U.S. health sector at "breaking point"

TEHRAN - The United States does not have a uniform healthcare system, and universal healthcare coverage. The sector in comparison to other high-income countries is filled with disparities and drug shortages. A report published by the American Preventative Services Task Force (APSTF) has added to this argument. Universal healthcare coverage means all patients have access to the health services they need, both physical and mental. And with universal healthcare coverage, they can afford the costs. The survey from APSTF shows that the number of Americans who did not take necessary medication because they could not afford the costs tripled from 2010 to 2020, which is an increase from three percent in March and one-third during February. In that time period during the pandemic.

Meanwhile, one-fifth of respondents say they or a household member have suffered a decline in health after delaying treatment because of the costs. What will be of even more concern, the report says, is that twenty percent said they chose not to attend to their medical needs because they could not afford the prices, a number that has tripled from nine months ago and reaching its highest point during the pandemic.

Science diplomacy at highest level in 20 years

By Faramarz Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – Data from the Scopus International Citation Database show that Iran’s scientific diplomacy has reached more than 34 percent annual growth over the last five years, making it the highest level in the past 20 years. Science diplomacy is the use of scientific collaborations among nations to address common problems and to build constructive international partnerships. It is a form of new diplomacy and has become an umbrella term to describe a number of formal or informal technical, research-based, academic or engineering exchanges, within the general field of international relations.

Comparing the rate of 2020 with 2019, Iran’s growth in a 34.5 percent and with a slight difference with India has gained second place in the world in terms of the growth of world science diplomacy, Mohammad Javadi-Delgani, the head of the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC), said. Malaysia also placed third with 30 percent growth followed by Taiwan and Turkey, respectively, he added.

In 2017, the share of Iranian articles with international participation was about 18.5 percent, which increased to 19.7 percent in 2018 and gradually increased in the following years, so that in 2020 and 2021, it reached up to 30.5 and 34.2 percent, respectively, he further stated.

Irans’s Matomi wins gold in World Weightlifting Championships

TEHRAN – Rousol Matomi from Iran claimed a gold medal at the 2021 World Weightlifting Championships on Wednesday. In his attempt in the 109kg weight class, Matomi lifted 177kg in the snatch and 220kg in the clean and jerk and finished in the first place in the event that was held in Istanbul.

South Korean Jin Yun-seong claimed the silver with 396kg. The bronze medal went to Iran’s Amir Aghighouri who lifted 388kg in that category. Iran’s Mirmostafa Javadi had previously won a silver medal in the 81kg weight class.

The 2021 World Weightlifting Championships is a weightlifting competition held from Dec. 7 to 17 in Istanbul, Uzbekistan. Iran has reached an agreement with the International Weightlifting Federation (IWF) to participate in the event. Iran has finished fourth in the last world championship.

Opinion

A delicate dance of communication

By Afshin Majlesi

While in Iran, you may pay a taxi driver the fare and he might sound confusing. The cab-be may say "Ghabalah shoma za nana"r (for you, it is free). You may think how nice and generous he is! However, in case you leave the taxi unpaid, you may see how the cab-driver is disappointed. Why? Because he expected you to say "tacoef"!

"Tacoef" is a vibrant part of Persian traditional culture, a strong expression of respect, that could be challenging for non-native speakers to grasp. It is a chain of habitable back and forth interactions and social pleasantries used when giving or receiving gifts, food, and money to name a few.

Decorous manners are practiced all over the globe, however, its thick Iranian version differs by being far more complicated. Sim-tar, "Tacoef" could be one of them in some West- ern cultures, Taarof is to do respect, hospitality, politeness, or even to have reverence for elders.

Steel exports rise 22% in 8 months yr/yr

TEHRAN – Iran exported over 4.937 million tons of steel during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21 to October 21) and reached 34 percent since the beginning of 2021, the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA) said. Iran exported 2.839 million tons of steel products in the previous year.

The production capacity of the country’s steel chain increased from 12.3 million tons in the Iranian calendar year 1392 (ended in March 2014) to 230 million tons in the previous year (ended in March 2020).

Based on the latest report released by the World Steel Association (WSA), Iran has maintained its place as the world’s 10th biggest steel producer during January-October 2020.

Iran’s steel industry has been constantly developing over the past years against all the pressures and obstacles created by outside forces like the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus outbreak that has severely affected the performance of the world’s top producers.

The country is expected to climb to seventh place among the world’s top steel producers by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025).

The message added, “The country is expected to become the third or fourth biggest steel producer in the European market. Iran’s steel industry has been constantly developing over the past years against all the pressures and obstacles created by outside forces like the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus outbreak that has severely affected the performance of the world’s top producers.”

It is in U.S. and Western interest to keep Middle East (West Asia) energy prices low and to support governments that are friends of the region.

Interview

U.S. needs to keep ties friendly with Arab states in rivalry with Iran: professor

By Ramin Etemadi

TEHRAN – A professor of international relations says it is in U.S. interest to support Arab states to keep energy prices low and contain Iran.

“Democracy is desirable but secondary in this geopolitical reality,” Stephen Hoadley, the associate professor of politics and international relations at the University of Auckland, tells the Tehran Times.

“It is in U.S. and Western interest to keep Middle East (West Asia) energy prices low and contain Iran,” Hoadley opines.

It was thought that the new American administration will play a constructive role in West Asia, as such the Saud-Iran rivalry could be reduced.

“Iran has reached an agreement with the IAEA. The IAEA has also confirmed the agreement between Iran and the UN body,” the source said.

The agreement with Iran on replacing the cameras at the nuclear facility is an important development for the world’s top producers.

Amir Abdollahian: We have reached a voluntary agreement with IAEA

TEHRAN - Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian announced on Wednesday that Iran has reached an agreement with the IAEA.

“Last night, we reached a good agreement with the Agency that could dispel some of the doubts and fears of the Agency regarding Iran’s peaceful nuclear program and lead to continued mutual cooperation with the Agency,” Amir Abdollahian told the last day of the conference of the heads of Iranian diplomatic missions in neighboring countries.

Amir Abdollahian further wrote that the foreign minister criticized the Agency for seeking resort to the technical issue to “affect the Vienna negotiations” on some occasions.

According to sources, the agreement that Iran and the IAEA have reached is to replace the cameras in the Tesa centrifuge assembly site.

The IAEA cameras had been destroyed due to sabotage act on the facility mainly in the past year.

The messages added, “Armenia attaches importance to bilateral and multilateral cooperation and the ARMENIA attaches importance to bilateral and multilateral cooperation and the opportunities to meet and talk about various opportunities to meet and talk about various issues related to regional, international and bilateral partnership which will unquestionably contribute to the positive dynamics of the development of the relations,” the message reads.
Iranan's proposals in Vienna talks in full conformity to JCPOA, Resolution 2231: envoy

TEHRAN – Iran is firm to make every effort to revive the 2015 landmark nuclear deal – Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) – now that the US administration has returned, sanctions lifted under the agreement. One year later, in May 2019, Iran, America, and other remaining parties to the JCPOA agreed to resume negotiations in Vienna with an aim to bridge remaining gaps over its nuclear commitments under the deal. Tehran also made it clear that the revival of the agreement is conditional on the full and effective removal of the United States' sanctions.

The US, on the other hand, has long been steadfast in its stance that it demands verifiable guarantees that the other parties to the deal – Germany, France, and Britain — will not renege on their obligations or abandon the accord again in case it is revived. “Waiver extensions are also required for the transfer of enriched uranium out of the Islamic Republic of Iran in exchange for natural uranium,” Action for Iran said.

The UN official also called on Iran to “reverse the steps it has taken that are not consistent with its nuclear-related commitments set out in the JCPOA.”

The IAEA has indicated that research and development at the reactor site in Iran continues. Two reactors are undergoing modernization.

But only by engaging in negotiations with Iran, the United States can achieve progress in this round of negotiations. Amir Abbasi said talks with dignity have been on the agenda since the beginning of the Raisi government and the same approach is still being pursued thanks to the seriousness and hard work of the negotiating team.

Amir Abbasi lauds performances of diplomats in facilitating import of Covid vaccines

Elsewhere in his remarks, the foreign minister encouraged the participation of the Iranian diplomats in neighboring and regional countries.

Iran and the IAEA have already been in Vienna to revive the deal after the US pulled out in 2018 under the Trump administration. “In recent days, both Iran and the United States have again affirmed their serious intentions to return to full and proper implementation of the JCPOA,” DiCarlo told the UN Security Council.

The two sides have agreed that the new drafts should be completed in a matter of days, plus Germany (Russia, China, France, Britain plus China, Russia, France, Britain) are negotiating a third draft text on the JCPOA and the IAEA will continue to work on verification of the sanctions removal.

The chief diplomat, however, said these negotiations are not consistent with the JCPOA and its resolution.

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 dubbed Ahmadinejad.

Marzieh cited a UN report that the Intifada "remains a key factor in achieving relief for the Palestinian people and their resistance."

"It is not only a war of strength but also a war of time and perseverance. The Palestinian people are determined to achieve their rights and liberate their land," she said.

She added that the Intifada "has demonstrated the steadfastness and determination of the Palestinian people, and their resolve to continue the struggle against the Israeli occupation."
Barriers to foreign investment to be removed: PBO head

TEHRAN – Head of Iran’s Planning and Budget Organization, Ali Khamenei, said the government has it on the agenda to remove the ways in the way of attracting foreign investment, IRNA reported.

“Stressing the need for the attraction of domestic and foreign investment to achieve a targeted eight-percent economic growth, Khandouzi said: ‘barriers to attracting foreign investment will be removed.’”

Speaking in a gathering of Iranian ambassadors, Khandouzi said: “The government has it in the agenda to remove the barriers to attracting foreign investment.”

According to the official, the economic growth of eight percent is one of the goals of the Sixth National Development Plan (2016-2021) and has also been repeatedly considered by members of the government’s economic team, Mirkazemi said.

Back in November, Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khondouzi announced the government Economic Coordination Headquarters’ approval of a roadmap proposed by his ministry for economic development.

Iran’s biggest capital market support center launched

As reported, the center was launched on Sunday in a ceremony attended by the Deputy Head of Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) Alinezhad Ramezani.

Mofid Brokerage support center is aimed at eliminating the problems and solving technical issues faced by stock exchange shareholders.

Using advanced technologies, the center provides its services through all communication channels, including calls, email messages, comments on social networks, and messages.

As reported, four trillion (about $14.3 million) has been invested in this center to create direct jobs for over 600 people.

TEHRAN – A capital market analyst has predicted an inflation-adjusted 7.5 percent for the next Iranian calendar year (begins on March 21, 2022) indicating that the market has a more positive view on another important and influential change in the next budget bill and said: “Taxation of luxury cars and expensive housing along with taxation of bank deposits is a strategic measure, and one of the important actions that should be anticipated about the budget bill.”

He also mentioned the elimination of subsidized foreign currency allocation in the market and will be the starting point for some positive progress in various industries active in the market.

The elimination of subsidies on foreign currency is not only beneficial for the country’s re-economy but also has a positive effect on the capital market, the analyst said.

Further pointed to the re-election of Iran’s trading companies and added: “The important action of the government in the near future will be to change the production units from 25 percent to 20 percent, which will largely offset the increase in energy costs.”

Over the past 15 months, continuous fluctuations in the Iranian stock market have led electric power to batteries, experts, and scholars to believe that the government should stop the stock market, IRNA said, saying the government’s pre-ordained and unrealistic pricing of electricity in the country is the main reason for the capital market’s current downward trend.

In mid-November, Head of Iran’s Securities and Exchange Organization Ehsan Khondouzi said: “The government was following new strategies to improve the capital market in the long term.”

“The government’s policy, in the long run, is to avoid pre-ordained pricing. This policy has been repeatedly stressed by the president and the government’s economic team and has been placed on the government’s agenda,” Eshgh said.

Export from South Khorasan province increases 22% in past 8 months

TEHRAN – The value of exports from Khorasan province, in the east of Iran, rose 22 percent during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a provincial official announced.

Hasan Rahimizadeh, the director-general of the province’s customs department, said: “606,392 tons of products worth $325,641 million have been exported from the province in the eight-month period, also indicating 35 percent growth in terms of weight of year on year.”

The official named cement, ceramic tiles, light hydrocarbons, oils, butter, and milk as the main exported items, and Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, and Turkmenistan as the main export destinations.

As announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran’s non-oil trade rose 40 percent during the first eight months of the current Iranian calendar year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Mohammad-Reza Arasteh has said that Iran traded over 110.3 million tons of non-oil products worth $631 billion with other countries in the mentioned period.

According to the IRICA head, the weight of trade in the mentioned period also grew by 3.5 percent in comparison to the figure for the previous fiscal year.

The official put the eight-month non-oil products value at $731 billion, with a 42 percent rise in value and 10.5 percent growth in weight.

Mir-Afzal Nashrafzadeh, the spokesperson for the oil products being exported to foreign markets.

He said Iran’s major export destinations were China, Russia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Afghanistan.

The official further announced that the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) has managed to discover 280,758 cases of smuggling, 21,586 cases of fraud, and 21,051 cases of smuggling, with a 21 percent drop in value and a 38 percent drop in value in the first quarter of this year.

The report said: “The value of the goods exported in the first quarter of this year, which was valued at $731 billion, has been an important step towards the government’s policy of reducing the country’s foreign debt.”

The United Arab Emirates was the top importer to Iran in the said period, followed by China, Germany, and Switzerland, he stated.

According to the IRICA head, the total value of goods exported in the first eight months of this year, 20.3 million tons valued at $212 billion were basic goods, which is a 38 percent of the total value of the imports.
U.S. needs to keep friendly ties with Arab states in rivalry with Iran: professor

From page 1  

While some critics believe that Trump’s withdrawal from the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) exposed the real irredentist aspirations of the American government, analysts say that the real issue lies in the potential for a wide range of intra-state dynamics in the Middle East.

Many in the region believe that the U.S. should remain engaged in the region to prevent a possible vacuum of power, which could lead to increased tensions.

A number of Arab countries have expressed concerns over the potential for the U.S. to pull out of its military commitments in the region, which could lead to a power vacuum and increased instability.

U.S. health sector at “breaking point”

The U.S. health sector is experiencing a crisis that is reaching a breaking point. According to the American Medical Association (AMA), 20% of U.S. hospitals are operating at a deficit, and 10% face financial collapse.

The crisis is multifaceted, with issues such as rising drug costs, a shortage of doctors and nurses, and increased administrative burdens. The U.S. health sector is facing a perfect storm that is pushing it to the brink of collapse.

Poll: Ex-president Lula maintains dominant lead in Brazil next year’s presidential race

Lula is leading in the presidential race, according to polls conducted in Brazil. The former president, who is currently serving a prison sentence, has a strong base of support among the working-class electorate.

The recent polls suggest that Lula’s popularity has not diminished despite the legal challenges he faces. The former president’s message of social justice and economic equality resonates with many Brazilians, who are struggling with rising costs of living and a stagnant economy.

UK inflation spikes to decade-high

British inflation has rocketed to its highest level for at least 10 years as the cost of living continues to rise, according to official figures.

The annual inflation rate surged to 7.1% in November, the highest since the financial crisis, driven by rising energy prices and other costs of living.

The news sparked an outcry from Britons, with many warning that the cost of living is putting a strain on their budgets.

The International Monetary Fund warned Tuesday that “new Covid-19 variants pose downside risks to the outlook for Britain.”

The UK economy was already struggling prior to the arrival of Omicron, growing at a rate of just 0.1% in October from 0.6 per cent in September.

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TEHRAN – A collection of historical relics, discovered from Austrian salt mine, have been allocated to the restoration project, the official added.

A total of 18 historical objects and tools found in Austria’s Hallein Salt Mine, also known as Salzbergwerk Dürnberg, have been put on show in the National Museum of Iran, the official added.

 Procedures of the properties of the Austrian mine, which are being transferred to Iran for the exhibit, are very similar to those found in Zanjan, the official said.

According to Ajabbal Nikandeh, the director of the National Museum, the museum and the National Museum of Austria have made considerable cooperation in line with the directive of the Expedited Treaty on wet-radiocarbon studies, on which the two institutions are set to hold exhibitions of each other’s historical and cultural heritage related to the subject of ancient mining.

In April, two separate loan exhibitions featuring ancient mining and relevant documents were kicked off at the National Museum of Iran, and Deutsches Bergbau-Museum.

The exhibition has been organized in collaboration with the Deutsches Bergbau-Museum Bochum (The German Mining Museum in Bochum) and the National Museum of Iran, the official added.

One of the properties of the Austrian mine, which are being transferred to Iran for the exhibit, are very similar to those found in Zanjan, the official said.

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TEHRAN – A collection of historical relics, discovered from Austrian salt mine, is currently on show in the northwestern Zanjan province, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

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### Golden jackal spreading across Europe as climate warms

Golden jackals are spreading out across western Europe for the first time in centuries, with the recent mammal spotted in places such as the Netherlands, in the heart of Italy close to the city of Florence, and on Tuscany.

**The dog-sized creatures are commonplace in much of southern Asia and the Indian subcontinent, much more famous grey wolf but are smaller, closer in size to a large dog, and with a fur coat with vair from a country yellow to dark tawny beige depending on the season.** They are an adaptable scavenger and predator species which live in breeding pairs and will eat almost anything from insects, fruit, birds, small mammals, rodents and human garbage.

Their traditional range has included a large swath of southern Asia and the Indian subcontinent, much of southern Asia and the Indian subcontinent, much of Asia and the Indian subcontinent, much of Asia and the Indian subcontinent.

These golden jackals are flourishing as wolves, their numbers has increased by 300,000 in recent years, and they are now found in more than 30 countries in Europe.

They are an adaptable scavenger and predator species which live in breeding pairs and will eat almost anything from insects, fruit, birds, small mammals, rodents and human garbage.

It is one of the largest range expansions for a mammal that we have ever observed, anywhere in the world, said Dr. Jane Goodall, an ecologist and golden jackal expert from the University of California Santa Cruz.

"It’s a tremendous trend. This week, for instance, we had the first report that golden jackals are reproducing in Germany. Jackals are turning up in new places."

Mr. Romele believes the spread of the animal into new ground is related to the decline of wolves, which were once sedentary across Europe but were mostly hunted to extinction by the early 20th century.

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### Science diplomacy at highest level in 20 years

The share of Iranian articles with international participation has had significant growth of 25 percent during the period (2013-2020), becoming the Islamic world’s leading country in science diplomacy, according to the Scopus International Citation Database.

Launched in 2004, Scopus is the largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature: scientific journals, books, and conference proceedings. Delivering a comprehensive overview of the world’s research output in the fields of science, technology, medicine, social sciences, and arts and humanities, Scopus features smart tools to track, analyze, and visualize research.

The number of articles indexed by the Iranian researchers during the period increased by 122 percent compared to that of 2013, which made Iran 16th in the world with 69,779 articles, and first among the Islamic countries for several consecutive years, Gholam Hossein Rahimpour, the deputy minister of science said, in May.

This improvement is not limited to the number of articles and the country’s share in international articles (the quality) grew from 0.95 percent in 2013 to 4.28 percent in 2020, which indicates a 350 percent growth in the production of Iran’s top articles, he explained.

The growth has not been limited to the field of research and has been very significant in the field of technology, for instance, the creation of 3,000 technology and parks, 4,553 technology units, and 1,653 new knowledge-based companies during the last eight years could provide employment for 34,707 university graduates.
If you are favored, then repay the obligation manifold; but he who takes the initiative will always excel in merit.

Prayer Times

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Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

IRAN: Persian literature

A fragment of a versified version of this in a small village called “Zalava”, where the villagers claim that a daemon is among them.

A young soldier who

TEHRAN – The 55th edition of the International Film Festival Rotterdam will present the acclaimed Iranian dramas “Zalava” and “Hit the Road” in the first films competition.

29 other filmmakers from across the world will be competing with their directorial debuts in this section of the festival, which will take place from January 26 to February 5, 2022, in Rotterdam, the Netherlands, the organizer’s decision to invite six films from two countries to strengthen their ties in all fields even more.

He noted that Iran views its relations with Romans as very friendly, and added: “Besides broad economic ties, we anticipate more cultural relations with Romans.”

Pointing to a memorandum of understanding signed between Iran and Romania, he added: “We are hoping to extend it in the new phase of cultural relations between the two countries.”

The Rembrandt Frerichs Trio gave its first Iranian performance during the 32nd Faraj International Music Festival in Irans Virasat Hall on January 13, 2016. The trio also visited Tehran next year to perform another concert during the Faraj music festival. Metamed and the group have previously collaborated in a joint concert in 2018 during the 2nd Dutch Edition of the Oriental Landscapes. They performed on June 21 at the Korda Theater in The Hague.

The trio, Kalhor and Hossein Alizadeh, also gave a concert in the Brimus jazz club in October 2020.

He said that Iran is eager to organize joint cultural weeks, film festivals and art exhibitions with Romania.

On her part, Grecu also expressed her hope that the meeting would help pave the ground for celebration of relations between the two countries.

She also pointed to the long history of political relations between Iran and Romania and said that she would do her best to see that relations are expanded during her mission.

The Rembrandt Frerichs Trio is a jazz trio formed by Eid Marquis. The group’s fascination for Iranian specialization in improvisation that finds its origin in the Iranian specialization in improving improvisation in Persian classical music and poetry.

The concert also marked Mehted’s singer of Iranian poetry, who knows many poems by heart and decides on the spot what will sing next, and added, “Mehted is a perfect fit for another exciting collaboration with the Rembrandt Frerichs Trio.”

The trio, which is composed of Persian Frerichs, contrabass player Tony Zarin and Romanian percussionist Vinsent Planjar, will give a performance at Kaap in Oostende, Belgium on Thursday.

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