

Report **UK plan for asylum seekers “cruel” and “inhumane”**

Under a new British government scheme, thousands of asylum seekers who cross the English Channel on small boats will be detained and flown more than 6,500 kilometers on one-way tickets to the African country of Rwanda.

In a bid to deter asylum seekers from taking the only possible route effectively made available by the government to claim asylum in the UK, the new plan will see those arriving in Britain including some who arrived as early as January 1 this year will no longer be allowed to remain in the country while they await the outcome of their cases.

They will instead be sent to the Rwanda, where their claims will be processed. Some could then be resettled in the African country for around five years.

Critics including refugee groups, human-rights advocates and United Nations agencies have been very quick to denounce London's plan saying it will inflict more suffering and harm on the asylum seekers.

In a speech, British Prime Minister Boris Johnson claims that “Rwanda will have the capacity to resettle tens of thousands of people in the years ahead.”

Johnson also claims that thousands of refugees have crossed the English Channel in small boats to reach Britain last year and that the number could rise.

Rwandan Foreign Affairs Minister Vincent Biruta says that his government is creating “a safe and empowering haven” for anyone seeking refuge. ▶ Page 5

Interview **Ex-Iran forward Faraki wary of England threat in World Cup**

TEHRAN – Former Iran national football team forward Hossein Faraki says that Iran must be fearful of England's attacking threat in the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Faraki was a member of Iran national football team in the 1978 FIFA World Cup. Iran drew 1-1 with Scotland, lost 4-1 to Peru and 3-0 to the Netherlands. He also participated in the 2006 FIFA World Cup as Branko Ivankovic's assistant. Iran lost to Mexico 3-1 and Portugal 3-0 and were held to a 1-1 draw against Angola.

The 65-year-old coach believes that Iran have been drawn in a tough group and need to prepare well for the prestigious competition.

“Without a doubt, England are the strongest team in Group B and they are favorites to qualify for the next stage. The team have key players in English Premier League and several great coaches work in their league. Definitely, they will be different than the previous editions,” Faraki said.

“To play with England are very difficult since they play at a high tempo and play physically. The Asian teams usually have problem playing English,” he added.

There are speculations that the Iranian football federation will change Iran coach Dragan Skocic but Faraki believes that the Croat is the best coach to lead Iran in Doha.

“Skocic has worked with Iran national football team for more than two years and has a good knowledge of the team. In my opinion, the federation must support Skocic because he is the best foreign option for the national team at the moment.

Iran will also play the U.S. and one of Scotland/Wales/Ukraine in the group.

“We faced the U.S. in 1998 but they are more experienced than before. This is sport and football transcends a lot of the political stuff. We must just focus on playing football.

“The other team in our group will also be a tough opponent. It means we have a difficult task in the World Cup.

“We have to prepare well for the competition since the good warm up matches will increase our chance of qualifying for the next round,” Faraki concluded.

**Israel Clamps Down on Palestinian Worshipers** ▶ Page 3



**World Bank revises up Iran's GDP forecast for 2022**

TEHRAN – In a report on Iran's economy released earlier this month, the World Bank has revised up its forecast for Iran's gross domestic product (GDP) growth in 2022, expecting the country's economy to grow 3.7 percent this year.

The bank had previously estimated the Islamic Republic's GDP growth at 2.4 percent for 2022, in its Global Economic Prospects (GEP) report released in January.

“Iran's economy continues its gradual recovery that started in mid-2020, driven by the oil sector and services. However, water and energy shortages led to a contraction of the agriculture and industry sectors,” the recent report said.

A recovery in Iran's oil and service sectors (11.7 and 6.5 percent growth, respectively) – following a return of global and domestic activity after the start of the pandemic – led

to a five percent year on year growth in late 2021-early 2022, the bank said.

However, the agriculture sector contracted by 2.1 percent due to drought and energy blackouts. On the demand side, a 3.4 percent expansion in consumption drove GDP growth as activity returned closer to pre-pandemic levels. Imports growth (25.5 percent) outweighed the pick-up in exports (5.4 percent), and investment also declined (5.2 percent). ▶ Page 4

**Iran surrounded by 270m ha of SDS hotspots**

TEHRAN – Some 8 large sand and dust storm (SDS) hotspots stretching to 270 million hectares in neighboring and Persian Gulf countries are affecting Iran, Ali Mohammad Tahmasebi, head of the national working group for mitigating SDSs, has said.

A year and a half ago, a regional action plan was prepared, as well as two sub-regional action plans for managing SDS sources outside the country, and shared with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to announce to the neighboring countries, he stated.

Considering that most of the dust-raising areas are located in Iraq and Syria hit Khuzestan province and some western parts of the country, a national specialized working group was formed to cooperate with these countries, Tahmasebi explained.

Out of 8 large SDS hotspots with an area of about 270 million hectares around Iran, five are located in neighboring and non-neighboring countries of the Persian Gulf. ▶ Page 7



**Iran closely monitoring Israelis' moves in neighboring states, Raisi tells Iraqi FM**

TEHRAN— Iran's President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi told Iraqi Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein on Thursday that Tehran will not allow the Israelis to endanger Iran's security through neighboring countries, especially Iraq. ▶ Page 2

**Museum devoted to Ardabil nomads under construction**

TEHRAN – Construction work has commenced in the ancient town of Germe to establish a special anthropological museum dedicated to the rituals, arts, and the everyday life of tribespeople native to Ardabil province.

“The construction operation of the first nomadic museum of Ardabil province has begun in Germe,” CHTN quoted the provincial tourism chief as saying on Friday.

“This museum would showcase relics and

evidence of nomadic life in Ardabil province,” Nader Fallahi noted.

“We have relics which are mostly donated by or on loan from various tribespeople.”

The culturally-rich Germe and its surrounding lands have long been destinations for avid archaeology buffs and eco-travelers.

Heaven for nomadic people, Ardabil is home to some nomadic tent hotels, which are reportedly the first of their kind in the country.

The Islamic Republic seeks to boost ethnic tourism or tribe tourism in which holiday-makers may even stay with a nomadic family or enjoy an independent stay.

Many tourists from all over the world tend to observe the lifestyle of these hardworking people and spend a few days watching activities such as milking, yogurt making, buttering, oiling, woolen, carpeting, and much more. ▶ Page 6

From Inside **T**

- Iran, Iraq stress formation of inclusive government in Afghanistan **P2**
- Iran slams terrorism, foreign invasions as detrimental to security of women in West Asia **P2**
- Iran dismisses U.S. State Department human rights report as ‘meddlesome’ **P3**
- Iran begins manufacturing centrifuges at Natanz facility **P3**
- U.S. sanctions unable to hinder Iranian oil exports: report **P4**
- ‘Exports of knowledge-based products prioritized’ **P4**
- TSE's main index up 9,000 points in a week **P4**
- Bushehr seeks to draw World Cup spectators **P6**
- 18th-century citadel lights up in blue drawing attention to people with autism **P6**
- Population growth rate estimated at 0.7% **P7**
- Migratory birds land in Ghouri Gol intl. wetland **P7**
- Islamic Revolution Art Week honors top artists of the year **P8**

Interview **T**  
**American society suffused with anger and violence: analyst**

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – American political analyst Martin Love is of the opinion that the recent shooting in the New York subway station mirrors anger and violence entrenched in American society.

“The facts include witnessing a society in the U.S. that is suffused with anger and violence,” Love tells the Tehran Times.

“It's exactly what the Muslim historian Ibn Khaldun centuries ago warned against: the loss of ‘group solidarity’ – what he called in Arabic ‘assabiya’” he argues.

While there is no question that violence has been ramping up in big cities, Love believes that random violence is not solely confined to big cities in the U.S.

Following is the text of the interview:

**What are the implications of shooting at a subway station in New York City? Is the level of violence in big cities ramping up?**

There are no mere implications, but there are facts. And the facts include witnessing a society in the U.S. that is suffused with anger and violence. It's exactly what the Muslim historian Ibn Khaldun centuries ago warned against: the loss of “group solidarity” – what he called in Arabic “assabiya”. And random violence is not solely confined to big cities in the U.S. But there is no question that violence has been ramping up in big cities. Take last year. Last year one tracker of shooting incidents reported a total of 693 mass shootings in the U.S. 303 of the total allegedly resulted in zero fatalities. But over 700 people died all told and over 3000 ▶ Page 5

*Iranian photographers win awards at Naryn Intl. Exhibition of Photography*

TEHRAN – Iranian photographers have won awards in all six categories at the 3rd Naryn International Exhibition of Photography in Kirgizstan.

Winners in the categories Open Monochrome, Open Color, Life Color, Creative Color, Photojournalism and Travel were announced by the organizers last week.

The exhibition is organized under the auspices of the Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique (FIAP) and the Photographic Society of America (PSA).

The FIAP Light Blue Badge, which is the top award of the exhibition was given to Behzad Azimi, who also won the FIAP Gold Medal for his photo “Survivor” in the Creative Color category. ▶ Page 8



## Iran slams terrorism, foreign invasions as detrimental to security of women in West Asia



TEHRAN - The greatest risks to the security of women in the unstable West Asia, according to Iran's deputy permanent representative to the United Nations, are occupation, terrorism, and foreign invasions, and women will continue to be the subject of abuse unless such threats are eradicated.

Zahra Ershadi made the statements in her speech on Wednesday to the Security Council's high-level open debate on the topic of "Conflict-related sexual violence: accountability as prevention — ending cycles of sexual violence in conflict".

The principal risks to women's security in the West Asia, such as foreign occupation, invasion, and terrorism, completely disregard women's rights and lives, the female diplomat remarked.

The diplomat noted that the "heinous crime" of sexual abuse is frequently employed as a strategy in military battles and terrorist activities, which primarily target women, girls, and other vulnerable populations.

Human trafficking is also a problem in armed situations, and it affects women and children who are either forcibly displaced or leaving their nations.

Ershadi noted that the four Geneva Conventions and their two Additional Protocols expressly and implicitly condemn various types of sexual assault as grave violations of humanitarian law, with all states and non-state parties to the war obligated to comply with the appropriate responsibilities.

## Iran closely monitoring Israelis' moves in neighboring states, Raisi tells Iraqi FM

From page 1 ▶ Raisi then continued by reiterating that Tehran seriously expects neighboring countries, especially Iraq, not to allow anything that would disrupt the security of Iran, whether in areas controlled by the federal government or in areas controlled by the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.

Raisi added that Iran has repeatedly proven its brotherhood toward its neighbors in practice and has been a friend in every situation, and therefore it expects the neighboring countries to be wary of the enemies' conspiracies.

Iran's top executive official referred to the message of a senior official in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region stating that if it had not been for General Qassem Soleimani, the Iraqi Kurdistan Region would have not existed today. However, he said, the Iraqi Kurdistan has unfortunately neglected some important issues.

However, he added, Iran is closely watching the Israelis' actions, and that cooperation with this child-killing regime cannot remain a secret.

"We will not allow them to endanger the security of the region through any country, including Iraq," Raisi underlined.

In continuation of his talks with the Iraqi foreign minister, the president referred to the common religious, historical and cultural bonds between the two nations of Iran and Iraq, saying, "Relations between the two countries are beyond normal neighborly relations, and the Islamic Republic of Iran is determined to maximize the development of these brotherly relations."

Raisi added that Tehran and Baghdad share common interests, and Iraq's security is Iran's.

He noted, "The security and interests of Tehran and Baghdad are intertwined and the enemies can never interfere in this regard."

Despite all current rules, she noted, preventing and eliminating that barbaric behavior needs a collaborative effort and will not be successful unless its core causes — namely, the conditions surrounding the emergence of an armed conflict — are addressed.

"Unfortunately, as long as terrorism, violent extremism, foreign occupation and foreign interference persist, such a solution will remain elusive," she pointed out.

Ershadi cited the plight of Palestinian women, whose land has been under Israeli control for decades, and Afghan women, whose country has been devastated by two decades of terrorism and foreign invasion.

She said the situation in Afghanistan, where the Taliban has lately taken over governmental affairs, is severely violating women's rights.

According to the Iranian diplomat, Afghan women and girls are the subject of widespread systematic assault as part of a drive to restrict their social and political life, citing a UN study.

Ershadi went on to say that the Taliban must accept Afghan women's right to education, employment, and political participation.

She restated Iran's stance on the debate's theme, stating that issues affecting women and girls should be addressed by the General Assembly and other UN organizations, and that the Security Council should only discuss such concerns if they are directly relevant to international peace and security.

Over a decade ago, the Security Council defined conflict-related sexual violence as a separate security concern in Resolution 1820 (2008).

Despite the numerous resolutions, agreements, and treaties that have followed, sexual assault continues to occur with near-total impunity in many wars across the world, according to the UN.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran has always stressed and supported the unity and territorial integrity of all ethnicities and religions in Iraq, which is the basis for maintaining stability," the president underscored.

Pointing out that Daesh was created by the United States and Israel and it is acting on their behalf in Afghanistan today, the president said Tehran has proven its friendship with neighboring countries in practice and has hosted Afghan refugees and migrants for decades, and they enjoy the benefits of living in Iran like an ordinary Iranian citizen.

He also quoted some heads of state as saying that Iran helped those countries that were abandoned by the arrogant powers, stressing that the security of Iraq must be provided by the Iraqis themselves.

The president added the presence of outsiders in Iraq does not provide security.

Elsewhere in the meeting, Raisi also called for a faster implementation of the Shalamchah-Basra railway, as well as facilitating the travel of Iranian pilgrims to Iraq, saying it is in line with the economic and social interests of the two nations.

For his part, Foreign Minister Hussein stressed Iraq's commitment to strengthening cooperation and coordination between the two countries in various bilateral, regional and international areas, saying, "Iraq considers itself not only a neighbor but also an ally and friend of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The Iraqi foreign minister stated that his country will never be a base for acting against the security of Iran.

"We are ready for extensive cooperation, including in the field of security, to prevent any threat to the interests of the Islamic Republic of Iran," he concluded.

# Iran, Iraq stress formation of inclusive government in Afghanistan

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian hosted a high-ranking Iraqi delegation led by Foreign Minister Fuad Hussein on Wednesday afternoon. Later, Amir Abdollahian and his Fuad Hussein held a joint press conference in which they insisted on the need for formation of an inclusive government in Afghanistan.

During the meeting, the status of bilateral ties, regional developments and some issues of mutual interest at the international level including the situation in Yemen, Afghanistan, Syria and Ukraine were discussed.

Amir Abdollahian said strengthening trade ties with Iraq is an important priority of the two countries and underlined issues such as facilitation of trade exchanges at border crossings, uninterrupted transportation and finalization of the Basra-Shalamchah railway.

He also reiterated the need to ease travels by the two countries' pilgrims.

In this regard, Amir Abdollahian called for facilitation of the Iranian pilgrims' travel to holy sites in Iraq via land borders.

Amir Abdollahian also said Iran cannot accept facing threats by the United States and Israel as well as terrorist and separatist elements and seeing its security undermined through its borders.

For his part, Iraq's Foreign Minister Hussein described the relations between Iran and Iraq as intertwined and called Iran a faithful neighbor.

He added that Iraq continues to play its constructive role in helping restore peace to the region and tries to strengthen the role of talks among regional countries.

During the conversation, Hussein reiterated that the security of Iran and Iraq are interconnected and Iraq does not allow any threat against neighboring countries from its soil.

Other issues were also discussed during the meeting such as new developments in the Vienna talks intended to revive the 2015 nuclear deal. The expansion of ties between Iran and Persian Gulf countries was also discussed.

Later, the two held a joint press conference. In the first part of the presser, the two foreign ministers briefed reporters about what had happened during their meeting.

Amir Abdollahian told reporters that the two top diplomats discussed various issues and above all, they discussed bilateral issues.



"Among the issues that were discussed regarding bilateral discussions were the importance of the abolition of land visas between the two countries and we hope that in the near future, given the gap between the two countries caused due to the coronavirus crisis, we should be able to expand the flow of citizens of the two countries across land borders," Amir Abdollahian explained.

The tourism industry between the two countries can play a very important role in the development of relations as much as possible, Iran's top diplomat asserted.

Amir Abdollahian continued by saying that he hopes that the Iraqi side will seriously pursue this issue so that in the future, and the citizens of the two countries will be able to travel to each of the provinces of the two countries via personal cars with their families.

He added that the deep, strategic, and privileged relations between the two countries are in a situation where Tehran and Baghdad can expand relations in various fields in the coming months.

The foreign minister stated, "In the last 7 months, the volume of trade exchanges and cooperation between the two countries has increased four and a half times as much as the same period of the past."

He then went on to thank the Iraqi government for "creating a regional understanding."

Amir Abdollahian stressed the importance of regional talks.

"We appreciated the constructive efforts of the Iraqi government, Prime Minister and Foreign Minister to resume talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia," Iran's top diplomat noted.

He then expressed hope that the West Asia region will see more stability, security, progress and prosperity.

"Regarding the developments in Yemen, independence and the establishment of a temporary ceasefire in this country, we emphasized the importance of

lifting the humanitarian siege and the Yemeni talks, as well as the continuation of ceasefire," Amir Abdollahian noted.

Iran's foreign minister added that in the shadow of the ceasefire, the complete lifting of the humanitarian siege and talks with all Yemeni parties, without any foreign intervention, the Yemeni people will be able to make the best of their destiny for the future.

Regarding Syria, Amir Abdollahian expressed Tehran's opposition to the fact that part of the country's territory is occupied by military bases without coordination with the central government.

"We believe that it is the Syrian people who should decide about the future of their own country," he elaborated.

**"Formation of an inclusive government the only way Iran recognizes Taliban"**

In the press briefing, Amir Abdollahian added that the last discussion was about Afghanistan.

"We both support the formation of an inclusive government with the participation of all ethnic groups in Afghanistan," he said.

Amir Abdollahian stressed that on Monday, an unfortunate incident took place in front of the Iranian Embassy in Kabul and the Consulate General in Herat.

He continued, "On Wednesday, a large number of people and political groups of Afghanistan tried to portray the common enemies of the two nations by presenting flowers to our staff and placing flowers to Iranian diplomatic buildings and diplomatic places in Afghanistan by appearing in front of the missions of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Common enemies of Iran and Afghanistan will not be able to conspire to cause problems and insecurity on common issues and in relations between the two countries."

Amir Abdollahian said that Iran still considers the recognition of the interim governing body of Afghanistan conditional on the formation of an inclusive

government in the country.

**It was agreed to unfreeze some of Iran's frozen assets**

In response to a question about the news about the release of Iran's foreign exchange resources in a foreign bank, Amir Abdollahian said, "An agreement has been reached with a foreign bank to release our frozen assets. A delegation from a neighboring country came to Iran on Tuesday and we held talks with the officials of the Central Bank (of Iran), the Ministry of Economy and the Foreign Ministry, and we reached an agreement on when and how to release these funds."

**Hussein says Iran and Iraq's national security interlinked**

After Amir Abdollahian, Iraq's foreign minister briefed the reporters.

Hussein thanked Iran's top diplomat for his hospitality and warm welcome, saying, "As always, we had an important meeting that we talked about in the frankest way. At the beginning of the talks, we discussed bilateral issues, including trade and economic relations."

Hussein reiterated that the two countries have the issue of pilgrimage to the holy shrines on the agenda on a regular basis, and in these talks, facilitating pilgrimage for Iranians was negotiated.

Before the Coronavirus pandemic, millions of Iranian and Iraqi citizens visited holy shrines in both Iraq and Iran.

The Iraqi foreign minister added, "Another issue was about bilateral issues as well as security issues."

**"Security in Iran and Iraq is related to security in the region"**

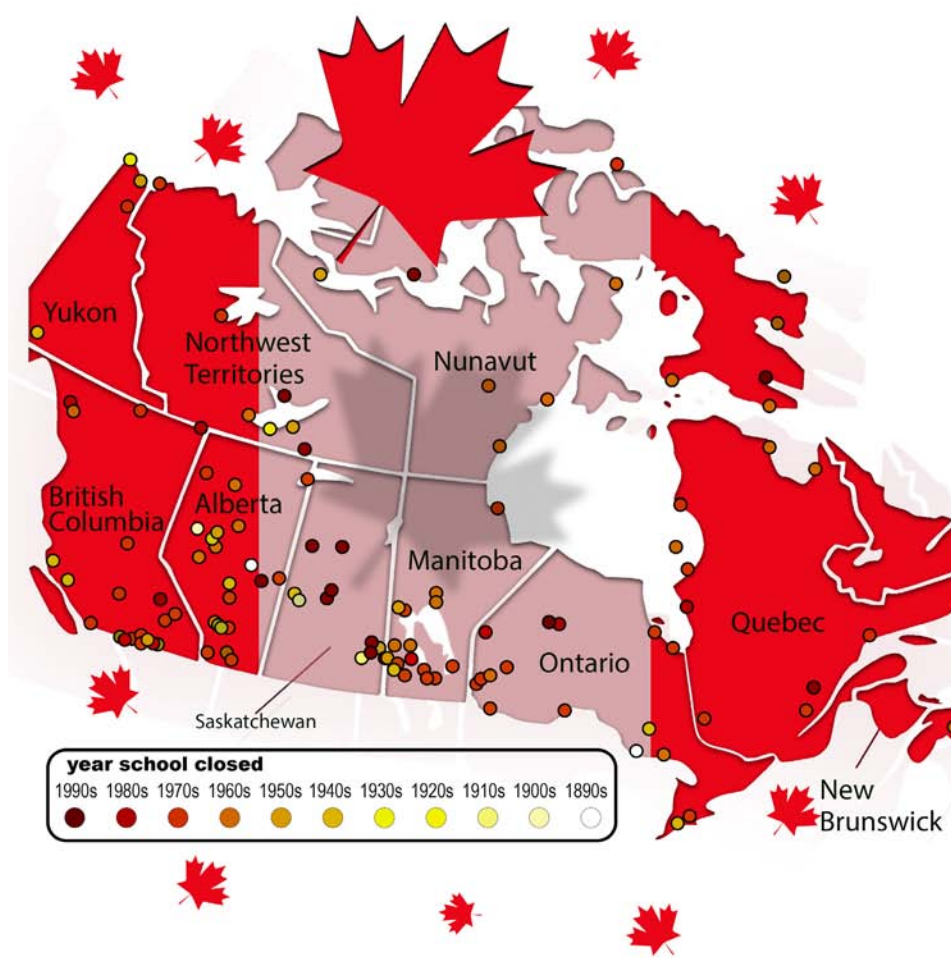
Iraq's chief diplomat also said, "The national security of Iran and Iraq is related to the security of the region. When we have dialogue with a friendly and neighboring country like Iran, it means that the security of Iran and Iraq are related to each other and the security of the region," he said.

Hussein added that Iran and Iraq are two neighbors that have economic, social, cultural, and historical relations with each other.

"When there is a security problem, we have to find a way to solve it," he said, stating that the doors are open for talks in Baghdad.

He then expressed hope that these doors will be open for talks in Tehran as well, so that the two countries can have intensive talks on security issues.

(See full text at [tehrantimes.com](http://tehrantimes.com))



## Canada Residential Schools

Between the late 1800s and 1900s, more than 150,000 indigenous children were forced to attend residential schools. A settlement deal with the government recognized 139 such institutions, which aimed to assimilate the children into the Canadian mainstream against their will.





# Israel clamps down on Palestinian worshippers

TEHRAN – Israeli security forces were in full swing on Friday, firing on peaceful worshipers and arresting some of them at the second-holiest site in Islam.

Hundreds of Israeli armed troops stormed Al Aqsa Mosque in Jerusalem (al-Quds), and attacked worshippers with stun grenades, tear gas, and rubber and metal bullets.

The outbreak of violence began when Israeli forces broke into the holy mosque of Al Aqsa and started firing on the worshippers, which resulted in more than 150 injuries among them. The Palestinian Red Crescent in Jerusalem reported that its teams dealt with 153 injuries in the confrontations that took place inside the courtyards of the holy Al-Aqsa Mosque. The Palestinian organization noted that a number of attacks on its crews were recorded, including impeding access to the injured, direct attacks on them, and attacking ambulances.

The Israeli troops went on the rampage and caused damage to the mosque on Friday morning. But the Israeli violence did not intimidate the Palestinian worshippers into giving up on their plan to hold Friday prayer at the mosque.

After cleaning the mosque from the wreckage caused by the Israeli troops, Palestinian worshippers rushed to the mosque for prayer.

In addition to wreaking havoc on Al-Aqsa Mosque, Israeli security forces arrested more than 400 Palestinian worshippers in the holy site.



The raid on Al-Aqsa Mosque came against a backdrop of heightened tensions between Israeli troops and Palestinians in the West Bank. Just hours before the outbreak of violence at the holy mosque, a Palestinian teenager was killed by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank city of Jenin. Palestine's official news agency WAFA reported that 17-year-old Shawkat Kamal Abed succumbed to his injuries sustained from Israeli military gunfire in Kafr Dan town, northwest of Jenin.

The dramatic scenes of violence in Jerusalem caused uproar in the West Asia region and the whole Muslim world, given the holiness of the Al-Aqsa Mosque.

Locally, the Palestinian presidency called for urgent international intervention to prevent things from going out of control. Nabil Abu Rudeineh, spokesman for the Palestinian presidency, described the Israeli raid on the Al-Aqsa Mosque compound and Israeli police break-

into al-Qibla prayer hall, a 1000-year-old domed building, as "a serious development, an act of sacrilege, and it is tantamount to declaring war on our Palestinian people."

"Immediate intervention by the international community is needed to halt this Israeli aggression against Al-Aqsa Mosque and prevent things from going out of control," he added, according to WAFA.

Regionally, Jordanian Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi stressed the need to stop all illegal and provocative Israeli measures in the Al-Aqsa Mosque, and to respect the rights of worshipers to practice their religious rites freely and without restrictions.

The Jordanian foreign minister denounced the Israeli provocation as a "dangerous and condemnable escalation that threatens to explode the situation."

Iran has also strongly reacted to the events unfolding in Jerusalem, condemning Israel's "shameless

desecration of the sacred places."

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh strongly condemned the Zionists' shameless desecration of the sacred places in Palestine during the holy month of Ramadan and their raid on fasting worshippers in the al-Aqsa Mosque. Khatibzadeh warned against the continuation of brutal and terrorist acts of the occupiers in al-Quds and occupied Palestine, according to an Iranian Foreign Ministry statement.

Referring to the beating and injury of Palestinian worshippers by the occupation troops, the Foreign Ministry spokesman said the crimes of Zionists against the oppressed people of Palestine indicate the regime's increasing weakness which it seeks to cover up with a show of its hollow clout in the face of a number of defenseless worshippers.

Internationally, the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) strongly condemned the attacks on the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque and considered it an insult to the feelings of the entire Islamic Ummah.

"The Organization of Islamic Cooperation strongly condemned the Israeli occupation forces' storming of the blessed Al-Aqsa Mosque, closing its gates, and attacking worshipers inside and in its courtyards," the OIC said in a statement, adding that it "considers this dangerous escalation an attack on the feelings of the entire Islamic Ummah, and a flagrant violation of international resolutions and covenants."

## Iran begins manufacturing centrifuges at Natanz facility

TEHRAN – Iran has moved the equipment needed for manufacturing centrifuge machines from a site in Karaj to the Natanz nuclear facility with the aim of resuming centrifuge production there.

The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) announced the production of centrifuge parts in a new workshop at the Shahid Ahmadi Roshan complex in Natanz, after the equipment was transferred from the Karaj Industrial Complex.

Nour News, a website close to Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said the monitoring activities of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) will not change in the new site, meaning that the data recorded by the Agency cameras will not be handed over to it.

According to Nour News, this important and strategic sanctions on Iran can be considered

a decisive step in increasing the protection and security of Iran's nuclear facilities and related industries.

The sabotage acts during the past few years, for which Israel is implicitly responsible, have caused damage to Iran's nuclear facilities in light of the silence of the IAEA and its lack of concern for the need to play a responsible role in protecting the peaceful nuclear activities of countries.

The initiative of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran was a clear translation of the strategy announced by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution in emphasizing not to link activities and projects in the country to negotiations with external parties, Al Alam reported.

The move also came amid a pause in the talks in Vienna over lifting sanctions on Iran and reviving

the 2015 nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

With major pending issues remaining unresolved, the talks in Vienna over the nuclear deal seem to be put on hold until mediators succeed in convincing the United States that it's high time for making political decisions. According to a senior Iranian lawmaker who has just been briefed by Iran's chief negotiator, Iran is making everything in its power to honestly push the talks forward and it is in the negotiations with the intention of reaching an agreement.

The lawmaker, Jilil Rahimi Jahan Abadi, said despite Iran's cooperation, the other side continues to act in bad faith. The Western side does not cooperate in most matters and their behavior is dishonest, Jahan Abadi told Iran's state news IRNA on Wednesday.

## Iran dismisses U.S. State Department human rights report as ‘meddlesome’

*Foreign Ministry says U.S. sheds crocodile tears for Iranian people*

TEHRAN – Iran on Thursday reacted to an annual report on human rights in the world issued by the U.S. State Department, saying that the U.S. is not in a position to speak about human rights due to its dark record of in this regard.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh rejected the baseless claims about Iran in the annual report of the U.S. Department of State, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

Khatibzadeh said releasing repetitive and unfounded reports will not give them legitimacy.

The spokesman added that it's clear that no one can expect the U.S. government which is addicted to lying, to tell the truth and existing realities. "Therefore, the biased, politically-charged and meddlesome nature of the report is clear and obvious to all and to the Iranian nation."

He said that the U.S. government's history is filled with waging wars,

coups, aggression, assassinations, kidnappings, economic blockades, and killings of innocents in different parts of the world.

The U.S. government is the main violator of human rights and, therefore, is in no position to speak about lofty concepts such as human rights, Khatibzadeh added.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman noted that the U.S. sheds crocodile tears for the Iranian people at a time when its own crimes against Iranians including the downing of a passenger plane, provocation of its internal lackeys to assassinate people and officials over the past decades and all-out efforts to deprive the noble people of Iran of their basic rights remain in the memory of Iranians.

The Foreign Ministry spokesman noted that the United States' unilateral coercive measures including illegal economic sanctions are a clear example of economic terrorism against the Iranian people and are the main obstacle to the

import of vital medicine for Iranian patients, that have themselves led to a gross violation of the rights of the Iranian people.

He described the claims of the U.S. regime as hypocritical that are aimed at achieving illegitimate political goals.

Khatibzadeh underlined that the direct order by the then U.S. president to cowardly assassinate General Qassem Soleimani who was the champion of the fight against terrorism in the Western Asian region, perfectly reveals the terrorist nature of the United States.

The Foreign Ministry spokesperson added that the U.S. government is turning a blind eye to the gross and systematic violations of human rights in the country and in its vassal allies.

He also said all people have repeatedly seen how racial discrimination against minorities and African Americans are happening in the U.S. systemically and on a large

scale, which in itself has led to mass protests by black people and other citizens in the country. Khatibzadeh further noted that unbridled police brutality and the murder of black citizens before the eyes of people reveal the anti-human rights approaches of the U.S. government and, more regrettably, the U.S. response to such rights abuses have been merely show actions, indifference and inattention.

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman said at the end that the Islamic Republic of Iran, in line with its own humanitarian laws and also its international obligations, has always tried to realize the rights of the great Iranian nation and promote real causes such as true human rights and such baseless and hypocritical statements and reports will not undermine the Iranian government and people's will and movement down this path to build a dear and proud country in line with its own religious and national values and principles.

Ms. Pandor, South Africa's foreign minister, also congratulated Amir Abdollahian on the arrival of the holy month of Ramadan during the telephone conversation. She described Iran as South Africa's

good friend and underscored that relations with the Islamic Republic are important for her country.

Ms. Pandor then thanked Iran's support for South Africa in international organizations, adding, "We view Palestine as our friend."

She extended an invitation by her country's president to the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran to visit South Africa. Foreign Minister Pandor expressed hope that the upcoming visit of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi to South Africa will give a boost to bilateral relations.

## IRAN IN FOCUS

APRIL 16, 2022

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

3

## SPORTS

### Iran Air Pistol Team Women takes gold at ISSF World Cup

TEHRAN – Iran won a gold medal at the International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Shooting World Cup on Wednesday.

Golnoush Sebghatollahi, Haniyeh Rostamian and Elham Harijani from Iran were the best in 10m Air Pistol Team Women.

They defeated Chidchanok Hirunphoem, Tanyaporn Prucksakorn and Kanyakorn Hirunphoem from Thailand 16-12 in the final match.

Golnoush Sebghatollahi and Javed Foroughi also took a bronze medal at the 10m air pistol mixed team after defeating Austrian team Sylvia Steiner and Richard Zechmeister 16-14 in the bronze medal match.

Iran also claimed a bronze medal at the air rifle team women.

The Iranian trio of Fatemeh Karamzadeh, Fatemeh Amini and Najmeh Khedmati defeated Stephanie Laura Scurrah Grundsoee, Christina Herskind and Anna Nielsen from Denmark 16-6 in the bronze medal match.

The International Shooting Sport Federation (ISSF) Shooting World Cup event started on April 11 in Rio de Janeiro and will run until April 18.

### Nekounam remains hopeful of next round qualification

TEHRAN – Foolad football team head coach Javad Nekounam remained hopeful of booking a spot in 2022 AFC Champions League next stage after registering their first win in the campaign.

Foolad earned a late win over Turkmenistan's Ahal in Group C Thursday night.

It was a perfect night for Malian central defender Moussa Coulibaly who scored the winning goal to secure Foolad's first victory in the AFC Champions League 2022.

Javad Nekounam's side created chances in front of goal but was left frustrated with the finishing touch against Ahal, who played the remaining 40 minutes with 10 men.

"Our team had so many chances even when they had 11 players. It is difficult when you play against a defending team who is physical so I want to congratulate my players on this victory. We stayed focus and we have our first win," Nekounam said.

"Before this match, we could not win any matches because of bad luck. We created chances and hit the post at least four times in our last three games. Hopefully we can continue this momentum and win more matches," said the former Iran national midfielder Nekounam.

### Iran learn Women's Junior Handball World Championship fate

TEHRAN – Iran learned their fate at the 23rd IHF Women's Junior (U20) Handball World Championship.

The 32 teams, including one Wild Card side, which will be determined later by the International Handball Federation (IHF), were allocated into four pots of eight teams each.

The top two sides in each group will qualify for the main round, with pairings of two joining each other in the alphabetical order from the preliminary round groups (i.e., the Group A teams will face the Group B teams, Group C will play Group D, etc). Subsequently, the top two teams in each main round group will progress to the quarter-finals, as the other two sides will play the placement matches.

The 23rd IHF Women's Junior (U20) Handball World Championship will take place in Celje, Laško and Velenje from June 22 to July 3.

**Draw result:**

**Group A:** India, Slovakia, Netherlands, Japan

**Group B:** Sweden, Iran, Tunisia, Guinea

**Group C:** Denmark, Argentina, Montenegro, Wild Card team

**Group D:** France, Norway, Brazil, Republic of Korea

**Group E:** Romania, Czech Republic, Angola, Paraguay

**Group F:** Germany, Slovenia, Chile, Mexico

**Group G:** Croatia, Switzerland, Kazakhstan, Austria

**Group H:** Hungary, Poland, Egypt, United States of America

### Sepahan must forget loss against Al Taawoun: Navidkia

TEHRAN – Sepahan football team coach Moharram Navidkia says they must forget loss against Al Taawoun in Group D of the 2022 AFC Champions League.

The Iranian team lost to Al Taawoun 3-0 in Buraidah, Saudi Arabia early Friday.

Sepahan's Ezzatollah Pourghaz was sent off just 10 minutes into the game.

"The start of the match was very bad for us after one of our players was sent off in the first 10 minutes, which made it difficult for us," said head coach Moharram Navidkia.

"Despite the expulsion, we played at a good level and created some chances during the first half, but we conceded a goal in the last minutes of this half, which made this encounter more difficult against a team with quality players.

"In the second half, we were not organized as required, and we were unable to create chances and threaten the opponent goal as required, while Al Taawoun succeeded in creating opportunities and exploited them by achieving two more goals. In any case, we will try to forget the result of this match and think about the next match being against the same opponent," Sepahan coach stated.

### Vafaei becomes first Iranian to compete at World Championship

TEHRAN – Hossein Vafaei became the first Iranian player to qualify for the World Snooker Championship.

He defeated English Lei Peifan 10-9 on the final black of the final qualifier on Wednesday.

Debutant Hossein Vafaei will play Judd Trump in the first round of the World Championship.

The tournament gets underway on Saturday.

### Croatian coach Orescanin linked with Persepolis

TEHRAN – Croatian media reports suggest that Sinisa Orescanin has been linked with Persepolis football club.

The 49-year-old coach has most recently worked as head coach of Croatian top division side HNK Gorica.

Orescanin is a candidate to assist Yayha Golmohammadi in the Iranian team.

With six weeks left, Persepolis sits second, six points behind Esteghlal, in the Iran Professional League (IPL).

## Iran, South Africa FM's hold phone conversation

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and his South African counterpart Naledi Pandor on Thursday afternoon held a telephone conversation in which they discussed the most important bilateral, regional and international issues.

Amir Abdollahian referred to the importance of Africa in the Islamic Republic of Iran's foreign policy, underlining the new Iranian administration's firm resolve to expand ties with the African continent, especially with South Africa, according to the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Amir Abdollahian described ties between the two countries in different fields as good. Referring to the 14th Joint Economic Commission of Iran and South Africa that was held successfully, he declared Iran's readiness to hold the 15th event in the near future. Amir Abdollahian stressed that there are many opportunities and possibilities in the relations between Iran and South Africa.

The top Iranian diplomat referred to Iran and South Africa's support for each other's stance in international organizations and underlined the need



## World Bank revises up Iran's GDP forecast for 2022



From page 1 ► The economic rebound has yet to be reflected in the labor market as the recovery was largely driven by the oil sector, and employment growth in services and industries could not compensate for job losses in the agriculture sector, the report

stated.

The bank puts Iran's economic growth at 4.1 percent in 2021 and about 3.4 percent in 2020.

World Bank which had estimated Iran's inflation rate at 40.1 percent for 2021 believes that it would fall to 37.6 percent this year and 34.8 percent next year.

"Higher projected oil prices in the outlook period and growth in oil export volumes considering the tighter global oil market are forecast to curb fiscal pressures. However, high expenditure growth due to increasing wage bills and pension spending is projected to keep the fiscal balance in a deficit of 3.8 percent of GDP in 2022-24," the bank said in its report.

## 'Exports of knowledge-based products prioritized'

TEHRAN – Iranian Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin has said the exports of knowledge-based products is one of the country's new priorities in setting foreign trade policies for the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21), IRIB reported.

"One of our priorities in foreign trade is to export knowledge-based goods instead of raw or semi-raw materials," Fatemi-Amin said on Thursday.

"This year, considering the slogan of the year which is "Production: Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating", we are completely revising the criteria for selecting the country's top exporting companies, so that companies exporting knowledge-based goods are given more importance and would be among the top manufacturers," the minister said.

According to the official, so far, knowledge-based industries have been mostly supply-oriented, which means a knowledge-based company worked on a product, process, or service, and the ministry sought to provide a market for it, but now the companies are moving toward becoming demand-oriented.

Large companies in various areas like the automotive, mining, and food industries need to re-define their processes to reduce prices and increase quality, and also implement new processes to move towards research and knowledge-based development, Fatemi-Amin stressed.

The official further mentioned attending a meeting with the representatives of over 30 major companies in which issues, ideas, and challenges in the way of the development of knowledge-based companies have been



raised and discussed.

He noted that in case of the knowledge-based development of the country's major industries, small companies can also cooperate with them in their projects, and this will have a great impact on the country's economy.

The minister finally stated that the ministry should encourage competition among production units, adding that major companies can also move toward manufacturing their own needed machinery and equipment as well.

Back in March, Fatemi-Amin had announced his ministry's support for knowledge-based products.

Making the remarks on the sidelines of the first cabinet meeting in the current year the minister said: "Industries that move toward production of knowledge-based products or industries that create more jobs enjoy the support of the ministry."

The minister's statements were in line with the slogan of the present Iranian calendar year 1401, which is named "Production: Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating" by Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei.

## Manufacturing of washing machines rises 21% in 11 months yr/yr



TEHRAN- The manufacturing of washing machines in Iran rose 21.4 percent in the 11-month period from March 21, 2021 to February 19, 2022, as compared to the same period of time in the preceding year, according to the data released by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry.

The ministry's data show that 1,326,400 million sets of washing machine have been manufactured in the country during the 11-month period.

The manufacturing of home appliances in Iran increased 7.6 percent in the said 11 months, as 5,194,400 sets of the products were manufactured.

Back in April 2021, Deputy Industry, Mining and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki had said that considering the Iranian home appliance industry's infrastructure and capacities, the country will be able to become an exporter of such products in the near future because most of the raw materials needed by the mentioned sector are produced domestically.

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

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

The home appliances sector has been one of the pioneers in this regard and like many other areas, the production of home appliances has witnessed a significant rise in the past three years.

# U.S. sanctions unable to hinder Iranian oil exports: report

TEHRAN – Washington Free Beacon, an American conservative political journalism website, has recently said in a report that Iran's "fleet of ghost ships" have been successfully sidestepping U.S. sanctions, delivering millions of barrels of crude oil and petroleum products to foreign destinations.

The report claims that Iranian oil tankers have shipped at least \$22 billion worth of oil only to China since 2021. The Iranian Oil Ministry, however, does not reject or approve the mentioned figure.

Although the statistics mentioned by the western media and press are not completely accurate, they indicate the increase in the Islamic Republic's oil exports

despite sanctions, Oil Ministry's news portal Shana reported on Thursday.

According to Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi, the country's oil exports have increased by 40 percent in recent months.

The term "ghost ships", previously used by other publications such as The Wall Street Journal and Reuters, refers to Iranian oil tankers which carry cargoes around the world without being detected.

Earlier this month, the Managing Director of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) praised the significant role of the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC) in bypassing sanctions and boosting



the country's oil exports during the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

"This success (increased sales of oil and gas condensate) came at a time when the sanction conditions have become even stricter," Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr said.

**Iranian oil production increases by 7,000 barrels**

Iran has been ramping up its oil production over the past few months following the recovery of the global markets from the negative impacts of the coronavirus pandemic and the developments in the Vienna talks.

The country's crude oil production in March reached 2.546 million barrels per day

(bpd) to register a 7,000-barrel increase compared to the figure for February, according to OPEC's latest monthly report.

Iran produced 2.539 million bpd of crude oil in February, the report said citing secondary sources.

The Islamic Republic's average crude output for the first quarter of 2022 stood at 2.528 million bpd indicating a 56,000-bpd increase compared to the figure for the fourth quarter of the previous year, the report indicated.

The country's heavy crude oil price also increased by \$19.36 in March, to register a 20.8 percent rise compared to the previous month, according to the OPEC report.

## Constructing National Housing Movement units begins in 4 spots of Tehran province

TEHRAN- The construction of National Housing Movement units has been started in four spots of Tehran province, the secretary of the province's Mass Construction Association announced.

Iraj Rahbar said that the units are being constructed in Boumehen, Damavand, Nasir-Shahr, and Robat-Karim.

The National Housing Movement units have had a good physical progress, so that some of them have reached the foundation stage, he further highlighted.

Back in late March, Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qasemi said that over 800,000 units of National Housing Movement are already under construction across the country.

Referring to the important steps taken in National Housing Movement, Qasemi said: "Important issues such as banking, land extensions, land use change and the creation of a land bank have been resolved with the support of National Land and Housing Organization."

He said that according to the information



of the land bank, there are 40,000 cases in the field of land, the value of some of which is significant, noting that issues such as the law prohibiting the sale of land, which prevented access to new resources for years, were resolved.

In mid-March, the deputy transport and urban development minister announced that 5.2 million applicants had already registered in the government's two major housing plans (National Housing Action and National Housing Movement).

Mahmoud Mahmoudzadeh said that according to the Supreme Housing Council,

## Annual export from Mazandaran province increases 55%

TEHRAN- The value of export from Mazandaran province, in the north of Iran, rose 55 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), from its preceding year, a provincial official announced.

Hossein-Qoli Qavanlou, the head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, said that commodities worth \$277 million were exported from the province in the previous year.

In terms of the weight, the exports also indicate 44 percent

annual growth, he added.

The official further named cement, minerals, dairy products, plastic, and kiwi as the main exported products, and Iraq, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Turkey, Uzbekistan, Azerbaijan, Afghanistan, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and India as the major export destinations.

As previously announced by the head of Islamic Republic of Iran's Customs Administration (IRICA), the value of Iran's non-oil trade rose 38 percent in the past Iranian



calendar year 1400, as compared to its previous year.

Alireza Moqadasi put the country's non-oil trade at 162 million tons worth \$100 billion in the past year.

He said that Iran exported 122 million tons of non-oil products

worth \$48 billion in the previous year, which was \$14 billion (41 percent) more than the figure for its preceding year.

The country's non-oil trade record in 1400 was reached while the toughest sanctions were imposed on Iran, but thanks to God and the efforts of entrepreneurs, producers and the cooperation of foreign trade-related organizations, a historical record was achieved in the past year which was unprecedented in recent decades, the official underlined.

## TSE's main index up 9,000 points in a week

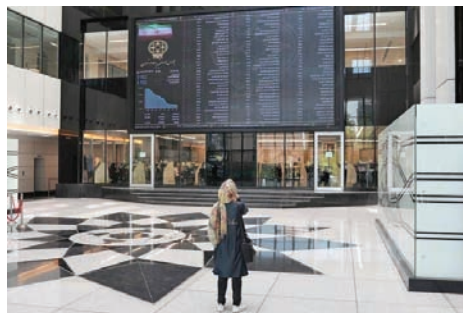
TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 9,000 points to 1.454 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

As reported, the indices of Iran Khodro Investment Development Company (IKIDO), Social Security Investment Company (SSIC), Iran Khodro Company (IKCO), Saipa Company, and Isfahan Oil Refinery were the mostly followed ones during the past week.

The government has applied several new changes in the national budget bill for the current Iranian calendar year 1401 (began on March 21) which according to experts and analysts will ensure the stock market's stability and growth in the coming years.

Reducing taxes on production units active in the stock market, strengthening the Capital Market Development and Stabilization Fund, eliminating subsidized foreign currency allocations, and stabilizing the ownership interest of the mines are some of the measures considered in the budget bill to support the capital market.

Allocating a 20-percent tax on legal entities



is considered in this year's budget bill which is less than the previous years. Reducing the taxes imposed on production units will make them more profitable and therefore their performance in the stock market will improve.

Also, the direct taxes collected from production units is expected to be injected into the Capital Market Development and Stabilization Fund in order to be used to improve and develop the market.

Based on the present year's budget bill, no subsidized foreign currency will be allocated to special entities to import certain goods. Experts and analysts believe that this decision is going to

have a very positive impact on the stock market since it will prevent rent and unrealistic pricing.

The draft of the national budget bill also indicates that the government will be less reliant on the stock market to compensate deficits and fund various development projects, which is another positive aspect of the mentioned bill since the stock market will be less affected by the politics and will follow a normal trend created by supply and demand.

As stated by Market Analyst Peyman Hadadi, the national budget bill for the current Iranian calendar year indicates that the government has a more positive view of the market for this year.

According to Hadadi, the allocation of a separate budget for the Capital Market Development and Stabilization Fund shows that the government is taking the necessary measures to provide stronger support for the market and to ensure its growth in the future.

"The allocation of a budget line for the Capital Market Development and Stabilization Fund is considered one of the most important points of the [Iranian calendar year] 1401 budget bill," Hadadi said.



# UK plan for asylum seekers “cruel” and “inhumane”

From page 1 ► When asked by reporters on whether Rwanda has the means to host the refugees, the minister said his country has the capacity to receive asylum seekers and “will invest in new infrastructure to educate and house migrants with the UK’s support.”

However, Biruta added the scheme will only be for people seeking asylum in the UK and Rwanda would “prefer not to receive refugees from immediate neighbors countries.”

He also says Britain will be sending “\$200 million” to Rwanda for “investment” purposes.

A Rwandan government spokesperson says “once [the asylum seekers] claims are determined they will be facilitated to integrate into the community.”

Critics have described the scheme as a violation of international laws and a serious threat to the international system of refugee protection that has saved millions of lives in the past.

In a statement, Gillian Triggs, the assistant high commissioner at UNHCR (the UN’s refugee agency) said people fleeing war and persecution “should not be traded like commodities and transferred abroad for processing.”

She expressed the refugee agency’s strong opposition to the plan saying “such arrangements simply shift asylum responsibilities, evade international obligations and are contrary to the letter and spirit of the Refugee Convention.”

Instead of deterring refugees from dangerous journeys across the English Channel, the new approach will only “magnify risks” by forcing refugees to seek alternative routes, she added.

In a statement, Human Rights Watch said the plan is “cruelty itself” and will prove to be ineffective and

unlawful.

The group says a similar system in Australia with offshore processing for asylum seekers has caused severe abuses and “immense human suffering” over the past eight years, with many people trapped in indefinite detentions that have led to suicides and an epidemic of self-harm.

Amnesty International UK says the British government scheme is “shockingly ill-conceived” and will inflict suffering on asylum seekers while wasting huge amounts of the public’s money.

Many experts have ridiculed UK PM Boris Johnson’s portrait of Rwanda as having an endless capacity for accepting refugees.

In reality, they say, Rwanda is one of the poorest and most densely populated countries in the world while heavily dependent on foreign aid.

Under an agreement between Israeli and Rwandan officials in 2013, thousands of Eritrean and Sudanese asylum seekers were sent from the occupied Palestinian territories to Rwanda.

Lawyers who later interviewed some of the asylum seekers found they had their travel documents confiscated as soon as they landed, immediately transferred to a guarded hotel, prevented from leaving and not even allowed to apply for asylum.

They were also exposed to robberies and arrests with many fleeing the African country via dangerous routes to seek better refuge.

Opposition politicians in Rwanda have also criticized their government’s agreement, saying wealthy western countries should “own up to international obligations on the migration issues.”

DALFA-Umurinzi says officials in Rwanda should focus on solving its



political and social issues that made Rwandans seek refuge abroad before offering “to host refugees or migrants from other countries”.

Another opposition party, the Democratic Green party of Rwanda, says wealthy countries such as the UK “should not shift their international obligation to receive refugees and transfer them to third countries” just because they had “the money to influence and enforce their will”.

“Rwanda has already a high population destiny... and already land is not sufficient for us all, with a lot of land conflicts and competition for the natural resources,” the party said.

“Taking on migrants from UK will increase the land burden and survival challenges for the limited natural resources available.”

Analysts say Johnson is trying to distract attention from renewed calls on him to resign after being fined by police this week for attending a gathering celebrating his birthday in June 2020 when social mixing was banned under COVID-19 rules and regulations that his own government introduced.

Two months ago, Johnson’s reins in power was about to collapse and he needed to convince members of his ruling Conservative party to stick by his side as more and more scandals emerged his popularity has quickly dropping.

That’s when the the asylum seekers plan was devised, dubbed “Operation Red Meat”, to give those losing faith in his administration stronger belief amid the exposure of one scandal after the other.

Tobias Ellwood, the Conservative chair of the defense select committee, has accused Johnson of unveiling the plans as part of a “massive distraction” from becoming the first Prime Minister to be found guilty of a criminal

charge while in office.

Observers note it was with much media attention and fanfare that Johnson wanted to announce a tough new immigration policy.

Johnson is said to have tried hard for the plan to be announced before the local elections, with many Conservative party members worried they will lose their jobs because of the fines and ongoing police investigation into law-breaking parties in Downing Street.

Analysts have also highlighted the racist aspect of the government’s new scheme which will target mostly refugees fleeing war zones in West Asia and Africa.

This is while at the same time the UK has opened its hearts and homes to those fleeing the crisis in Ukraine.

There is a deep sense of double standards and hypocrisy over the British government’s obligations under international law towards refugees.

The Conservative party peer Sayeeda Warsi has called the scheme inhumane and cynical saying “this proposal of offshoring asylum seekers to Rwanda is ineffective and costly.”

She also added her voice to those who have denounced the plan as inconsistent with the UK’s “generous response” to the conflict in Ukraine and described the timing as cynical and political.

A snap poll by YouGov of almost 3,000 British voters has found that only 35 percent of people support the new measures.

The British Red Cross says it is “profoundly concerned” about the controversial new plans to “send traumatised people halfway round the world to Rwanda. We are not convinced this drastic measure will deter desperate people from attempting to cross the Channel either.”

## American society suffused with anger and violence: analyst

From page 1 ► people were injured. If one were to add in all gun violence, in which less than four individuals were killed, the numbers would be off the charts higher, and the numbers above only include those victims in the single year of 2021.

**Why are the American administrations unable to put a real restriction on gun bearing? Is the problem in regulations or in public culture?**

The problem lies both in the absence of effective regulation and in the overall public culture in the U.S. Some U.S. states have even been loosening gun laws that prohibit citizens from carrying guns concealed or openly. This argument seems to be that those who would commit gun violence against others might be deterred if they thought law-abiding citizens might be carrying a gun and thus potential victims can defend themselves. Washington is dominated by big lobbies like AIPAC, which condones violence in Palestine against the natives where full Apartheid has taken hold, and the National Rifle Association (NRA), which has long advocated the alleged “right” for citizens to bear arms as indicated in the U.S. Constitution. It’s an utter shame. The other problem is that most Americans are rather ignorant even though their votes are fervently sought by politicians, some of whom are willing “buy” votes by condoning ownership of assault rifles and handguns. And generally, U.S. foreign policies are violent. Feeding arms to the hapless Ukrainians now to keep the war going there to “bleed” Russia, rather than insisting on diplomacy and peace, is just one current example.

**How do you see the role of weapon businesses in hampering any process to restrict gun bearing?**

Weapon businesses and manufacturers simply want to make money selling arms. That’s their incentive to hamper the kind of legislation that would make weapon sales illegal. It’s pure business for them.

**How do you see the role of public media in spreading violence?**

One can hardly turn on a TV or go to the cinema in the U.S. and not be confronted with “entertainment” that includes a lot of violence.



If the shows are not sci-fi garbage catering to teenagers, there are dark and ugly sagas of mayhem, social discord and quite frankly, insane characters. “Family” entertainment hardly exists any longer.

**Do you think Biden’s policies to restrict gun bearing are efficient?**

The alleged perp in the NYC subway shooting was a 62-year-old Black man who once he was identified turned himself into police. One assumes he did not want to get shot by police but the public waits to find out what his motivations were and more about him. It’s a bit mystifying why this particular shooting incident, which has been deemed “terrorism” and for which the perp will face life in prison, has had such an impact because incidents like this have become relatively common. The Biden Administration has made some noises about tightening gun laws but Biden on this issue is out to lunch by not simply pushing laws that make some kinds of guns like the Glock 17 the perp used illegally with steep penalties and sanctions. Biden’s Presidency has all but failed and the upcoming Congressional mid-term elections are likely to be a debacle for the Democratic Party. Fresh faces and leadership across the board for advocates of sane policies on so many pressing matters are sorely needed, and the GOP does not offer hope for change, and maybe worse. Biden is way out of his depth at almost 80 and is senile if recent press conferences are any indication of his mental capacity. As the great Irish poet W.B. Yeats wrote long ago: the center cannot hold, the falcon cannot hear the falconer.

## Russian finance minister to attend G20 meeting virtually, Indonesia says

G20 host Indonesia said on Thursday Russian Finance Minister Anton Siluanov had confirmed he plans to attend virtually next week’s meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors from the Group of 20 major economies.

Indonesian finance ministry official Wempi Saputra also told a briefing that Jakarta was considering whether to invite Ukraine to the meeting, which will be held on April 20 in Washington “to discuss the impact of the conflict in Ukraine on global economic conditions”.

“We don’t have the capacity to not invite (any member),” said Wempi. “As the president, Indonesia has invited all members, and as of today, some have confirmed physical attendance and some virtual.”

The issue of Russia’s G20 membership has split the group, with strong calls from Western nations for it to be excluded, but support for Moscow staying from members including China.

Last week, U.S. Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen said Russia should be expelled from

the G20, and warned that the United States would boycott some G20 meetings if Russian officials show up.

German Finance Minister Christian Lindner added his voice to Yellen’s in rejecting any form of cooperation with Russia at the G20 level.

“Russia is at present not a country with which one can interact like in the past,” said Lindner. “We assume that the G20 will take place next week and we will send a clear political message.”

Russian President Vladimir Putin sent his troops into Ukraine on Feb. 24 for what he calls a “special military operation” to demilitarize the country. Ukraine and the West say Putin launched an unprovoked war of aggression.

Moscow has said Putin intends to attend the G20 summit in Bali in November.

Indonesia, which will also host a G20 finance meeting in July, has said Jakarta’s position was one of neutrality and it intended to use its G20 leadership to try to resolve global economic problems.

(source: euro news)

## Putin tells Europe: You still need Russian gas but we’re turning east

President Vladimir Putin said on Thursday that Moscow would work to redirect its energy exports eastward as Europe tries to reduce its reliance on them, adding that European nations would not be able to ditch Russian gas immediately.

Russia supplies around 40% of the EU’s natural gas, and western sanctions over what Moscow calls its “special military operation” in Ukraine have hit its energy exports by complicating the financing and logistics of existing deals.

While the EU debates whether to slap sanctions on Russian gas and oil and member states seek supplies from elsewhere, the Kremlin has been forging closer ties with China, the world’s top energy consumer, and other Asian countries.

“The so-called partners from unfriendly countries concede themselves that they won’t be able to make do without Russian energy resources, including without natural gas, for example,” Putin told a televised government meeting.

“There is no rational replacement (for Russian gas) in Europe now.”

Putin also said that Europe, by talking about



cutting off energy supplies from Russia, was driving up prices and destabilizing the market.

He said Russia, which accounts for around a tenth of global oil production and around a fifth of gas, would need new infrastructure to boost energy supplies to Asia.

He ordered the government to present a plan by June 1 including on “expanding transport infrastructure to countries of Africa, Latin America (and the) Asia Pacific.”

He also sought clarity on the possibility of including two pipelines - China-bound Power of Siberia and the far-eastern Sakhalin-Khabarovsk-Vladivostok in Russian unified

system of gas supplies.

Plugging those routes into the wider network may allow Russia, in theory, to switch gas flows from Europe to Asia and vice versa.

Russia launched pipeline gas supplies to China in the end of 2019 and in February agreed a 30-year contract via a new pipeline, yet to be built, with plans to settle sales in euros.

Putin also said that the role of national currencies in exporting deals should rise, amid Russia’s plans to switch to rubles in payments for its gas supplies, mainly to Europe.

Russia has seen a steep decline in production of oil, its key source of revenues, amid difficulties with payments for trading and vessels.

Major global trading houses are planning to reduce crude and fuel purchases from Russia’s state-controlled oil companies as early as May 15, sources said, to avoid falling foul of EU sanctions on Russia.

Putin said the sector’s most acute problems were related to the disruption of energy supply logistics.

(Source: Reuters)

## Noam Chomsky, 93, issues warning: ‘We’re approaching the most dangerous point in human history’

“There is no one other than Donald Trump –in history– who has done more to try to drive the human race to extinction”

With the ongoing climate crisis and the looming possibility of nuclear war, Noam Chomsky, 93, often hailed as one of the world’s most important intellectuals alive, warns

that “we’re approaching the most dangerous point in human history.”

The renowned linguist and social critic has lived through several consequential events of the 20th century. In a recent interview with The New Statesman, he recalled feeling terrified while “listening to Hitler’s speeches on the radio” at the age of 6 and writing about the 1939 fall of Barcelona at the age of 10.

It is now, however, that Chomsky says we are “facing the prospect of destruction” of human life on Earth.

### Climate change

Climate change has been the central topic of Chomsky’s most

recent works, in which he writes about the inextricable tie between global warming and capitalism. He has deemed Earth as unsalvageable within the “time scale” that capitalist countries such as the U.S. have made for it, even with the establishment of policies committed to decreasing carbon output.

“There is no one other than Donald Trump –in history– who has done more to try to drive the human race to extinction,” said Chomsky, who added that “nothing else mattered” if the future was destroyed. He listed Trump’s policies focusing on “maximizing fossil fuels” and “cutting back” regulations

that addressed climate change.

Chomsky also likened “Trump’s fanaticism” to Hitler’s Nazis rallies, describing, in particular, the strong base of Republicans against addressing climate change as “a truly dangerous insurgency.” He described the party’s disregard of global warming as “a death warrant” for humankind.

### Russia-Ukraine

Chomsky’s father, who was of Jewish descent, was born in present-day Ukraine. When asked what Russian President Vladimir Putin’s motivations for invading Ukraine might have been, Chomsky declared that it is not enough to simply write the conflict off as a

matter of Putin’s “twisted” mind.

“Putin is as concerned with democracy as we are,” Chomsky told the Statesman, referring to the U.S.’ history of political and economic reach in the East. He cited September 2021, when the U.S. sent Ukraine advanced weapons in the name of “enhanced military cooperation,” as an example.

Chomsky also pointed to “Iran in 1953, Guatemala in 1954, Chile in 1973” before saying, “But we are supposed to honor and admire Washington’s enormous commitment to sovereignty and democracy.”

### Russia-China

When asked about Russia’s

relationship with China and whether he thought there was a chance of them joining forces to become a superpower under the current circumstances, Chomsky responded that it was a relationship based on strategy rather than a true “partnership.”

Drawing comparisons to the lack of global military support for the U.S.’ invasion of Iraq, which he has denounced as a crime disguised as “noble intentions,” Chomsky predicted that China, along with the rest of the world, would remain largely absent from the war in Ukraine.

(Source: news.yahoo.com)





## The end is near! Visit objects recovered from smuggler at Tehran show

TEHRAN – A exhibition of prehistorical glazed bricks, recovered from a smuggler in Switzerland, is about to wrap up at the National Museum of Iran in downtown Tehran.

Unearthed from the Qalaichi archaeological site in western Iran which was once the capital of the Mannaean kingdom, prehistorical objects bear images of various sphinxes, animals, and other motifs.

Being looted and smuggled out of Iran some four decades ago, the decorated bricks were returned home from Switzerland last year. According to The Art Newspaper, the artworks were recovered from a warehouse in Switzerland.

In the 1970s, a farmer plowing at Qalaichi came across a decorated brick, probably from the columned hall of its citadel. This discovery led to extremely damaging illegal excavations, partly using a bulldozer.

Eventually, in 1985, there was an official rescue excavation, but this was quickly abandoned because of an intensification of the Iran-Iraq war. There were then 14 more years of illegal digging until 1999 when there was another official excavation. But



by this time only small fragments of broken bricks were found.

Mannai civilization flourished in northwestern Iran in the 1st millennium BC. Mannai, also spelled Manna, was an ancient country surrounded by three major powers of the time namely Assyria, Urartu, and Media.

The exhibit featuring 51 pieces of decorated glazed bricks will come to an end on April 19.

## Museum devoted to Ardabil nomads under construction

From page 1 ► The varied natural setting of the country never disappoints visitors when it comes to tribal tourism as the culturally diverse country is home to many regional people including ones with Turk and Arab elements in addition to the Kurds, Baloch, Bakhtyari, Lurs, and other smaller minorities such as Armenians, Assyrians, Jews, and others.

Language, music, indigenous cuisine, clothing, songs, anecdotes, crafts, live performances, and local rituals such as celebrations and wedding ceremonies have always spurred many to experience life among the tribes.

Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, Ardabil is well-known for having lush natural beauties, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition. It



is also home to the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and Shrine Ensemble.

The province is very cold in winter and mild in summer, attracting thousands every year. The capital city of Ardabil is usually recorded as one of the coldest cities in the country in winter.

## Hundreds of people trained as crafters in Hormozgan

TEHRAN – Hundreds of people were trained as crafters in Hormozgan during the past Iranian calendar year 1400, the provincial tourism chief has said.

“A total of 1666 crafters were trained in different handicrafts fields in the southern province over the last Iranian year (ended on March 20),” CHTN quoted Sohrab Banavand as saying on Friday.

Wickerwork, pottery, and marketing in handicrafts were among the courses in the last

year, the official added.

Known as the province of islands, Hormozgan province is located on the northern coasts of the Persian Gulf. It embraces scenic islands among which Kish, Hormuz, Hengam, and Qeshm are the most beautiful ones and top tourist destinations in southern Iran.

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



ones come next.

In January 2020, the cities of Shiraz, Malayer, and Zanjan and the village of Qassemabad were designated by the WCC- Asia Pacific Region, putting Iran's number of world crafts cities and villages from ten to 14.

# Bushehr seeks to draw World Cup spectators

TEHRAN –TEHRAN – Iran's Bushehr province, which neighbors Qatar, seeks to draw football fans who would be arriving in the emirate to watch World Cup games in November and December.

“Having follow-up sessions with the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts regarding [the needed] infrastructure for the presence of tourists, this province announces its readiness to play host to football fans during the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022,” IRNA quoted the provincial tourism chief as saying on Friday.

Bushehr province is the shortest distance from Qatar [in comparison to other Iranian provinces], ... and we are planning to operate passenger ferries from Bushehr to Qatar and vice versa, Esmaeil Sajjadianesh added.

With over 6,000 years of history and significant

monuments from the Elamite, Achaemenid, Parthian, and Sassanid eras, Bushehr is one of the most important historical centers of the country.

Moreover, negotiations have also been held with two airlines to transfer passengers from Bushehr to Qatar and vice versa, and those services will become operational before the start of the World Cup, Sajjadianesh stated.

The historical and architectural monuments of Bushehr include Islamic buildings like mosques and praying centers, mansions, old towers, castles, as well as gardens. Moreover, its stunning beaches and lush palm groves make it an attractive destination for world travelers.

Last week, the head of the Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) said that Iran considers operating passenger ferries to and from Qatar during the World



Cup competitions. “Iran has considerable capacities to support and facilitate maritime traffic for [football] fans who are willing to travel between the country and Qatar during the World Cup,” Ali-Akbar Safaei stated.

“For the safe transportation of tourists and fans of World Cup teams, the services will be offered by standard and advanced vessels, which are currently operating in the passenger ports of Bushehr, Khuzestan, and Hormozgan province,” Safaei explained.

Furthermore, the Iranian government, at the suggestion of its Foreign Ministry, considers offering free visas to draw spectators from neighboring Qatar during the major competition.

Tourism minister Ezzatollah Zarghami believes that Iran must take an immense opportunity to be provided by the upcoming Qatar World Cup

to properly introduce the county to the international spectators of the major event. “A significant number of travelers, mostly young people, would arrive in Qatar to attend the World Cup... It provides an exceptional opportunity for us to properly introduce tourist attractions of the country,” the minister said.

Iran, No. 21 in the current FIFA world rankings, will kick off the World Cup campaign in Qatar against fifth-ranked England on November 21 before facing Wales/Scotland/Ukraine on November 25. The Iranians will close out Group B play on November 30 versus the U.S. (No. 15 in FIFA ranking).

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

## Qom registers 110,000 visits to tourist sites

TEHRAN – Qom has registered some 110,000 visits to its tourist attractions and recreation centers since the beginning of the current Iranian year (started March 21), the province's deputy governor has said.

90 percent of accommodation centers in the province were occupied during the first half of the new year holidays, and 60% were filled during the second half, Abolqasem Moqimi explained on Friday.

The delay in building and introducing tourism and pilgrimage capacities is one of the issues hindering travelers from staying in Qom, the official added.

Many of the attractions of Qom, such as its art and history, have not been brought to the attention of citizens and travelers, despite their enormous ability to draw tourists, he noted.



The development and prosperity of Qom tourism capacities is imperative, yet many tourism capacities across the province are completely closed and do not play any role in the tourism sector, he mentioned.

The second holiest city in the country after Mashhad, Qom is home to both the magnificent shrine of Hazrat-e Masumeh (SA) and the major religious madrasas (schools).

Apart from sightseers and pilgrims who visit Qom to pay homage to the holy shrine, the city is also a top destination for Shiite scholars and students who come from across the world to learn Islamic studies at its madrasas and browse through eminent religious bookshops.

The antiquity of Qom goes back to the Sassanid era (224 CE–651) and several historical mosques, mansions, and natural sceneries have been scattered across the city as well as towns and villages nearby.

One of the most visited natural spots of Qom is Hoz-e Soltan, an eye-catching salt lake in the middle of the desert. The visitors could easily walk in the shallow parts and enjoy the shapes created by the salt, however, the center of the lake could be dangerous, as it is muddy and could easily trap people.

## Iranian police seize ancient relics from smuggler

TEHRAN – Six historical objects have recently been confiscated from a smuggler in Aligudarz, western Lorestan province, a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage said on Friday, CHTN reported.

“Six relics comprising a human-shaped object, two coins, a ring, a metal sculpture, and a small metal object in the shape of a human foot, were recovered by policemen during an inspection of a car,” Mohammdreza Moradian said.

The antiquity and historical importance of these six items are being studied by the cultural heritage experts in the province, the official added.

The culprit was detained in this regard

and surrendered to judicial authorities for further investigation, he noted.

Lorestan, which is a region of raw beauty, was inhabited by Iranian Indo-European peoples, including the Medes, c. 1000 BC. Cimmerians and Scythians intermittently ruled the region from about 700 to 625 BC. The Luristan Bronzes noted for their eclectic array of Assyrian, Babylonian, and Iranian artistic motifs, date from this turbulent period.

Lorestan was incorporated into the growing Achaemenid Empire in about 540 BC and successively was part of the Seleucid, Parthian, and Sasanid dynasties.

## Moveable properties in northwest Iran approved as national heritage

TEHRAN – A selection of 22 historical objects being kept in East Azarbaijan province has recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

The Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts announced the inscriptions on Thursday in separate letters to the governor-general of the northwestern province, CHTN reported.

Bronze hairpins, clay coffins, glazed earthenware jars, and china vases were among the properties added to the prestigious list.

Soaked in history and culture for millennia, Tabriz, which is the capital of East Azarbaijan, embraces several historical and religious sites, including the Jameh Mosque of Tabriz and Arg of Tabriz, and UNESCO-registered Tabriz Historic Bazaar

Complex to name a few. The city became the capital of the Mongol Il-Khan Mahmud Gazan (1295–1304) and his successor. Timur (Tamerlane), a Turkic conqueror, took it in 1392. Some decades later the Kara Koyunlu Turks made it their capital, it was when the famous Blue Mosque was built in Tabriz.

The city retained its administrative status under the Safavid dynasty until 1548 when Shah Tahmasp I relocated his capital westward to Qazvin. During the next two centuries, Tabriz changed hands several times between Persia and Ottoman Empire. During World War I, the city was temporarily occupied by Turkish and then Soviet troops.

The ancient city was declared a world craft city of carpet weaving by the World Craft in 2016. It also bore the title of 2018 Islamic Tourism Capital.

## 18th-century citadel lights up in blue drawing attention to people with autism

TEHRAN – On Wednesday night, the 18th-century Karim Khan Citadel in Shiraz was lit up in shades of blue color to raise awareness about people with the autism spectrum disorder (ASD).

“Arg-e Karim Khan was illuminated with blue colored lights, a global symbol of autism, to attract support for people with autism spectrum disorder,” ILNA quoted a local official as saying on Thursday.

Karim Khan Citadel (locally known as Arg-e Karim Khan), is a top-rated tourist attraction in downtown Shiraz, southern Iran. The immense brick fortress is named after Persian monarch



Mohammad Karim Khan Zand (r.1751 to 1779), the founder of the Zand Dynasty, who selected Shiraz as his capital.

The massive walls of the citadel feature ornamental brickwork designs in particular on the four circular tower-like structures punctuating each of its corners. Well-worth visiting inside. Walking inside, one encounters a typical design of the Persian garden that interweaves different

fields of knowledge such as water management and engineering, architecture, botany, and agriculture.

The United Nations General Assembly has declared April 2 as World Autism Awareness Day to highlight the need to help improve the quality of life of those with autism so they can lead full and meaningful lives as an integral part of society.

Autism is a lifelong neurological condition that manifests during early childhood, irrespective of gender, race, or socioeconomic status. The term autism spectrum refers to a range of characteristics. Appropriate support, accommodation, and

acceptance of this neurological variation allow those on the spectrum to enjoy equal opportunity, and full and effective participation in society.

Autism is mainly characterized by its unique social interactions, non-standard ways of learning, keen interests in specific subjects, inclination to routines, challenges in typical communications, and particular ways of processing sensory information.

According to the UN body, the rate of autism in all regions of the world is high and the lack of understanding has a tremendous impact on the individuals, their families, and communities.



# Population growth rate estimated at 0.7%

TEHRAN – Iran's population increased by 569,963 in the past [Iranian calendar] year (March 2021-March 2022), and the natural population growth rate was estimated at 0.7 percent, according to the National Organization for Civil Registration.

Over the past year, 1,106,072 infants were born in the country and 536,109 people died, so the country's population increased by 569,963.

According to statistics published by the Statistical Center of Iran, the total number of births registered in the [Iranian calendar] year 1399 (March 2020-March 2021) was 1,114,155, while a year before that, some 1,196,132 infants were born.

The birth rate has accelerated over the past few months, which seems to be influenced by incentive policies and benefits provided to increase childbearing.

In line with the "Law on Family and Youth Support", Iran has introduced several plans, including the facilitation of housing, low-interest loans, and longer maternity leave.

By a decree issued by President Ebrahim Raisi, the "Law on Family and Youth Support" approved by the Majlis (Iranian Parliament) was notified to the Ministry of Health and the Vice Presidency for Women and Family Affairs.



The Guardian Council approved the law on November 17 last year to implement a population growth and family support plan for 7 years to change the declining trend of childbearing.

The plan stipulates health insurance for infertile couples, providing services and facilities to working women, providing health and nutrition support packages to mothers and children, educational opportunities for student mothers, providing livelihood support to families, and ongoing medical services to pregnant women.

The national budget bill for the current [Iranian calendar] calendar

year (began on March 21) has proposed 120 trillion rials (nearly \$444 million) to implement childbearing and family support plans in the country.

## Demographic issue

Today, the country's fertility rate has reached about 1.6 children per woman, however, it was 6.5 children per woman, in 1986. The lowest fertility rate in the whole region of West Asia, North Africa, and the MENA region is recorded for Iran.

While 1,594,000 births were registered in the [Iranian calendar] year 1394 (March 2015-March 2016), the downward trend continued annually

to the point that the number of births reached about one million in the [Iranian calendar] year 1399 (March 2020-March 2021).

In other words, the country lost more than 550,000 births in five years.

The fertility rate declined to 1.71 children in the past [Iranian calendar] year (March 2020-March 2021), reaching below the replacement level, according to the report released by the Statistical Center of Iran.

Replacement level is the amount of fertility needed to keep the population the same from generation to generation. It refers to the total fertility rate that will result in a stable population without it increasing or decreasing.

Nicholas Eberstadt, the Henry Wendt Chair in Political Economy at the American Enterprise Institute (AEI), wrote in an article in July 2020 that the fertility rate in Iran has dropped by 70 percent over the past 30 years, which has been the highest decline in human history.

Seyed Hamed Barakati, deputy health minister for family and school population, said in May 2021 that Iran's population growth rate has decreased to less than one percent for the first time over the past four decades.

## Migratory birds land in Ghouri Gol intl. wetland

TEHRAN – Ghouri Gol international wetland in the northwestern East Azarbaijan province is hosting flocks of migratory birds.

Stretching 200 hectares, Ghouri Gol together with the adjacent reed marshes is an important breeding area for waterfowl. A site measuring 1.2 square kilometers was designated as a Ramsar Convention wetland protection site on June 23, 1975.

It is of national and international importance due to being host to a large number of migratory birds.

Birds such as flamingos, coots, ruddy shelduck, and white-headed ducks came to inhabit the wetland, Hassan Abbasnejad, head of the provincial department of environment, said, IRIB reported on Tuesday.

Flamingos are migratory birds that have chosen this area due to the favorable conditions, security, and good water quality of Ghouri Gol wetland, and they are likely to stay for more than a month, he further stated.

Flamingos of the Northern Hemisphere migrate to southern parts after their stay,



and due to the temporary resistance, it is not possible for them to reproduce here, Abbasnejad said.

## Iran's bird species

Hosting over 600 species of birds, Iran is a climatically rich country, so it is said that the number of bird species in Iran is higher than in the whole of Europe. A wide range of wetlands is the reason behind migratory birds choosing Iran for an annual wintering habitat, as a large number of birds fly a thousand miles each year to benefit from this rich climate.

Every year, from early September to late February, Iran hosts rare species of migratory birds heading from north to the southern countries due to reduced seasonal temperatures and food availability.

It is estimated that there are about 50 billion birds in the world out of 9,000 species, many of which are migratory. Accordingly, about five to seven million birds migrate to Iran in different seasons. There are about 530 species of birds in Iran, 320 of which are migratory species, some of which are native species.

Among the various groups of migratory birds wintering in Iran, the largest population belongs to the group of geese, swans, and ducks amounting to 781,499 and the smallest population of seven are the long-tailed ducks or oldsquaw.

The provinces of Mazandaran and Golestan are the first provinces with the highest number of migratory birds for having sufficient resources, as the movement of migratory birds is closely linked to the seasonal availability of resources.



Iran, an essential safeguard contributing to increased enrolment and encouraging parents to keep children in schools.

Countrywide, UNHCR has supported the government with the construction of 64 schools for refugees and Iranian children.

Iran is home to over 800,000 registered refugees and some 2.6 million undocumented Afghans. Today, more than 500,000 Afghan children- including undocumented Afghans and those who have

newly arrived in Iran following the Taliban-takeover-are benefitting from Iran's inclusive education policies, one of the most progressive in the world.

## SOCIETY

APRIL 16, 2022

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

7

## Iran surrounded by 270m ha of SDS hotspots

From page 1 ► he said, adding, "Given the good diplomatic relations we have with some of these countries, it was decided to start work against this phenomenon with a tripartite agenda, including the countries of Iran, Iraq, and Syria."

According to the working group, it was decided that environmental conventions, especially the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, should work together to address the problem, he further highlighted.

Negotiations were held with the UN Resident Representative in Iran Stefan Priesner to play their international role in dealing with the phenomenon, he noted, IRIB reported on Tuesday.

The SDSs phenomenon has been plaguing the country for several years and has caused problems in many provinces. According to experts, natural and human factors are involved in the occurrence and severity of this phenomenon which is mainly caused by excessive consumption of water and drying up reservoirs.

The internal dust sources are estimated at 34.6 million hectares, generating an average amount of 4.22 million tons of dust per year, about 1,460 million hectares are dried wetlands.

Some 4.23 million tons of dust are raised per year, which means the loss of soil fertility will hit the agricultural sector.

Moreover, 300 million hectares in the neighboring countries are giving rise to SDSs, which transport dust into Iran. The total dust density is estimated at about 150 million tons.

In fact, the dust is raised from Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan, Afghanistan, and Pakistan in the northeast as well as Iraq, Syria, Saudi Arabia, and Jordan in the south, southwest, and west.

On April 8, a dense mass of sand and dust storms entered Iran from Iraq and affected the western and central provinces, and eventually hit 25 provinces, including Tehran, Alborz, Kermanshah, Ilam, Zanjan, and Kordestan, causing the air pollution index of Tehran to reach a very dangerous scale.

Dariush Gol Alizadeh, Head of Iran's National Climate Change Office (NCCO) of the Department of Environment told IRNA on Tuesday that the hotspots of the dust haunting the country in the last few days in eastern Syria, western Iraq, as well as Jordan, and Saudi Arabia.

These dust sources have appeared many years ago, and due to the drought and water shortages that have occurred in recent years, they have both intensified and increased in number. In fact, abandoned agricultural lands in those countries are a source of SDSs, he explained.

At present, this phenomenon cannot be dealt with, but the damage can be minimized, he said, adding, programs to be carried out in this regard can be planting crops, shrubs, and finally soil stabilization by biological mulches.

In the past four years, about €370 million has been spent by the National Development Fund to combat SDSs, which had good results, but it seems that the annual credit is declining as conditions improve, Ali Mohammad Tahmasebi, head of the national working group for SDSs mitigation, said.

## A peek into veterinary medicine in Iran

### Part 2

Veterinary medicine, also called veterinary science, medical specialty concerned with the prevention, control, diagnosis, and treatment of diseases affecting the health of domestic and wild animals and with the prevention of transmission of animal diseases to people. Hereunder is the history of veterinary medicine in Iran.

### ii. In Islamic Period

The ancient Iranian traditions and human medicine were carried over to the Islamic period. Most of the early writing about veterinary matters is to be found in books on hippology and falconry, but a few more comprehensive works were also compiled, and useful discussions of animal diseases and their treatment were sometimes included in books on general human medicine.

Iranian research on animal diseases, as in other fields of medicine, won a high reputation in distant countries.

Ebn Awamm of Seville is thought to have based the chapter on animal diseases in his Ketab al-felaha on information about Iranian stockbreeding and veterinary practice.

In India Fakr-e Modabber (12th century) included in his descriptions of such animal diseases as cataracts, coughing, chest pain, night blindness, fever, and worms (in horses), with recommendations for treatment.

Regulations related to veterinary practice, as set forth by a very strict mohtaseb (controller of the market), Ebn al-Okuwa, must have been enforced, at least for a time, in the eastern territories of the caliphate.

They required that a veterinarian be ex-

pert on no fewer than 320 diseases of riding animals, including quinsy, headache, rabies, stomach disorders, and eye and ear ailments, as well as on the proper treatments for each.

If a veterinarian made a mistake resulting in the death of an animal or a fracture of any of its bones, he had to pay compensation.

Books about horses and falcons are the main source of information about medieval Iranian veterinary practice.

In an anonymous book written in Persian prose, probably dating from before the Mongol invasion, the author discussed such equine eye diseases as cataracts, amaurosis, night blindness, and pterygium, then described in detail the symptoms of glands and cutaneous glands; he also wrote about plague (rinderpest) in cattle and horses, inflammation of the udders and teats, diphtheria, asphyxia, rabies, infectious fevers, and other diseases.

The 14th-century author Mohammad Amoli devoted part of the fourth chapter of his book to veterinary medicine, writing about some common diseases of horses and game birds.

In the Il-khanid period (1256-1336) veterinary work appears to have been a vocation distinct from medicine, as is clear from a story about a veterinarian in Sa'di's Golestan.

Shams-al-Din Mohammad Donayseri, in a compendium of scientific knowledge from this period, described curative properties of parts of the bodies of certain animals, some animal diseases, and appropriate remedies.

Source: Encyclopaedia Iranica

To be continued

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON APRIL 15

New cases	1,994
New deaths	33
Total cases	7,204,049
Total deaths	140,711
New hospitalized patients	349
Patients in critical condition	1,483
Total recovered patients	6,938,480
Diagnostic tests conducted	50,313,358
Doses of vaccine injected	148,171,692

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Hospital beds capacity rises to improve medical system

Health Minister Saeed Namaki inaugurated 23 health centers, including 201 hospital beds, in Lorestan, Kermanshah, and Khuzestan provinces on Tuesday.

Built on 26,935 square meters area, the centers were constructed with a budget of 2.9 trillion rials (nearly \$70 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials).

The Ministry of Health is scheduled to add 10,600 hospital beds to the capacity of the country's medical system within the next 7 months.

Two years ago, there were a total of 140,859 beds in the country, which means 1.7 hospital beds per 1,000 population.

## افزایش ظرفیت تخت‌های بیمارستانی

سعید نمکی وزیر بهداشت امروز به صورت مجازی ۲۳ مرکز بهداشتی و درمانی را شامل ۲۰۱ تخت بیمارستانی در استان های لرستان، کرمانشاه و خوزستان افتتاح کرد.

به گزارش ایرنا، این مراکز در زیربنای ۲۶ هزار و ۹۳۵ مترمربع و با اعتباری بالغ بر ۲۹۸۰ میلیارد ریال ساخته شده است. وزارت بهداشت قرار است تا ۱۲ فروردین سال ۱۴۰۰، ۱۰ هزار و ۶۰۰ تخت بیمارستانی به ظرفیت بیمارستان های کشور اضافه کند.

در انتهای سال ۱۳۹۷ مجموعاً ۱۴۰ هزار و ۸۵۹ تخت فعال در کشور فعال بود که اگر این میزان را به ازای جمعیت محاسبه کنیم، ضریب تعداد جمعیت به تخت‌مان، ۱.۷ تخت به ازای هر ۱۰۰۰ نفر است.



TEHRAN TIMES



www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: **Mohammad Shojaeian**  
Editor-in-Chief: **Ali A.Jenabzadeh**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895  
Email: info@tehrantimes.com  
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000  
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430  
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807  
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603  
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737



Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Bimeh Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran    P.O. Box: 14155-4843    Zip Code: 1599814713

APRIL 16, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

A wise man first thinks and then speaks and a fool speaks first and then thinks.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:13:04    Evening: 19:57    Dawn: 5:01 (tomorrow)    Sunrise: 6:29 (tomorrow)

# What’s in Tehran art galleries



Installation

\* Sets of installation art by Hedyeh Khanali are currently on view in an exhibition at Vaali Gallery.  
Entitled “Block 48”, the exhibit will continue until May 9 at the gallery located at 72 Khoddami St., Vanak Sq.



Painting

\* Hoor Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Mehdi Hosseini.  
The exhibition will be running until May 6 at the gallery located at 12 Naeimi Alley, North Mirza Shirazi St., off Moteahhari Ave.



Painting

\* A collection of paintings by Mina Dideban are currently on display in an exhibit at Jaleh Gallery.  
Entitled “Desiring and Standing”, the exhibition runs until April 25 at the gallery located at No. 3, Noshahr Alley, Iranshahr St., Karim Khan Ave.



Painting

\* Paintings by Elnaz Farajollahi are currently on view in an exhibition entitled “Psycho-Somatic” at Etemad Gallery.  
The exhibition will be running until May 1 at the gallery located at 25 Shirudi Alley, Mofatteh St., near Haft-e Tir Square.



Painting

\* An exhibition of paintings by Shahruz Sadr is currently underway at Iranshahr Gallery.  
The exhibit will run until May 3 at the gallery that can be found at 69 Sepand St., off Karim Khan Ave.



Painting

\* Ehsan Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Yasaman Khodabandeh, Elham Lashkari, Helya Hosseini, Nila Khodadadian, Mina Emdad, Faramrz Baser and several other artists.  
The exhibit entitled “Hidden” will run until April 20 at the gallery located at No. 22, East 14th St. in the Ajudanieh neighborhood.



Sculpture

\* An exhibition of sculptures by the students of art teacher Mohammad Mardi is currently underway at Shirin Gallery.  
The exhibit entitled “Turning Points” will run until May 3 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Ave.



Sculpture

\* Sculptures by Majid Guran are being shown in an exhibition now underway at E1 Gallery.  
The exhibit named “Harlow” will run until April 29 at the gallery located at 1 Hamid Dead End, off Lesani Alley, Jebbeh St., off Mahdiah St. in the Elahieh neighborhood.



Calligraphy

\* Dena Gallery is hosting an exhibition of drawings by Farshid Parsikia.  
The exhibit will run until April 29 at the gallery that can be found at 4 Sussan Alley off Qarani St.



Calligraphy

\* Mojdeh Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of calligraphy by a group of celebrated Iranian calligraphers, including Mohammad Ehsai, Nasrollah Afjei, Ali Shirazi, Javad Bakhtiari, Esrafil Shirchi and Yadollah Kaboli.  
The exhibit will run until April 29 at the gallery located at No. 27, 18th Alley off North Allameh Blvd. in the Saadatabad neighborhood.

# Iranian photographers win awards at Naryn Intl. Exhibition of Photography

From Page 1 ▶ Mehdi Zabolabbasi won the FIAP Gold Medal in the Open Monochrome for his “Fishing”, which depicts an Iranian fisherman.

FIAP Ribbons in this section were garnered by Mitra Sadat Amini for her photo “Stagnation”, and Ali Mohammadi for his picture “Dog Love”.

Several photographers, including Hossein Davoodi, Davood Rastegaria and Reza Khaledi also were awarded honorable mentions.

In the Life Color section, the FIAP Gold Medal was awarded to Bahman Zarei for his photo “Sleep”, which depicts a collared dove lying on its nest and a man sleeping under the nest.

The PSA Gold Medal of this section went to Ali Mohammadi for his photo “Get Rid of Cancer” showing a child preparing to be released from a medical center after recovering from cancer.

Mohammad Esteki, Maryam Sadat Ahmadi and several other Iranian photographers were awarded honorable mentions.

All the main prizes in the Creative Color category were awarded to Iranian photographers.

The PSA Gold Medal was given to Amir-Masud Arabshahi for his “His

Iranian photographer Behzad Azimi’s “Survivor” won the FIAP Gold Medal at the 3rd Naryn International Exhibition of Photography in Kyrgyzstan.

Own World”.  
The FIAP Ribbons were presented to Amir Enayati for “Carpets and Patterns” and Mehdi Veisanian for “Askestan”.  
Arlen Keshishian won the FPC Trophy for “Perspective”.  
The awards in the Photojournalism section were scooped up by Iranian photographers.  
Amir Masud Arabshahi’s “Accident” won the FIAP Gold Medal, and Amir Badrazimi’s “Involved” received the PSA Gold Medal.  
A FIAP Ribbon was given to Ali Mohammadi for “Cold Coffins”, and the FPC Trophy was awarded to Mohammad-Ali Khorasani for “Brawler”.  
Farzin Izaddoost’s “Holy Surp Hovhannes Church” won a FIAP Ribbon in the Travel category, while the FPC Trophy was awarded to Amir-Masud Arabshahi for “All Together”.  
In the Open Color section, Amir Enayati was the sole Iranian photographer to be honored with a FIAP Ribbon for his photo “The Window of Hope”.  
A jury composed of Djordje Vukicevic from Serbia, Mohammadreza Masumi from Iran and Yuksel Acikgoz from Turkey chose the winners in all categories.  
A public showcase of a selection of submissions to the exhibition will be held in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan on June 11.

## Islamic Revolution Art Week honors top artists of the year

Top artists of the year in different media pose with the organizers after accepting their awards during the Islamic Revolution Art Week at the Art Bureau in Tehran on April 14, 2022. (IRNA/Amin Jalali)

TEHRAN – Six artists in different media were honored as top artists of the year at the Islamic Revolution Art Week on Thursday.

Gholam-Hossein Memarian, Behzad Parvin-Qods, Hossein Esmati, Mohammadreza Miri, Abdolhamid Qadirian and Nader Qashqai received their awards during a ceremony at the Art Bureau.

## “Art: A Beginner’s Guide” published in Persian

TEHRAN – American scholar Laurie Schneider Adams’ 2012 book “Art: A Beginner’s Guide” has been published in Persian.

Nasrin Tabatabai is the translator of the book published by Elmi Farhangi, a major publishing house in Tehran.

Art has existed for as long as humankind, but defining it is famously difficult.

In this whirlwind tour spanning from prehistory up to the present day and beyond, Laurie Schneider Adams explores how art, and our views on it, have evolved.

A copy of the Persian edition of Laurie Schneider Adams’ book “Art: A Beginner’s Guide”.

Delving into fascinating issues such as why some artworks can be so controversial, why a forgery can never be as “good” as the original, and what the future of art may hold, this beautifully crafted introduction provides a definitive overview of Western artistic tradition.

## “Zan Aqa” was a good experience

An interview with Zahra Kaardaani

By Zeinab Zare’

Zahra Kaardaani is a young novelist and fiction writer. His husband is a seminary student who travels to impoverished places to spread Islamic ideology, and his first trip was in the summer of 2017, during the holy month of Ramadan, to a village in the south of Fars province, and it was such a wonderful experience among the lovely people there that she decided to write a book about the journey and her memories.

\* Tell us about your time in the village and why you chose to write a book about it.

This trip was much more than a trip for me. I had no intention of writing a book on these memoirs at first, and I only kept a notebook to record interesting things I saw. I also posted some of my memories on social media, which got some interesting reactions from my followers. Then I realized that my experiences were not so ordinary, and I decided to write a book to share them with others, and finally, in March 2017, Surah Mehr published my book.

\* Why didn’t you mention the village’s name?

Some of the negative aspects of the village, such as people’s belief in magic, are described in the novel. As a result, I don’t want this label to spread to others.

\* Did the people of this village have any specific Ramadan traditions?

Not much, but there was a certain vibe during the holy month of Ramadan that I believe has disappeared in the big cities, such as neighbors waking up each other for Sahar time or cooking special meals for Iftar.

\* What was the source of inspiration for the book’s cover?

Its design was inspired by one of the book’s stories, which refers to the time when we first arrived in the village. Women from the village used to cook for us in the early days, and their dishes were left at home, so I decided to return their bowls with Ash in them. The problem was that my husband had forgotten to tell me that the water in the village was salty and that if I cooked with water,

I should not use salt!

\* What were the reactions of the neighbors?

They simply laughed and said that Ash was fine.

\* As a mother of two little children, didn’t you find it difficult to travel to the most impoverished areas?

I’ve always believed that it’s our responsibility to help others, and I chose to be with my husband whenever and wherever he was; even when we went to the most impoverished locations, our hope and love kept us going.