

# Iran in No Rush For a Deal

▶ Page 3

## Report



### Mexico gets boost in legal battle against U.S. gun makers

Just like the U.S. economy benefits from its arms flow to Yemen or occupied Palestinian Territories where civilian deaths mount by the day, the same can be said for Latin America.

Mexico has gained the support of more than a dozen U.S. states as well as Latin American and Caribbean nations who have thrown their support behind a lawsuit that accuses several major U.S. gun manufacturers of facilitating the trafficking of weapons across the border to extremely dangerous drug cartels, leading to thousands of murders.

Thirteen states and the countries of Antigua and Barbuda and Belize filed separate briefs urging a federal judge in Boston to not dismiss Mexico's \$10 billion lawsuits against gun firms including Smith & Wesson and Sturm, Ruger & Co.

The companies argue U.S. legislation, "the Protection of Lawful Commerce in Arms Act", protects gun makers from lawsuits over the misuse of their manufactured firearms.

But Mexico's lawyers hit back saying the law only prohibits lawsuits over casualties that occur in the United States and would not shield the companies from the trafficking of guns to Mexican criminals.

Democratic attorneys general from 13 states including Massachusetts, California, and New York along with the District of Columbia have agreed. ▶ Page 5

## Opinion



### Tehran tourism fair: missed opportunities

By Samaneh Aboutalebi

TEHRAN- The 15th edition of the Tehran International Tourism Exhibition has come to an end with all the shortcomings and advantages.

The capacity-limited international event ended Tuesday as organizers seemed unable to take advantage of all the available space.

This exhibition, which took place simultaneously with the 35th national handicrafts exhibition, has the potential to become an iconic event in the region.

But the somewhat erratic and crude manner in which the exhibit was held has prevented this from happening.

There seems to be some inefficiency when it comes to advertising this international exhibition. Consequently, not many non-native visitors and participants were seen.

The pavilions needed to be seriously revised. Since they were the first thing that a visitor will see, they should be made to look appealing.

In an era when paper advertising and brochures are no longer effective, virtual reality is a better alternative to presentation and advertising. The work was well done in one or two pavilions, including the pavilions of the National Museum, and Isfahan.

While visiting the exhibit do you need help finding your way around? Well, you wouldn't find any there. Do you think alphabetical or number order is important? They didn't exist there either.

Handicrafts, food stalls, and tourism booths were displayed without order in some halls.

The handicraft stalls looked like a local market and were not well decorated. However, some booths, such as carpet booths, had taken advantage of the beauty of their products and created beautiful and eye-catching decorations. ▶ Page 6



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Yet another shame for the apartheid regime

TEHRAN — A four-year study by the Amnesty International has partly revealed the true color of the Zionist regime and called on the international organizations to bring the Israeli officials to justice.

Will the world listen?

Apartheid is a system of organized oppression and dominance of one racial group over another. It is a major breach of human rights that is outlawed under international law. Amnesty International's rigorous study and legal analysis, conducted in cooperation with other experts, shows that Israel implements such a system against Palestinians through laws, policies, and practices that ensure their continued and harsh discrimination. ▶ Page 2

### 468 industrial, mining projects to be inaugurated during Ten-Day Dawn

TEHRAN - Some 468 industrial and mining projects worth 626 trillion rials (about \$2.2 billion) are scheduled to be inaugurated in Iran during the Ten-Day Dawn (February 1-11), which marks the 43rd anniversary of the Islamic Revolution, Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mehdi Niazi announced.

According to Niazi, the mentioned projects are going to create direct job opportunities for

over 22,800 people across the country, IRNA reported.

Niazi said 172 of the mentioned projects are large-scale industrial and mining projects which will benefit the country at a national level.

Most of the said projects will be put into operation in East Azarbaijan, Khorasan Razavi,

Yazd, and Alborz provinces, the official said.

Of the total number of projects ready to be inaugurated, 296 are related to the small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) that have been established with a total investment of about 2.6 trillion rials (about \$93.1 million) and will create jobs for about 5,800 people, Niazi added. ▶ Page 4

## Report



### Indigenous knowledge a way to protect valuable wetlands

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – Construction of qanats and dams have long been used in Iran to manage water resources and wetlands, which have been forgotten for several years. Experts believe that we can manage water resources and wetlands well by relying on local knowledge.

Iran is rich in terms of having a variety of wetlands due to its climatic diversity. In the world, the total number of wetlands is classified into 42 types, of which 41 types exist in the country.

In Iran, 141 wetlands with ecological value with an area of over 3 million hectares have been identified, of which 25 wetlands are designated as wetlands of international importance (registered in the Ramsar Convention) covering more than 1.4 million hectares and four sites are biosphere reserves. ▶ Page 7

### Spanish Coach Montoya Fernandez quits as Iran coach

TEHRAN - Manuel Montoya Fernandez brought an end to his association with Iran national handball team.

The Spaniard was named Iran coach in July 2021 and led the Persians at the 2022 Asian Men's Handball Championship.

Under his coaching, Iran booked their place in the 2023 World Men's Handball Championship

held in Saudi Arabia in January.

Head of Iran handball federation Alireza Pakdel has confirmed the Fernandez's departure and said they will hire a new foreign coach for the world championship.

Montoya Fernandez is a Ph.D. in Physical Education and Sport at the University of Barcelona, and his coaching career started at BM

Granollers club (1992-1997, 2002-2008), with whom he won twice the EHF Cup (1995, 1996) and the Spanish Cup (1994).

Between 2010 and 2013, he was second coach with the Spanish national, with whom he won the bronze medal at World Championship 2011 and the gold at the World Championship 2013.

## From Inside



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## Interview



### U.S. 'maximum pressure' policy has made nuclear deal revival difficult: ex-EU diplomat

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN - The former European Union's Special Representative to the Middle East peace process says that Donald Trump's "maximum pressure" policy made the revival of the Iran nuclear deal difficult.

"It obviously has been a failure and made the revival of the pact more difficult, because of a loss of trust between the parties," Marc Otte tells the Tehran Times.

"It has been met with 'maximum resistance' from Iran, including acceleration of uranium enrichment by Tehran," he adds.

Biden administration officials said on Monday that the United States and its European allies appear on the cusp of restoring the Iran nuclear deal.

All parties admitted that negotiations had reached a point where political leaders needed to decide whether they would agree to key elements of an accord that would essentially return to the 2015 deal that Trump discarded four years ago, over the objections of many of his key advisers.

Ultimately, that prompted Iran to resume its nuclear production and increase the level of its nuclear enrichment.

Trump's aggressive policies against Iran not only crippled the JCPOA under his presidency, but made troubles for his successor and America's Western allies to restore it smoothly later, the former European diplomat notes. ▶ Page 5

### Iran: IAEA informed about moving centrifuge parts to Isfahan

TEHRAN— Iran's decision to produce centrifuge parts in a new complex in Isfahan instead of the Tesa complex in Karaj is done with the knowledge of the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) and now the UN nuclear watchdog would be able to adjust its regulatory and monitoring standards accordingly, Iran's acting ambassador to the IAEA said late on Monday.

"The IAEA report is a regular update which provides the latest technical information on Iran's nuclear activities to its members," Mohammad Reza Ghaebi explained.

He continued by saying that according to the report, Iran has informed the Agency that it intends to produce centrifuge parts in a new complex in Isfahan instead of the Tesa complex, which has not yet begun its work, and the IAEA will be able to meet regulatory standards.

"However, information about this monitoring will remain with Iran and the IAEA will not have access to it until Iran resumes its nuclear obligations ▶ Page 2



## MP: Conditions ripe for win-win agreement in Vienna if partners show seriousness



TEHRAN — National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the parliament held an extraordinary meeting with Iran's chief nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani on Tuesday to assess the latest developments in the Vienna talks intended to revive the 2015 nuclear deal.

Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini, spokesman for the parliamentary committee, said the meeting was “very serious” and that the condition is ripe for a “good and win-win” agreement if the Western sides show seriousness and good faith.

The chief negotiators from Iran, the U.S. and three European parties to the nuclear deal (Germany, France and Britain) have returned to capitals for consultations with senior officials. The negotiators are expected to return to Vienna by the weekend.

“The committee had a meeting with Bagheri to hear a report on the latest progress of the negotiations in Vienna. The questions of the representatives were answered in this meeting,” Meshkini stated.

The MP added that Bagheri evaluated the negotiation process as positive and emphasized the goodwill and seriousness of

Iran. Quoting Bagheri, the spokesman also said Iran has not had any direct talks with the Americans so far.

Summarizing the issues raised at the meeting, Meshkini noted, “According to the issues raised at the meeting, in the status quo, it is not obvious whether direct talks with the U.S. would fundamentally bear fruit or there would be considerable gains in return.”

He outlined that despite the positive and forward-looking negotiation process, there are still important issues that need to be negotiated and agreed upon.

According to the spokesman, Iran has the right to demand the lifting of all sanctions, but to date the U.S. has only agreed to lift part of the sanctions.

Abbas Moqtadaei, the deputy chairman of the parliamentary committee, announced on Tuesday the holding of an extraordinary meeting with Bagheri Kani on the latest status of the Vienna talks.

The Isfahan representative stated that in the meeting, Bagheri presented a detailed report and then the committee members expressed their views.

He continued by saying that the parliament and the foreign ministry, in order to maximize cooperation, insisted on the need how to implement the parliamentary ratification to protect the rights of the Iranian people.

“Both sides focused on protection of the rights of the Iranian people and agreed that these rights should be considered at the highest level,” he added.

The MP noted that issues related to foreign policy and how to manage them were reviewed in the meeting.

## Iranian, Kazakh presidents stress expansion of trade

TEHRAN — Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi spoke on the phone with his Kazakh counterpart on Wednesday.

In the conversation with Kazakh President Kassym-Jomart Tokayev, Raisi described the security, stability and tranquility of the friendly country of Kazakhstan as important for Iran.

“We support stability and tranquility in the region,” Raisi noted.

Referring to his recent meeting with Tokayev on the sidelines of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization summit in Tajikistan, the president said, “As I emphasized during that meeting, the current level of bilateral economic and trade relations and cooperation is not commensurate with the level of political relations and I hope in the 30th year of diplomacy between the two countries, we can take a big step towards improving the level of

economic interaction.”

For his part, Tokayev said that in the 30 years since the establishment of diplomatic relations, the two countries have been able to achieve a desirable level of close and friendly relations with each other.

He also thanked Iran for its support of the region's independence.

“I am sure that the future of bilateral relations will be very fruitful and bright,” he reiterated.

For his part, the Kazakh president said that the growing expansion of relations with Iran, especially in the field of economic and trade cooperation, is very important for him, and expressed hope that the forthcoming meeting of the Joint Economic Cooperation Commission and bilateral travel could make a great leap in relations between the two countries.

## Iran: IAEA informed about moving centrifuge parts to Isfahan

From page 1 ► under the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA),” he explained.

Iran has informed the IAEA it has stopped production at one of its nuclear facilities attacked last June and transferred work to another site, the watchdog said on Monday.

The move responded to a “security concern” following the attack, with the new site “better protected”, a European diplomat told AFP.

The Tesa complex in Karaj near the capital Tehran hosted a workshop to build components for centrifuges, machines used to enrich uranium.

Iran said cameras at the site were damaged on June 23, 2021 during what it called an Israeli “sabotage” operation.

In the aftermath, the IAEA said it did not receive permission to gain access and replace the surveillance equipment damaged in the attack.

The two parties finally struck an agreement in December and new cameras were installed. However, IAEA Director General Rafael

Mariano Grossi said “Iran had informed the Agency on 19 January that it intended to produce centrifuge rotor tubes and bellows at a new location in Isfahan,” according to the UN watchdog.

It said, “the Agency could adjust its surveillance and monitoring measures accordingly.”

“A few days later, Agency inspectors applied seals on all the relevant machines in the Karaj workshop, placed them under containment and then removed the surveillance cameras installed there,” it said.

“As a result, the production of centrifuge rotor tubes and bellows at the Karaj workshop had ceased,” it added.

Then on January 24 IAEA inspectors set up cameras at a site in Isfahan “to ensure the machines intended for the production of centrifuge rotor tubes and bellows were under monitoring,” it said.

It added that the production of the centrifuge equipment at the new workshop had yet to begin.

# Eslami: People will soon see fruits of nuclear industry

*“Today nuclear technology is the driver of development”*

TEHRAN — Mohammad

Eslami, the chief of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI), visited the family of martyr Mohsen Fakhrizadeh on Wednesday during which he said the Iranian nation will see soon feel the benefits of nuclear industry in their life.

Fakhrizadeh, a nuclear physicist and scientist, was assassinated in a terrorist attack on November 2020 about 40 kilometers northeast of Tehran. Israel was considered the first and foremost culprit behind the assassination.

At the meeting, Eslami congratulated the auspicious days of the victory of the Islamic Revolution and commemorated the memory of Imam Khomeini and the martyrs of the Islamic Revolution.

“Our high-ranking martyrs, including martyr Fakhrizadeh, were taking steps to establish the honor and authority of Islamic Iran, an authority in the light of which dignity, comfort and security were established for Iranians, and now our compatriots are moving steadfast in advancing the lofty goals of the country and the Revolution, without being influenced by the power of foreigners,” Eslami stated.

The head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran added that he went to pay tribute to the Fakhrizadeh family in a sign of respect to martyrs.

“I ask God Almighty to keep us steadfast in this path. I hope



that the prayers of the families of the martyrs and the people will accompany us on the path of the Islamic Revolution and the lofty goals of the country,” the nuclear chief wished.

He said pressure by the arrogant powers put the country on the path of dignity and independence.

Regarding the achievements of the Islamic Revolution and the country's nuclear advances and the ineffectiveness of sanctions, Eslami noted that new technologies are a source of authority and power.

“From the viewpoint of the arrogant powers, the presence of Islamic Iran among the powerful countries is considered forbidden, because access to new technologies for the sake of wealth creation as well as empowerment for our country, takes us out of the domination of arrogant powers and this is not what they want,” he added.

Eslami added that Iran's young scientists have achieved very important accomplishments in new technologies through

selfless, loving and sincere efforts without taking care of warnings by foreigners, and one of these cases is the recognition of Iran's nuclear activities among the countries of the world.

He continued, “The arrogant powers do not like Iran's authority and they took any action to hinder the progress of our youth and create obstacles on our way. But our revolutionary youth took a step towards the development of the country and aspirations with a vision, and today our Revolution celebrates the forty-third anniversary of its victory with fervent youth.”

Regarding the development of nuclear technology and the impact of this technology on people's daily lives, Eslami said today nuclear technology is the driver of the development of the country and the impact of this technology in other industries and different parts of people's lives will be manifested.

He added Iran has plans to produce nuclear electricity.

“We are trying to achieve

this goal with high speed,” he reiterated.

According to the AEOI chief, another issue is facilitating the use of radiation in improving the quality of the health sector by using radiopharmaceuticals, which can be widely used in treatment and diagnostics.

“Another area is the use of radiation in agricultural, food and environmental industries, in which we will see a direct impact on people's lives, both economically and in terms of health,” Eslami further noted.

For his part, the son of Martyr Fakhrizadeh congratulated the 43rd anniversary of the Islamic Revolution.

He also talked about the high goals of the nuclear martyrs for their scientific development of the country.

“The path of our scientists in the rapid movement towards new technologies should not be stopped,” he noted.

He added that Iranian scientists proved that without any dependence, they conquer the peaks of knowledge that were unimaginable for the world.

He concluded his remarks by saying that the officials must be careful to pave the way for the development of science, especially new technologies, without fear and with confidence.

“Whenever we decided to enter a field, we were successful and proud,” he asserted.

## Yet another shame for the apartheid regime

From page 1 ► Specific unlawful acts performed under a totalitarian ideology and supremacy with the goal of preserving it constitute the crime against humanity of apartheid, according to international criminal law. The Apartheid Convention and the Rome Statute define these crimes as unlawful killing, torture, forcible transfer, and denial of basic rights and freedoms.

Acts prohibited under the Apartheid Convention and the Rome Statute have been reported by Amnesty International in all of the territories under Israel's authority, however they occur more frequently and violently in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) than in Israel. Multiple actions are taken by Israeli authorities to deprive Palestinians of their basic rights and freedoms, including draconian movement restrictions in the OPT, chronic discriminatory underinvestment in Palestinian neighborhoods in Israel, and denial of refugees' right to return. In both Israel and the OPT, the report details coercive transfers, administrative imprisonment, torture, and unlawful killings.

Massive seizure of Palestinian land and property, unlawful killings, forcible transfer, severe movement restrictions, and the denial of nationality and citizenship to Palestinians are all components of a system that amounts to apartheid under international law, according to the comprehensive report titled “Israel's Apartheid against Palestinians: Cruel System of Domination and Crime against Humanity.” This system is upheld by transgressions that Amnesty International determined to be apartheid as a crime against humanity, as defined by the Rome Statute and the Apartheid Convention.

Amnesty International has urged the International Criminal Court (ICC) to include apartheid as a crime in its ongoing investigation in the OPT, and all governments to use universal jurisdiction to prosecute perpetrators of apartheid crimes.

For committing the crime of apartheid against Palestinians, Israeli authorities must be held accountable.

“There is no possible justification for a system built around the institutionalized and prolonged racist oppression of millions of people. Apartheid has no place in our world, and states which choose to make allowances for Israel will find themselves on the wrong side of history. Governments who continue to supply Israel with arms and shield it from accountability at the UN are supporting a system of apartheid, undermining the

international legal order, and exacerbating the suffering of the Palestinian people. The international community must face up to the reality of Israel's apartheid, and pursue the many avenues to justice which remain shamefully unexplored.”

After conducting a comprehensive report, Amnesty International has also pressed the UN Security Council to impose a comprehensive arms embargo on Israel in light of the persistent unlawful deaths of Palestinians. Given the killings of thousands of Palestinian civilians by Israeli forces over decades, this should include all weapons and munitions as well as law enforcement equipment. Targeted measures, like asset freezes should be imposed by the Security Council against Israeli officials most implicated in the apartheid crime.

Israel has followed a policy of establishing and then maintaining a Jewish demographic majority, as well as maximizing control over land and resources to benefit Jewish Israelis, since its founding in 1948. Israel expanded its policy to annex the West Bank and the Gaza Strip in 1967. Today, all of Israel's occupied areas are administered with the goal of enriching Jewish Israelis at the expense of Palestinians, with Palestinian refugees remaining disenfranchised.

According to Amnesty International, Israeli authorities classify Palestinians as a second-class racial group defined by their non-Jewish Arab identity. This racial discrimination is codified in legislation that apply to Palestinians in Israel and the OPT.

Palestinian refugees and their descendants who were uprooted during the battles of 1947-49 and 1967 are still denied the right to return to their previous homes. The exclusion of refugees by Israel is a gross violation of international law that has forced millions of people to live in limbo.

Instead of citizenship, Palestinians in the occupied East Jerusalem are awarded permanent residence — but this is only in name. More than 14,000 Palestinians have had their residence cancelled at the Ministry of the Interior's discretion since 1967, resulting in their forcible removal from the city.

Since 1948, Israeli authorities have pursued a variety of tactics to “Judaize” the Negev, including the designation of significant portions as nature reserves or military shooting zones, as well as the establishment of numerical targets for growing the Jewish population. The tens of thousands of Palestinian Bedouins who reside in the region

have suffered as a result.

Thirty-five Bedouin villages, with a population of roughly 68,000 people, are currently “unrecognized” by Israel, which means they are cut off from the national electricity and water supply and are targeted for demolition on a regular basis. Residents of the villages face limits on political engagement and are barred from the healthcare and education systems due to their lack of formal status. Many people have been forced to leave their homes and towns as a result of these situations.

Palestinian citizens of Israel have been economically disadvantaged in comparison to Jewish Israelis for decades due to deliberate uneven treatment. This is aggravated by the government's overtly biased allocation of state resources, such as the Covid-19 recovery package, of which just 1.7 percent was provided to Palestinian local councils.

Settler organizations routinely target Palestinian neighborhoods in East Jerusalem, working with the full support of the Israeli government to evict Palestinian families and pass their homes over to settlers. Since May 2021, one such neighborhood, Sheikh Jarrah, has seen a slew of rallies as residents fight to maintain their homes despite the possibility of a settler lawsuit.

Agnes Callamard, Amnesty International's Secretary General said, “Our report reveals the true extent of Israel's apartheid regime. Whether they live in Gaza, East Jerusalem and the rest of the West Bank, or Israel itself, Palestinians are treated as an inferior racial group and systematically deprived of their rights. We found that Israel's cruel policies of segregation, dispossession and exclusion across all territories under its control clearly amount to apartheid. The international community has an obligation to act.”

What Amnesty International has highlighted is only a small fraction of the larger, more accurate picture in the occupied areas. What's intriguing is that such a comprehensive report was published by an international organization with a good reputation. Self-proclaimed human rights “defendants” like the U.S. and the EU frequently utilize the organization to condemn countries they don't like. This is the true question.

Will international organizations, the United States, and the European Union take action? Will the International Criminal Court (ICC) bring the Israeli government to justice? We are awaiting the decision.



# Iran in no rush for a deal

TEHRAN – Iran has assessed the situation in Vienna as “forward-moving” and “positive” but it said the ball is in U.S.’s court in terms of reviving the 2015 nuclear deal.

The heads of delegations of Iran and the P4+1 group of countries as well as the U.S. are planning to return to Vienna soon. Before returning to the Austrian capital, Iran’s chief negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani briefed the members of the Iranian Parliament’s National Security and Foreign Policy Committee on the latest developments in the Vienna talks.

After the briefing, Mahmoud Abbaszadeh Meshkini, the spokesman for the Committee, said the time is ripe for reaching a good and win-win deal on the condition that the West shows seriousness and goodwill.

Speaking to the Islamic Consultative Assembly News Agency (ICANA), the spokesman gave some details about the Tuesday meeting that the Committee members held with Baqeri Kani.

During the session, the spokesman said, a report on the Vienna negotiations has been presented and the questions of the lawmakers have been answered.

According to Meshkini, Bagheri Kani assessed the negotiations



process positively and said that the Islamic Republic of Iran is participating in the talks with goodwill and seriousness.

Bagheri also pointed out that Iran and the U.S. have not held any direct talks so far, the lawmaker said.

Meshkini said that the Committee concluded from the session that basically the results of direct negotiations with the U.S. are not clear.

“Although there are signs of progress in the Vienna talks, still there are outstanding issues that need to be negotiated and dealt with,” he said.

Iran is entitled to enjoy full sanctions removal but the other side has so far accepted partial removal of sanctions, the lawmaker added.

Meshkini noted there are indications that the current conditions for a good and win-win deal have been provided on the condition that the West shows seriousness and goodwill.

The remarks came days before the return of Bagheri Kani and other delegations’ heads to Vienna, meaning that Iran is making clear that making further progress in Vienna or conclusion of the talks rest on seriousness and flexibility on the part of the U.S.

Iran has already said that it is in no rush to make a deal, though it prefers to achieve a good agreement as soon as possible. Basically, the pace is not as important to Iran as substance. Furthermore, some believe Iran is not in urgent need of

a deal as much as the U.S.

Despite its obvious need for a deal, the U.S., however, has sought to put the onus of pushing the talks forward on Iran.

In a special briefing on Monday, a senior U.S. State Department official clearly pointed to that. “Now is a time for political decisions. Now is the time to decide whether – for Iran to decide whether it’s prepared to make those decisions necessary for a mutual return to compliance with the JCPOA,” the official said, referring to the Iran nuclear deal by its official acronym.

The U.S. official claimed that the Vienna talks are in “the final stretch” and that the talks “can’t go on forever because of Iran’s nuclear advances.”

The official also hinted at a deadline despite an emphasis that the U.S. is not setting a deadline. “This is not a prediction. It’s not a threat. It’s not an artificial deadline. It’s just a requirement that we’ve conveyed indirectly to Iran and to all our P5+1 partners for some time, which is that given the pace of Iran’s advances, its nuclear advances, we only have a handful of weeks left to get a deal, after which point it will unfortunately be no longer possible to return to the JCPOA,” the official claimed.

## JCPOA hang-up is in Europe: MP

TEHRAN – A senior Iranian lawmaker has said that reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal requires seriousness and good faith on part of Europe.

Mahmood Abbas Zadeh said the Europeans must resolve the crisis created by the U.S in the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official name for the nuclear agreement.

In an exclusive interview with Islamic Consultative Assembly News Agency (ICANA), Abbas Zadeh said that the French President’s phone call with the Iranian president carried a diplomatic message and showed Iran’s upper hand in the Vienna talks.

“Although France had played the role of a bad cop in the recent negotiations, it confessed to Iran’s right to distrust of the United States,” the member of the National Security and Foreign Policy Committee of the Parliament said.

Reaching a good deal is not out of reach, he said, adding that the Iran manages to overcome the impact of sanctions despite the hardships of the sanctions.

He said that Iran has succeeded to open the way for exporting oil and expanded the economic relations with neighbors.

“Iran also in cooperation with China and Russia and creation of an efficient and dynamic diplomacy has created an important economic bloc in the East of the world,” he added.

The lawmaker made the remarks in reaction to recent phone conversation between Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi and his French counterpart Emanuel Macron.

Strategies for strengthening bilateral relations, regional issues and the latest status of talks in Vienna for lifting sanctions were the focus of the



telephone conversation, according to the website of the Iranian presidency.

Referring to an admission by the U.S. that the policy of the maximum pressure has failed, Ayatollah Raisi stressed, “The Islamic Republic of Iran has shown its will and seriousness to reach an agreement in the negotiation process, and any effort by the other side in this regard should include the lifting of sanctions, verification and valid guarantee.”

Emphasizing that stability and security in the region can only be achieved through intra-regional solutions and not foreign interventions, Raisi called on the international community to pay attention to the humanitarian crisis in Yemen and lift the siege on the oppressed people of the country.

In this phone call, the French President stressed that Iran has the right to distrust the United States because it was the United States that caused the crisis.

Macron also condemned the military aggression against the Yemeni people, especially the recent attacks.

Developments in the region, including the situation in Lebanon, were other topics of

discussion between the presidents of Iran and France.

The Iranian foreign ministry spokesman on Monday reiterated that the nuclear agreement can be revived soon if the other sides come up with a response to Iran’s initiatives.

“If the day after the delegations return to Vienna, they respond correctly to what has been said to them as the natural rights of Iran and to the texts that Iran has given them, and if they keep their demands within the framework of the JCPOA, we can reach a lasting, good and reliable agreement the next day, and there is no need for artificial deadlines,” Saeed Khatibzadeh told reporters during his weekly presser.

He added that the other sides are aware of the differences and must make political decisions, especially in Washington.

Khatibzadeh said that Iran is waiting for the political decisions in Washington which may be announced when the U.S. delegation will return to Vienna.

He then noted that there are significant differences among Iran and P4+1.

“In the field of sanctions removal, there are still important and significant issues that have not made the agreement possible to date. In the realm of verification and guarantees that can assure Iran that the United States will not ridicule international law and won’t target the international companies with extraterritorial sanctions, and that our citizens will not be held hostage again under the false pretext of circumventing sanctions, there are still unsolved issues,” he reiterated.

The spokesman stressed that the progress should be made in a completely acceptable manner by Iran so that Tehran can close the case in terms of obtaining guarantees.

## Iran president voices hope for development of cooperation with China in all fields

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi on Tuesday expressed hope to see the strengthening of ties between Tehran and Beijing in all fields.

In a congratulatory message on the Chinese New Year to the President of the People’s Republic of China, Xi Jinping, Ayatollah Raisi expressed his satisfaction that at the beginning of the new year, the two nations have entered the second fifty years of diplomatic relations and the implementation of a 25-year comprehensive cooperation program.

“I would like to offer my sincerest congratulations to Your Excellency and the proud people of the People’s Republic of China on the spring festival and the Chinese New Year. I am glad that at the beginning of the new year, the two nations have entered the second fifty years of diplomatic relations and the implementation of a 25-

year comprehensive cooperation program has been announced,” the Iranian president told his Chinese counterpart in the message, according to the official website of the Iranian presidency.

He added, “I hope that in the light of mutual political trust and working together with his Chinese counterpart, the development and deepening of bilateral regional and international cooperation in all areas, especially the common interests of developing countries would be witnessed.”

The Iranian president concluded, “Undoubtedly, under Your Excellency’s wise leadership, the world will witness the successful holding of the Beijing Winter Olympics this year. I wish Your Excellency health and success, and the friendly nation of the People’s Republic of China prosperity and felicity.”

# IRAN IN FOCUS

FEBRUARY 3, 2022

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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## SPORTS

### Woman skier Ahmadi wants to finish her father’s unfinished journey

TEHRAN – Iranian skier Atefeh Ahmadi wants to finish her father’s “unfinished journey” after a lack of funds forced him out of professional sports.

She learned to ski not long after she could walk, but the path to the Winter Olympics has not been an entirely smooth run for the 21-year-old.

Ahmadi said international competitors were often shocked when they heard she was from Iran.

“They ask me if we have snow... They think we are a desert country like Saudi Arabia,” the skier told AFP.

“But even in summer, you can practise the sport in Damavand or Alamkouch, glaciers that are 5,600 meters (over 18,000 feet) high.”

“They are also amazed to learn that women ski in an Islamic country. I tell them that religion does not prevent women from doing sports,” she added.

Iran boasts several ski resorts, open to both genders. Those closest to Tehran are popular family getaways in winter and on weekends.

At the age of 10, Ahmadi travelled to Kazakhstan for her first competition abroad, and at 16 she joined the national team.

“When I debuted at the World Championships in St. Moritz in Switzerland, I realized I had to fight to compete with the best. They had the financial means -- I only had my will,” she said.

Ahmadi’s first big disappointment came in the run-up to the 2018 Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea.

“I was extremely motivated. I was 17 years old and I wanted to make history, to be the youngest Iranian skier to go to the Olympics,” she said.

But the committee did not select her, saying she was too young.

“I was devastated. I cried for two weeks. I wanted to quit skiing,” she said.

“Two months later, I picked myself up and started training again. I wanted to prove to everyone what I was capable of despite my age.”

Ahmadi said she wanted to finish her father’s “unfinished journey” after a lack of funds forced him out of professional sports.

In 2019 she finished 46th in the slalom at the world championships, and finished in exactly the same place in 2021.

One of just three Iranians set to compete in Beijing, she has become something of an icon in her village, and hopes to set an example for other young women.

“I was born in a traditional town where there are not many professional female athletes,” she said.

“A girl from our region who reaches the biggest sports arena in the world can be a role model.”

### 25 players invited to Iran basketball team for 2023 FIBA World Cup Qualifiers

TEHRAN – Iran national basketball team head coach Mostafa Hashemi invited 25 players to the team for two matches against Kazakhstan and Syria in the 2023 FIBA Basketball World Cup Asian Qualifiers.

Iran are scheduled to meet Kazakhstan on Feb. 24 in the 2023 FIBA Basketball

World Cup qualification Group D in Tehran. Hashem’s men will play Syria three days later.

Iran sit top of the group with two wins over Bahrain.

**Iran squad:**

Amirhossein Azari, Matin Aghajanpour, Jalal Aghamiri, Mohammad Jamshidi, Hamed Haddadi, Mohammad Hassanzadeh, Navid Khajehzadeh, Saeid Davarpanah, Ehsan Dalirzahan, Amirhossein Rezaeifar, Navid Rezaeifar, Keyvan Riaei, Arman Zangeneh, Behshad Arabzadeh, Asghar Kardoust, Arsalan Kazemi, Mehdi Kamrani, Sajad Mashayekhi, Hossein Mokarian, Salar Monji, Meysam Mirzaei, Mohammadsina Vahedi, Amirhossein Yazarloo, Behnam Yakhchali, Mohammad Yousefvand

### Iran, Armenia to hold joint camp in Tehran

TEHRAN – Iran and Armenia boxing teams will take part in a joint training camp in Tehran.

The 10-day camp will be held in March in the Iranian capital.

Iran participated in the International Team Boxing Tournament in Armenia in December.

Iran prepares for the 2022 Asian Games which will be held in Hangzhou, China.

### Three skiers to represent Iran at Winter Olympics

TEHRAN – Three Iranian skiers left Tehran Tuesday night to participate at the 2022 Winter Olympic Games.

Atefeh Ahmadi and Hossein Saveh Shemshaki will compete in Alpine skiing.

Seyed Sattar Seyd was supposed to represent Iran in cross-country but he got infected with COVID-19 and missed the Games.

The 2022 Beijing Olympics will begin on February 4 and run through February 20.

The Games are located in Beijing, China. The competition will be split into three zones: central Beijing, Yanqing and Zhangjiakou.

### Esteghlal & Persepolis to be publicly listed in February

TEHRAN – The Iran Privatization Organization said shares of Tehran’s two main football clubs, Esteghlal and Persepolis, will be offered in the stock market by late February.

“Both clubs have submitted their financial statements to the IPO that is being reviewed. We have not yet set a date for the share offer, but tentatively it would be by the end of February,” Hossein Qorbanzadeh, the IPO head, was quoted as saying by ISNA,

The IPO is discussing the details with the representatives of the two clubs, Qorbanzadeh said without providing details.

Persepolis were founded in 1963 by Ali Abdo and haVE been in the first division of Iranian football since 1968. Persepolis also had three teams in bowling, basketball and volleyball in THE first years of establishment.

Esteghlal are one of the oldest football clubs in Tehran and Iran, and carry a deep history in Iranian football. They are one of the most supported and successful clubs in Iranian football, having won two AFC Champions League trophies, eight national titles and a record of seven national cups.

### Amir Abdollahian issues message to mark end of D8 chief’s mission

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has sent a message to mark the end of tenure of the head of an economic cooperation organization comprising of a number of developing countries.

In his message to mark the end of the mission of Dato’ Ku Jaafar Ku Shaari as the secretary general of the Developing-8 (D8) Organization for Economic Cooperation, Amir Abdollahian said the organization has witnessed tangible progress in launching new initiatives and completing previous plans in line with its high aims, the Iranian foreign ministry said on Tuesday.

“I am willing to thank your Excellency for your actions and efforts to advance the objectives of the organization and pray God for your success, prosperity and health,” the foreign minister

added.

The Iranian foreign minister also sent a message to Wang Yi, China’s state councilor and foreign minister, to congratulate him on the occasion of the Chinese New Year and Spring Festival, wishing success and prosperity for China’s government and heroic nation.

The message read, “I am glad to have had the opportunity to hold a meeting and constructive talks with you, old friend, in the beautiful city of Wuxi ahead of the Spring Festival.”

“I am certain that the agreements reached during this trip will pave the ground for the expansion of comprehensive strategic cooperation between Iran and China in the second 50 years of diplomatic relations,” it added.



## 468 industrial, mining projects to be inaugurated during Ten-Day Dawn



From page 1 ► Every year, during the Ten-Day Dawn celebrations, which mark the victory of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, numerous infrastructure projects are inaugurated or commenced to mark the development of the country after the revolution.

Last week, Transport and Urban Development Ministry had announced the plan for the inauguration of numerous port development, maritime, and transport projects during the Ten-Day Dawn.

The mentioned projects include 484 transport projects with a total investment of 60.42 trillion rials (about \$214.6 million), 53 railway projects valued at 26.72 trillion rials (about \$94.92 million), and 19 maritime and port development projects worth 6.8 trillion rials (about \$24.15 million).

Agriculture Ministry also plans to inaugurate 1,969 water and soil preservation projects across the country during the mentioned 10 days.

According to Deputy Agriculture Minister Alimorad Akbari, the mentioned projects include the implementation of modern irrigation systems in 21,000 hectares of farmlands, conducting 2,200 hectares of irrigation and drainage sub-networks, reviving and improving over 2,000 hectares of paddy fields, as well as implementing drainage systems on 4,500 hectares of land and excavating 182 kilometers of canals.

## Issues related to workforce training discussed at TCCIMA meeting

TEHRAN - The 13th meeting of the Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA)'s Business Environment Improvement Committee was held on Wednesday during which issues related to the training of capable workforce for industrial units were discussed.

The attendees of the meeting stressed the need for the cooperation of public educational institutions like Iran Technical and Vocational Training Organization, and Academic Center for Education, Culture and Research with the private sector institutions for training capable workforce, the TCCIMA portal reported.

During the gathering, the participants expressed their views and opinions on

the mentioned subject, and Mohammad-Reza Najafi-Manesh, head of the TCCIMA Business Environment Improvement Committee, underlined the importance of skill-based training for the workforce and noted that public educational institutions along with private ones like Takapou Business School and TCCIMA Training Institute can provide a good platform for training educated and skilled workforce.

Furthermore, it was decided that the representatives of these educational institutions in the government and the private sector communicate with each other in order to examine the ways for cooperation in training and preparing the labor force needed by the production sector.

## Export from Qom province rises over 100%

TEHRAN - The value of export from Qom province rose 103 percent during the first 10 months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021-January 20, 2022), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, a provincial official announced.

Esfandiyar Darikvandi, the director-general of the province's Customs Department, said that 230,000 tons of commodities worth \$232 million were exported from the province in the ten-month period, showing 134 percent growth in terms of weight as well.

He named Iraq, Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), India, Pakistan, and Uzbekistan as the main export destinations and lead, hydrocarbons, copper wire, granules, shoes and sandals as the major exported items.

As previously announced by the head of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil exports rose 38 percent during the first 10 months of the current year, as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Alireza Moghadasi said Iran



exported over 100 million tons of non-oil products worth \$38.763 billion in the mentioned period.

According to the official, the weight of exports in the mentioned period also grew by seven percent in comparison to the figure for the previous fiscal year's same 10 months.

He said major export destinations of the Iranian non-oil goods were China, Iraq, and Turkey during the said 10 months.

The IRICA head further announced that the Islamic Republic imported 33 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$41.473 billion in the mentioned period, with a 34-percent growth in value and a 17-percent rise in weight, year on year.

The United Arab Emirates was the top exporter to Iran in the said period, followed by China, Turkey,

Germany, and Switzerland, he stated.

According to the official, out of the total non-oil goods imported into the country in the first 10 months of this year, 25 million tons worth \$15 billion were basic goods, which indicates an increase of 26 percent in weight and 56 percent in value, year on year.

Moghadasi noted that currently about five million tons of commodities are stored at the country's customs for which the clearance procedures will be carried out soon.

"There are 160 customs active in the country, and this number is increasing with the creation of new free zones and economic areas," he added.

IRICA has previously announced that the value of Iran's non-oil trade stood at \$73 billion in the past Iranian calendar year.

IRICA former Head Mehdi Mir-Ashrafi had put the weight of non-oil trade at 146.4 million tons and said that the figure showed a 25-million-ton annual decline, which is the result of sanctions and coronavirus pandemic.

# Govt. approves plan to support domestic production

TEHRAN - Government Economic Coordination Headquarters, in a meeting on Wednesday, approved a proposed plan for supporting domestic production and eliminating barriers in this regard, the portal of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) reported.

Chaired by President Ebrahim Raisi, the mentioned meeting also dealt with various issues regarding the regulation of the basic goods market.

During the meeting, a

report on the situation of the major foodstuff market was presented, which was approved by President Raisi.

Raisi further asked Agriculture Minister Seyyed Javad Sadati-Nejad to take the necessary measures for managing the price of foodstuff items.

The attendees also approved the government's proposed package that is aimed at removing obstacles and supporting the production and service sectors after several review sessions and it was



decided to review it immediately in a cabinet meeting to be notified to the executive bodies for implementation after finalizing.

This package includes removing barriers to production, supporting Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), and providing financial facilities to manufacturing and service enterprises.

Supporting domestic production has become a major goal of the Iranian government over the past two years as the Leader of the Islamic

Revolution Seyed Ali Khamenei has repeatedly stressed the need for promoting domestic production and cutting reliance on foreign sources.

Earlier in January, the Iranian parliament (Majlis) had also approved the general outlines of a bill on supporting the country's factories and production units.

The mentioned bill was approved after the parliament's Industries and Mining Committee presented a report on the mentioned bill to the parliament.

## Tehran, Yerevan stress expansion of trade ties

TEHRAN - Head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) Alireza Peyman-Pak and Armenia's Deputy Economy Minister Narek Teryan stressed the need for expansion of economic ties and removing barriers in the way of trade exchanges in a meeting on Tuesday.

The meeting was also attended by Armenia's new Ambassador to Tehran Arsen Avagyan, the TPO portal reported.

In this meeting, Peyman-Pak referred to some of the measures taken by the Trade Promotion Organization to facilitate trade between Iran and Armenia including appointing a new commercial attaché and negotiating for opening a trade center in Yerevan.

He further stressed the existing opportunities for developing trade relations between the two countries considering Armenia's privileged position for trade with the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU).

The official also stressed the need to increase the exchange of trade delegations, ministerial visits, and the active presence of the two sides' companies and traders in each other's exhibitions as well as the use



of the capacity of free trade zones on the borders of the two countries.

Narek for his part welcomed the TPO head's proposals for increasing the exchange of business delegations, ministerial visits, face-to-face meetings of businessmen, and the effective operation of the Iran trade center in Armenia and expressed his readiness to facilitate the implementation of joint projects of Iranian companies in Armenia.

He also welcomed the recent improvements in the activities of the two countries' industrial and mining working group for facilitating trade cooperation between the two countries.

Elsewhere in this meeting, Avagyan also raised some issues and challenges related to the development of economic relations between the two countries, which were decided to be put on the agenda of the specialized working group on cooperation between the two countries.

As long-lasting trade partners, Iran and Armenia have been taking new steps to boost the volume of economic exchanges between the two countries.

Back in November 2021, the head of Iran-Armenia Joint Chamber of Commerce and Industry said the two countries plan to establish a joint industrial park in the near future.

Hervik Yarijanian said the two sides also have the potential to cooperate in other fields like banking, finance, agriculture, and extraterrestrial farming.

"We are negotiating with Armenian authorities to provide the necessary basis for the two sides' businessmen to be able to invest and produce goods together with the aim of gaining access to more distant markets such as Europe and Canada," he said.

## Over 2.5m tons of basic goods imported via Shahid Rajaei port in 10 months

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, 2,533 million tons of basic commodities have been imported to Iran through Shahid Rajaei port, in the northern Hormozgan province, during the first ten months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021-January 20, 2022).

Masoud Doshvargar, the director-general of Grain and Commercial Services Department of Hormozgan Province, said that since the beginning of this year, 92 ships carrying basic goods have docked in the port of Hormozgan and their cargoes have been stored and unloaded for transportation and storage.

Two months ago, the head of Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) had announced that unloading of basic goods at the port of country had risen 25 percent in the current Iranian calendar year, as compared to the previous year.

The highest amount of import of basic goods was related to Imam Khomeini port (in southwestern Khuzestan province), Ali-Akbar Safaei noted.

"We unload the basic goods in the shortest time and we do not have to worry about the supply of the basic goods," the official added.

Enjoying the most modern container terminals and port equipment, Shahid Rajaei accounts for 85 percent of the total loading and

unloading at the Iranian ports.

Given its significant role in the country's import and export of products as well as transit and transshipment via Iran, the development of Shahid Rajaei Port has been among the most important development projects in the country.

In late December last year, Iranian Ports and Maritime Organization signed six memorandums of understanding (MOU) with domestic companies for investing 100 trillion rials (about \$355.8 million) plus €800 million in development projects of Shahid Rajaei port's hinterland.

The mentioned investments will be made in a variety of projects including zinc, lead, manganese, and copper factories, the construction, and development of industrial components and parts production units, development and integration of the existing industrial units in the area, construction of an alumina refinery, as well as the construction of container manufacturing units.

Implementation and construction of production units in Shahid Rajaei Port will make this port a center for value-added production and a logistics center, which will upgrade the port's level to the third generation and significantly reduce transportation and storage costs.

## TEDPIX loses 26 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 26 points on Wednesday.

As reported, the index closed at 1,301 million points, while over 7,705 billion securities worth 41,226 trillion rials (about \$146.7 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index lost 927 points, and the second market's index dropped 2,981 points.

TEDPIX lost 50,000 points (four percent) to 1,229 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

During the past week, the indices of Mobarakeh Steel Company, Bandar Abbas

Oil Refining Company, Isfahan Oil Refinery, Iran Khodro Company, Saipa Company, and National Iranian Copper Company were the most widely followed ones.

The Money and Capital Market Committee of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) hosted a meeting with Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) Head Majid Eshqi on January 30 to discuss the capital markets' current issues and challenges.

The meeting was attended by the members

of the mentioned committee as well as the representatives of some of the companies active in the stock market.

Lack of sufficient training for shareholders, facilitating the entry of new companies into the stock market, offering bonds by the capital market instead of banks to provide fixed and working capital for production units, accelerating the formation of credit rating companies in the stock market, and tax exemption for undistributed dividends of companies, as well as pricing problems, were some of the most important issues

pointed out by the businessmen and officials attending the mentioned meeting.

On January 22, Head of Iran's Capital Market Development and Stabilization Fund Amir-Mahdi Sabaei said that part of the allocations by the National Development Fund (NDF) has been deposited into the stabilization fund to support the stock market.

Sabaei had previously announced the allocation of 120 trillion rials (about \$430 million) of NDF resources for the Capital Market Development and Stabilization Fund.



From page 1 ► In August, Mexico accused American companies of undermining it's country's strict gun laws by designing, marketing, and distributing military-style assault weapons with methods that they knew would arm drug cartels fueling murders, extortions, and kidnappings.

The drug cartels have been literally waging war in the country and Washington has done very little to stop the flow of these dangerous and deadly commodities across the border.

The firearms industry is not only wide-scale in America but a lucrative industry as well, with congressional backing and analysts say it is being used in many sinister ways.

Critics argue Washington relies on a “war-oriented economy” whereby countries across the globe struggle economically with endless wars instigated from within the U.S., regardless of the conflicts are minor or major, whereby there is an ever-striving economy in America that survives wave after wave of depressions and catastrophes.

It's clear what the effects are of illegal American weapons brought to Mexico each year from the U.S. and falling into the hands of criminals has on the country.

The funds allocated to the security forces to prevent the smuggling is taking its tolls on the Mexican economy.

Mexico says every year, more than half a million guns are trafficked from the United States into Mexico, of which more than 68% are made by the manufacturers it is suing.

The country says reckless practices by these companies are supplying what it described as a “torrent” of illegal American arms to violent Mexican drug cartels, leading to thousands of deaths.

According to the Mexican Foreign Ministry, weapons made in the United States amounted to the largest ever haul of weapons seized by authorities in Mexico over the years.

In 2021, an estimated 33,000 to 35,000 homicides took place in Mexico. From 2018 to 2020, there were more than 36,000 murders in Mexico every year.

The number of weapons that were smuggled into the country is difficult to say.

This is while more than 3.9 million crimes are committed in Mexico every year by criminals

# Mexico gets boost in legal battle against U.S. gun makers



using U.S.-made weapons, 70 percent of which can be tracked to America, according to the Ministry.

Meanwhile, Lawyers for Antigua and Barbuda as well as Belize argue that countries in their region are also facing violent gun crimes as a result of U.S. gun manufacturers and distributors (from a single nation) “must not be permitted to hold hostage the law-abiding citizens of an entire region of the world.”

Antigua & Barbuda and Belize are sovereign states in the Latin America and Caribbean (LAC) region.

The Latin American and Caribbean Network for Human Security (SEHLAC) which coordinates a network of non-governmental organizations seeking the disarmament of the LAC region and the world also made the argument that a substantial portion of violence in the region has been perpetrated using firearms unlawfully trafficked from the United States.

It says the unlawful trafficking of American firearms must be curtailed at its source: “the U.S. gun industry”.

SEHLAC has members in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, and Peru and works with other NGOs throughout the region, including Costa Rica, Ecuador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama, Paraguay, and Uruguay.

It says LAC nations “have diligently pursued an end to this unlawful gun trafficking, but these steps have not proved capable of stemming the tide”.

SEHLAC submitted a brief to inform the same court that, although Mexico is the only party plaintiff, the gun makers’ business practices have also harmed, and continue to harm many other nations.

Gun violence is one of the most pressing public health crises facing the LAC region today. The region experiences a disproportionate share of violent crime.

It accounts for 8% of the world's population but 37% of the world's homicides.

American weapons manufacturers are a significant source and for some LAC nations, the single most significant source of illegal firearms.

The Americas suffer 172 intentional homicide deaths per 100,000 people each year, that is nearly three times the global average.

And the World Health Organization characterizes violence as “endemic” throughout the region.

This crisis of violent crime is forcing many migrants in Latin America where violent drug cartels operate to migrate elsewhere as a result of American weapons smuggling.

Critics say homicide deaths

in the region began to fall in the early 2000s when the federal government of the United States banned assault weapons, but after the ban was lifted, all those gains were lost.

The principal cause of this abnormally high rate of violence in the LAC region is the easy access of illegal firearms.

As the United Nations has clearly pointed out “the availability of firearms is linked to the homicide rate: a rise in the rate of firearms possession in a country often goes together with an increase in the homicide rate.”

Firearm availability is linked especially closely to “homicides related to gangs or organized crime,” which are unfortunately common in the LAC region.8 Put simply, “firearms are key enablers of high homicide levels.”

It is, therefore, unsurprising that firearms cause the vast majority of homicides in Latin America with nearly four out of every five murders linked to guns.

By contrast, in other regions of the world firearms are used to commit less than half of all homicides.

The playbook for trafficking guns from America to the LAC region is widely believed to be well-known. Many guns are purchased at gun shows and other secondary sources, which require fewer checks on a person's identity and criminal history.

Manufacturers and distributors like the U.S. gun makers supply weapons to these venues, despite knowing that many will ultimately end up in hands of criminal violent merciless gangs.

Furthermore, traffickers buy many guns from traditional firearms dealers. They commonly recruit “straw purchasers,” people who are capable of executing the necessary paperwork and passing a background check to unreliable and potentially dangerous customers.

Nevertheless, the U.S. arms manufacturers continue to supply these dealers with guns with little to no action from Washington DC.

As Latin America and the Caribbean suffer from U.S.-made weapons, the United States prospers.

As is the case, on a much wider scale, with conflicts around the world in particular the West Asia region; the fingerprints of these continued conflicts can be traced back to the United States.

## U.S. ‘maximum pressure’ policy has made nuclear deal revival difficult: ex-EU diplomat

*Marc Otte says maximum pressure “obviously has been a failure”*

From page 1 ► Following is the text of the interview:

**How do you see the progress of talks in Vienna?**

It's too slow. Impatience and worries are growing, including among Europeans. The fear of reaching a point of no return is present.

**How do you evaluate the fallout of Trump's “maximum pressure” campaign against Iran? How did it affect the next steps to revive the pact?**

It obviously has been a failure and made the revival of the pact more difficult, because of a loss of trust between the parties. It has been met with “maximum resistance” from Iran, including acceleration of uranium enrichment by Tehran. Recent statements by the Biden administration offer hope that a favorable issue is still within reach. But time is of the essence. And the current confrontation with Russia about Ukraine represents a strategic distraction, even if Russia remains aligned with the rest of the P5+3 on the JCPOA issue.

**Do you think Israel will be content with any possible agreement? Do you expect Israel to resort to an adventure to ruin the possible agreement?**

Israel will continue to oppose an agreement and pursue a policy of undermining the chances of success, including possible sabotage and provocations ahead of the conclusion of negotiations. But I doubt it would actively challenge an agreement between the parties that has the support of international powers and would be approved by the UNSC.

**Why did the EU fail to confront U.S. unilateral sanctions against Iran when Trump abandoned the nuclear deal? Is there any guarantee that we would not go back to the square one again?**



The EU did adopt a mechanism to bypass U.S. sanctions (INSTEX), but it did not turn out to be effective, including because of Iranian bureaucratic obstacles and American extra-territorial sanctions. The EU chose the path of diplomacy in parallel to convince the U.S. to come back on its decision to reject the JCPOA. And as the new administration decided to go back to the JCPOA, it has

actively mediated between Iran and the U.S. in Vienna. INSTEX will remain in place with new modalities and hopefully open up the Iranian economy for more trade with EU countries. But remember sanctions are not only there because of the nuclear file.

**How can Western powers collaborate with Eastern powers and players like China, Russia and Iran in combating terrorist groups, especially ISIS?**

Western powers are actively combatting terrorism, including ISIS in the Global Coalition. They seek coordination and cooperation with Eastern powers in order to reconcile strategic goals. Iran would be welcome to join the fight against terrorism.

**“It (maximum pressure) has been met with ‘maximum resistance’ from Iran.”**

## Islamic Rev. existential threat to Zionism’s New World Order: American analyst

TEHRAN– Stating that Islamic Revolution was viewed as an existential threat to Zionism's New World Order, Glenn said that it is for this reason the Zionist Lobby in the US utilized its strength in waging an economic war against Iran.

Between January 1978 and February 11, 1979, the Muslim revolutionary people of Iran, under the wise leadership of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, the Founder of the Islamic Revolution, voiced their oppositions against the secular and US-backed rule of Mohamad Reza Shah.

Today, after 43 years, the Islamic Republic of Iran, under the leadership of Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei is at the forefront of the fight against global arrogance and oppressive powers like the United States and the Zionist Regime.

All these years, Iran has been under maximum political pressure and economic sanctions. The victory of the Iranian revolution as a new equation in various fields was able to change the political geography, political and geopolitical situation of the region. Part of this change was due to the nature of the Islamic Revolution discourse, which was defined as a strategic roadmap even before the Revolution.

To know more about the reasons for putting maximum political pressure and imposing economic sanctions on Iran for more than 4 decades, we reached out to Mark Glenn, an American author and journalist to know more

about the issue.

In your opinion what has been the role of the Iranian revolution in changing regional equations and as an obstacle to the New World Order?

In order to best understand the role that the 1979 Revolution played in the changing of ‘regional equations’ in the Middle East, it is first important to understand what was and is the ultimate goal that Zionism, organized Jewish interests and the West intended to see take place as a result of creating this monster simply known as ‘The Jewish State’.

This ultimate goal, this ‘New World Order’ as it is called can be summed up and understood very simply by examining critically and rationally the ‘blueprint’ for this ‘Great Reset’ which Zionism Judaism seeks to create, just a few details of which are quoted below.

‘On that day the LORD made a covenant, saying ‘To your descendants, I give this land, from the river of Egypt to the great river Euphrates’...--Genesis, 15:18

‘Every place whereon the sole of your foot shall tread shall be yours, from the wilderness, and Lebanon, from the river Euphrates, even unto the hinder sea shall be your border...’ Deuteronomy 11:24

‘The Gentiles and their kings shall minister to you, as your gates remain open, day and night, so that the wealth of the foreigners may be placed at your feet while their kings are led in humble



procession before you, for the nation which will not bow down and serve you shall perish, it shall be utterly destroyed... --Book of Isaiah

These represent just a few of the many, many ‘prophecies’ which those following the diabolical, anti-God and anti-human Zionism Judaism have in mind-creating a totalitarian empire stretching from the Nile to the Euphrates and headquartered in Jerusalem from where all decisions that affect all nations will be decided and made by those claiming membership in the tribe of Judah. Those nations that refuse to bow down before these precepts will be utterly destroyed, just as the world witnessed with the nation of Palestine, Iraq, Libya, and which the diabolically-demented and deranged followers of the Zionism Judaism cult are planning to inflict upon the great nation of Iran, for indeed, had Iran not succeeded in its 1979 Revolution, the

diabolical plans which these elements have been striving to achieve now for thousands of years would be immeasurably closer than they already are.

What are the reasons for the increase in economic and political pressures on Iran after the Islamic Revolution?

The ‘turning of the tables’ that took place in 1979 was an unforeseen nightmare that the demented followers of Judaism/Zionism did not foresee and which they rightly viewed as an existential threat to their ‘blueprint’ known as the ‘New World Order’. What they fear most are the anti-biotic properties which the Revolution poses against the deadly and dangerous influenza of Zionism Judaism, a political ‘medication’ and ‘therapy’ that ALL PEOPLES around the world can utilize in ‘healing’ their nations from the life/soul-destroying contagion of the Zionist sickness, beginning with those in the Middle East. Imagine if all the peoples in the region--Sunni, Shia, Christian, were to adopt the same principles of Iran's Revolution and as a result, the West, its military might, its political power and cultural degeneracy were driven out and the Jewish state were left to fend for itself against a tidal wave of righteous indignation and thirst for justice on the part of the oppressed.

It has been for this reason then that the organized forces of anti-Gentilism known as ‘the Jewish Lobby’ operating principally in America but

also throughout the West, utilized its strength in waging an economic war against Iran in the hopes of breaking its will and in destroying the fruits of its 1979 Revolution.

To what extent has the Islamic Revolution of Iran been able to prevent the implementation of US plans and its hegemony in the region?

As already intimated, we can all imagine how much closer to this ‘New World Order’ and this ‘Great Reset’ we would all be were it not for Iran, its Revolution, its devotion to the resistance and its goal of liberating the Middle East and principally Jerusalem. No other country in the world, much less in the Middle East, has made it part of their official policy to support the rights of the Palestinian people and to liberate Jerusalem other than the IRI. The Arab countries, especially Jordan, Egypt and the Saudi Kingdom talk a good talk but refuse to walk the walk and do what is necessary and as such can be counted as enablers and abettors to the crimes which the demented and deranged followers of Judaism/Zionism have inflicted upon not just the Middle East region, but indeed against the entire world.

Mark Glenn is an American author and journalist in Idaho who has co-founded Crescent and Cross Solidarity Movement, an interfaith forum dedicated to uniting Muslims and Christians against Zionists.

(Source: Mehr news agency)



## Tehran tourism fair: missed opportunities



From page 1 ► Meanwhile, some eco-lodges from different provinces across the country were making smart decisions. Making traditional decorations, probably resembling the eco-lodges they were promoting, they offered tea and local sweets to visitors. They hoped that this would attract visitors to their units.

A popular attraction at the event was the display of local dances by different provinces. Another

pleasant sight to observe was men and women dressed in local clothing wandering around the fair.

Despite the criticism, the exhibition is a good and important event for the tourism sector in the country, but it would be better to focus on strengthening its positive points for the future and to seek expert assistance for eliminating its weaknesses.

## Private investors to help revive historical texture in Semnan

TEHRAN – The private sector will be collaborating with the north-central city of Semnan to revive its historic texture in the near future, the head of the Fund for Development of Handicrafts and Handmade Carpet and Revitalization and Utilization of Historical and Cultural Places has announced.

Cheshmeh-Ali, a popular tourist destination in the province is also scheduled to be restored and revived by the investment of the private sector, Hadi Mirzai said, CHTN reported on Wednesday.

So far, some of the historical monuments and aging structures across the province have briefly been ceded to the private sector to receive better maintenance and preservation,

the official added.

The main population centers of Semnan province lie along the ancient Silk Road (and modern-day Imam Reza Expressway), linking Rey (Tehran) with Khorasan (Mashhad). While few visitors spend much time in the area, driving through you can easily seek out several well-preserved caravanserais (notably Dehnamak and Ahowan), cisterns (the Cafe Abenbar in Garmsar is a special treat), and ruined mud citadels (Padeh is lumpy but fascinating). The large, bustling cities of Semnan, Damghan, and Shahrud (Bastam) all have a small selection of historic buildings and Semnan has a fine old covered bazaar.

## Pakistani tourism activists visit medical centers in Shiraz

TEHRAN – A group of Pakistani tourism activists have visited the medical centers and facilities of the southern city of Shira, a local tourism official has announced.

Such visits are arranged to strengthen and promote international medical tourism, IRNA quoted Nima Honarvar as saying on Tuesday.

Shiraz, the medical hub of the south of the country and equipped with specialized hospitals, universities, and a wide range of medical services, hosts thousands of patients from abroad every year, the official added.

Among the many services and capacities available in Shiraz are transplantation, eye surgery, cosmetic and dermatological surgery, chemotherapy and radiation therapy for various types of cancers, cardiovascular surgery, orthopedics, and infertility treatment, he noted.

Earlier this week, a Pakistani travel expert announced that Iran has immense potential to become a popular destination for Pakistani nationals.

“By recognizing Iran’s medical



capabilities, it will lay the groundwork for the presence of Pakistani patients in Iran in addition to the area of religious tourism,” he said.

As three of the most populous cities in Pakistan, Karachi, Lahore, and Islamabad have a good capacity for sending tourists to Iran, and flights from Tehran and Mashhad may be used for this purpose, he added.

Last week, Mehr reported that some 1.47m foreign nationals visited Iran from the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21, 2021) to January 1, a span most of which was subject to severe travel bans due to coronavirus.

Of the number, 635, 862 foreign nationals

TEHRAN – Iran will put forward the cultural landscape of Hamedan which embraces the archaeological site of Ecbatana and many other Achaemenid sites as a candidate for inclusion in the UNESCO World Heritage list.

On Tuesday, the deputy tourism minister Ali Darabi said that his ministry developing an all-inclusive dossier for Hamedan and its cultural landscape to be submitted to the UN body in 1401, the next Iranian calendar year beginning on March 21.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Hamedan’s governor-general Alireza Qasemi-Farzad, adding: “UNESCO registration of Hamedan’s cultural landscape is on agenda...”

Known in classical times as Ecbatana, Hamedan was once one of the world’s greatest cities of ancient times. Pitifully little remains from antiquity, but significant parts of the city center are given over to excavations, and there’s a scattering of historical curiosities.

“Hamedan has a special stance among the World Heritage sites of the country because it embraces a rich history from ancient to contemporary times...” Darabi said.

Sprawling on a high plain, mountainous Hamedan is somehow chockfull of travel destinations for various tastes.

The archaeological site of Hegmataneh, which corresponds with the ancient city of Ecbatana, has a circumference of 1.4 kilometers with an area of about 40 hectares. Ecbatana was, in fact, a city on the site of which stands the modern city of Hamedan. The view of distant mountains from the archaeological hill is pleasantly rewarding, especially in the late afternoon, however, what lies below is an ancient Median and Achaemenid city. Small sections have been excavated over the last century, most extensively in the

arrived in Iran as of mid-October when the Islamic Republic started issuance of tourist visas after a 20-month hiatus, the report added.

Citizens from Iraq and Afghanistan were the main source of tourism for Iran from October 23 to December 22, 2021.

Last September, Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami announced that by the order of President Ebrahim Raisi the issuance of tourist visas and the flow of foreign tourists from land and air borders will be resumed from the month of Aban (Oct. 23 – Nov. 21) following 19 months of suspension.

Many domestic experts believe that medical tourism in Iran is a win-win opportunity both for the country and foreign patients, as they are offered affordable yet quality treatment services and the country gains considerable foreign currency.

The Islamic Republic has set its goals to exceed its yearly medical travelers to around 2 million in the Iranian calendar year 1404.

## Ground broken for Sacred Defense museum in northeast Iran

TEHRAN – Construction of a museum featuring elements and properties involving the 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq war, which is called ‘Sacred Defense’ in the Islamic Republic, officially began on Monday in Bojnurd, the capital of North Khorasan province.

The museum will be built near Maqbera Shohada (martyrs’ graveyard), an old structure from the Pahlavi period (1925-1979), CHTN quoted Bojnurd’s tourism chief Ali Davari as saying on Tuesday.

The monument, which was built to commemorate Reza Shah’s army officers who were killed during the suppression of the Lahak Khan uprising in the area in 1925, has been inscribed on the national heritage list.

For those interested to

# Iran wants UNESCO registration for Hamedan



Photo depicts mausoleum of the 11th-century Persian poet Baba Tahir in Hamadan, west-central Iran.

1990s. There’s a smart museum nearby, as well as two Armenian churches, now part of Hamadan University.

It is worth mentioning that Ecbatana was first excavated in 1913 by the French Assyriologist Charles Fossey. Excavations have been limited due to the modern town covering most of the ancient sites. In 2006, excavations in a limited area of Hagmataneh Hill failed to discover anything older than the Parthian period (247 BC – 224 CE), but this does not rule out older archaeological layers existing elsewhere within the vast site.

Moreover, for history buffs and culture lovers, Ganjnameh is a can’t-miss destination while in Hamedan. Meaning “Treasure Epistle”, Ganjnameh features

sets of cuneiform inscriptions written in three languages of ancient Persian, Elamite, and Babylonian. Dating back to the age of Achaemenid Kings Darius I (521-485 BC) and Xerxes I (485-465 BC), the inscriptions were first studied in detail by the French painter and archaeologist Eugene Flandin, who was accompanied by Pascal Coste.

The right inscription, belonging to Xerxes I, reads: “The Great God [is] Ahuramazda, greatest of all the gods, who created the earth and the sky and the people; who made Xerxes king, and outstanding king as an outstanding ruler among innumerable rulers; I [am] the great king Xerxes, king of kings, king of lands with numerous inhabitants, king of

## Historical relics recovered in southwest Iran

TEHRAN – Iranian police have recently recovered a number of historical relics from an antique dealer who was illegally keeping them in his place in Dashtestan, the southwestern province of Bushehr.

The police discovered the relics after cultural heritage aficionados informed authorities of the unlawful activity of an antique dealer, IRNA quoted a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage on Wednesday.

The relics, which include some copper vessels and utensils, are estimated to date back to the Qajar-era (1789-1925) and even before, Abdolhamid Haqqani said.

The suspect has been surrendered to the judicial system for further investigation, the official added.

With over 6,000 years of history and significant monuments from the Elamite, Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras, Bushehr is one of Iran’s most important historical centers.

Besides its cultural heritage, beautiful beaches and lush palm groves make it an



attractive destination for world travelers.

The historical and architectural monuments of Bushehr include Islamic buildings like mosques and praying centers, mansions, old towers, castles, as well as gardens.

When it comes to cultural attractions, there are many historical mounds in Bushehr including Tall-e Khandaq with Sassanid architectural style, Tall-e Marv located near an Achaemenid Palace, and Qajar era Malek al-Tojar Mansion. Qajar era Kazeruni Mansion, which has been inscribed on the World Heritage List, is another attraction that world travelers love to see among various ancient sites.

## UNWTO not in favor of tight travel restrictions



TEHRAN – The World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) has announced blanket travel restrictions cannot stop new virus variants from spreading.

“When it comes to stopping the spread of new virus variants, blanket travel restrictions are simply counterproductive,” according to UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili.

“In fact, by cutting the lifeline of tourism, these restrictions do more harm than good, especially in destinations reliant on international tourists for jobs, economic wellbeing, and sustainable change.”

The announcement welcomed the call of sister UN agency World Health Organization (WHO) for

restrictions on travel to be lifted or eased.

In relation to wide-ranging global responses to Omicron variant, WHO has endorsed that restrictions on travel are not effective in suppressing the international spread, UNWTO reported.

As mentioned by a WHO committee, measures applied to international travelers such as testing, isolation and quarantine, and vaccinations, should be based on “risk assessments and avoid placing the financial burden on international travelers following Article 40 of the IHR”.

“UNWTO welcomes WHO’s new guidance, highlighting the ineffectiveness of blanket travel restrictions, and we also amplify their recommendations against using vaccination status as the sole condition for welcoming tourists back, especially when vaccination rates remain so uneven,” Pololikashvili added.

Moreover, the United Nations World Economic Situation and Prospects Report for 2022 has predicted that in both developed and developing, recovery from the impacts of the pandemic is “uneven and fragile”.

this vast kingdom with far-away territories, son of the Achaemenid monarch Darius.”

In addition, the 12th-century Gonbad-e Alavian (“Alavian Dome”) is another cultural element of Hamadan. It is a prime example of the Persian-Islamic architecture of the time. Its brick tower remains famous for the swirling floral stucco added in the Ilkhanid Mongol era; this ornamentation is described by British travel writer Robert Byron in his travelogue “The Road to Oxiana”.

Furthermore, Masjed-e Jameh (The Friday Mosque of Hamedan) is one of the oldest in Hamedan. The mosque is rectangular, and formerly had four porches of which three have remained. This structure comprises two areas for nocturnal prayers, a brick dome, and a large and pleasant courtyard with a huge pool in the center.

The iconic Bu-Ali Sina (Avicenna) Mausoleum dominates his namesake square and resembles a concrete crayon pointing to the heavens. It was loosely modeled on Qabus’ 1000-year-old tower in Gonbad-e Kavus, which is a UNESCO World Heritage.

Also, some 70 km northwest of Hamedan, is situated the entrance to the amazing Ali Sadr Cave, a gigantic water-filled cavern widely believed to date from the Jurassic era. The cave embraces a huge matrix of sunless channels, ponds, grottoes, and water passages which are stretched along with imposing rock formations and stalactite-covered tops in a span of several kilometers.

Hamedan is graciously cool in August but snow-prone and freezing from December to March. In summer the air is often hazy, but on a rare, clear spring day there are impressive glimpses of snow-capped Alvand Kuh (3580m), sitting aloof above the ragged neocolonial cupolas of Imam Khomeini Sq.

## Historical relics recovered in southwest Iran



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The Sacred Defense Museum is equipped with a state-of-the-art visual system including projections and video walls, while audio recordings relevant to each period contribute to its charm. The complex has vast garden areas, water features, and children’s play areas. Outside, a patchwork of domestically manufactured armaments such as rockets, tanks, and artillery pieces are on show. Currently, some 15 museums related to the Sacred Defense are active across the country.

Former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein ordered the attack nearly 19 months after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, setting the stage for an eight year-war. It drew to a close in August 1988 and the United Nations declared Saddam as the initiator of the conflict.



# Over 130 expat elites join domestic innovation ecosystem

TEHRAN – Knowledge-based companies benefited from the expertise and knowledge of more than 130 Iranian specialists abroad over the current [Iranian calendar] year (began on March 21, 2021).

One of the projects considered in the program of cooperation with Iranian specialists and entrepreneurs abroad is the use of Iranian graduates, specialists, entrepreneurs and professors abroad who do not reside in Iran or have been working abroad for at least a year, in technology and innovation ecosystem.

This year, as part of a plan to support the employment, more than 130 expat elites are attracted to technological fields such as IT, nanotechnology, biotechnology, medicine and stem cells in knowledge-based and creative companies.

According to the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, in this program, conditions are provided for these people to start their cooperation by working in technological firms, innovation centers and accelerators as train-



ers, consultants in the field of research and development.

This will help Iranian elites abroad to transfer their new skills, methods and capabilities of services to the country and provides the conditions for using the scientific capacity of them in the scientific, technological and industrial centers of the country.

## Top researchers, students back home

About 500 Iranian research-

ers have returned home over the past four years to transfer their knowledge and expertise to the country's universities, according to the vice presidency for science and technology.

With the support of the National Elites Foundation and Science and Technology Vice Presidency, universities, knowledge enterprises, technology parks, and incubators launched a plan titled 'cooperation with Iranian expatriate entrepre-

neurs and elite' in 2015.

The plan aims to attract Iranians abroad to share knowledge in different forms including postdoctoral research, research opportunity, and visiting fellows, in addition to being faculty members.

So far, it has attracted more than 500 prominent Iranian researchers living in other countries as faculty members of the country's top universities, which has had a significant impact on raising the quality of research, educational and international activities of universities.

Iran also implemented a plan to return elites from the top 100 universities in the world, through the national model, the facilities are provided for their return, by creating technology parks, innovation centers, and factories.

The plan was able to bring back 2,000 Iranian students from the top 100 universities in the world over a three-year period, amounting to 600 people a year.

## Population of wildlife species 4-folded in private sanctuaries

TEHRAN – The population of prominent wildlife species such as the wild goats and urials in private sanctuaries has increased 1.5 to 4 times after a period of 8 to 9 years, Hassan Akbari, deputy head of natural environment and biodiversity of the Department of Environment (DOE), said.

The private sanctuaries are wildlife habitats that is licensed to a person or group for a period of 5 or 10 years who can conserve and exploit the wildlife, he explained.

The total area of private sanctuaries is a total of 280,000 hectares, which has led to the direct employment of 30 people, and these people have also invested a considerable amount in protection equipment, he stated.

He went on to say that the population of prominent wildlife species such as the wild goats and urials in these habitats has increased 1.5 to 4 times after a period of 8 to 9 years, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

In recent years, the DOE has tried to use international experience and domestic law enforcement tools to use the capacities of the non-governmental sector in the development of wildlife protection and their sustainable use, especially in natural areas outside the four areas under management (protected areas), he also noted.

### Importance of environmental protection

## IRCS, WFP to strengthen response to natural disasters

TEHRAN – A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) and the World Food Program (WFP) to expand cooperation on responding to natural disasters.

During a joint meeting held on Tuesday in Tehran, Mansoureh Bagheri, deputy head of IRCS for international affairs and humanitarian law, and Negar Gerami, WFP representative to Iran, inked the MOU on disaster response, which was initiated in 2002 to respond to the Qazvin earthquake.

The MOU is divided into sections on coordination, emergency planning and information sharing, coordination of crisis response operations, customs clearance, food aid, information and communication technology and logistics, Bagheri told IRNA.

### Two decades of struggling with natural incidents

Over the past 23 years, Iran has been struggling with natural incidents caused by climate change, namely, dryness of lakes and wetlands, land subsidence, sand and dust storms, air pollution, and some

other predicaments.

Since the beginning of the twentieth century and the increasing use of fossil fuels in the world, the average carbon dioxide in the atmosphere has risen from 250 ppm to more than 400 ppm, and this 1.7-fold increase in carbon dioxide is directly related to rising global temperatures and events such as torrential rains, dust, etc.

About 60 years ago, Iran has moved towards industrialization, during which the pressure on water resources and lands with all kinds of exploitation has increased,



There are 1,300 species of animals in the country, 130 of which are endangered and threatened, Akbari said in December 2021.

Over 10,000 environmental violators are arrested on average annually. Asiatic cheetahs, great bustards, Siberian cranes, Persian onagers, and some reptiles and amphibians are among the endangered and threatened species, he said.

Significant smuggling and habitat destruction are the main threats to the species, and promoting a culture of kindness to the environment and strengthening social participation is one of the most important and effective strategies in protecting the environment, he explained.

The availability of large quantities of weapons and ammunition to the poachers is another risk factor for wildlife populations, Akbari added.

To preserve the existing biodiversity over the wide geographic expanse of Iran, four types of areas have been designated for preservation and protection, including, national parks, wildlife refuges, protected areas, and natural national monuments. In 1997, the DOE held supervision over 7,563,983 hectares of such areas.

Currently, the supervised areas reached about 18.5 million hectares, including, 30 national parks, 170 protected areas, 45 wildlife refuges, and 37 national natural monuments.

Iran has a high diversity of species due to geographical conditions, climatic diversity, huge water resources of the Caspian Sea in the north and the Persian Gulf, and the Sea of Oman in the south.

According to the latest studies, about 1,300 species of vertebrates, including mammals, birds, reptiles, amphibians, and aquatic fish, about 30,000 species of invertebrates, and 8,000 species of plants have been identified in the country.

Unfortunately, over the past two decades, human activities have led to alarming degradation of ecosystems, deletion of genes, species, and biological capabilities; Human threats to biodiversity have accelerated the most over the past 50 years over the entire history of human life.



and today we are witnessing the destruction of land in the form of water and soil erosion, as well as vegetation depletion.

In exchange for this destruction and excessive exploitation, nature has not been able to regenerate itself, so that it reacts with natural incidents.

## SOCIETY

FEBRUARY 3, 2022

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

7

## Indigenous knowledge a way to protect valuable wetlands

From page 1 ► Wetlands are ecosystems saturated with water, either seasonally or permanently. They store water and ensure its quality, providing resilience against drought. They play a central role in sustainable development by supplying all our freshwater. More than 40 percent of freshwater fish are said to live in wetlands.

Wetlands play a major role in protecting the land against floods and the impacts of storms. They provide food and diverse habitats which support genetic, species, and ecosystem biodiversity. Wetlands play a key role in the life cycles of many species and in annual migration patterns.

Unfortunately, wetlands are being degraded and lost due to pollution, overexploitation, climate change, and human population growth.

In 1971, an international treaty called RAMSAR Convention was adopted to realize the importance of these ecosystems, Ramsar Wetlands are sites inscribed on the List of Wetlands of International Importance (the "Ramsar List") under the Convention on Wetlands.

Concurrent with the adoption of RAMSAR Convention, World Wetlands Day was designated in February 22, emphasizing on the importance of the wetlands and sustainable use of these valuable ecosystems.

The theme for this year's World Wetlands Day is 'Wetland's action for people and nature showing the actions required to ensure the conservation and sustenance of wetlands.

### Ancient qanats key to wetland protection

Ali Arvahi, wetland management specialist, said that in the process of protecting wetlands, unfortunately, less attention is paid to indigenous knowledge, our country is located in an arid and semi-arid area, for centuries, local knowledge provided solutions for water resources and flood



management.

In this way, in the northern provinces, we have dams that were created artificially, in desert areas, we see the construction of qanats for water management, in Sistan and Baluchestan, we have another type of dams, reconsidering this indigenous knowledge can help us see how the people of our country managed the flood in the past.

So rehabilitating ancient dams and qanats can do two things for us, one is to control the floods more and to store water, especially when we are facing a severe shortage of water.

Unfortunately, for decades we have been building dams to manage water resources and flooding, regardless of the location of the dam and environmental assessment, he explained.

He further suggested that natural solutions such as reforestation, revival of pastures, protection of rivers and wetlands, vegetation plantation, and facilitating the transfer of water to wetlands, can play a major role in this regard.

However, only one dimension of the solutions is considered by the responsible bodies, so that it causes gradual dryness of wetlands, which leads to sand and dust storms affecting the livelihood of local communities.

## Extreme heat waves in oceans become 'new normal', threaten marine life, study warns

Excessively warm ocean temperatures caused by climate change are the "new normal," according to a new study that estimated over half of the global ocean surface has regularly breached a historical heat extreme threshold since 2014.

In the research, published in the journal PLOS Climate on Tuesday, scientists mapped 150 years of sea surface temperatures to determine a fixed historical benchmark for marine heat extremes and find how often and how much of the ocean surpassed this point.

The researchers, including those from the Monterey Bay Aquarium, found more than half the ocean had heat extremes exceed this benchmark since 2014, compared to only 2 per cent of the ocean surface that had such extremely warm temperatures at the end of the 19th century.

"For the year 2019, our index reports that 57 per cent of the global ocean surface recorded extreme heat, which was comparatively rare (approximately 2 per cent) during the period of the second industrial revolution," the scientists noted in the study.

The findings suggested that for the last seven years more than half the Earth's ocean surface has been experiencing extreme heat.

"Climate change is not a future event. The real-

ity is that it's been affecting us for a while," study lead author Kyle Van Houtan said in a statement.

"These dramatic changes we've recorded in the ocean are yet another piece of evidence that should be a wake-up call to act on climate change. We are experiencing it now, and it is speeding up," Dr Van Houtan added.

In the study, the researchers assessed historical data to estimate the average temperatures for the ocean's surface over the period spanning 1870 to 1919 and found the most dramatic ocean warming that occurred during that period.

"Today, the majority of the ocean's surface has warmed to temperatures that only a century ago occurred as rare, once-in-50-year extreme warming events," Dr Van Houtan said.

This new normal of extreme heat across most of the planet's ocean surface is further evidence for the urgent need to drastically reduce emissions from the burning of fossil fuels, which are the driver of climate change, the scientists said.

Intolerably high temperatures in marine ecosystems near the topics can lead to the collapse of key organisms such as corals, seagrass meadows or kelp forests can collapse, the researchers warned.

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON FEBRUARY 2

New cases	38,160
New deaths	59
Total cases	6,446,404
Total deaths	132,563
New hospitalized patients	1,975
Patients in critical condition	1,819
Total recovered patients	6,115,134
Diagnostic tests conducted	44,988,940
Doses of vaccine injected	133,346,414

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## E-motorbikes come to curb air pollution in metropolises

The first phase of electric motorcycles development project will be implemented aiming at reducing air pollution in Tehran and other metropolises, IRNA news agency reported.

Energy Minister Reza Ardakanian said on Tuesday that electric motorcycles will be promoted in big cities in collaboration with the Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade.

Through the first phase of the project, electric motorcycles will replace the regular ones used by the Ministry of Energy and state-run companies, he explained.

Ardakanian went on to say that, in addition to electric motorcycles being manufactured and marketed from now on, existing motorcycles will also change to use electricity sources.

## آغاز طرح برقی کردن موتورسیکلت‌ها با هدف کاهش آلودگی هوا

مرحله نخست طرح برقی کردن موتورسیکلت‌ها با هدف کاهش آلودگی هوای تهران و دیگر کلانشهرها آغاز می‌شود.

به گزارش ایرنا، رضا اردکانیان وزیر نیرو روز سه شنبه گفت برقی کردن موتورسیکلت‌ها با همکاری وزارت صنعت، معدن و تجارت انجام خواهد شد.

وی افزود: هدف این طرح در گام نخست، برقی کردن موتورسیکلت‌های مورد استفاده وزارت نیرو و شرکت‌های دولتی است.

اردکانیان اضافه کرد بر این اساس علاوه بر اینکه از این پس موتورسیکلت برقی تولید و وارد بازار می‌شود، موتورسیکلت‌های موجود نیز برای مالکان آنها برقی می‌شوند.



TEHRAN TIMES



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FEBRUARY 3, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Blessed is the man who always kept the life after death in his view, who remembered the Day of Judgment through all his deeds, who led a contented life and who was happy with the lot that Allah had destined for him.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:12:18    Evening: 17:53    Dawn: 5:37 (tomorrow)    Sunrise: 7:02 (tomorrow)

## Hafez and “rendi”

Part 2

Efforts to sketch a chronology of the poems and relate them to the life events of the poet and the changing political circumstances in Shiraz during the reigns of Abu Es'haq, Mobarez ad-Din Mohammad, and Shah-Shoja have however proved promising; deeper mining of the available evidence will perhaps recover further the context and give us a clearer picture of the poet's beliefs and his maturation as an artist.

Indeed, Mohammadreza Shafiei Kadkani discerns an intellectual development in Hafez from a poet into a “rend”, an almost Nietzschean “superman” who reflects the paradoxical aspects of the human situation, man's free will and predestination, his prayerfulness and rebelliousness, asceticism and besottedness, sorrow and joy.

In this view, the defining characteristic of Hafez is his “will to freedom”. His unwillingness to reduce life's complexity to pretentious dogmas, his refusal to flinch from the ambiguity of the human condition, present the reader with a real freedom of choice.

Similarly, Naderpur considers Hafez a quintessentially national poet whose Iranian identity stands somewhat in contradistinction to the Islam of the Arabs, and leads him to reject the dichotomy of religion versus heresy in favor of a kind of humanism.

Hafez is constantly combating religious dogmatism, authoritarianism and sterile pietism, often with the impious satisfaction of simple human pleasures and desires. We may agree with Shafiei Kadkani that “no artist has ever been a bigger enemy to hypocrisy” than Hafez.

**Terms for hypocrisy and duplicity**

Hafez sends up or lashes out at the two-faced wherever he sees them. He characterizes and illustrates hypocrisy in many ways, but several words in his usage specifically denote duplicity, including: nefaḳ (Kh. 25:5).

This dissimulation and pretense (Kh. 206:4), like another kind of deceit (shayd, Kh. 150:10), sometimes pairs with zarq to intensify the sense of chicanery. Hafez pledges not to forgive this kind of inauthenticity.

Ria: Hafez wants to repent of hypocritical asceticism (Kh. 126:10, 129:9), or Sufi spiritualism (Kh. 238:5b) with its symbols of sham piety (dalq-e riai, Kh. 360:2a).

Such hypocrisy sets the entire foundation of religion afire. Though he himself sometimes stands accused of hypocrisy or putting on a false façade (hama ruy ast o ria, Kh. 319:9a), Hafez hopes to avoid all converse with “the people of hypocrisy”, such as the mohtaseb who is inebriated by his own false show of piety.

In fact, very few people are free of duplicity; the nightingale may sing out of sincere friendship (az sar-e sedq, Kh. 403:2b), but bold-faced hypocrisy is a quality of the general populace (ruy o ria-ye khalq, Kh. 357:1b and 358:1b).

Hypocrisy is construed as the polar opposite of the honesty or authenticity of drinking wine. Indeed, wine washes away the stains of hypocrisy, so closing the doors of the wine tavern (maykhana)

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica  
To be continued

# Documentation category books sole Jalal Literary Award winners

From Page 1 ▶ Written by Meisam Amiri, “Fascinating Grief” gives a comprehensive account of what happened during Lieutenant-General Qassem Soleimani's funeral procession across Iran in 2020.

“A Man Named Reza Who Was Then Called Reza Khan”, a biography of Reza Shah by Hedayatollah Behbudi, is a highlight of this section

The book recounts the life story of Reza Shah, the first monarch of the Pahlavi dynasty from his birth in 1878 until 1921 when he was selected as the commander of the Iranian Army in the new government after the 1921 coup.

Earlier last December, this book was honored in the History Narration category at the 2nd edition of the Seyyed Ali Andarzgu Literary Awards, which are given to books on the 1979 Islamic revolution.

The awards ceremony of the 14th edition of the Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Awards took place at

A combination photo shows copies of the winning books “Fascinating Grief” and “A Man Named Reza Who Was Then Called Reza Khan” at the Jalal Al-e Ahmad Literary Award.

Tehran's Vahdat Hall.

Juries in other sections only gave some books honorable mentions.

“Without Father's Name” by Seyyed Meisam Musavian and “Sad Moon, Red Moon” by Reza Julai won honorable mentions in

the novel category.

Published by Jamkaran, “Without Father's Name” tells a story about a corrupt general who is an English agent in the Shah's regime. He is sent on a mission to suppress separatist Kurds in the northwest

## Persian translations of “HHhH”, “The Awakening” share Abolhassan Najafi Award

A combination photo shows copies of the Persian editions of “HHhH” and “The Awakening”.

TEHRAN – Persian renditions of French author Laurent Binet's debut novel “HHhH” and American writer Kate Chopin's story “The Awakening” have shared the Abolhassan Najafi Award.

The Abolhassan Najafi Award is a private Iranian literary prize that is given to a Persian translator of a novel or short story collection every year.

The award was established in the name of

Abolhassan Najafi (1930-2016), a linguist and translator of French literature, by his family and the Book City Institute in 2016.

Translated into Persian by Ahmad Parhizi, “HHhH” has been published by the Mahi publishing house in Tehran.

HHhH stands for the German sentence “Himmlers Hirn heisst Heydrich” (“Himmler's brain is called Heydrich.”) The most lethal man in Hitler's cabinet, Reinhard Heydrich seemed indestructible until two exiled operatives, a Slovak and a Czech, killed him and changed the course of history.

The story recounts Operation Anthropoid, the assassination of Nazi leader Reinhard Heydrich in Prague during World War II.

We follow Jozef Gabcik and Jan Kubis from their dramatic escape from Nazi-occupied Czechoslovakia to their fatal attack on Heydrich and their own brutal deaths in the basement of a Prague church. A seamless blend of memory, actuality, and Binet's own remarkable imagination, “HHhH” is at once thrilling and

intellectually engrossing, a fast-paced novel of the Second World War that is also a profound meditation on the debt we owe to history.

Published by Ibdgol, “The Awakening” has been rendered into Persian by Farzaneh Doosti.

Set in New Orleans and on the Louisiana Gulf coast at the end of the 19th century, the plot centers on Edna Pontellier and her struggle between her increasingly unorthodox views on femininity and motherhood with the prevailing social attitudes of the turn-of-the-century American South.

When first published in 1899, “The Awakening” shocked readers with its honest treatment of female marital infidelity. Audiences accustomed to the pieties of late Victorian romantic fiction were taken aback by Chopin's daring portrayal of a woman trapped in a stifling marriage, who seeks and finds passionate physical love outside the confines of her domestic situation.

Another Persian translation of “The Awakening” by Mahan Sayyarmanesh has also been published by Davate Moaser.

## “The Death of Olivier Becaille” comes to Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – “The Death of Olivier Becaille”, a short story by French writer Émile Zola, has been published in Persian.

Ofoq is the publisher of the book rendered into Persian by Mahmud Gudarzi.

The horrific short story depicts a man, Olivier Becaille, in a temporary coma and paralytic state. This condition leads his wife to believe he is dead.

It even fools the doctor. Funeral and burial arrangements are made and carried out. Readers' will experience their worst fear through the eyes of Olivier Becaille.

Originally published in 1911, the

Front Cover of the Persian edition of “The Death of Olivier Becaille” by French writer Émile Zola.

book is a rare manuscript, the original residing in one of the great libraries of the world.

This book is a reproduction of that original, which has been scanned and cleaned by state-of-

the-art publishing tools for better readability and enhanced appreciation.

Restoration Editors' mission is to bring long out of print manuscripts back to life. Some smudges,

## Kelly Rimmer’s “Warsaw Orphan” appears in Persian

TEHRAN – “The Warsaw Orphan” by Kelly Rimmer, an internationally bestselling author of contemporary and historical fiction novels, has been published in Persian.

Farnush Jazini is the translator of the novel published by Ketabsara-ye Tandis.

Inspired by the real-life heroine who saved thousands of Jewish children during WWII, “The Warsaw Orphan” is Rimmer's most anticipated novel since her bestselling sensation, “The Things We Cannot Say”.

In the spring of 1942, young Elzbieta Rabinek is aware of the swiftly growing discord just beyond the courtyard of her comfortable Warsaw home.

She has no fondness for the Germans who patrol her streets and impose their curfews, but has never given much thought to what goes on behind the walls that contain her Jewish neighbors.

She knows all too well about German brutality, and that it's the reason she must

conceal her true identity. But in befriending Sara, a nurse who shares her apartment floor, Elzbieta makes a discovery that propels her into a dangerous world of deception and heroism.

Using Sara's credentials to smuggle children out of the ghetto brings Elzbieta face-to-face with the reality of the war behind its walls, and to the plight of the Gorka family, who must make the impossible decision to give up their newborn daughter or watch her starve.

For Roman Gorka, this final injustice stirs him to rebellion with a zeal not even his newfound love for Elzbieta can suppress. But his recklessness brings unwanted attention to Sara's cause, unwittingly putting Elzbieta and her family in harm's way until one violent act threatens to destroy their chance at freedom forever.

From Nazi occupation to the threat of a communist regime, “The Warsaw Orphan” is the unforgettable story of Elzbieta and Roman's perilous attempt to reclaim the love and life they once knew.

Front cover of the Persian translation of Kelly Rimmer's “The Warsaw Orphan”.