirus vaccine would be allowed to enter Iran.”

The expert lamented that the continuation of such a trend would result in losing international tourist markets more than before. “Or at least they should make it clear so that we can respond appropriately

to foreign companies and tourists to not to miss the international tourist markets more than before.”

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

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

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

## Loans granted to support handicrafts businesses in Bandar-e Torkaman

TEHRAN – The Iranian government has granted 2.4 billion rials (about \$57,000 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) in loans to support handicrafts businesses across Bandar-e Torkaman, the northern province of Golestan.

This amount of money was paid to the crafters practicing various fields of handicrafts including traditional musical instruments, kilim, wickerwork, leatherwork, needlework, and traditional embroidery, a local tourism official said on Wednesday.

It is also expected to create more job opportunities for the locals, Hamid Manuchehri added.

Bandar-e Torkaman is located in

Turkmen Sahra, which covers a large region. It is bordered on the west and the north by the Caspian Sea, as well as the Republic of Turkmenistan. On the east are Bojnord and Dargaz, while on the south are hilly regions of Mount Alborz.

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

In January 2020, the cities of Shiraz, Malayer, and Zanjan and the village of Qassemabad were designated by the WCC- Asia Pacific Region, putting Iran’s number of world crafts

cities and villages from ten to 14.

Shiraz was named a “world city of [diverse] handicrafts”. Malayer was made a global hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture. Zanjan gained the title of a “world city of filigree”. And Qassemabad village, which is nationally known for its traditional costumes, was also promoted to a world hub of handicrafts. Chador Shab, a kind of homemade outer garment for women, was, however, the main subject for the WCC assessment for the village.

The value of Iran’s handicrafts exports stood at \$120 million during the first eleven months of the past Iranian calendar year 1399 (March 20,

2020 – February 18, 2021), Mehr reported. The country’s handicrafts exports slumped during the mentioned months in comparison to the same period last a year earlier due to the damage the coronavirus pandemic has inflicted on global trade.

The Islamic Republic exported \$427 million worth of handicrafts during the first eleven months of the calendar year 1398. Of the figure, some \$190 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer) through 20 provinces, according to data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts.

## Export Tender DRI (NGHSCO)

NEYRIZ GHADIR STEEL COMPLEX (NGHSCO) INTENDS TO SELL 25,000 MT DIRECT REDUCED IRON (DRI) WITH THE BELOW TERMS AND SPECIFICATIONS TO THE BEST AND HIGHEST PRICE OFFER. KINDLY REQUESTED TO FILL UP THIS FILE AND SEND YOUR OFFICIAL BID IN A SEALED ENVELOPE UP TO 1:00 PM (LOCAL TIME) ON **MONDAY 25/OCTOBER/2021**. AFTER THE DELIVERY OF THE ENVELOPES, ON **25/OCTOBER/2021 AT 2:00 PM**, THE ENVELOPES WILL BE OPENED AT THE OFFICE OF THE TRANSACTION COMMISSION OF NEYRIZ GHADIR STEEL COMPLEX AND THE WINNER WILL BE ANNOUNCED.

ADDRESS: (COMMERCIAL DEP., NO. 17, WEST 14<sup>TH</sup> ALLEY, BOKHAREST ST., TEHRAN, IRAN).

### A- TECHNICAL DETAILS:

| Chemical Composition  |                |         |
|---|----------------|---------|
| Total Fe %  | 87% (+/-1%)    | Average |
| Metallic Fe %   | 80% (+/-1%)    | Average |
| Total Gauging %   | 8.5            | Maximum |
| Carbon (C) %  | 1.8% (+/-0.2%) | Average |
| Phosphorous (P) %   | 0.08           | Maximum |
| Sulphur (S) %   | 0.01           | Maximum |
| (SiO <sub>2</sub> + Al <sub>2</sub> O <sub>3</sub> + CaO + MgO) % | 8              | Maximum |
| Size Distribution   |                |         |
| From 6.3 to 16.0 mm   | 88             | Minimum |

B- BULK CARGO, FOB IN SHAHID RAJAEI PORT OR BAHONAR PORT OF BANDAR ABBAS

C- TERMS OF PAYMENT:

20% OF THE TOTAL VALUE TO BE PAID AS AN ADVANCE PAYMENT BY T/T PAYMENT WITHIN 5-7 WORKING DAYS FROM THE SIGNING DATE OF THE CONTRACT TO THE NOMINATED ACCOUNT BY THE SELLER.

80% BALANCE OF TOTAL VALUE IS TO BE PAID BY T/T PAYMENT (TO THE NOMINATED ACCOUNT BY THE SELLER) WHILE CARGO READINESS AT WAREHOUSE AVAILABLE AND BEFORE LOADING.

D- PAYMENT METHOD: PLEASE CHOOSE THE BELOW ITEM/ITEMS:

❖ AED IN UAE

❖ USD

❖ EURO

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** IF THE BUYER REFUSES TO CARRY THE CARGO IN THE AGREED PERIOD BECAUSE OF A FALLING MARKET PRICE OR FAIL TO MAKE PREPARATIONS TO CARRY THE CARGO WITHIN ONE MONTH AFTER ISSUANCE OF THE CONTRACT SO THE SELLER HAS THE RIGHT TO CONFISCATE HIS PAYMENT AND THE BUYER MUST COMPENSATE THE SELLER FOR ALL LOSS AND DAMAGE FROM SUCH A REFUSAL TO THE SELLER'S INTEREST.

E- ALL BANK TRANSACTIONS SHOULD BE DONE THROUGH NGHSCO INTRODUCED BANK OR BROKERAGE MENTIONED IN THE CONTRACT.

F- PRICE SHOULD BE BASED ON USD BUT CHANGEABLE TO EURO OR AED (SELLER'S OPTION).

\*EXCHANGE RATE OF USD TO EURO AND AED SHOULD BE SPECIFIED AND CONFIRMED BY BOTH SIDES BEFORE ANY TRANSACTION. THE EXCHANGE CURRENCY WILL BE CALCULATED FROM WWW.XE.COM.

G- NGHSCO IS AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT OR DECLINE SUGGESTIONS.

H- BIDS MUST BE SENT IN THREE SEPARATE ENVELOPES IN FOLLOWING ORDER:

- 23 BILLION RIALS DEPOSIT RECEIPT OR GUARANTEE IN THE SAME AMOUNT TO GUARANTEE PARTICIPATION IN THE AUCTION IN THE ENVELOPE

(A)

- IMAGE OF LICENSE, ARTICLES OF ASSOCIATION, REGISTRATION ID, POSTAL CODE, ADDRESS AND TELEPHONE NUMBER IN ENVELOPE (B)

- PRICE OFFER SHEET (PRESENT SHEET) WITH STAMP AND SIGNATURE ON ALL PAGES IN ENVELOPE (C)

FOR ANY MORE NEEDED INFORMATION AND NEGOTIATIONS JUST USE: [SALE.NGHSCO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:SALE.NGHSCO@GMAIL.COM)

YOU CAN ALSO CONTACT COMMERCIAL DEPARTMENT: +98 21 86047527 OR +989123715071 (MR. GHASEMI)

I- \* PRICE-----USD  
\*PRICE-LETTERS:-----  
\*DESTINATION:-----

NOTE: (The price must be based on the USD rate and standard)

COMMENTS (if necessary):-----

COMPANY NAME OFFICIAL  
SIGN & SIGNATURE





# Drought, groundwater withdrawal pushing lands into ‘silent death’

TEHRAN – Iran has been affected by groundwater deterioration and the plains have been torn apart in a crisis of drought and human negligence, so that a silent creeping phenomenon called land subsidence is threatening the whole country.

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.

Alireza Shahidi, head of the Geological Survey and Mineral Explorations Organization (GSI), has recently warned 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.

The phenomenon is not limited to Iran, but the country has the highest withdrawal of aquifers and compared to other countries in the world, and as a result, the average rate of land subsidence in Iran reaches up to 25 cm per year.

In fact, this irreparable phenomenon intensifies the damage of other natural incidents such as earthquakes or floods, destroys cultural and ancient monuments, destroys agriculture, affects urban and rural areas, and destroys roads and transportation systems.

In addition to environmental consequences, subsidence also has economic, social, and cultural damage. Loss of land means loss of food security, production, and increased migration.

Out of 606 plains in the country, more than 300 are in acute condition and are forbidden to enter



due to continued drought, declining rainfall, and uncontrolled abstraction of groundwater in recent decades.

Alireza Shahidi, head of Geological Survey and Mineral Exploration said in May that 80 percent of the groundwater is withdrawn annually in Iran, which outpacing 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.

According to the definitions announced by the Ministry of Energy, the water plains of each region are divided into three categories of free, forbidden, and critical based on the quantitative and qualitative deterioration of groundwater aquifers.

Currently, programs such as the groundwater reclamation and balancing project have been im-

plemented in the country, and it is important to continue to allocate funds to these projects to make them operational.

Geologists call subsidence a “silent earthquake” because an earthquake is instantaneous and its effects are visible at the same time, but subsidence is the cause of environmental depletion and its impact appears gradually; which is getting a big threat in the country.

Gholam-Ali Jafarzadeh, head of the National Cartography Center, lamented that some 29 out of 31 provinces are currently at risk of subsidence.

One of the most critical areas of the country in terms of subsidence is the plains of Isfahan province; The province has 35 plains and a significant increase in water withdrawal from aquifers and underground resources has caused 27 plains to be in poor condition so that any water extraction is prohibited.

Tehran is the most populous city in West Asia, which is sinking into the ground at an alarming rate.

The metropolis is home to some 15 million people and is a victim of dramatic subsidence. New research reveals that the region is sinking by more than 25 centimeters annually in some parts.

## The average rate of land subsidence in Iran reaches up to 25cm per year.

## U.S. sanctions hurting Iran’s ‘butterfly kids’: UN experts

From page 1 ▶ “They refuse to finance exempted trade or to conduct the corresponding transactions with sanctioned countries. This has prevented the Iranian business partner of that Swedish company from being able to import the bandages, even though medical and other humanitarian goods were announced to be exempt from the sanctions,” they said in a statement.

As a result, EB patients in Iran can no longer enjoy the right to health, said the experts.

They further cited another UN independent expert who had earlier determined that denying access to pain relief violates the right to be free from inhuman treatment that causes severe pain and suffering, even if unintentionally.

“This is only one of many examples sadly illustrating the plight of thousands of people, including children, caused by over-compliance with sanctions by third parties, out of fear of being sanctioned in turn.”

Although the Swedish bandage maker has a human rights policy, the experts said its decision, and the actions of the Swedish Government, “breach their international responsibility to en-



sure the entire range of human rights.”

They recalled that companies have a duty to avoid infringing on human rights throughout their operations, and wherever they do business, in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. At the same time, Governments must ensure corporate actions align with this objective.

“While companies are free to decide where to sell their products, companies that produce critical medical and humanitarian goods have a special responsibility,” the experts added.

“When sales of a medical product that improves the right to health and prevents suffering

are halted in a country, and no equivalent alternative product is available, that right is harmed for people who were helped by it.”

They said the situation reveals apparent gaps in the due diligence processes applied by the company and by the Swedish Government to anticipate and prevent human rights consequences arising from the actions of business enterprises and their partners.

Meanwhile one of the experts, Alena Douhan, has contacted both the company and the Swedish Government in efforts to resolve this problem and address any broader issues related to human rights processes.

Ms. Douhan is the UN Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights. She signed the statement alongside five other rapporteurs and independent experts.

They all were appointed by the UN Human Rights Council and work on a voluntary basis. The experts serve in their individual capacity and are neither UN staff, nor do they receive a salary from the Organization.

## Iran, Iraq to expand legal, judicial relations

TEHRAN – A joint statement on the expansion of legal and judicial relations was signed by the Iranian Minister of Justice Amin Hossein Rahimi and his Iraqi counterpart Salar Abdul Sattar Mohammed.

Following the four-day trip of Sattar Mohammed to Iran, the statement was inked on Wednesday, IRNA reported.

“Regular and periodic discussions in the form of a joint legal commit-

tee with an emphasis on the more efficient implementation of legal and judicial agreements between the two countries”, “exchange of experiences in the field of human rights, fight against corruption, children's rights”,

“transfer of convicts and removal of obstacles in this area” and “drafting an agreement on the return of assets resulting from corruption”, were among the most important issues raised in the statement.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### Persian literature Olympiad to be held internationally next calendar year

Persian literature Olympiad will be held internationally in Iran in the next Iranian calendar year (starting on March 21), deputy director at National Organization for Development of Exceptional Talents affiliated to Education Ministry has said.

In a collaborative attempt between National Library of Iran, ECO Cultural Institute, Allameh Tabatabaee University, Sa'di Foundation and Academy of Persian Language and Literature, the Olympiad will be held in Iran, Fars news agency quoted Enayat Salarian as saying on Wednesday.

Moreover, he added, the first international student Olympiad on stem cells and regenerative medicine in the name of Iran will be held in 2020.

### المپیاد ادبی از سال ۹۸ به صورت جهانی برگزار می‌شود

معاون مرکز ملی پرورش استعدادهای درخشان گفت: المپیاد ادبی از سال ۱۳۹۸ به صورت جهانی برگزار می‌شود.

عنایت سالاریان در گفت‌وگو با خبرگزاری فارس در تشریح المپیادهای علمی امسال اظهار کرد: المپیاد ادبی از سال ۱۳۹۸ با کمک تعدادی از سازمان‌های فرهنگی مثل کتابخانه ملی، موسسه فرهنگی اکو، دانشگاه علامه طباطبائی، بنیاد سعدی و فرهنگستان ادب فارسی به صورت جهانی برگزار می‌شود.

سالاریان ادامه داد: همچنین در سال ۲۰۲۰ اولین المپیاد جهانی سلول‌های بنیادی به میزبانی و با ابداع ایران برگزار می‌شود.

# SOCIETY

OCTOBER 21, 2021

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

## Expats hold 10% share in funding schools built by benefactors

TEHRAN – Some 10 percent of schools constructed by benefactors across the country have been funded by Iranians living outside the country, Nasser Ghofli, the director of the School-Building Donors Association, has stated.

Empathy and cooperation of the Organization for Development, Renovation, and Equipping Schools and charitable school-building community has become a successful model in the country, he highlighted.

About 10 percent of charitable schools are built with the participation of charities abroad. This is a valuable asset, which should be promoted, he stated, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

He further stressed the need to use new technologies in the construction of schools in order to speed up the implementation of projects and reduce costs.

Contributions of school-building donors have grown well in recent years, which is accelerating the process of school construction, Ghofli stated a week ago.

Over the past year, a sum of 30 trillion rials (about \$700 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) has been allocated to school construction and renovation by the benefactors, he explained.

According to Ghofli, 400 school-building charities have been registered in the country so far.



Mehrollah Rakhshanimehr, director of the Organization for Development, Renovation, and Equipping, said in August 2020 that some 30 percent of the country's schools have been constructed by school-building benefactors; there are 450 school-building charities in Iran.

In line with the education reform plan, people who have a popular reputation are being invited as ambassadors to attract public participation for school construction even by buying a brick.

Iran has many school-building benefactors amounting to 650,000 people inside and 1,000 people outside the country.

There are some 107,000 schools nationwide with 530,000 classes, 160,000 of which are dilapidated, not meeting safety standards. Some 30 percent of the schools nationwide are old, of which some 12 percent must be completely rebuilt and 18 percent must be retrofitted.

## Some 30 percent of the country’s schools have been constructed by school-building benefactors.

## Tehran to host ELECOMP 2022



TEHRAN – The 26th international exhibition of Electronics, Computer & E-commerce (ELECOMP), will be held in Tehran on January 21-February 19, 2022.

ELECOMP is the greatest commercial event in Iran's Market of Electronics and Computer Products and services. Since its first edition in 1995, numerous players of this stage in Iran introduce their latest achievements in software and hardware in ELECOMP every year.

## ELECOMP is the greatest commercial event in Iran’s Market of Electronics and Computer Products and services.

The event provides a unique opportunity to the activists of this sector inside the country and abroad to negotiate the possibilities of establishing new business and technological ties to boost their business and increase their share of this huge and ever-growing market.

It is expected that the upcoming edition of ELECOMP, which was scheduled to be held in July and canceled due to the outbreak of COVID-19, to be held at Tehran Permanent International Fairground on January 21-February 19, 2022.

Part of the Exhibition will be held online, to more observe the health protocols.

Delegations from Syria and Iraq will attend the ELECOMP exhibition. All efforts are being made to enable the public and private sectors of the region to interact with Iranian ICT companies, Mohammad Servati, Member of the Board of Directors of Tehran ICT Guild Organization said.

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON OCTOBER 20

|                                |            |
|--------------------------------|------------|
| New cases                      | 11,770     |
| New deaths                     | 162        |
| Total cases                    | 5,821,737  |
| Total deaths                   | 124,585    |
| New hospitalized patients      | 1,798      |
| Patients in critical condition | 4,559      |
| Total recovered patients       | 5,361,169  |
| Diagnostic tests conducted     | 34,333,516 |
| Doses of vaccine injected      | 76,517,781 |



