

Report

Yemen makes strategic gains against Saudis

TEHRAN – The spokesman for Yemen’s armed forces had provided details of a massive offensive carried out by the country’s armed forces dubbed operation Spring of Victory (Rabi Al Naser). Speaking at a live presentation of the latest military gains, Yahya Sare’e gave details of the retaliatory action against Saudi Arabia and the militants it backs in the Yemeni provinces of Ma’rib and Shabwah.

Various units of the country’s armed forces participated in operation Spring of Victory. He said Yemen’s drone force conducted 268 offensives, including 161 attacks that targeted positions belonging to the enemy, occupying areas inside Yemen, and 107 operations that struck territory inside Saudi Arabia itself; these attacks, he said, targeted cites including Saudi military bases and airbases.

The country’s missile force participated in 130 operations, including 95 in the occupied Yemeni territories and 35 operations that struck Saudi Arabia. The Air Defense Forces also played a part in shooting down four enemy reconnaissance planes. These included a CH-4 plane, in addition to two Scan Eagle planes and a Wing Loong UAV.

Sare’e said there had been successful anti-aircraft operation missions; despite the vast ongoing U.S. backed Saudi airstrikes. During the Spring of Victory operation, the Saudi-American aggression’s air raids, he said, intensified to a total of 705 air raids on Yemeni territory. ▶ Page 5

Home appliance manufacturing up nearly 10% in H1

TEHRAN- Manufacturing of home appliances in Iran has risen 9.7 percent during the first half of the present Iranian calendar year (March 21-Septemehr 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, the latest data released by the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry indicates.

The ministry’s data put the six-month home appliance output at 2.294 million sets.

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

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

Last year, the industry was able to achieve 78 percent growth despite the restrictions on the manufacturing sector, Deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeghi Niaraki has said, adding, “While foreign brands left Iran, manufacturers were able to achieve this leap by relying on domestic capacities.” ▶ Page 4

Report

The plot to disrupt people’s lives foiled

TEHRAN — As part of the “Kill Iran with a thousand knife wounds” strategy, a cyber-attack on Tuesday disrupted Iran’s fuel stations.

No group, country or individual has taken the responsibility for this attack, but there are signs that the cyber sabotage act was carried out by the Israelis.

Iranian officials said that the cyberattack was launched from a foreign country, without naming it.

The National Center for Cyberspace released a statement on Tuesday afternoon saying that the fuel distribution process will soon go back to normal.

Prior to releasing the statement, Nour News, a website close to the Supreme National Security Council, confirmed that a cyberattack had disrupted the distribution of fuel in Iran’s petrol stations.

“Technicians are trying to resolve the issue,” an informed source at the SNSC said. ▶ Page 2

Tehran Meeting: A Roadmap for Prosperous Afghanistan

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COVIRAN article published in world-renowned journal

TEHRAN – An article on the clinical and technical knowledge of COVIRAN Barekat - the first homegrown vaccine for coronavirus - was published in one of the most prestigious international journals.

Made by researchers at the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, COVIRAN Barekat was unveiled on December 29, 2020, and received the license for public use on June 14.

After presenting the scientific article and documents on the production of the Barekat vaccine and passing the evaluation process, the pre-clinical article was published in the Journal of Medical Virology with an impact factor of 98.6 and in the

Q1 category, IRNA quoted Asghar Abdoli, the vaccine’s project technologist, as saying.

Numerous articles related to the homegrown vaccine have been submitted to reputable journals and are awaiting evaluation, he noted, expressing hope that other articles will be published soon.

The vaccine proved effective against Indian strain, according to Hojjat Niki-Maleki, head of the information center of Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam.

Eleven countries from Asia and South America, and a European country have asked for importing COVIRAN vaccine, Hassan Jalili, the vaccine’s production manager, has said in June.

Qatar World Cup opens up opportunity for Iran tourism: deputy minister

TEHRAN – The Islamic Republic of Iran should benefit from World Cup as a considerable opportunity to promote its distinctive travel attractions, the deputy tourism minister has said.

“With the World Cup being held in a neighboring country, Iran can benefit from this important event, which if carefully planned, can bring sig-

nificant wins for various sectors, especially the tourism industry in the country,” CHTN quoted Ali-Asghar Shalbafian as saying on Wednesday.

The geographical position of Iran and its unique tourist attractions make it a potential destination for the World Cup spectators, the official added. ▶ Page 6



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Raisi visits petrol station to check on cyberattack

TEHRAN — On Wednesday morning, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi visited a petrol station in Ferdosi Square in downtown Tehran to check on the progress made in defusing a Tuesday cyberattack that disrupted the fuel delivery in gas stations across the country. He then went to the Oil Ministry to oversee their plans.

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Opinion

Stadium crisis in Iran

By Masoud Hossein

TEHRAN – Iran football has faced a new problem as several stadiums are not available yet and it’s not yet clear when they will be ready.

On Monday, Naft Masjed Soleyman failed to host Sepahan in Matchday 2 of Iran Professional League in their home stadium Behnam Mohammadi and the match was played in Foolad’s stadium in Ahvaz.

Nassaji Ghaemshahr, another Iranian top-flight team, must play in Sari in their home matches since Shahid Vatan Stadium is under construction.

Newly-promoted Fajr Sepasi were supposed to play in Shiraz’s Pars Stadium but they played Gol Gohar in Hafezieh Stadium. The field has serious structural problems.

Furthermore, Tehran based football teams cannot play in Ghadir Stadium since the pitch has insufficient lighting.

Several other stadiums suffer lack of standard and it’s while the Iranian football federation has already shown its readiness to host the 2027 AFC Asian Cup.

Qatar, Saudi Arabia and India also remain in contention to host the AFC’s flagship competition.

Persepolis of Iran qualified for the AFC Champions League two times in the last four years and it showed that the Iranian clubs have capacity to develop but they need infrastructure.

Sometimes, some stadiums turn into the pool when it rains and it means the stadiums have still drainage system problem.

Iran Football League Organization needs revision if it wants to avoid stagnation.

Photos of world’s museums by calligrapher Ehsai to go on view at Tehran gallery

TEHRAN – Tehran’s Golestan Gallery will showcase a collection of photos of the world’s museums taken by celebrated Iranian calligrapher and painter Mohammad Ehsai in its upcoming exhibit opening on Friday.

Ehsai, 82, took the photos during the late 1960s and early 1970s during his university years.

Entitled “A Treasure Revealed”, the exhibition is Golestan’s first physical showcase since the government has eased pandemic curbs on regular activities.

A book of the same title carrying photos and other pictures by Ehsai will also be introduced during the opening ceremony of the exhibition.

The bilingual book in Persian and English has been compiled by Behzad Hatam. ▶ Page 8



## Taliban must assure neighbors there won't be threat from Afghanistan: Iran FM

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said on Wednesday that it is necessary that the current Taliban rulers in Afghanistan give assurances that there will be no threat against countries neighboring Afghanistan.

"It is necessary that the Taliban adopt a friendly approach toward its neighbors and take necessary measures that give assurances that there will no threat against its neighbors from the territory of Afghanistan," Amir Abdollahian told the participants at the Tehran conference on Afghanistan.

The foreign ministers of the countries neighboring Afghanistan started their meeting in Tehran on Wednesday morning.

The foreign ministers of Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, and Uzbekistan have attended the conference. The Chinese foreign minister, whose country shares 46-mile border with Afghanistan, and the Russian foreign minister are also scheduled to address the conference virtually.

Foreign ambassadors in Tehran, including the Chinese and Russian ambassadors, are participating in the conference.

It is the second time that Iran is hosting a conference on Afghanistan since the Taliban took the power in the Central Asian country.

Iran and Pakistan share the longest borders with Afghanistan and host the largest number of refugees from Afghanistan.

**"Taliban tasked to provide security, fight terrorism"**

Amir Abdollahian also said the Taliban have an "undisputable task" to provide security for Afghan citizens and fight terrorism in the country.

It is also necessary that the Taliban respect the rights of all groups including women, provide the basic needs of citizens, put an end to the discrimination against ethnic and religious minorities, eliminate the roots of the displacement of citizens and observe the fundamental principles of international law.

The Taliban took the helm in Afghanistan after it captured the capital Kabul on August 15. The group was in power from 1996-2001 until they were overthrown in October 2001 by the U.S. following the Sept. 11 attacks. The U.S. invaded Afghanistan for hosting al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden blamed for the attacks.

Amir Abdollahian said the balance of power in Afghanistan has changed but this situation will persist only if the realities of Afghanistan are taken into consideration and steps are taken in accordance with them.

"Accordingly, the Islamic Republic of Iran insist on the need for formation of an inclusive government with the involvement of all influential ethnic and religious groups through intra-Afghan talks without interference of foreign players," Iran's chief diplomat asserted.

He added it is "expected" that all countries neighboring Afghanistan to "use all their influence on the Taliban leaders and other Afghan sides to encourage them" to agree on formation of an inclusive government through "collective participation".

The foreign minister also asked neighbors to facilitate the process of an inclusive government.

**Uzbekistan says ready to provide economic and educational assistance to Afghanistan**

Addressing the conference, Uzbek Foreign Minister Kamilov Abdulaziz Khafizovich said his country is ready to support Afghanistan in terms of economy and education.

Khafizovich also said although Afghanistan is facing challenges it also has opportunities ahead. Afghanistan has capacities to implement economic and commercial projects, he opined.

"We seek the development of Afghanistan in different areas including economy. We can use these capacities well"

Khafizovich added, "We can establish a durable and useful connection between Afghanistan and neighboring countries." He cited construction of a railroad between neighbors as an example.

Uzbekistan's chief diplomat went on to say that "we also insist on formation of an inclusive government in Afghanistan with the participation of all groups and ethnicities."

He also called on the international community to act to its commitments toward Afghanistan. The foreign minister said the ruling group in Afghanistan should also meet the "demands and expectations of the international community."

**Turkmenistan says the world should hear the voice of Afghan people**

Turkmen Foreign Minister Rashid Meredov also said the countries neighboring Afghanistan have responsibility toward the Afghan people and the voice of Afghan citizens should be heard by the international community.

Meredov also said Afghanistan is currently in very difficult situation and in order to get rid of this dilemma "we need a roadmap and prosper assessment of the developments in this country."

Noting that the participants to the conference are seeking to help establish peace in Afghanistan, he added, "At the current time, the economic situation in Afghanistan is not good and we can take good decisions (for the resolution of) the problems of Afghanistan's people in these negotiations."

Meredov also said all should help different ethnic groups have a voice in the future of Afghanistan so that the "rights and interest all people are protected".

Elsewhere in his remarks, the chief Turkmen diplomat said the ruling group in Afghanistan is facing serious economic difficulties and at the same time they must counter terrorism.

To improve the situation, he suggested, it is necessary that important decisions be taken for reconstruction of Afghanistan and help make the Afghans have a normal life.

He added an improvement of the situation in Afghanistan will have a positive effect on the entire region.

Meredov also said Afghanistan has good economic potential for participation in regional and international infrastructure projects, especially in areas of transportation and transit.

**Pakistan FM says the world should help prevent humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan**

For his part, Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi told the conference that the international community should send aid to Afghanistan to avoid a humanitarian disaster in the country. He also called on the foreign countries that have frozen the Afghan assets to release them.

Qureshi also pointed to the takeover of Afghanistan by the Taliban, saying, "In August a change of power happened in Afghanistan without bloodshed and the Taliban took the power."

He added, "We all seek a stable Afghanistan. I believe that today's meeting can strengthen the first one (in Pakistan) and take great strides for establishment of security in Afghanistan."

Pakistan's chief diplomat also said the rights of all Afghan people should be respected and an inclusive government be established in the country.

He added, "For us a reopening of schools for girls and boys in Afghanistan is important."

**China's Wang says meeting on Afghanistan will bolster diplomatic ties between neighbors**

Addressing the conference virtually, Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi also said the Tehran meeting has been held at a good time and this would help reinforce diplomatic interactions between countries neighboring Afghanistan.

"So far, we have moved in a good path and hope that we all can help realize peace and tranquility in Afghanistan," Wang told the meeting.

**Lavrov says Russia backs inclusive government in Afghanistan**

Addressing the Tehran conference virtually, Russian Foreign Minister said the Kremlin backs formation of an inclusive government in Afghanistan and the Afghan citizens should be assured that their rights are observed in practice.

Lavrov also said the current situation in Afghanistan is the result of two decades of occupation by the U.S. He also said Afghanistan should start from scratch and rebuild the country.

Suggesting that all countries should accept their responsibilities toward Afghanistan, the chief Russian diplomat said the Westerners, including the Americans, have always been seeking their own goals in Afghanistan from "long distances".

He also pointed to drug trafficking and movements of terrorist groups in Afghanistan, suggesting regional and international potentials should be used to improve the situation in the Central Asian country.

The Iranian embassy in Paris also issued a statement saying that Tehran backs all "regional initiatives" for resolving problems facing Afghanistan.

It said Iran seriously believes that inclusive plans will "benefit regional peace and security."

From page 1 ► According to Fereydoun Hasanvand, head of the Energy Committee at the parliament, Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf himself is pursuing the fuel case.

He rejected rumors in social media regarding an increase in fuel price, saying that the problem will be resolved in the coming hours.

Former Shin Bet (Israel Security Agency) cyber official Harel Menashri told KAN radio that there was a good chance to accomplish such a broad and successful attack on Tuesday. The remarks by Menashri shows that the hacker would have to be a nation-state actor.

There seems to be an attempt behind this act of sabotage to create frustration and dissatisfaction among the Iranians from the north to the south, and thus affect what is happening in Tehran, the heart of Iran. The main goal of the aggressors is to put pressure on the government to return to the negotiating table on the nuclear deal, which has been suspended.

"In fact, this is a parallel operation that primarily signals to the Iranian regime, this is just the beginning of an attack that could exacerbate much more severe and complex disorders," an Israeli expert told Israeli state TV on Wednesday.

Israeli media jubilantly covered the fuel distribution shutdown.

According to the Israeli media, Tel Aviv has set a new goal in Iran: to harm the quality of life of its citizens

# The plot to disrupt people's lives foiled

## Disruption of fuel stations weighs on daily lives



The Israeli military has recently formed the impression that pressure from the people in Iran could affect the government's decision on the nuclear issue.

Even if the cyberattack, that annoyed hundreds of thousands of Iranian drivers on Tuesday, was not carried out by the Israeli regime, it is in line with the current perception of the regime's military which has been seeking to undermine Iran's civilian nuclear program.

In Israel, the Iranian public,

or at least the educated urban community, has recently been identified as a special target. The aim is to put significant pressure on the government to deal with the damage to the quality of people's life.

On the other hand, Iran began its remedial measures immediately. First, the Oil Ministry began sending experts to manually fix the petrol stations and get them back on track. Then, the municipality announced that subway tickets are free of charge, and the stations

## Raisi UN envoy urges immediate international aid to Afghanistan

TEHRAN – Majid Takht Ravanchi, Iran's ambassador and permanent representative to the United Nations, has said "it is time for the international community to join hands to provide immediate assistance to the people of Afghanistan."

Writing an article published on Wednesday, Takht Ravanchi said, "In Iran, we are doing our duty, but any other way will be catastrophic," IRNA reported.

The foreign ministers of Afghanistan's neighbors plus Russia met in Tehran on Wednesday to assess the current "disastrous" situation in that country. They came together to discuss possible ways to help the Afghan people overcome the difficult and terrible challenges they face.

The diplomat added: "After the hasty withdrawal of the United States and the sudden fall of the government of Afghan President Ashraf Ghani last August – and the Taliban's takeover of the whole country – rapid changes have taken place that have serious political, economic and social, security consequences for the entire region."

Takht Ravanchi noted that Iran, as a neighboring country that has historical, cultural, linguistic and religious ties with Afghanistan, cannot remain indifferent to the suffering of the Afghan people.

"Over the past 42 years, Iran has used its best efforts to bring together Afghan factions with different ethnic and religious backgrounds together to resolve their differences peacefully. For years, we have been providing humanitarian assistance to over three million Afghan refugees, with little international support"

Recent developments in Afghanistan now mean that several hundred thousand more refugees have crossed the border and entered Iran and again "we are hosting our Afghan brothers and sisters almost without receiving any new resources from

## "The domination of one ethnic or religious group over the whole country is doomed to failure."

the international community," Iran's ambassador to the UN pointed out.

"In addition to food, shelter, medicine and education, we now provide Covid-19 vaccines to refugees while we are under severe and illegal U.S. sanctions," he added.

"The current situation in Afghanistan requires coordinated international efforts, and neighboring countries can play a major role in this regard," the diplomat suggested.

He added Iran believes that a regional approach with the support of the United Nations can help the people of Afghanistan overcome the current crisis.

The Iranian diplomat also said, "We have supported the 6+2 format (Afghanistan's neighbor plus Russia and the United States) under the auspices of the United Nations and are now hosting a meeting of Afghanistan's neighbors."

The ambassador to the United Nations said given these efforts, there are some issues that need immediate attention:

1- The absolute need to establish an inclusive government in Afghanistan. The domination of one ethnic or religious group over the whole country is doomed to failure. Afghanistan is a multi-ethnic country and in order to gain the trust of the Afghan people and also to enjoy the respect of the international community, a government must be formed representing all Afghans.

-2 Current efforts to provide humanitarian assistance to the people of Afghanistan must be redoubled. Winter is approaching and people are in dire need of humanitarian assistance. As such, assistance should not be subject to other matters. We, in turn, will intensify our efforts in this regard and will continue to do so.

## Raisi calls for measures to halt new wave of Covid-19

TEHRAN — President Ebrahim Raisi on Monday stressed that all officials and bodies should take proper measures not to allow a possible new wave of the Covid-19 pandemic to take a high toll on the citizens like the "fifth" one.

Officials are warning about possible emergence of a sixth wave of the Coronavirus.

"We must take the necessary measures and preparations to prevent" the reemergence of problems "in the face of the fifth wave of the corona," President Raisi remarked.

Speaking at a meeting of the National Task Force for Combating Corona, Raisi appreciated the efforts of all those who are involved in the fight against the pandemic and stated that in controlling the virus public awareness is highly important.

The president added: "All those who have the platforms to elaborate on the issues, especially radio and television, should explain the current situation in the country, especially in comparison with other countries, and explain the actions and the quality of

dealing with this disease."

"It is also necessary to thoroughly explain to the public the studies conducted on the impact of public vaccination on the health so that those who have refused to be vaccinated for any reason are encouraged to get vaccinated," Raisi pointed out.

"Our concern is to protect people's health, and in this regard, the guidelines and recommendations of experts will be the basis for action," he said of the injection of the third dose of the Coronavirus vaccine.

will work until 00:00.

President Ebrahim Raisi, who was set to inaugurate the Tehran conference on Afghanistan on Wednesday morning, sent Vice President Mohammad Mokhber to do the job and he himself went to the Oil Ministry to examine the dimensions of the cyberattack in person. He then went to a petrol station and talked to the people and drivers.

At a cabinet meeting on Wednesday, Raisi said that the purpose of this action was to disrupt people's lives so that they can achieve their specific goals.

"In this cyberattack, not only the officials were not confused, but they also managed the situation immediately, and the people also showed their awareness in the face of this problem and did not allow anyone to abuse and seize the opportunity," the president added.

Raisi praised the timely information of the national media and emphasized that he sincerely appreciates the support and cooperation by the people.

"In return, the Ministry of Oil must take action to compensate for the effects of the disruption, so that the rights of the people are not lost," he noted.

Raisi stressed, "We must be seriously prepared in the field of cyber warfare and the relevant agencies, with proper division of labor, should not allow the enemy to pursue its sinister goals in this field and create problems in the process of people's lives."

Iranian people once again failed the foes' strategy.

## On the brink of full exposure

From page 1 ► Other files consist of information on thousands of teenagers set to enlist in the IDF, including those in pre-service programs. Besides names, addresses and phone numbers, the files contain sensitive personal information such as psychological information and the socio-economic status of the soldiers' families.

The group's hacks are carried out through the use of bots and include warnings such as "your end is near."

The Israel National Cyber Directorate said on Wednesday that they have warned of the risk posed by security weaknesses in some organizations.

"We call upon organizations to implement the latest critical updates that Microsoft has released to deal with these weaknesses, which is a simple, free update that can reduce the risk of this attack"



# Tehran meeting: A roadmap for prosperous Afghanistan

TEHRAN – Foreign ministers of Afghanistan's neighbors and Russia concluded the second meeting on Afghanistan, underlining the need for an inclusive government in the war-torn country that would protect the rights of all ethnoreligious groups.

The neighboring countries of Afghanistan have succeeded in building a consensus on how to deal with the unrecognized authorities of the country. After months-long diplomatic back-and-forth in the wake of the Taliban's takeover of Kabul in August, these countries issued a statement that more or less met the demands of all the concerned parties.

The foreign ministers of Iran, China, Pakistan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, along with Russia, approved a ministerial joint statement that addressed a range of issues of much interest to all the participants of the Tehran gathering, formally known as the “Meeting of Foreign Ministers of Afghanistan’s Neighboring Countries + Russia.”

The meeting was held in continuation of another meeting held in Pakistan in early September. During the Pakistan meeting, the participants agreed to hold the next meeting in Tehran.

In the meantime, a series of diplomatic efforts were done by Pakistan and Russia regarding Afghanistan. Russia hosted a meeting on Afghanistan with the



presence of the Taliban while Pakistani Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi traveled to Kabul for the first time since the Taliban's takeover.

Russia said it was moving in the direction of recognizing the Taliban as the legitimate power of Afghanistan and demanded a greater role by the UN in regard to Afghanistan.

Pakistan made efforts to get international humanitarian aid flowing into Afghanistan. It warned of a humanitarian disaster in Afghanistan and sought to convince the international community that humanitarian aid to Afghanistan should be subject to recognition of the Taliban.

Meanwhile, a series of suspicious attacks targeting Shia mosques in north and south of Afghanistan set off alarm bells in Tehran. Two attacks on Shia worshippers during Friday prayers in Kunduz and Kandahar convinced many in Tehran and beyond that

a plot was being hatched to pitch Afghan Shias against the Taliban and create sectarian strife in the yet-to-be-stabilized Afghanistan that would impinge on Tehran one way or another.

The attacks further exacerbated Iran's concerns regarding Afghanistan and made it even more determined to pursue an inclusive government in Kabul.

The Wednesday meeting in Tehran provided a platform for all these countries to communicate their fears and present their demands. More importantly, it created a venue for them to coordinate their positions and unitedly urge the Taliban into taking into consideration the interests and concerns of neighboring countries.

The joint statement of the Tehran meeting noted that “that an inclusive and broad-based political structure with the participation of all ethno-political groups is the only solution to

the Afghanistan issues.”

It also called on “the international community to provide humanitarian assistance on urgent basis.”

Furthermore, the statement called on the “international community to remain positively engaged with Afghanistan and develop long term roadmap to advance the agenda of political engagement, economic integration and regional connectivity.”

To make sure that the meeting serves the interests of all the participants, the statement took note of “the assurances and commitments of relevant responsible Afghan parties to the international community that the territory of Afghanistan will not pose any threats to the neighboring countries and will not be used by criminal, terrorist and separatist groups, and cut ties with all kinds of terrorist groups, strike and eliminate them in a decisive manner.”

The Tehran meeting also resulted in an agreement to hold the next round of the meeting in 2022 in China, indicating that the neighboring countries of Afghanistan succeeded in establishing a credible platform to address issues related to peace and security in Afghanistan. This platform can transform into an opportunity for the Taliban to join regional efforts and strengthen cooperation with the region's countries for the good of the Afghan people.

## SPORTS

### IPL: Persepolis emerge victorious over Nassaji

TEHRAN – Persepolis football team defeated Nassaji 2-1 thanks to a Mehdi Abdi brace on Matchday 2 of Iran Professional League (IPL) on Wednesday.

Abdi was on target in the first half in the 42nd minute.

Nassaji forward Karim Eslami equalized the match four minutes into the match.

Abdi was on target once again in the 63rd minute in Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

In Arak, Aluminum defeated Foolad 3-0. Alireza Naghizadeh, Pouria Ariakia and Ali Fateh scored three goals in the second half.

### Esteghlal closing in on signing of Rudy Gestede

TEHRAN – Former Aston Villa striker Rudy Gestede arrived in Tehran Tuesday night to join Esteghlal football team.

He will join the Blues after passing his medical exam.

Rudy Philippe Michel Camille Gestede is a Beninese professional footballer who currently plays as a striker for Greek Super League club Panetolikos.

The 33-year-old forward started his playing career in Metz in 2007 and has also played at Cannes, Blackburn Rovers, Middlesbrough, and Melbourne Victory.

French winger Arthur Kevin Yamga Tientcheu has recently joined Esteghlal.

### Four Iranians nominated for International Player of Week

TEHRAN – Team Melli's European-based stars were unstoppable, with Mehdi Taremi and Sardar Azmoun both piling on the goals for their respective clubs. Ali Gholizadeh and Allahyar Sayyadmanesh also were on target.

Some of Asia's top players outside of the continent were at their brilliant best this week, lighting up league and continental competitions alike. But who was Asia's best player outside of the continent for the week just passed?

Based on performances from October 19 to 25, there is 10 Asian stars who have been nominated for the International Player of the Week.

**\*Mehdi Taremi (FC Porto, Iran)**

*86 minutes, 6 shots, 1 shot assist, 11 duels won (1-0 v AC Milan)*

*90 minutes, 3 goals, 83% pass accuracy (3-1 v Tondela)*

Fresh from an UEFA Champions League victory over AC Milan, Taremi was at his sensational best in league action against Tondela, scoring in the 19th, 43rd and 79th minutes to register a stunning hat-trick.

**\*Sardar Azmoun (Zenit, Iran)**

*36 minutes, 67% pass accuracy (0-1 v Juventus)*

*90 minutes, 2 goals, 1 secondary assist (7-1 v Spartak Moscow)*

Under pressure to deliver in one of Russian football's biggest fixtures after nine matches without a goal for club and country, Sardar Azmoun was electric on Sunday, scoring two early goals and winning a penalty kick as Zenit inflicted a historic thrashing on rivals Spartak.

**\*Ali Gholizadeh (RSC Charleroi, Iran)**

*65 minutes, 1 goal, 1 assist, 86% duels won (3-1 v RFC Searing)*

Iranian star Gholizadeh starred for Charleroi, delivering a goal and an assist and making it three successive league matches where he has got his name on the scoresheet.

**\*Allahyar Sayyadmanesh (Zorya Luhansk, Iran)**

*90 minutes, 1 goal, 15 duels won (1-0 v CSKA Sofia)*

*90 minutes, 1 goal, 5 interceptions (1-0 Kolos Kovalivka)*

Playing two full games in the space of 72 hours is a challenge for any footballer, but to score the winning goal in both is an immensely satisfying outcome for a 20-year-old forward like Sayyadmanesh, whose star continues to rise in Ukrainian football.

Hwang Hee-chan (Wolverhampton Wanderers, Korea Republic), Jackson Irvine (St. Pauli, Australia), Takuma Asano (VfL Bochum, Japan), Ryota Morioka (RSC Charleroi, Japan), Kyogo Furuhashi (Celtic, Japan) and Aias Aosman (Ionikos, Syria) are also shortlisted for the accolade.

### Iran still pretty solid for a fourth straight FIBA World Cup

TEHRAN – Iran national basketball team can qualify for the 2023 FIBA World Cup, FIBA. Com wrote.

Iran have been drawn in Group D of the World Cup 2023 Qualifiers along with Bahrain, Syria and Kazakhstan.

Team Melli have participated in three straight World Cups. Hamed Haddadi is still center and present. Young talents like Behnam Yakhchali are emerging as superstars, ready to take the flaming torch from their senior teammates.

Iran's case for qualifying for a fourth straight World Cup seems pretty solid.

### Al Sadd star Tabata linked with Esteghlal

TEHRAN – Brazilian-born Qatari professional footballer Rodrigo Tabata has been reportedly linked with a move to Iran's Esteghlal.

Tabata, 40, represented Qatar national football team from 2015 to 2017.

He plays in Qatar Super League (QSL) since 2011.

The attacking midfielder currently is a member of the Al Sadd.

Esteghlal have previously signed French forward Arthur Yamga.

### FIVB president opens FIVB board of administration meeting

TEHRAN – FIVB President, Dr Ary S Graça F° opened the FIVB Board of Administration meeting and stressed the importance of working together to spread and strengthen volleyball around the world.

Addressing the Board of Administration, the FIVB President stressed the importance of working together as a united team:

“By working as one united family, we can build a lasting legacy for volleyball. As I have told you many times, we must reinvest the money that comes from the sport back into the sport. That's why during the Congress we launched Volleyball Empowerment. Volleyball Empowerment is a revolutionary development programme where we support national teams, athletes and National Federations to achieve their goals and reach their full potential.

“The more we can spread volleyball across the world, the more we can increase the number and level of national teams participating in our main events. And this will increase the relevance of volleyball worldwide, making it more popular than ever before. By developing the sport and creating stronger volleyball nations, the entire Volleyball Family becomes stronger. And by creating stronger national teams, we can inspire new generations of players and fans to engage with our beloved sport.”

## Iran FM holds bilateral meetings with Turkmen, Tajik counterparts

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian held bilateral meetings with the foreign ministers of Tajikistan and Turkmenistan ahead of the Wednesday meeting on Afghanistan in Tehran.

Amir Abdollahian and his Turkmen counterpart Rashid Meredov exchanged views over bilateral relations, regional issues, including Afghanistan and international developments. The meeting happened at the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Tuesday.

In the meeting, Amir Abdollahian congratulated Meredov on the occasion of Turkmenistan's 30th independence anniversary. He said the new government in Iran is determined to expand relations with neighboring countries, expressing satisfaction with the growing relations between Iran and Turkmenistan in recent months. Amir Abdollahian also noted the importance of developing cooperation between the two nations in political, economic, cultural and other fields, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

The Turkmen foreign minister also described relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Republic of Turkmenistan as long-standing, good and very close.

“The president of Turkmenistan has always

stressed the importance of developing bilateral relations between the two countries,” he said. Meredov stressed that Turkmenistan attaches special importance to developing its relations with neighboring countries in designing its foreign policy and, in this regard, Iran has a special place and Turkmenistan is determined to upgrade its relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran to a strategic level. Amir Abdollahian and his Turkmen counterpart also reviewed the latest developments related to the Caspian Sea and transport cooperation between the two countries.

The top Iranian diplomat said the cooperation between Iran and Turkmenistan and the two countries' synergy in the fields of transportation and transit, including road, rail and sea, will guarantee the benefits of both nations.

Amir Abdollahian noted the importance of expanding the cooperation.

The two sides also stressed that the Caspian Sea is the sea of friendship and it is non-military and belongs to all littoral states. They noted that the littoral states should enjoy its economic benefits.

Turkmenistan's foreign minister visited Tehran to hold political consultations with the Islamic

Republic, attending the meeting of foreign ministers of Afghanistan's neighboring countries and the 16th meeting of the Joint Economic Cooperation Commission. Meredov invited Iran's foreign minister to visit Turkmenistan.

Amir Abdollahian also met with his Tajik counterpart Sirojiddin Muhriddin.

The top Iranian diplomat referred to the meeting of the foreign ministers of Afghanistan's neighbors in Tehran on Wednesday, emphasizing Iran's view on the formation of an inclusive government with the participation of all ethnic groups in Afghanistan. He expressed hope that this meeting can take effective steps so that the will of the people of Afghanistan will be realized, and contribute to the stability, peace and development of the country.

Muhriddin thanked Iran for the invitation to take part in the meeting of Afghanistan's neighbors and expressed satisfaction with the presence of the Iranian president and his accompanying high-level delegation at the SCO summit in Tajikistan. He stressed the need to implement the agreements reached between the two presidents in Tajikistan, and described as important the thirty-year relations between the two countries.

these people. He called for maximum cooperation from Belarus, particularly its border guards for the purpose of helping the Iranian nationals.

In the telephone conversation, the Belarus foreign minister briefed Amir Abdollahian on the measures taken by his country's Foreign Ministry to identify and find the Iranian nationals.

Maki reaffirmed Minsk's readiness to provide maximum assistance in this regard and to keep in touch closely with the Iranian embassy in Minsk.

Maki also said it is necessary to get more information about the whereabouts of the stranded Iranians. He gave assurances that he would immediately demand information from relevant authorities in Belarus in this respect.

Amir Abdollahian and Maki agreed to continue consultations until the Iranian nationals stranded in the border region are found and assisted.

The two top diplomats also underlined their determination to implement the agreements Tehran and Minsk reached recently on the

sidelines of the UN General Assembly meeting for the purpose of deepening ties between the two sides.

Earlier on Monday, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh offered some explanations about the situation of Iranian nationals. He said that upon being notified of the matter, the Iranian embassy in Belarus was instructed to immediately pursue the issue.

According to Khatibzadeh, the embassy contacted the Belarusian Foreign Ministry and other relevant authorities to gain more information about the stranded Iranians and to resolve their predicament. He stated that the Iranian embassy in Minsk called on the relevant bodies to help it gain access to the Iranians on the border and to immediately address their situation.

According to the spokesman, given the urgency of the matter, the Iranian embassy also made an effort to directly contact the stranded nationals. He said Iran's ambassador

Afghanistan not to come to the borders as much as possible, as our capacities are limited anyway and we have to try to get the aid into Afghanistan ourselves.”

He added that Iran has also talked to the officials of Afghanistan.

“Our request is that they do not come to the borders. However, those who came were treated

with kindness and respect and we hope that we will be able to arrange for some of those who came to return to Afghanistan,” the minister added.

As of now, Iran is hosting 4 million Afghan refugees. After the Taliban takeover, more Afghans are trying to immigrate to neighboring countries, including Iran and Turkey.



## ‘Reducing water consumption in agricultural sector a priority of energy ministry’



TEHRAN – Iranian Energy Minister Ali Akbar Mehrabian has said reducing consumption in the agricultural sector is his ministry's priority in water management area, IRIB reported on Tuesday.

Speaking in a meeting of the country's Supreme Water Council Mehrabian said: "10 percent savings in the domestic sector will save 500 to 600 million cubic meters of water per year, while this figure in the agricultural sector will be 1.5 billion cubic meters."

Pointing out that the agricultural sector is the largest water consuming sector in the country, accounting for 90 percent of the total water consumption, he said: "Improving the cultivation pattern, using new irrigation methods and increasing water efficiency in the agricultural sector are the most important programs for managing water resources in the country."

Noting that the supply of drinking water is also a priority for the Energy Ministry, Mehrabian said: "We will provide drinking water through various methods, including the management of reservoirs and the use of wells, but in the consumption sector, saving will be very important since reducing consumption will consequently reduce the stress imposed on water resources."

The official pointed out that 14 resolutions were put on the agenda at the meeting of the Supreme Water Council and said: "This year, water resources are in a very difficult position because we have had a 50 percent decrease in rainfall compared to last year and a 37 percent decrease in rainfall compared to the average figure for the past 50 years."

He noted that according to the forecast of Iran Meteorological Organization, this fall the amount of rainfall will be 20 to 30 percent less than normal, adding: "We are trying to provide the required water by managing consumption and demand."

According to the World Meteorological Organization's multiannual forecast, in the next five years, Iran's average rainfall will decline by 75 percent, and the temperature rises by 50-75 percent compared to the long-term average.

## PMO outlines major maritime programs for H2

TEHRAN – Deputy Head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) Jalil Eslami has said amending registration instructions and determining the schedule for mooring of ocean-going vessels at the country's ports are among the main programs of his organization for the second half of the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2022).

According to Eslami, another important program for the mentioned period is to design and implement mechanisms for monitoring and supervision of the shipbuilding industry which includes the repair of vessels and offshore structures, the PMO por-

tal reported.

This program aims to monitor the construction industry and ship repair workshops in a more effective way to ensure their productivity, he said.

Development of safety regulations for fishing and non-conventional vessels by the end of the current fiscal year is also on the PMO's agenda, Eslami added.

He noted that the instructions for registering, and scheduling the mooring of ocean-going vessels at the country's ports will be updated in accordance with the organization's current policies.

## Over 600,000 tons of copper concentrate produced in 6 months

TEHRAN- Iran produced 601,625 tons of copper concentrate 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 concentrate output in the first six months of the previous year.

Although, the monthly copper concentrate production indicates an eight-percent year-on-year growth to stand at 114,625 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 prima-



ry 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 year (ended on March 20), which resulted in the discovery of one billion tons of new reserves, Ardeshir 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.

# Home appliance manufacturing up nearly 10% in H1

From page 1 ► Back in April, the official had said that considering the Iranian home appliance industry's infrastructure and capacities, the country will be able to become an exporter of such products in the near future because most of the raw materials needed by the mentioned sector are produced domestically.

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

Over the past few years, the Iranian government has been following a new strategy for supporting domestic production to neutralize the impacts of the U.S. sanctions while reducing the reliance of the economy on oil revenues.

The home appliances sector has been one of the pioneers in this regard and like many other areas, the production of home appliances has witnessed a significant rise in the past two years so that this industry's production capacity increased by 24 percent in the past Iranian year, and by 10 percent in its preceding year.

In early April, the secretary of



the Association of Industries of Household Appliances of Iran said, "We expected to produce about 12 million units, including small and large appliances in the previous year, however, the figure increased to about 15 million by the yearend, registering a 24 percent growth compared to the preceding year."

"We also had good growth in after-sales service, product quality improvement, indigenization and exports, so that last year \$345 million worth of home appliance products were exported," Abbas Hashemi added.

Pointing to the advantages of home appliance industry in Iran,

the official said: "Production of home appliances in the country is an advantage considering cheap energy and workforce and the country's geographical situation", he noted.

"This industry should be more supported," he stressed.

Regarding the return of foreign brands to the country, Hashemi said: "we should prevent the imports of foreign finished products into the country in order to support domestic producers."

He further noted that foreign companies can invest in this industry and co-produce their products with local manufacturers.

## Iran-Syria free trade agreement to take effect soon

TEHRAN – A free trade agreement signed between Iran and Syria back in 2010 is going to be implemented soon after years of postponement, Farzad Piltan, the director-general of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO)'s Office of Arabian and African Countries announced.

"The free trade agreement with Syria was signed in [the Iranian calendar year] 1389 (started in March 2010), but was inactive for some reason, and its implementation is expected to resume soon," the TPO portal quoted Piltan as saying on Tuesday.

The two countries signed the free trade agreement in a bid to boost bilateral trade especially in industry, mining and agriculture.

According to Piltan, except for 88 items, the exchange of all commodities between the two countries was subject to the free trade agreement, based on which, the two countries' businessmen were allowed to exchange goods only by paying a four-percent tariff.

"Despite the signing of this agreement,



due to the policies of the governments of Iran and Syria in the field of export and import and the ban and restrictions imposed on various items, traders were not able to use this agreement practically," he added.

The implementation of this agreement with Syria, which the Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi Amin is scheduled to pursue during a recent visit to Syria, means that the two countries' traders will be exempt from current export and import restrictions and bans in their exchanges, Piltan explained.

The official further mentioned some of the problems that the two countries' trad-

ers are currently facing, saying: "There are other problems in the way of boosting trade with Syria; Transportation of goods by sea is time consuming, and this has led to additional cost of exporting goods to the Syrian market; Transportation by land is also not possible, because the goods must be transported through Iraq to Syria, which requires a tripartite agreement, which, of course, being pursued by the government, but it will take time until it is finalized."

Another problem is related to banking transactions, he noted, adding: "At present, it is not possible to exchange money between traders of the two countries through the banking system. Using other strategies and mechanisms to exchange money imposes costs on traders in the two countries for which we are looking to find a solution."

Regarding the Industry, Minister's visit to Syria, Piltan said: "the minister's future visit to Syria can help facilitate trade between the two countries; Commercial and industrial committee meetings will also be held at the same time."

## TCCIMA holds meeting to honor former Armenian ambassador

TEHRAN – Representatives of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) on Wednesday held a meeting to honor the former Armenian Ambassador to Tehran Artashes Tumanyan who has been recently recalled from his post, TCCIMA portal reported.

Tumanyan, who will soon return to Armenia, has played a significant role in the development of relations between Iran and Armenia's private sectors in recent years.

Speaking in the meeting which was attended by officials from TCCIMA, the Armenian embassy in Tehran, the Armenian representative in the parliament and a number of businessmen, the TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari referred to Tumanyan's extensive efforts for improving the economic relations between the private sectors of the two countries, and expressed the Iranian private sector's gratitude for his efforts.

Khansari expressed hope that the new ambassador would also take the approach of developing economic relations between the two countries in order to make significant progress in the trade relations between the two sides by using the provided infrastructure.

"In recent years, a very good relationship has developed between the Tehran Chamber of Commerce and the Armenian embassy, which has led to bilateral cooperation in holding various economic events. Also, the formation of the Iran-Armenia Joint Chamber, chaired by Hervik Yarijanian further facilitated relations between the two sides," he said.



TCCIMA Head Masoud Khansari (4th L) and former Armenian Ambassador to Tehran Artashes Tumanyan (4th R)

Khansari further emphasized the need to maintain the established relations, saying: "The relationship between Iran and Armenia has always been a special one. Although sanctions have become an obstacle to further and deeper development of relations, good infrastructure has been established and relations between the two sides have become very deep. The private sector seeks to create more opportunities for the development of economic relations with Armenia, as well as the development of relations with the countries of the region and Eurasia, and even Europe with the participation and cooperation of Armenia."

Elsewhere in the meeting, Tumanyan also stressed the importance of economic issues which have been the focus of the embassy's activities in recent years, and praised the TCCIMA cooperation in this regard.

According to Tumanyan trade relations between the two countries will boom in the near future.

## Ali-Akbar Safaei appointed PMO's new head

TEHRAN – Ali-Akbar Safaei has been appointed as the new managing director of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), the PMO portal announced.

Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qassemi appointed Safaei to the position replacing Mohammad Rastad.

Safaei holds a bachelor's degree in ports

and shipping, a master's degree in marine science from Malmo University in Sweden, and a doctorate in marine science (marine engineering) from Amirkabir University of Technology (Tehran Polytechnic).

Rastad had been appointed as the managing director of Ports and Maritime Organization in September 2017.



## TEDPIX rises 9,500 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 9,500 points to 1.393 million on Wednesday.

As reported, over 4,949 billion securities worth 37,177 tril-

lion rials (about \$885 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index rose 10,725 points, and the second market's index gained 7,279 points.

TEDPIX rose 2.7 percent in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

The index gained 39,000 points to 1,436 million in the past week.





# U.S. doing not enough to criticize rights violations in S. Arabia and Egypt: professor

What are the differences between the Occident (America and Europe) and the Orient when it comes to human rights? Apparently Western states have a supremacist view over the rest of the globe. This view can be a remnant of the colonial era.

This is a common dodge used by governing elites in authoritarian states worldwide today is often used by non-Western authoritarian governments. In the 1980s, when many states in Latin American were under dictatorships, the defense was human rights were “Northern” rather than Global South. The fact is, states that have acceded to treaties like the ICCPR, ICESCR, and the Convention against Torture, CERD, and CRC, are bound by their terms. The same is true if they have failed to persistently object to evolving customary norms. That is not to say that different regions do have different interpretations of certain rights based on culture and region. That said, international human rights law is not “imposed,” states freely sign onto or not.

It is also worth noting that the UN's first list of rights, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, was drafted by a multi-cultural committee and that UNESCO at the time did a study documenting the ways in which various cultures and religions contained concepts that supported the idea of rights in general and of the rights of the UDHR in particular.

**Why do Western media hype human rights violations in Muslim countries? Do you agree that there is a kind of bias and pre-judgment based on stereotypes?**

There is certainly a bias in certain elements of the Western media with regard to Muslim countries, though not all. Fox News, which caters to Trump supports, is often bigoted and inflammatory when it comes to dealing with events in Muslim countries. Conversely, more responsible media, e.g. the New York Times and the Washington Post, strive to be more objective. (See, e.g., the Time's recent expose of the Pentagon's killing of an innocent Afghan relief worker, forcing the Pentagon ultimately to admit its error.)

What is your comment on Western states' double standards when it comes to human rights? For example, nobody cares about human rights violations by certain tyrannical Arab states due to their cozy ties and common interests with the West. However, America and its allies prefer to focus on countries such as China and Russia.

All states, to an extent, have double standards when it comes to human rights. They will be strongest in supporting rights doing so comports with other foreign policy goals; less so when there is a conflict. In the UN, two of Syria's greatest defenders are Russia and China. As for the U.S., during the Cold War, the U.S. regrettably turned the other way when it came to the human rights violations among “allies” in Latin America, South Vietnam, and elsewhere.

As you indicated, the U.S. government does not do nearly enough to criticize human rights violations in, e.g. Saudi Arabia or Egypt. That said; note that parts of the U.S. government do. Check out the U.S. State Department website with its annual country reports on human rights. It should also be noted that the major and respected U.S.-based human rights NGOs, such as Human Rights Watch, robustly criticize the rights violations by Arab governments, as well as by Israel.

**What are the main sources of modern human rights in the West? Christian teachings or philosophical wisdom?**

Probably the main source of the modern idea of human rights, in my view, is the Enlightenment. One can trace its origins in struggles against tyrannical monarchs and governments in documents such as the English Bill of Rights, the U.S. Bill of Rights, and the French Declaration of the Rights of Man and Citizen. Philosophers who contribute to these ideas include Locke, Montesquieu, Rousseau, and Paine. Religions, in my view, place an ambivalent role. There are traditions in the major religion that complement the modern ideas of rights; perhaps more often, there are traditions that tend to support authoritarianism.

There is a bias in some aspects of the Western media towards Muslim countries, though not all.



Supporters of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange protest outside the Royal Courts of Justice in London, Britain, October 27.

Soon afterwards Sweden sought Assange's extradition from Britain over allegations of sex crimes. When he lost a case against extradition in 2012, he fled to the Ecuadorean embassy in London and stayed there before being finally dragged out in April 2019.

Assange was then jailed for breaching British bail conditions, although the Swedish case against him had been dropped, and the U.S. authorities sought his extradition.

On Jan. 4, a British judge rejected his argument that the case was political and an assault on freedom of speech, but said he should not be extradited because his mental health problems meant he would be at risk of suicide in a U.S. prison.

Washington accused Assange of 18 offenses during

## Yemen makes strategic gains against Saudis

From page 1 ► The spokesman declared that “if the enemy believes that warplanes will prevent the advance of our forces or break the will of our soldiers and warriors, our enemy is delusional; this is our land, and its liberation is a moral, legal and religious obligation”.

He added that “history will not write anything other than that this (Yemeni) nation was steadfast, did not back down from its duties, rather it carried on with the path of liberation, despite the airstrikes and the occupation [of its land]”. He said, “for this reason, the liberation of Yemen, it's land and sea, is a crucial battle for the nation's independence”.

The country's armed spokesman pointed out the results of the operation on a geographic level as well, saying “the districts of Usaylan, Bayhan and Ain were liberated in Shabwa, and the districts of Harib and Al-Abdiyyah and parts of the districts of Jabal Murad and Al-Juba in Ma'arib were liberated”.

“A total of 3200 square kilometers were liberated during Spring of Victory Operation,” he said the armed forces will continue to advance in the strategic province of Ma'arib”. Some of the areas that were recently liberated in Marib had been and remained headquarters for the Takfiri [terrorist] gangs with the backing and support of “the coalition of aggression”. He said the ministry of defense and local councils will now take on responsibility for the liberated areas.

Sare'e then carried on with the presentation by announcing the results of the losses afflicted against the enemy forces of which there were many heavy defeats on the battleground.

The Spring of Victory Operation led to the “killing, wounding and capturing of 1,840 enemy military personnel, including 550 that had been killed, 1,200 that were wounded and 90 captured”. Among the enemy aggressors who had been killed, there were leaders from “so-called Daesh and Al-Qaeda” Takfiri terrorist groups, which used the al-Abdiyyah region as a den and received support and logistics from the “coalition of aggression” and enemy mercenary commanders in Ma'arib.

Among the losses incurred on the Saudi-led coalition were around 160 vehicles, armored vehicles and military personnel carriers that were either damaged, burned or destroyed, in addition to 180 medium to heavy weapon systems that had been destroyed.

“During the operation, our forces succeeded in destroying five [enemy] weapons depots. Dozens of armored vehicle and vehicles belonging to Saudi-led coalition were seized”.

He said, “the heavy losses among Saudi-American backed mercenaries force us to call on them to halt fighting”, indicating they were heading for a heavy loss. He noted the importance of the media to emphasize how vital an independent Yemen would be for all Yemenis, including any traitors fighting on behalf of Saudi Arabia and America.

The spokesman says Yemen's army, allied forces from the Popular took part in the operation, pledging to fully liberate the key city of Ma'rib from the Saudi occupiers as well as the now limited number of mercenaries and traitors still positioned in the city.

He praised all the armed forces, local popular committees and tribes that have chosen to stand firm in defending their land, people and country. He lauded their dignity, freedom and their refusal to side with any foreign enemy forces or betray their country.

The spokesman said one of the aspects that stood out in operation



Spring of Victory was the bravery of the Yemeni forces that fought with dignity and forced the “mercenaries, infiltrators and traitors” who fought on behalf of the foreign occupiers but fled the battlefield. He noted that the fate of the mercenaries and the traitors is heavy punishment unless they lay down their arms while assuring the residents of the liberated areas of safety and security. The spokesman also promised the residents of regions still not liberated, especially in Ma'arib, that their freedom would soon arrive.

Yemeni forces took control of the liberated areas, sometimes following fierce clashes with Saudi-sponsored militants loyal to former President Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi.

Saudi Arabia, backed by the United States and some regional allies, launched a war on Yemen in March 2015, with the goal of bringing the Hadi government back to power and crushing the popular Ansarullah movement that spearheaded the people's revolution in the months prior to the war.

The war has left hundreds of thousands of Yemenis dead, and displaced millions more. It has also destroyed Yemen's infrastructure and caused famine and other infectious diseases across the country. Yemeni armed forces and the Popular Committees have grown steadily in strength against the Saudi-led invaders, and left Riyadh and its allies bogged down in the country.

Military experts says it a matter of time before the Yemeni forces take control of Ma'arib, the last strategic bastion Saudi Arabia loosely controls in the country's north. Ma'arib is energy rich and re-capturing it can help the National Salvation Government in Yemen to invest in much needed vital services.

At the same time, should Ma'arib be liberated in its entirety, it would leave Riyadh with only pockets of territory in its control in Southern Yemen. But even there, the Kingdom's forced have often clashed with its own allies from the UAE backed southern separatist forces.

Nevertheless, the National Salvation Government has vowed to liberate all of Yemen from the north to the south and not allow what it says is a U.S. backed plot to separate Yemen in two halves again. The army backed by Ansarullah says it will immediately focus on the south once its liberates the entire province of Ma'arib from Saudi Arabi's grip.

Over the past few years, the Saudi Kingdom has lost the upper hand in a war it waged backed in March 2015 and declared it would take a few weeks to finish. After Riyadh imposed an all-out blockade on its southern neighbor, Yemeni forces began producing and then mass producing indigenous drones and missiles. The weapons have played an instrumental role by launching retaliatory attacks deep inside the Kingdom, inflicting heavy damage on and forcing the Saudis to search for the nearest exit door out of this Vietnam style quagmire.

## U.S. lawyers tell UK court to extradite Assange

TEHRAN - Lawyers for the U.S. launched a fresh attempt on Wednesday to have Julian Assange extradited from Britain, arguing that concerns around the WikiLeaks founder's mental health should not prevent him from facing U.S. justice.

On Wednesday, lawyers for the U.S. appealed against a British judge's decision to block the 50-year-old Australian's extradition, arguing that concerns around his mental health should not prevent him from facing his charges.

In January, District Judge Vanessa Baraitser at London's Old Bailey ruled that Assange should not be extradited to the U.S., citing fears he could commit suicide, thus blocking his transfer to the U.S. where he would be prosecuted for publishing secret U.S. military documents.

At the start of a two-day hearing in London, the U.S. government asked Britain's High Court to overturn the ruling.

Lawyer James Lewis, acting for the U.S. government, told the Court of Appeal in London that a judge in a lower court had been wrong to rule that Assange could not be extradited because of a high risk he would commit suicide in a U.S. prison.

“We maintain that the district judge was wrong to come to the conclusion she did,” said James Lewis.

The two senior judges sitting

on the High Court will deliver their own ruling at a later date, but the issue will probably drag on for longer still.

A document outlining Lewis's arguments, presented to the court and released to media, said the U.S. had provided the UK with “a package of assurances” addressing the judge's concerns.

“The United States has also provided an assurance that the United States will consent to Mr. Assange being transferred to Australia to serve any custodial sentence imposed on him,” the document said.

Assange, who denies any wrongdoing, is being held at Belmarsh Prison. He had been expected to appear via video link but the court was told he did not feel well enough to do so.

The hearing is the latest stage in a legal battle that has been raging since 2012.

Outside the court in central London, dozen demonstrators demanded his immediate release from London's high-security Belmarsh jail.

One protester dressed in black and a funeral veil held a banner, reading, “RIP British Justice,” while another said Assange was an innocent defender of “press freedom”.

“Extradition is a death sentence basically. If he's extradited to America the conditions will be so much worse,” said one of the demonstrators.



## Natives of Sistan-Baluchestan to attend Expo 2020



TEHRAN – A selection of craftspeople, travel insiders, and exhibitors from Sistan-Baluchestan are getting prepared to promote the south-eastern Iranian province at the Expo 2020 Dubai, which is currently underway in the UAE.

“[A selection of exhibitors from] Sistan-Baluchestan province will be attending the expo in Dubai, in [the month of] Bahman to present a variety of programs,” the provincial tourism chief Alireza Jalalzai said on Tuesday.

A wide range of Sistan-Baluchestan’s ancient handicrafts, live performances, and workshops, and introductions to cultural and natural destinations, and the archaeological sites is expected to take the center stage at the Iran pavilion during the event, the official explained.

Visitors to the pavilion are offered to discover epitomes of the ancient land in terms of rituals, handicrafts, cultural heritage, and travel destinations. It also reveals more about medical tourism, novel startups, and off-the-beaten tracks. Many countries and companies are also looking

to the expo – the first major global event open to visitors since the coronavirus pandemic – to boost trade and investment.

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

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

The collective province -- Sistan in the north and Baluchestan in the south -- accounts for one of the driest regions of Iran with a slight increase in rainfall from east to west, and an obvious rise in humidity in the coastal regions. In ancient times, the region was a crossword of the Indus Valley and the Babylonian civilizations.

The province possesses special significance because of being located in a strategic and transit location, especially Chabahar which is the only ocean port in Iran and the best and easiest access route of the middle Asian countries to free waters. The vast province is home to several distinctive archaeological sites and natural attractions, including two UNESCO World Heritage sites, namely Shahr-e-Soukhteh (Burnt City) and Lut desert.

## Relics donated to Kerman cultural heritage department

TEHRAN – Three Iranian individuals have recently donated 14 historical relics to the cultural heritage department of the southern Kerman province, a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage said on Wednesday.

The objects, which date back to prehistorical and ancient eras, include metal rings and earthenware bowls, Seyyed Ali Hosseini announced.

The participation of the public in donating historical and cultural objects is important in creating and developing museums in this province, the official added.

Big and sprawling Kerman province is something of a cultural melting pot, blending various regional cultures over time. It is also home to rich tourist spots and historical sites including bazaars, mosques, caravanserais, and ruins of ancient urban areas.

The southern province is bounded by the provinces of Fars on the west, Yazd on the north, South Khorasan on the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan on the east, and Hormozgan on the south. It includes the southern part of the central Iranian desert, the Dasht-e Lut.

## Historical caravanserai in Qom to turn into ‘creative’ center for handicrafts

TEHRAN – A historical caravanserai in the central province of Qom is planned to be repurposed into a “creative” center for handicrafts, the head of the Fund for Development of Handicrafts and Handmade Carpet and Revitalization and Utilization of Historical and Cultural Places has announced.

A budget of five billion rials (\$119,000 at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) has been allocated to the project, Hadi Mirzai said on Wednesday.

The historical monument will be [temporarily] ceded to the private sector to turn into a center for producing and promoting handicrafts, the official added.

Handicraft centers offer an opportunity to market and promote

handicrafts, and they contribute to the exchange of knowledge between artists and craft producers, he noted.

Some historical sites and monuments across Iran have been conditionally ceded to the private sector during the past couple of years under the close supervision of the Fund, to achieve higher productivity and better maintenance.

The lack of a sufficient government budget for the restoration of all centuries-old sites is the main reason behind the ceding projects.

In 2019, the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts announced that of the numerous historical buildings and structures that are scattered across Iran, some 2,500 ones need restoration.

Qom has been designated as the



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

The semi-precious stone mines, which are scattered across the province, are also one of Qom’s potentials to be developed in this field of handicrafts. Besides domestic travelers, foreign tourists, who are mostly from Arab countries and the Persian Gulf littoral states, are traditionally the

# Qatar World Cup opens up opportunity for Iran tourism: deputy minister

From page 1 ► Therefore, proper policy-making and management in collaboration with the private sector can pave the way for the wide-spread use of this event, he noted.

Increasing the number of flights between Iran and Qatar during the event, which will be held from November 21 to December 18, 2022, as well as showcasing and introducing distinctive tourist attractions of the country to the spectators at this event are on the agenda of the tourism ministry, he explained.

Back in September, Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami announced the issuance of tourist visas and the flow of foreign tourists to Iran would resume as per President Ebrahim Raisi’s order following 19 months of suspension.

However, now that the tourist visas are once again being issued to cultivate good grounds of hope for travel insiders.

Months of steep recession has taken its toll. Many travel insiders, hoteliers, and tour operators have faced big dilemmas such as bank-



ruptcy, unemployment, debts, and the prospects of not being competitive on the international level.

Meanwhile, the number of people testing positive for COVID-19 has continued to fall in the Islamic Republic, curbing a stubborn fifth wave of the pandemic, which has seen daily mortalities of up to 700 in recent weeks. As of September 22, the figure dropped to below 300 as the government has devoted a great deal of effort to vaccinate citizens against the nasty virus.

Some experts believe Iran is still

somehow “unknown” for many potential travelers due to Western “media war”. Several estimates have been released so far on the extent of the tourism-related losses incurred by the pandemic. Only months into the outbreak, 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 \$117

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.

Experts expect Iran to achieve a tourism boom after coronavirus contained, believing its impact would be temporary and short-lived for a country that ranked the third fastest-growing tourism destination in 2019.

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

## Centuries-old caravanserai in Kerman to be turned into boutique hotel

TEHRAN – The Qajar-era (1789-1925) Vakil Caravanserai in the southern province of Kerman is planned to be turned into a boutique hotel after being fully restored.

Restoration work of the historical structure is complete by 90 percent and it will come on stream as a boutique hotel by the end of the current Iranian year 1400 (ends March 21, 2022), the provincial tourism chief has said.

The project is being carried out in close collaboration with the private sector, Fereydoon Fa’ali said on Tuesday.

For the restoration project, the initial funding was 100 billion rials (about \$2.4 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar), but the fund has grown in the implementation phase, the official added.

Cultural heritage experts supervise the project, and efforts are being made to preserve its historical and cultural identity as well as its originality, he mentioned.

With some 60 rooms, the hotel will add over 140 beds to the hospitality sector of the province, moreover, some 150 job opportunities are also expected to be created upon the project’s completion, he noted.

Tourists can stay and visit this caravanserai

since it is located in the historical texture of Kerman and is close to many historical monuments, including the Bazaar and Ganjali Khan Complex, he said.

Caravansary (also Caravanserai or Caravansaray) is a building that served as the inn of the Orient, providing accommodation for commercial, pilgrim, postal, and especially official travelers.

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

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

Iran’s earliest caravanserais were built during the Achaemenid era (550 –330 BC). Centuries later, when Shah Abbas I assumed power from



1588 – to 1629, he ordered the construction of network caravanserais across the country. For many travelers to Iran, staying in or even visiting a centuries-old caravanserai, can be a wide experience; they have an opportunity to feel the past, a time travel back into a forgotten age!

Big and sprawling Kerman province is something of a cultural melting pot, blending various regional cultures over time. It is also home to rich tourist spots and historical sites including bazaars, mosques, caravanserais, and ruins of ancient urban areas.

Kerman province is bounded by the provinces of Fars on the west, Yazd on the north, South Khorasan on the northeast, Sistan-Baluchestan on the east, and Hormozgan on the south. It includes the southern part of the central Iranian desert, the Dasht-e Lut.

## Off-the-beaten-path destinations: Gonbad-e Aali

TEHRAN – Built at the summit of a small desert hill, Gonbad-e Aali, which is a mudbrick domed tomb tower, is located three kilometers to the east of Abarkuh, along the road that leads to Yazd in the central Iranian plateau.

The patron for this monument is Firuzan, a member of the local Firuzanid dynasty in Abarkuh. He built this monument in 1055 for his father, Amid ad-Din Shams ad-Daula, and his mother, whose name is not known.

According to Archnet, the tomb tower, which is also called Gonbad-e Ali, consists of an octagonal chamber that sits on a low base with eight unequal sides and a tall, projecting muqarnas cornice.

The chamber tapers inward on the exterior so that the structure is wider at the bottom than it is below the cornice. The entrance to the chamber has been located on the northeast side of the building.

The structure is now domed, but the extension of the cornice beyond this dome suggests that it was also capped by a pyramidal roof, as was customary of tombs in this region.

The tomb is constructed almost entirely of rubble masonry with brick used only in the inscriptions and in the construction of the interior dome. The walls are left plain while the cornice and the entrance receive most of the decorative treatment. The cornice of the monument is a three-tier muqarnas, which tapers outward. Below the muqarnas is a band of Kufic inscriptions in Arabic containing the name of the builder and the name of the person to whom it was dedicated.

It is worth mentioning that the entry is set inside a deep niche crowned by a semi-vault and placed within a rectangular outer frame. The



entrance is flanked by two columns, of which only the cavities remain. Inside the niche, above the doorway, is another inscription, written in Kufic style that refers to the patron’s mother as “seiyveda”, although her full name is not decipherable.

In addition, a band of niches, two on each side, decorate the walls below the drum. The transition to the drum is achieved with eight simple squinches located at the corners of the octagon. Four openings in the dome and a window on the side of the chamber illuminate the interior.

Located 140 km southeast of Yazd in a plain with the height of 1510 meters above the sea level on the way of Yazd- Eqlid-Yasuj, Abarkouh was once on the Silk Road in ancient times. The climate of Abarkouh is arid and semi-desert.

Moreover, the town is famed for its several historical castles and fortresses as well as being home to a 4000-year-old cypress, which is inscribed on the National Heritage list. Venetian merchant and explorer Marco Polo described the tree as one of the most stunning cypress trees he had ever seen in Iran.

## Historical cistern in Na’in to gain former state

TEHRAN-A restoration project has been commenced on a historical Ab-Anbar (cistern) in the city of Na’in, the central province of Isfahan, Na’in’s tourism chief has announced.

The historical monument has suffered significant damage from natural and human factors such as drought over the past few years, Mahmud Madanian said on Tuesday.

The project involves repairing and strengthening the walls, brick dome, and tank as well as wind-catchers (badgirs), the official added.

ed.

The cistern is planned to be re-used after complete restoration due to the severe lack of drinking water in the city, he noted.

The term Ab-Anbar is common throughout Iran as a designation for roofed underground water cisterns. It associates with water management systems in arid areas that are reliant on permanent springs or seasonal rainwater.

Such underground reservoirs or Ab-Anbars are parts of the iconic

qanat systems, which rely on snow-fed streams flowing down from surrounding mountains.

Qanats, according to UNESCO, provide exceptional testimony to cultural traditions and civilizations in desert areas with an arid climate.

The history of Na’in dates back to nearly 2000 years, which makes it one of the oldest continuously settled towns in the Iranian plateau.

Na’in lies 170 km north of Yazd and 140 km east of Isfahan. Like much of the Iranian plateau, it has

a desert climate, with a maximum temperature of 41 °C in summer, and a minimum of -9 °C in winter.

During ancient times, the city was at the junction of a desert road that connected Tabas and Mashhad, it used to be an important crossroad on converging trade routes since Sassanid times. Na’in was known for its ceramics and textiles; today it’s primarily known for fine hand-knotted carpets and for hand-loomed camel-wool cloaks, which are produced in the neighboring villages.



# 22% of renewable water resources lost in 30 years

TEHRAN – Iran's renewable water resources have decreased from 130 billion cubic meters to about 102 billion cubic meters in less than 30 years, showing a 22 percent decline, deputy minister of energy for water and wastewater, has said.

If the current trend continues, the country will lose five billion cubic meters of renewable water resources annually, which means that the water resources will be halved by the next 10 years, IRNA quoted Qasem Taqizadeh as saying on Wednesday.

Therefore, there is no other way but the optimal use of water in all sectors and the use of wastewater, he suggested.

The country's water resources must be managed on the basis of a document on adaptation to water scarcity, which has been prepared in cooperation with all water-related sectors, including the Ministry of Agriculture, the Department of Environment, the Ministry of Industry, and the Meteorological Organization.

The document emphasized that 9 billion cubic meters of groundwater consumption and 3 billion cubic meters of surface water consumption should be reduced in five years, so that, it will be possible to prevent subsidence and aquifers depletion.

The emphasis is mainly on the cultivation pattern, optimal water consumption, water diplomacy, prevention of water wastage, the establishment of a fund to



help the villagers in drought-ridden areas, and the replacement of wastewater with water in the industrial sector.

**Groundwater resources declining**

A recent report by Nature Scientific Journal on Iran's water crisis indicates that from 2002 to 2015, over 74 billion cubic meters have been extracted from aquifers, which is unprecedented and its revival takes thousands of years along with urgent action.

Three Iranian scientists studied 30 basins in the country and realized that the rate of aquifer depletion over a 14-year period has been about 74 billion cubic meters, which is recently published in Nature Scientific Journal.

Also, over-harvesting in 77 percent of Iran has led to more land subsidence and soil salinity. Research and statistics show that the average overdraft from the coun-

try's aquifers was about 5.2 billion cubic meters per year.

Mohammad Darvish, head of the environment group in the UNESCO Chair on Social Health that the situation of groundwater resources is worrisome.

The report notes that Iran's water consumption has increased due to a significant increase in legal and illegal wells, the expansion of agricultural land, and increasing livelihood dependence on water and soil resources in agriculture, livestock, and poultry, which are mainly caused by human factors, Darvish noted.

The statistic is unprecedented, as the total reservoirs of all dams in the country have a capacity of about 50 billion cubic meters; In other words, in the last 14 years, 22 billion cubic meters more than the capacity of all dams have been extracted from the country's underground sources, he explained.

**Drought impacts on human societies**

The drought consequences will be very severe, and as long as we do not manage water consumption, we will attack groundwater resources. All the lakes, rivers, and wetlands of the country have environmental water rights, but in drought conditions, it is always natural ecosystems that are neglected and their water rights are not paid.

In drought conditions, the water right of rivers and wetlands must be granted, but not only does this not happen, but the water goes to agricultural lands where water-intensive crops such as onions and watermelons are grown. Therefore, water resources are wasted, because the Ministry of Agriculture has not succeeded in implementing the cultivation pattern.

Iran is a country where rainfall is one-third of the world average and has gone through many periods of drought throughout history, some of which have led to famine.

However, employment in the country is water-based and based on agriculture. However, due to the dry climate of the country, we should have used the tourism and handicraft capacities of local communities, but unfortunately, we have put all our energy and capital into the agriculture sector.

During the severe drought of this year, the possibility of migration from rural to urban areas and from southern to northern provinces will definitely increase.

## 2,800 autistic students studying nationwide

TEHRAN – A total of 2,800 students with autism spectrum disorders are studying in 58 special schools across the country, Seyed Javad Hosseini, head of the Special Education Organization, has stated.

The formal education of autistic students began in Iran in 2003, and since then the educational coverage of these patients has increased 25 times, he explained.

Education of autistic children is the most specialized, most difficult, and most expensive type of education, he added, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

The number of schools for the education of children with autism in Iran will reach 70 by the end of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 21, 2022), he further concluded.

According to the World Health Organization autism spectrum disorders (ASDs) refers to a range of conditions characterized by some degree of impaired social behavior, communication, and language, and a narrow range of interests and activities that are both unique to the individual and carried out repetitively.

Individuals with autism often present other co-occurring conditions, including



epilepsy, depression, anxiety, and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). The level of intellectual functioning in individuals with ASDs is extremely variable, extending from profound impairment to superior levels.

Evidence-based psychosocial interventions including behavioral treatment and parent skills training programs can reduce difficulties in communication and social behavior, with a positive impact on wellbeing and quality of life for persons with autism and their caregivers.

WHO estimates that 1 in 160 children has an autism spectrum disorder worldwide.

In January 2019, Mehdi Shadnoosh, head of the transplantation and treatment of diseases department at the Ministry of Health, announced that some 8,000 people have been diagnosed with autism disorder in the country, while the number is estimated to be over 20,000.

## Australia ready to help improve refugee situation in Iran

TEHRAN – Australian Ambassador to Iran Lyndall Sachs has announced readiness to continue providing services to support refugees in Iran, ISNA reported.

Sachs made the remarks during a meeting with Mehdi Mahmoudi, Director of Bureau for Aliens and Foreign Immigrants Affairs, and Australia's Special Representative on Afghanistan, Daniel Sloper held on Tuesday.

Sloper, for his part, said that we try to solve the refugee problem as soon as possible, as well as providing financial assistance, and favorable living conditions so that they can achieve relative stability, especially for the women and children refugees.

He further expressed eagerness to expand cooperation with Iran in various fields of resolving the conflicts and problems of refugees.

Mahmoudi stated that Iran has always been a major supporter of refugees and displaced persons, and the provision of services to asylum seekers for four consecutive decades is a testament to this.

Without any discrimination, Iran has provided various services to a large number of refugees and foreign immigrants in the fields of education, health, treatment, livelihood, vocational training, and employment, with minimal assistance from the international community, he emphasized.

He went on to note that Iran also played a vital role in the return of refugees to their



countries voluntarily.

Addressing refugee issues is a serious and international responsibility that the Government of the Islamic Republic expects Australia to share in the burden of responsibility and support for refugees, he further stated.

Mahmoudi considered the resettlement of refugees in other countries as a strategic solution and added that "it is necessary for Australia to provide serious support in this regard.

Considering recent changes in Afghanistan governance, there is no ability and capacity for Iran to receive new refugees due to the oppressive U.S. sanctions.

Therefore, Australia and UN member states are expected to enter into this field seriously and to take the urgent action and provide the necessary funds to prevent the influx of Afghans to Iran."

**The world's fourth-largest refugee community**

Iran is hosting the world's fourth-largest refugee community. The country has generously hosted approximately 1 million refugees for the past 30 years. The majority, which mainly came from Afghanistan and Iraq, live in urban areas. Approximately 31,000 of the most vulnerable refugees live in 20 settlements located throughout the country.

Based on the latest statistics, over 3 million Afghans are living in Iran - some 780,000 Afghan refugees, over 2 million undocumented Afghans, and another 600,000 Afghan passport-holders with Iranian visas.

However, in light of the pandemic, all refugees, even those undocumented, benefited from access to free primary health services and free COVID-19 related testing, treatment, and hospitalization, just like Iranian nationals.

The same happened for the vaccination when the country has generously considered refugees over the age of 75 for vaccination against coronavirus.

In order to support the refugees living in the country, the seventh phase of the health insurance plan will cover 120,000 vulnerable refugees through a memorandum of understanding signed between the Health Insurance Organization and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

In Iran, UNHCR is seeking \$16.2 million for its COVID-19 emergency, while requires an additional \$98.7 million to support Iran in maintaining and sustaining its commendable inclusive refugee policies, under the umbrella of the Solutions Strategy for Afghan Refugees (SSAR).

## Over 754,000 travelers screened for COVID-19

TEHRAN – Some 754,699 passengers have so far been screened for coronavirus by thermal tests at the country's official borders since March 10, Mehdi Valipour, head of Relief and Rescue Organization affiliated to the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS), said.

During the aforesaid period, IRCS forces have conducted 92,374 PCR tests and 118,203 rapid tests, he said, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

He went on to lament that some 213 individuals, who tested positive, have so far been temporarily quarantined, under a plan to rapidly identify suspected cases of coronavirus and prevent the spread of new strains.

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

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

Thirty border checkpoints have been selected, including 18 land borders, nine air borders, and three sea borders, all incoming passengers will be tested and referred to the



quarantine facilities in case of necessity.

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

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

Due to the prevalence of delta variant, negative PCR test is also mandatory for vaccinated passengers, Mohammad Reza Seif, head of safety and quality assurance department of Imam Khomeini Airport Town Co, said.

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

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON OCTOBER 27

New cases	10,644
New deaths	197
Total cases	5,888,100
Total deaths	125,716
New hospitalized patients	1,462
Patients in critical condition	4,127
Total recovered patients	5,455,329
Diagnostic tests conducted	35,079,339
Doses of vaccine injected	83,529,916

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### Tehran to host INOTEX 2020 in June

The 9th International Innovation and Technology Exhibition (INOTEX 2020) will be held at Tehran Permanent International Fairground on June 7-10.

It is expected that more than 18,000 people will attend the event which is aimed to attract investment for startups and introduce investment opportunities to them.

Over 500 companies, startups, and investors will set up booths at the exhibition representing their latest achievements, with more than 600 B2B sessions and 20 side events to be held during the three-day event.

Established in 2012, INOTEX is a platform for innovation and technology, which seeks to introduce latest technologies to large and medium-sized industries in addition to connecting customers of technology products to their manufacturers, and also introduces investors to the opportunity to invest in technological projects or start-ups.

### تهران میزبان نمایشگاه اینوتکس ۲۰۲۰ در خرداد

نهمین نمایشگاه بین‌المللی نوآوری و فناوری (اینوتکس ۲۰۲۰) با شعار «اکوسیستم نوآوری و فناوری زیر یک سقف» ۱۸ تا ۲۱ خرداد ماه سال ۹۹ در محل دائمی نمایشگاه‌های بین‌المللی تهران برگزار می‌شود.

به گزارش ایرنا، نمایشگاه اینوتکس با هدف اصلی «جذب سرمایه برای استارت‌آپ‌ها و شرکت‌ها و نیز معرفی فرصت‌های نوین سرمایه‌گذاری» برگزار می‌شود.

این نمایشگاه بر سه حوزه «هوشمندسازی»، «دیجیتال» و «توسعه پایدار» تمرکز می‌کند. اطلاع از آخرین تغییرات نوآوری منطقه، آموزش آخرین استراتژی‌های کارآفرینی، با حضور فعال کارشناسان و صاحب‌نظران ملی و بین‌المللی، یافتن بازار جدید برای محصولات و خدمات، و نیز جذب سرمایه برای استارت‌آپ‌ها و شرکت‌ها از دیگر فرصت‌هایی است که برای شرکت‌کنندگان در نمایشگاه اینوتکس وجود دارد.

پیش‌بینی می‌شود بیش از ۱۸ هزار نفر از این نمایشگاه بازدید خواهند کرد. بیش از ۵۰۰ شرکت، استارت‌آپ و سرمایه‌گذار در این نمایشگاه غرفه خواهند داشت و بیش از ۶۰۰ جلسه B۲B و بیش از ۲۰ رویداد جانبی برگزار خواهد شد.



West's life ultimately ended as tragically as his fictions. Recently married, and with better-paid script work coming in, West was happy and successful. Then, returning from a trip to Mexico with his wife Eileen, he crashed his car after ignoring a stop sign and killed them both. This was just one day after the death of his friend F. Scott Fitzgerald.