

# Will the U.S. Seize Vienna Talks Last Opportunity?

▶ Page 3

## Report

### European economic growth revised down amid Ukraine war

The European Union has sharply revised its economic growth prospects downwards as a result of the war in Ukraine.

The armed conflict between Russia and NATO backed Ukraine has sent energy prices skyrocketing which in turn has pushed up inflation even further on the continent

The European Commission says the revised economic forecast comes at a time when the EU expected it to ease.

The Ukraine war has made matters worse. The commission now expects growth in 2022 at just 2.7 percent in the 19-nation eurozone as well as the broader 27-nation European Union – down from a forecast of 4 percent in growth just three months ago.

The commission has further warned that a complete halt in supplies of Russian gas would cut a further 2.5 percent off growth, taking the economy to a virtual standstill this year.

Analysts say the irony is European Nations with the exception of Hungary have been pushing for sanctions on Russian energy; in effect destroying Europe's economy at the expense of European households who will have to pay the price of increased energy bills.

As many European countries are heavily dependent on Russian energy exports, economic growth is expected to slow even further next year – to 2.3 percent in the EU and the eurozone.

This is while inflation, which is already at its highest in the eurozone since the creation of the single currency more than two decades ago, is expected to average 6.1 percent this year, up from 3.5 percent in the last set of commission predictions in February. ▶ Page 5

## Opinion

### It's time for Yahya Golmohammadi to go

By Masoud Hossein

TEHRAN – The football has up and down. Persepolis coach Yahya Golmohammadi knows better than anyone what he has done in his spell in the team. He cannot shrug it off.

Croatian coach Branko Ivankovic left successful legacy after he decided to leave Iran. He inspired Persepolis to win three league titles and also reformed the style of the play of the team. Under Ivankovic, Persepolis qualified for the final match of the AFC Champions League for the first time ever.

Argentine coach Gabriel Calderon continued his way in the fourth year but he was forced to leave the team at the end of the first half of the season. The club had failed to meet their financial commitment.

Golmohammadi replaced Calderon and continued the way Ivankovic had started five years ago. Persepolis won the league title for the fourth time in a row and also advanced to the AFC Champions league final for the second time.

Last season, Persepolis won the league for the fifth time but some key players left the team. Bozidar Radosevic's departure was a huge blow for the team since Hamed Lak failed to meet expectations. ▶ Page 3

## Iran opens drone factory in Tajikistan



File photo

The production line of Ababil 2 drone depicted here in Iran is being launched in Tajikistan as well.

TEHRAN – A drone production plant has been inaugurated in Tajikistan's capital at the presence of Iran's Armed Forces Chief of Staff Mohammad Bagheri and Tajik Defense Minister General Shirali Mirzo.

The Ababil 2, all-Iranian UAV production plant,

was inaugurated in Dushanbe with the aim of boosting defense and military cooperation between Iran and Tajikistan. The plant was set up with expertise provided by the specialists of the Iranian ministry of defense.

Speaking at the inauguration ceremony,

Major General

Bagheri pointed out that Iran, with the efforts of its committed specialists and scientists and the use of domestic capabilities, has been able to achieve a significant growth in all military and defense dimensions, especially drones. ▶ Page 3

## Tehran, Havana confer on expanding economic ties

TEHRAN – Iranian Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi held a meeting with Cuba's Deputy Prime Minister Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz in Tehran on Tuesday, during which the officials stressed the expansion of economic ties between the two countries.

Speaking in this meeting, Khandouzi noted

that the Iranian government has always welcomed the establishment of long-term and stable economic relations with Latin American countries, especially Cuba, the Economy Ministry's news portal Shada reported.

“Given the excellent political relations between the two countries, Cuba is of particular

importance to the Islamic Republic of Iran,” he added.

Referring to the history of cooperation between the two countries in the fields of health and agriculture, Khandouzi emphasized the need to improve economic relations between the two countries and said: ▶ Page 4

## Iran to mark World Environment Week 2022

TEHRAN – The national environment week will be celebrated on June 6-12 under the theme of “People-based, smart and technological environment”, concurrent with the World Environment Day 2022, IRIB reported on Wednesday.

It will be held under the theme “Only One Earth”, highlighting the need to live sustainably in harmony with nature by bringing transformative changes – through policies and our choices – towards cleaner, greener lifestyles. Only One Earth was the motto for the 1972 Stockholm Conference; 50 years on, the motto holds true – this planet is our only home, whose finite resources humanity must safeguard.

The year 2022 marks 50 years since the first United Nations Conference on the Human Environment – the 1972 Stockholm Conference that led to the creation of UNEP and designating June 5 every year as World Environment Day. ▶ Page 7

## ‘Beauty’ of Turkmen horses admired at Golestan festival

TEHRAN – On Sunday, tens of athletes, trainers, riders, and breeders from various Iranian provinces took part in equestrian competitions, dedicated to the “beauty” of the Turkmen horse breed.

Over 200 horses entered the one-day event, which was held at pastures lands of Kalaleh in the northern Golestan province,

CHTN reported.

The competitors came together from Razavi Khorasan, North Khorasan, South Khorasan, Mazandaran, Gilan, Tehran, Alborz, Fars, and Isfahan, the report said.

The annual festival seeks to boost local tourism and rural economy and help safeguard the genetic heritage of the Turkmen

horses, according to organizers.

The Turkmen horse is noted for endurance, bravery, smartness, and slender body. Many locals believe that breeding such horses is one of the toughest jobs in the world.

The horse breed is dominantly found in the pasturelands of Turkmen Sahra, a region sandwiched between Iran and Turkmenistan. ▶ Page 6

## From Inside

- Iran FM meets new UAE leader **P2**
- VP calls Raisi's upcoming visit to Oman strategically important **P2**
- Iran underlines strategic relations with Russia **P3**
- New Iranian ambassador submits credentials to Iraqi FM **P3**
- Iran ready to swap Turkmenistan's gas to Armenia **P4**
- Afghanistan calls on Iranian firms to develop its mines **P4**
- President orders start of building 100,000 National Housing Movement units **P4**
- Cradle of ancient civilizations, Iran is to mark cultural heritage week **P6**
- Festival marks customary headscarf of Achaemenid Iran **P6**
- Iran, Slovakia to enhance pharmaceutical, medical co-op **P7**
- SDSs mitigation requires regional cooperation: expert **P7**
- Musical adaptation of “Beauty and the Beast” coming to Tehran theater **P8**
- New Persian rendition of “A Midsummer Night's Dream” comes to Iranian bookstores **P8**

## Interview

### We are at end of unipolarity: Turkish historian

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – The Ukraine war proved that the world has reached the end of unipolarity, a Turkish historian and political scientist says.

“Following the most recent events, we can state that we have arrived at the end of unipolarity,” Mehmet Perincek tells the Tehran Times.

“The end of the unipolar world and the establishment of a multipolar world is very good news for Iran and Turkey as well, because this new situation bears great potential for Tehran and Ankara to balance the threats they face from Washington.”

In view of such changes, Perincek says, “not fainthearted but firm and decided positions should guide policy and activities.”

He adds, “The problems and challenges ahead of Iran and Turkey can only be solved with such firm and decided positions and acts.”

Following is the text of the interview:

**Why do Western powers insist on calling the Ukraine war an invasion? And what are the causes of such a dramatic situation in Ukraine?**

It's no secret that the U.S. has plans to encircle countries such as Russia, China, Iran and Turkey that are an obstacle to Washington. When we take a look at the Ukrainian crisis then we observe that this is connected with the general conflict constellation. While Washington is trying to encircle Russia through Ukraine, it is besieging Turkey, Iran, and China as well. ▶ Page 5

## Iran's Kanoon nominations for ALMA 2023 announced

TEHRAN – Iran's Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCY-Kanoon) announced on Tuesday its nominees for the 2023 Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award (ALMA).

Accordingly, writer Hamidreza Shahabadi and illustrator Reza Dalvand will be competing for the prestigious award, which is presented by the Swedish government every year to promote children's and youths' literature in the world.

The Institute for Research on History of Children's Literature and the Children's Book Council of Iran are other Iranian cultural centers allowed to select Iran's nominations for the Astrid Lindgren Memorial Award.

Shahabadi, who was nominated for the award in 2021 and 2022, is also the manager of Madreseh Publications, a publisher of school textbooks.

He is the author of “A Smiling Banana”, which was selected by the International Board on Books for Young People (IBBY) for its 2021 Collection for Young People with Disabilities. ▶ Page 8



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## Paragliders in Iran

TEHRAN – Some 70 pilots have participated in paragliding competition in Darrud, Razavi Khorasan Province, located in northeastern Iran.

Paragliding is the recreational and competitive adventure sport of flying paragliders: lightweight, free-flying, foot-launched glider aircraft with no rigid primary structure.



## Iran, Slovakia stress expansion of ties



TEHRAN — Slovak Deputy Foreign Minister Ingrid Brockova, who was visiting Tehran, held talks with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy Mahdi Safari on Monday.

According to the Iranian Foreign Ministry, the two diplomats exchanged viewpoints on how to expand economic cooperation between the two countries.

Safari touched on Iran's potential in the fields of energy, petrochemicals, pharmaceutical and food industries as well as new and knowledge-based technologies, expressing readiness for cooperation with the Slovak side.

The deputy foreign minister for economic diplomacy said pharmaceutical and medical industries, including production of coronavirus vaccines, are another area where the two sides can cooperate.

For her part, Brockova expressed pleasure over her visit to Iran, expressing hope that holding a joint economic commission session will mark a major step in expansion of trade cooperation between the two countries.

Brockova also met on Monday with Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani.

During the meeting, Bagheri Kani touched

on the recent global food crisis that has made food security a priority for many countries more than ever before.

Therefore, he suggested, efforts should be made to address global concerns about food security and energy security, which he described as two strategic pillars of national security for each country.

He said that concerns about food and energy security should be used as an opportunity for interaction, cooperation and even solidarity among countries to secure a clear vision for the future.

Even before the Ukraine war, the world was grappling with a difficult food shortage driven by a combination of crises such as the Covid-19 outbreak and man-made climate change, as well as growing expenses that have broken the backs of low-income people in poor countries.

“The war in Ukraine — a major ‘breadbasket’ for the world — is deepening these challenges on an unprecedented scale. In the immediate, swift and bold action is required by both wealthy and low-income nations to avert further humanitarian and economic catastrophe,” United States Institute of Peace wrote on Monday.

## Iran firm that designation on IRGC must be removed but open to talks on non-IRGC subjects: Politico

*Enrique Mora spent two days in Tehran last week trying to break a seven-week stalemate.*

TEHRAN — Iran signaled a willingness to reopen stalled nuclear talks during two days of meetings last week in Tehran — but it hasn't dropped a final demand holding up a deal.

Enrique Mora, the senior EU official coordinating the nuclear talks, traveled to Iran in an effort to overcome a seven-week stalemate in talks between the U.S., Iran and Western powers. Senior Western officials told Politico that the discussions, which spanned Wednesday and Thursday, created new progress, but that an agreement remained far from certain.

Negotiators are trying to find a way to revive a 2015 deal under which Iran limited its nuclear program in exchange for sanctions relief. The U.S. pulled out of the agreement in 2018, leaving it on life support.

The revival talks are now hung up on Iranian demands that the U.S. remove the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps (IRGC), a powerful branch of Iran's military, from the so-called Foreign Terrorist Organization list. Mora has been helping mediate as Iran still refuses to speak directly to the U.S.

According to Western officials, Mora delivered the message that the U.S. might discuss the IRGC — but only once the nuclear talks are settled. Iran didn't back down but indicated it was willing to restart talks over non-IRGC subjects in the meantime — and might offer potential alternative demands to the terrorist label ask.

As the meetings came to a close late last week, officials gave some public indication of the limited progress.

Mora's visit to Tehran had “gone better than expected,” said Josep Borrell, the EU's foreign policy chief, during a meeting of foreign ministers from the G7 group of wealthy nations. The “stalled” talks had been “reopened,” he claimed.

A spokesperson of the Iranian Foreign Ministry on Monday said the “meetings in Tehran have set the right course and were moving forward.”

The terrorist label issue is considered the final major sticking point in the talks. The text of a deal is practically finalized, with the exception of two other minor points that Western officials called “technical issues related to sanctions lifting” that should be solved fairly quickly.

### A Trump hangover

The U.S. placed the IRGC on its terrorist list in 2019, part of former President Donald Trump's “maximum pressure” campaign on Iran after exiting the Obama-era nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

Mora transmitted the message to Iranian chief negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani that the U.S. will not rescind the terrorist label as part of a nuclear deal, but might negotiate the issue at a future point, Western diplomats said. Mora brought no new U.S. proposals to Tehran.

While Iran didn't back away from its stance, it indicated it was open to restarting the frozen talks and to continue discussions on non-IRGC issues.

So now Western diplomats are expecting Tehran to put forward potential alternative demands, giving Washington a chance to think about other concessions it could offer. The aim is to find a way around the IRGC hurdle that will let both governments sell the deal domestically.

If these proposals are realistic, Western officials say the parties could meet again for physical talks in the coming weeks — but no decision has been made yet.

“A deal remains far from certain,” a U.S. State Department spokesperson said Friday. “Iran needs to decide whether it insists on extraneous conditions and whether it wants to conclude a deal quickly, which we believe would serve all sides' interests.”

The Iranian side also repeated its official line on Friday.

“A good and credible outcome is within reach if the U.S. makes its decision and adheres to its commitments,” said Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian. “Contacts continue.”

TEHRAN — Iran's vice president for parliamentary affairs says the planned visit by President Ebrahim Raisi to Oman is “strategically important”, saying it is in line with Iran's “good neighborliness” policy.

Speaking in a live radio show on Tuesday, Seyed Mohammad Hosseini stated that one of the priorities of the government's foreign policy is to pay attention to the neighbors and countries in the region.

“In this regard, it is natural to have economic trade and political cooperation with neighboring countries and to discuss security issues.”

Speaking about the positive results of the president's visits to neighboring countries, he said that during Raisi's visit to Tajikistan, the issue of Iran's permanent membership in the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) was raised.

“The issue of gas swap was also raised during the visit to Turkmenistan. Following the president's visit to Qatar, the Emir of Qatar came to Iran and announced his readiness for extensive cooperation in various fields,” Hosseini added.

## VP calls Raisi's upcoming visit to Oman strategically important



According to the vice president, Oman is one of the countries that have long-standing and friendly relations with Iran.

“In recent months, many events in particular have taken place between the two countries, and in this regard, a joint special

economic committee consisted of high-ranking officials from Tehran and Muscat was held and good agreements were reached,” he noted.

Hosseini added that following these agreements, the Omani foreign minister paid a visit to

Iran, which shows the excellent relations between the two countries and the interest of both sides to address bilateral and regional issues.

“Reducing tensions in the region and issues such as the Yemen war are among the issues being discussed between the two countries,” he pointed out.

Emphasizing the expansion of political and economic relations, Hosseini said development of cultural relations is also on the agenda because there are many cultural commonalities between the two countries.

Recently, the Tehran Times discovered that the next destination of President Raisi will be Muscat, but as of writing this article, the date of the visit is unclear.

When asked about the president's visit to Oman and the UAE, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said these visits are certainly on the agenda.

“Preparations for these visits are underway by the president's office,” Khatibzadeh said on Monday.

## Iran FM meets new UAE leader

*Amir Abdollahian says “a new page is opened in relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Emirates”*



TEHRAN - Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian, who had visited Abu Dhabi on Monday to pay respect to the deceased UAE president Khalifa bin Zayed, met with the country's new leader Sheikh Mohammed bin Zayed.

After meeting the new president of the United Arab Emirates, the Iranian foreign minister said a new page has opened

in relations between Iran and the UAE. Amir Abdollahian also said good relations among neighbors will disappoint the adversaries.

“A new page is opened in the relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Emirates,” Amir Abdollahian tweeted in Persian.

“We warmly shake hands with our neighbors. The warmth of the neighbors' relations will disappoint the enemies of the region,” he underscored.

The visit by Amir Abdollahian is regarded the highest-level trip by an Iranian official to the UAE in recent months.

Iran's senior diplomat paid his respects to Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed, who died on Friday at the age of 73 after battling disease for a long time.

Tehran has also hailed the appointment of Mohammed bin Zayed as the new ruler of the Persian Gulf state.

On Monday, President Ebrahim Raisi of Iran congratulated Sheikh Mohammed on his appointment as president of the United Arab Emirates, and expressed optimism that the two nations' ties would grow to serve mutual interests.

Raisi said he believes that mutual connections will be strengthened wisely to the best interests of the two nations.

In November, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister, Ali Bagheri Kani, stated the two nations had decided to launch a new chapter in bilateral ties.

President Raisi also stated in August that Iran is committed to expand relations with the UAE.

## Iran-China parliamentary friendship group outlines future plans

TEHRAN — On Sunday, the chairman and members of the Iran-China parliamentary friendship group held a symposium with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and his economic and consular deputies, as well as other senior officials of the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

In the meeting, the foreign minister listened to the views of the delegates and described the Tehran-Beijing relations as “strategic”.

Amir Abdollahian underlined the role of parliamentary

diplomacy in the platform of the Iran-China parliamentary friendship group and outlined the latest state of the Sino-Iranian relations and also Iran's approach to the implementation of the roadmap for ties with China.

Meanwhile, Amirabadi Farahani, chairman of the parliamentary friendship group, thanked Amir Abdollahian for his attention to the role of parliament and people's representatives in overseeing the mainstream of political relations, especially the Islamic

Republic of Iran's relations with China.

Farahani reaffirmed the support of the friendship group for the expanding all-out ties with Beijing.

In the meeting, Mahdi Safari, the Deputy Minister for Economic Diplomacy, also outlined various aspects of Iran's economic ties with China and Pakistan and gave an update on the situation in the border markets of Iran and Pakistan.

He further answered questions from lawmakers.

Meanwhile, Reza Zabib, an

assistant to the foreign minister and director general for Asia and Oceania Affairs of the Foreign Ministry explained the latest state of ties between Tehran and Beijing.

In March 2021, Iran and China signed a strategic partnership to increase cooperation and trade relations over the next 25 years. Under the agreement, the Chinese will invest heavily in Iran's oil industry, the National Iranian Gas Export Company and the National Iranian Petrochemical Company, as well as Iran's transportation infrastructure.





# Will the U.S. seize Vienna talks last opportunity?

TEHRAN – Following a “last bullet” visit by the European coordinator for the Vienna talks to Iran, a new opportunity was provided for the U.S. to make up its mind.

After about two months of uncertainty over the fate of the talks in Vienna over reviving the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the visit by the European Union's coordinator for the Vienna talk, Enrique Mora, to Tehran created new hopes for a breakthrough in the stalled talks.

The first breakthrough was reportedly getting Iran's approval for a new round of talks. In Tehran, Mora held intensive talks with Iran's chief negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani. Following Mora's meetings, EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell who had dispatched Mora to Tehran in what he called a “last bullet” effort to the salvage the JCPOA said Mora's visit resulted in positive results.

Mora's visit to Tehran had “gone better than expected,” Borrell said, adding that the stalled talks had been “reopened.”

Borrell didn't elaborate further on these results but the Western media said during Mora's visit Iran agreed to restart talks over issues that are less thorny than the designation of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps



(IRGC) that took a center stage in the last round of talks.

In the previous rounds, Iran demanded that the U.S. remove the IRGC from its terrorism list. The U.S. rejected the demand which led to the talks hitting a dead end. During the Mora visit, Iran didn't back down but indicated it was willing to restart talks over non-IRGC subjects, Politico reported, citing Western officials.

Iran also expressed willingness to resume the talks but it made it clear who should make the tough decisions. Bagher Kani said Tehran is ready for resuming negotiation to remove sanctions, and at the same time is aware of the other

side's plans.

Earlier on Saturday, Ali Shamkhani, secretary of Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said it was up to the U.S. to break the deadlock over the talks by accepting Iranian demands.

“Negotiations reached a point that obstacles can only be untied by accepting Iran's rational & principled obligations. #US by negligence, & #EU by inaction, destroyed the opportunity to benefit from Iran's goodwill. If they have the will, we are ready & an agreement is available,” he said on Twitter.

The tweet came after Mora left Tehran for Brussels. Shamkhani's remarks indicated that the possible

resumption of the talks will by no means guarantees the conclusion of the talks unless the U.S. makes political decisions.

Iranian officials have long said that Tehran has made all the necessary decisions to push the talks forward and that it's now up to the U.S. to make its own decisions. Furthermore, Iran even proposed some initiatives to advance the nuclear talks when the European Union's nuclear talks coordinator visited Tehran last week, according to Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh.

Speaking at a weekly presser on Monday, the spokesman said, “When Mr. Mora came to Tehran, very serious and result-oriented negotiations were held with ‘special initiatives’ by the Islamic Republic of Iran. He had several long conversations with Mr. Bagheri.”

Khatibzadeh said the Iranian initiatives have been relayed to Washington but the Biden administration provided no answers. “If they respond appropriately, we can be in a position where all parties can return to Vienna,” he said, asserting that if the United States announces its “political decision”, which Iran has not yet received, all parties can take an important step forward in the negotiations.

## IRAN IN FOCUS

MAY 18, 2022

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

3

## SPORTS

### It's time for Yahya Golmohammadi to go

From Page 1 ▶ Persepolis completed the signing of Sanat Naft goalie Ahmad Gohari but he has many technical problems between the posts.

Golmohammadi also failed to find the good replacements for Hossein Kanaani and Shoja Khalilzadeh in defensive line.

In midfield line, Reza Asadi could not fill Ahmad Nourollahi's void.

Persepolis have no problem in goalscoring, it's just defensively that they're struggling and Golmohammadi didn't solve the dilemma.

They could have won the title for the sixth successive season but Golmohammadi would rather focus on what he did not have not what he had.

He was ready to make excuse on and on and announced his retirement for many times. It means he was ready to give up unlike his Maestro Branko Ivankovic who used to fight until the end.

Golmohammadi had a golden chance to win the title once again but lost it to Persepolis' archrivals Esteghlal.

It's time to go for him.

### Iran U23 football team to hold camp in Baghdad

TEHRAN – Iran U23 football team will hold a one-week training camp in Baghdad, capital of Iraq.

Mehdi Mahdavi's team will leave Tehran on May 22 to hold camp in the Iraqi city.



Iran will play two friendly matches with Iraq U23 team in their training camp.

Iran prepare for the AFC U23 Asian Cup to be held in Uzbekistan from June 1 to 19.

Hosts Uzbekistan, the 2018 champions, will have Iran, Qatar and newcomers Turkmenistan to contend with in Group A.

### AIMS President fox warns Iran's Sports Ministry over country's muaythai conflict

TEHRAN – International Federation of Muaythai Associations (IFMA) general secretary Stephan Fox who is also the vice-president of the Global Association of International Sports Federations (GAISF) and President of the Alliance of Independent Recognized Members of Sport (AIMS) has warned that Iran's Sports Ministry should not try to force muaythai to be part of a martial art federation.

The Iranian ministry has reportedly asked the muaythai association, headed by Javad Nasiri, to work under the supervision of martial arts association.

In response to the request, Fox has warned that the Iranian Sports Ministry should not intervene in the sport.

“I would like to contact you in regards to the situation in Iran with respect to muaythai. Muaythai and IFMA are an IOC recognized organization and sport, so we find it very concerning that the Ministry is trying to force muaythai to be part of a martial art federation in which many sports

are neither recognized, WADA compliant or a signatory. Fair play and IFMA's zero tolerance against cheating are a part of our foundation and it concerns me that the ministry, instead of following the Olympic Charter and protecting the autonomy and IFMA, appoints another person for muaythai,” Fox wrote in a letter to Sports Minister Hamid Sajadi.

“Minister, with all respect, we will not accept this, especially in my position as GAISF Vice President and AIMS President. I will put this matter on the Agenda of the next Council Meeting so I can inform the IOC and the recognized world of sport regarding this situation in Iran.

“I would like to ask for a meeting with Mr. Javad Nasiri (who has our full support in this matter) and the Ministry so that we can come to a solution that is in line with the IFMA Constitution, the Olympic Charter and the protection of the athletes,” he concluded.

### Sepahan win Iran's Women Handball League

TEHRAN – Sepahan claimed the title of the 2021/22 Iran's Women Handball League on Monday.

The Isfahan-based team defeated Tehran's Tasisat Daryaei in the two-legged final.

Sepahan beat their rivals 32-25. They had defeated Tasisat 24-18 in the first match.

Last week, Sepahan men's team had defeated Shahid Sharneli Kazeroon in the two-legged final to win the league.

### Former Iran athlete Ghafourizadeh laid to rest

TEHRAN – Former Iran athlete Hossein Ghafourizadeh was laid to rest in Behesh-e Zahra Cemetery, located south of Tehran, on Tuesday.

Ghafourizadeh passed away at the age of 79 in Tehran on Sunday.

Iranian Sports Minister Hamid Sajadi, who has also represented Iran at the 1992 and 1996 Olympic Games, took part in his funeral ceremony.

Ghafourizadeh competed in the men's 400 meters at the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo.

### Faraz Fatemi named Iran U23 football team sporting director

TEHRAN – Faraz Fatemi was named sporting director of Iran U23 football team.

Fatemi replaced Mohammad Mohammadi, who left the post two weeks ago to join Persepolis.

The center forward played for Iranian giants Esteghlal and Persepolis for five years.

Iran will participate in AFC U23 Asian Cup to be held in Uzbekistan from June 1 to 19.

Hosts Uzbekistan, the 2018 champions, will have Iran, Qatar and newcomers Turkmenistan to contend with in Group A.

### Vahid Kazemi chosen to officiate at AFC Cup

TEHRAN – Iranian referee Vahid Kazemi has been chosen to officiate the match between Indian teams Gokulam Kerala and Mohun Bagan.

The match will be held in AFC Cup Group D at the Salt Lake Stadium.

Kazemi's countryman Farhad Moraveji will assist him in the match.

The 2022 AFC Cup group stage will be played from 18 May to 30 June 2022. A total of 39 teams will compete in the group stage to decide the 12 places in the knockout stage of the 2022 AFC Cup.

## New Iranian ambassador submits credentials to Iraqi FM

TEHRAN – The new Iranian ambassador to Iraq, Mohammed Kazem Al Sadeq, met Monday with Iraqi Foreign Minister to present him with a copy of his credentials.

In remarks during the ceremony, Al Sadeq stressed the need to strengthen Iranian-Iraqi relations in all fields and to make joint efforts to achieve this.

Pointing to the approaching Arbāeen pilgrimage and estimates that large crowds of Iranian pilgrims who will head to Iraq to observe the ritual, the ambassador called on the Iraqi government to cooperate more to speed up the procedure for canceling visa between the two countries.

The Iraqi foreign minister affirmed his country's supportive stance to open more channels of bilateral dialogue, including security issues, climate

change and its repercussions.

The new Iranian ambassador also submitted his credentials to Iraqi President Barham Salih.

Before heading to Iraq, Al Sadeq met with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian in Tehran.

Al Sadeq, who replaced Iraj Masjedi, traveled to Iraq to begin discharging his duties. The change of ambassador comes as Iraq is gearing up for government formation in the wake of the recent parliamentary elections which handed cleric Muqtada Sadr a victory.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said recently that Iran seeks to become a facilitator in the internal affairs of Iraq and talk to all parties with the aim of achieving a smooth and democratic transition of power in the Arab country.

Recently, Al Sadeq met with Mohammad Hossein

Soufi, the director of the Touring and Automobile Club of the Islamic Republic of Iran, to discuss ways to expand tourism relations with Iraq.

Soufi said that creating the necessary facilities, such as issuing international driver's licenses, handling customs matters, and issuing transit license plates, is one way to create prosperity in the tourism industry.

As the biggest and most important task of the touring and automobile club, it aims to improve these facilities, especially for neighboring countries sharing borders with Iran, such as Iraq, he added.

As Iraq is one of the countries with the highest demand for car travel to Iran, there is a need for joint cooperation between the related organizations in order to remove existing obstacles and facilitate the movement of cars and other land vehicles, he noted.

## Iran opens drone factory in Tajikistan

From Page 1 ▶ “Today, we are in a position where we can export military equipment to allied and friendly countries in addition to meeting domestic needs in order to increase security and lasting peace,” he pointed out.

General Bagheri described the opening of the Ababil 2 plant in Tajikistan as a turning point in military cooperation between the two countries, according to Fars News.

“God willing, in the future, we will see more cooperation and interaction from all levels of military defense between Iran and Tajikistan,” he added.

In the end, the symbolic key of the plant and the certificate of completion of the training course were awarded to the commander and staff of the Tajik Air Force.

General Mirzo and General Bagheri also explored avenues for



promoting cooperation between Tehran and Dushanbe, the fight against terrorism in Central Asia, and regional cooperation with a focus on Afghanistan, according to Tasnim.

Stressing the need for interaction between the armed forces of Iran and Tajikistan, General Bagheri said, “The promotion of regional and

mutual cooperation, the exchange of training (experiences), and the enhancement of military cooperation in the fight against terrorism must be a priority for the armed forces of the two countries.”

For his part, the Tajik defense minister welcomed Iran's seriousness in the war on terrorism, organized

crimes and drug trafficking.

General Mirzo also described plans for joint military drills and improvement of military equipment as the priorities in the interaction between Tajikistan and Iran.

General Bagheri also held talks with General Saimumin Yatimov, Chairman of the State Security Committee of the Republic of Tajikistan, for bilateral cooperation on security and border issues.

Strengthening defense and military capabilities to increase cooperation at common borders, as well as issues and developments in the region, including Afghanistan, was one of the most important topics of the meeting.

The two sides underlined the need to continue interactions, consultations and specialized meetings on regional and inter-regional issues.

## Bagheri Kani meets Slovak delegation

**Concerns about ‘energy and food security’ should turn into opportunity for global cooperation, Bagheri suggests**

TEHRAN – Ali Bagheri Kani, Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs, has met with Slovakia's Deputy Foreign Minister Ingrid Brockova and her accompanying delegation.

“In a meeting with the Slovak Deputy FM today, the two sides stressed that in order to fend off disruption of ‘international security’, efforts should be made to turn countries' concerns about ‘energy & food security’ into an opportunity for global cooperation,” Bagheri Kani said on Twitter.

In the meeting, Bagheri Kani said that the global situation has made energy and food security a priority for many countries more than ever before, and therefore efforts should be made to make global concern about “food security” and “energy security”, which are two strategic pillars of national security of all countries, an opportunity for interaction, cooperation and even solidarity on the world stage so that all nations have a secure and clear vision for the future,

according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

Bagheri noted that today everyone country, including Europeans, acknowledges the correct approach and vision of Iran over the past decade or two in trying to resolve crises in Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria.

The Iranian deputy foreign minister said the costs of the failure of the policies of the United States and some European governments in the region are not only borne by these governments, but it's the people of those countries who have suffered the greatest costs and damages resulting from the implementation of these wrong policies.

He added, “The dimensions and consequences of meeting the basic needs of the Afghan people, as well as the resulting issues, especially the phenomenon of Afghan refugees, place specific responsibilities on all governments that claim to be protecting

human rights, especially the Europeans.”

The top diplomat insisted on Iran's approach to developing relations with European countries, especially Eastern Europeans, suggesting it is necessary to remove obstacles to the development of relations.

Next week's joint economic committee of the two countries will pave the way for expanding bilateral relations, Bagheri Kani remarked.

For her part, Ingrid Brockova said Slovakia views Iran as an important pattern in its foreign policy that is willing to develop bilateral and regional relations with.

She also called for regular consultations between the foreign ministries of the two countries on bilateral, regional and international issues, which, she said, in addition to expanding bilateral and European trade and economic relations with Iran, could also help strengthen people-to-people relations.



## Tehran, Havana confer on expanding economic ties

From page 1 ► “We are expected to take more serious steps to develop cooperation and implement agreements.”

The minister further pointed to the lack of proper knowledge regarding business and economic opportunities and advantages of trade and investment between the two countries as the most important reason for the weak trade collaborations between Iran and Cuban private sectors.

He then announced Iran's readiness to hold online meetings with the presence of representatives of the government and private sectors of Iran and Cuba in order to exchange knowledge about the business and investment opportunities of the two countries.

The official also pointed to the lack of appropriate legal frameworks to support the activities of the Iranian private sector in Cuba, and stressed the need to finalize agreements to encourage and support mutual investment and avoid double taxation between the two countries.

Cabrisas Ruiz for his part, explained his country's economic development plans and priorities for economic development, and enumerated some of the negative factors affecting the Cuban economy, such as the economic sanctions, the negative effects of Covid-19 pandemic, climate change and the Ukraine war.



Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi (R) and Cuban Deputy Prime Minister Ricardo Cabrisas Ruiz meet in Tehran on Tuesday.

The official further announced his country's readiness to use the experiences and capabilities of Iranian companies in the implementation of important economic projects in Cuba.

He also pointed to the high capacity of Iranian companies in various sectors including agriculture, energy and health and emphasized the need to increase long-term economic cooperation between the two countries.

As the special envoy of the Cuban president, Cabrisas Ruiz headed a high-ranking delegation to Iran with the aim of meeting with the officials of the Islamic Republic and to attend the 18th meeting of the two countries' Joint Economic Committee.

## Afghanistan calls on Iranian firms to develop its mines



TEHRAN – Deputy Industry Mining and Trade Minister Reza Mohtashami-Pour, who traveled to Afghanistan for a two-day visit, said Afghan officials have called on Iranian mining companies to develop the country's mines.

“Afghan officials want Iranian mining companies to start operating in their country, and negotiations are scheduled to continue next week at the expert level followed by field visits,” Mohtashami-Pour told the ministry's news portal Shata on Tuesday.

During the visit, good talks were held on

mining cooperation and possible obstacles that exist due to regulations and some decisions by the Afghan government, as well as capacities that could be the starting points for Tehran-Kabul cooperation in the mining industry, the official said.

According to the deputy minister, Iranian companies, especially large firms, are cautious about security issues in Afghanistan.

“The development of Afghanistan's large mines is only at the beginning of the way and the necessary infrastructure requirements must be prepared in this regard, however, with a strong extraterritorial presence in the field of mining, we will be sensitive to identifying capacities and using them,” he said.

During the two-day visit, Mohtashami-Pour met with some Afghan officials and mining experts in Kabul, including the minister of mines and petroleum and his deputies, officials of the ministry of foreign affairs, and the president of the Afghanistan precious stones association.

# Iran ready to swap Turkmenistan's gas to Armenia

TEHRAN – Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji has expressed the country's readiness for swapping Turkmenistan's natural gas to Armenia, Shana reported.

Oji made the remarks in a meeting with Armenian Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Gnel Sanosyan in Tehran on Monday.

Speaking in this meeting, the

Iranian minister also expressed the National Iranian Gas Company's (NIGC) readiness for increasing gas exports to neighboring Armenia.

“Negotiations for gas swap from Turkmenistan to Armenia have started and we will soon achieve good results in this regard due to the high capacity of the country's gas network,” Oji told Shana after the meeting.



Oil Minister Javad Oji (1st L) receiving Armenian Minister of Territorial Administration and Infrastructure Gnel Sanosyan (2nd R) in Tehran on Monday

“Today, during the negotiations, good agreements were reached on increasing gas exports, petrochemical products, and comprehensive development of mutual ties,” he said.

Iran and Armenia have been cooperating for years in gas and electricity swap, and two-way economic and political ties have grown in tandem with an increase

in trade.

The two countries signed a gas-for-electricity barter deal in 2004, based on which, for a 20-year period, Iran would export gas to Armenia to be consumed by the country's power plants, and in return, Iran imports electricity from Armenia.

Armenia has been importing gas from Iran since mid-2009.

## Oil shipment by NITC fleet doubled: minister

TEHRAN – Hojjatollah Abdolmaleki, the minister of cooperatives, labor, and social welfare, has praised the performance of the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC) during a visit to the 26th International Oil, Gas, Refining and Petrochemical Exhibition of Iran (Iran Oil Show 2022).

Speaking to the press on Monday, Abdolmaleki said NITC is one of the world's top three shipping companies active in the field of oil and oil products transportation.

The official underlined some of the achievements of the company over the past few months and noted that oil shipment by the NITC fleet has almost doubled since the new government took office in July 2021.

“The National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) is currently facing no problem for shipping crude oil all around the world because NITC has enough capacity to meet all NIOC's demands,” the minister said.

Abdolmaleki further noted that his ministry is going to support NITC for the domestic manufacturing of oil vessels, saying: “We



support this company using the facilities provided by affiliated banks in order to build oil tankers inside the country.”

Elsewhere in his remarks, the official mentioned his ministry's plans also for supporting knowledge-based companies and said the subsidiaries of his ministry are taking positive measures toward knowledge-based production.

Back in April, Managing Director of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr had praised the significant role

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

Underling the significant role of the NITC fleet in increasing the country's exports of oil and oil products, Khojasteh-Mehr said: “This success (increased sales of oil and gas condensate) came at a time when the sanction conditions have become even stricter.”

“Oil export is the result of a long chain of activities in various sectors including exploration, development, production, and transportation and our dear colleagues at the National Iranian Oil Company have contributed greatly to realizing this goal,” Khojasteh-Mehr said.

The performance of the National Iranian Tanker Company and the round-the-clock efforts of the sailors of the company's fleet in transporting oil and oil products have been at the center of attention of the country's authorities over the past few months, as it has also been appreciated by the Oil Minister Javad Oji and other members of the cabinet.

## Govt., private sector discuss current year's budgetary regulations



Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi (C) and ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie (2nd L)

the council stressed the need for the implementation of Article 191 of the Labor Law to adopt special measures for production units with less than

10 workers in order to reduce the consequences of unemployment due to the increase in the minimum wage ceiling in small and medium-

sized enterprises (SMEs).

A report was also presented in the meeting, on the performance of the dialogue council and the government's business support committee in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

At the beginning of the meeting, Khandouzi, who is the chairman of the government and private sector dialogue council, said: “The purpose of starting this process [the collaboration between government and the private sector] is to achieve economic stability. We need to work together to pass this transition period and then start major reforms in the economy.”

# President orders start of building 100,000 National Housing Movement units

TEHRAN– President Ebrahim Raisi ordered the beginning of building 100,000 units of National Housing Movement in 23 new towns of the country through a video conference attended by Transport and Urban Development Minister Rostam Qasemi on Tuesday, the managing director of New Towns Development Company announced.

Alireza Jafari said that the construction of the mentioned units was started in the new towns of East Azarbaijan, West Azarbaijan, Isfahan, Alborz, Bushehr, Tehran, Khorasan Razavi, Khuzestan, Sistan-Baluchestan, Fars, Markazi and Hormozgan provinces.

Back in mid-April, the deputy transport and urban development minister announced the definite allocation of about 980,000 land lots with residential use in the past six months for the construction of National Housing Movement units.

Mahmoud Mahmoudzadeh said that 1.4 million land lots have been also identified that their usage should be determined, or they should be added to the area, or be investigated technically by the provincial planning councils and the Supreme Council of Architecture and Urban Planning.



If the final task is determined, the land has been provided for the construction of 2.3 million housing units, he added.

According to the deputy minister, out of the four million units that are to be built in four years, 3.2 million are in urban areas and 800,000 in the rural regions.

The provided lands are the lands of the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development and so far, no land has been provided from other organizations, the official further stated.

Back in late March, transport and urban development minister 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.

As previously reported, the operation for the construction of 209,212 residential units of National Housing Movement began in early February.

The ceremony to begin the mentioned operation and also to launch some development projects in the housing sector was attended by transport and urban development minister.

After the National Housing Action Plan (started in 2018), the National Housing Movement is the government's second major program for providing affordable housing units to low-income classes.

## TEDPIX surpasses 1.6m points after 20 months

TEHRAN– TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), surpasses 1.6 million points after 20 months on Tuesday.

The index gained 22,225 points to 1,606,025 during the Tuesday trades.

As published on the website of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), 58.919 billion securities worth 351.381 trillion rials (about \$1.171 billion) were traded at the exchange during the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday, May 13).

As reported, 27.161 billion securities worth 178.394 trillion rials (about \$594.646 million) had been traded at the TSE, which is Iran's major stock exchange, during the week ended on May 6.

TEDPIX rose 145,000 points (10.5 percent) in the past Iranian month Farvardin, the first month of the Iranian calendar year (March 21-April 20).

TEDPIX is expected to follow a mild upward trend in the current Iranian calendar year 1401 (started on March 21), a market analyst told IRNA on April 3.

“The capital market index experienced a significant decline in [the Iranian calendar year] 1399 (ended on March 20, 2021) and the transactions at this market also undergone some correction in the previous year. Therefore, it seems that given the relative stability of macroeconomic variables, we will see a slight growth in the market index during the current year,” Ali Teymouri said.

According to Teymouri, the main risks threatening the capital market in the current year are budget-

related issues, as well as government and central bank exchange rate policies following a possible nuclear agreement.

Transparency in the economic policies of the new government, as well as the resolution of issues related to the nuclear deal, can create stable conditions for the country's economy, which can in return ensure a good outlook for the capital market, the analyst added.

In the last few months of last year, the capital market experienced some turbulence due to the ambiguities about the outcomes of the Vienna talks.

Former Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mehdi Karbasian believes that the stock market can provide the liquidity required by the country's productive sectors to perform at full capacity, IRNA reported on April 10.

“All around the world, investor liquidity is a major source of capital for production units which is mostly provided by the banking system or the capital market, but in Iran, it [growing liquidity] is considered as an issue,” Karbasian said.

Pointing to the important role of the capital market in removing barriers to production and creating the necessary conditions for the realization of the slogan of the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21) which is named “Production: Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating” the official added: “There are several factors affecting the production process in the country, each of which should be considered separately.”



# European economic growth revised down amid Ukraine war

From page 1 ► Critics say the EU leader's push for more sanctions on Russian energy exports is a completely wrong policy as the bloc is only going to suffer further and the Russian economy has not taken the expected hit.

Even worse; the commission has admitted that EU-wide inflation is expected to average 6.8 percent and in the event of a Russian gas ban, Inflation would average close to 10 percent.

In a statement, the commission said "the outlook for the EU economy before the outbreak of the war was for a prolonged and robust expansion, But it says Russia's war in Ukraine "has posed new challenges, just as the union had recovered from the economic impacts of the pandemic."

Critics have argued the EU can reverse the rising inflation figures and poorer economic growth for its citizens by backing the peace process in the Ukraine war instead of pressing ahead with sending more weapons.

This year, the fastest growing economy in the EU is expected to be Portugal, at 5.8 percent while Germany (the economic powerhouse of Europe) is forecast to be the weakest at 1.6 percent.

Valdis Dombrovskis, an EU trade commissioner, said: "there is no doubt that the EU economy is going through a challenging period due to Russia's war against Ukraine, and we have downgraded our forecast accordingly."

Dombrovskis acknowledged "the overwhelming negative factor is the surge in energy prices, driving inflation to record highs and putting a strain on European businesses and households. While growth will continue this year and next, it will be much more subdued than previously expected. Uncertainty and risks to the outlook will remain high as long as Russia's aggression continues."

The spike in energy costs has also dragged the Eurozone into a record trade deficit with the rest of the world.

The latest trade data also shows in March 2022 the euro area recorded a €16.4bn



deficit in goods trade with the rest of the world, compared with a surplus of €22.5bn in the same month last year.

The wider EU recorded a €27.7bn deficit in trade in goods in March.

In January-March, the EU ran up an €81.5bn deficit in trade in goods, compared with a €48.5bn surplus a year earlier.

The EU has further acknowledged that risks to the forecast of its economic activity and inflation are heavily dependent on how the Ukraine war unfolds, and especially on its impact on energy markets.

Valdis Dombrovskis, the Executive Vice-President of the European Commission for an Economy that Works for People says "without a doubt the EU economy is going through a challenging period" due to the war in Ukraine.

He says "we have downgraded our forecast accordingly. The overwhelming negative factor is the surge in energy prices, driving inflation to record highs and putting a strain on European businesses and households. While growth will continue this year and next, it will be much more subdued than previously expected."

Dombrovskis warns "the overwhelming negative factor is the surge in energy prices, driving inflation to record highs and putting a strain on European businesses and households. While growth will continue this year and next, it will be much more subdued than previously expected. Uncertainty and risks to the outlook will remain high."

Meanwhile, Paolo Gentiloni, the EU Commissioner for Economy says the Russian military operation in Ukraine is "also weighing on Europe's economic recovery. The war has led to a surge in energy prices and further disrupted supply chains, so that inflation is now set to remain higher for longer."

Gentiloni added that "other scenarios are possible under which growth may be lower and inflation higher than we are projecting today."

This is while in the United Kingdom the

average price of a liter of diesel has hit a high of just over £1.80 per liter and could rise even further if the EU ban on Russian oil goes ahead.

The Royal Automobile Club (RAC) has reported that the price a liter in the UK has outstripped the previous record of £1.79, set in March after Moscow's invasion of Ukraine.

High diesel prices are a warning sign for the economy as the fuel is typically used in vans and lorries owned by businesses, driving up their costs.

The RAC said petrol prices were also rising – up three pence since the start of the month at 166.65p on average, a penny shy of the record high set in March.

Campaigners now argue the price rises have rendered the five pence fuel duty cut announced by the chancellor, Rishi Sunak, in his spring statement in March as totally ineffective.

The RAC's fuel spokesperson, Simon Williams, says "unfortunately, drivers with diesel vehicles need to brace themselves for yet more pain at the pumps,"

Williams warned that "while the wholesale price has eased in the last few days, this is likely to be temporary, especially if the EU agrees to ban imports of Russian oil."

EU diplomats are widely believed to still be aiming on an agreement that will see a phased embargo on Russian oil this month.

The British government's tax cuts for motorists at the petrol stations has backfired while it continues to blame Moscow for the energy mess back home.

Last week the Office for National Statistics said that prices at the pump were contributing to the cost of living crisis as it revealed that the UK's economy shrank in March.

The British inflation rate is widely expected to hit its highest point in 40 years and exceed ten percent, the Bank of England has already warned it will cause the economy to shrink. Experts say a recession is entirely possible.

## We are at end of unipolarity: Turkish historian

From page 1 ► The first reason for this conflict is that the USA wants to use Ukraine as a bridgehead against Russia and all of Eurasia. Just as it uses Greece in the Eastern Mediterranean and wanted to establish a Kurdistan in the Middle East.

In order to make this plan work, the USA needed a neo-Nazi government in Ukraine that was completely under its control. The second reason for this conflict is the aggression of the Kyiv government, especially toward the eastern regions of the country.

I visited Donbas and other operational zones upon invitation from the Russian Ministry of Defence, from April 29th until May 1st. There you hear very often:

"The war here has not started yesterday. It has been going on in the last 8 years. Kyiv has never fulfilled the Minsk Agreements. The West has never said a word to them. We are humans too; we deserve to have a life too! The Russian military operation is a result of this process, not the beginning of a war. Quite the opposite: This operation will put an end to an 8-year-war."

In Moscow, the Ukraine crisis is discussed in the framework of the NATO enlargement and U.S. aggression. In Donbas, the context is the Kyiv regime and its danger of fascism.

**How may the Ukraine war change the current world order?**

Following the most recent events, we can state that we have arrived at the end of unipolarity. The end of the unipolar world and the establishment of a multipolar world is very good news for Iran and Turkey as well, because this new situation bears great potential for Tehran and Ankara to balance the threats they face from Washington.

A new world is being established, and within that process, not fainthearted but firm and decided positions should guide policy and activities. The problems and challenges ahead of Iran and Turkey can only be solved with such firm and decided positions and acts.

**How do you see the global alignments when it comes to the Ukraine war? While Western powers condemn Moscow apparently the Eastern states are reluctant to denounce Russia.**

Actually, there is one sole frontline in the world: The Atlantic and Eurasia are facing each other. And conflicts even in the most remote regions of the world are of concern and interest for those countries that are confronted by U.S. pressures. The conflict around Taiwan is not only a Chinese matter; it is also a matter for Russia or Turkey. The embargo imposed on Iran is not only a problem for Iran, it is also a problem for Turkey and China. Or, to provide a geographically even more remote example: The conflict around the Malvinas (British: Falkland Islands) is not only a matter of concern for Argentina. It is an issue for all countries that are facing threats from British and U.S. imperialism.

Therefore, all these countries facing imperialist threats need to be sensitive to all these conflicts of local focus but global content. They need to consider these conflicts as their own from the perspective that, the more imperialism is defeated and retreats, the more they will take a deep breath. The more the U.S. is defeated, the more will China, Iran, Turkey, Russia, Pakistan, Azerbaijan and so on will gain space.

Taking all this into consideration, Iran and Turkey need a strong Russia and Russia needs a strong Iran and Turkey. And mutual solidarity between those countries in regard to each other's most vital issues of concern will not only constitute a diplomatic gesture it's much more than that. Due to the above-mentioned reasons, these acts of solidarity will constitute for them an effective and important measure to realize their own national interests.

**How do you see the role of mainstream media in portraying this war?**



As I said I was in the Donbas and Russia's operation zone in Ukraine for three days. I met with local authorities and common people there. They are very angry with the Western media. Because they broadcast one-sided and there is a lot of disinformation going on.

I witnessed the lies of the Western media with my own eyes. Let me give you an example: During the trip, I entered the Zaporozhye Nuclear Power plant. There had been a big campaign in the Western media. They said, "There will be a second Chernobyl", "Russia is bombing the power plant", etc.

The power plant was not damaged at all during the Russian Army's entry into the city. We have seen it with our own eyes. It continues its ordinary operations as it is. The previous employees of the power plant, are also still on duty.

The West does not only use rockets and tanks in wars. It also uses the media as a weapon.

**What are the global fallouts of sanctions on Russia?**

The anti-Russian sanctions are aimed not only against Russia but also against other countries that hinder Washington's plans. American sanctions harm Ankara itself as well since Russia is Turkey's most important trade and economic partner.

Here I would like to point out another very important nuance. It is a fact that American sanctions are directed not only against Russia, Turkey and Iran, but also against Europe itself. They directly hit the European economy. And it is obvious that U.S. sanctions have already dealt a serious blow to the

interests of European countries. Germany and France, in particular, have felt this particularly strongly, and I believe that the economies of these countries will have even more difficult times in the future, as tough sanctions will destroy Europe's economic ties with Russia.

Why will, in this scenario, Europe face a bigger crisis than Russia? Russia can survive without foreign cars and European products; it can find alternative markets both for selling its products and for importing from foreign markets. But how will Europe manage without Russian gas? Here is the problem. In Europe, the gas price has already risen several times, and it will continue to increase.

Why is the U.S. deliberately destroying the European economy? Again, the answer is obvious. The Americans are doing everything to stop Europe from competing with the United States in world markets, and they will do everything to achieve their goals. Therefore, they provoked the Ukrainian crisis and used it against the interests of Russia and Europe through sanctions, weakening their economies and years of well-established relations. Sanctions are a kind of trap for Europe.

It is highly unacceptable that against the backdrop of ongoing geopolitical cataclysms, not only governments but also ordinary citizens suffer. We have seen examples of this kind of American lawlessness in Iran, Iraq, Libya, and this trend will continue.

However, these sanctions achieved no results anywhere. Now it will have the opposite effect. The dollar is losing its world domination. Banking systems, independent from the USA, are being developed. Sanctions have consequences that the West does not want at all.

## Ukraine evacuates troops from Mariupol, ceding control to Russia

Ukraine has ended its "combat mission" in Mariupol and is working to evacuate its remaining troops, the country's military command said late Monday, effectively ceding control of the city to Russia.

Mariupol has been encircled by Russian troops since early March, suffering under weeks of shelling. By late April, Moscow claimed it had taken the city. Since then, however, a small group of Ukrainian soldiers remained in the city, stationed at the Azovstal plant.

Those soldiers are now being pulled out, Ukraine said. The general staff of Ukraine's armed forces said in a statement published soon after midnight that 264 Ukrainian soldiers had been evacuated from the Azovstal plant.

"Ukraine needs its heroes alive," Ukrainian President



Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a late-night video address, Politico reported. "That's our principle."

Ukraine's Deputy Defense Minister Anna Malyar said 53 severely wounded soldiers were taken to a hospital in Novoazovsk in Russian-controlled territory. She also announced an "exchange

procedure" to swap Russian prisoners of war and Ukrainian soldiers.

Zelenskyy did not provide details on the conditions of their evacuation or on the swap for Russian prisoners of war. "To bring the boys home, the work continues, and this work needs delicacy. And time," he said.

Five buses carrying soldiers from Azovstal arrived late Monday in the town, Reuters reported. One of them was marked with Z like many Russian military vehicles in Ukraine.

Zelenskyy thanked the Red Cross and the United Nations for assisting in the evacuation negotiations.

Elsewhere, however, the Ukrainian army said it had made progress around Kharkiv, near the Russian border in Ukraine's northeast. The country's troops have been able to push back Russians close to the border, retaking a number of surrounding villages, a U.S. defense official told Reuters.

In western Ukraine, Russia carried out air raids over the city of Lviv, where many Ukrainians have fled to escape the constant drumbeat of war in the east.

Borrell], as well as to the Council Secretariat in Stockholm with a notification of [Russia's] withdrawal from the organization," the ministry said in a statement.

The decision will not affect Russia's presence in the region, the ministry said, adding that attempts to oust Russia from the Baltic are "doomed to failure," as Moscow will continue to work with responsible partners.

"Western countries have monopolized the council for their opportunistic purposes, are making plans to organize its work to the detriment of Russian interests," the statement read.

At the same time, the Russian Federal Assembly decided to withdraw from the Baltic Sea Parliamentary Conference, the statement added.

## Russia withdraws from Council of Baltic Sea States

MOSCOW (ANI/Sputnik) - Russia has decided to withdraw from the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), the Russian Foreign Ministry said on Tuesday.

"In response to the hostile actions, Russian Foreign Minister S.V. Lavrov sent a message to the ministers of the CBSS member countries, the EU High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy [Josep



## Ancient Seymareh preparing to win UNESCO status



TEHRAN – The tourism chief of Iran's Ilam province on Tuesday said they are preparing to apply to UNESCO for listing the ancient city of Seymareh on the World Heritage list.

"The process and follow-up work for the (possible) registration of the historical city of Seymareh will commence in the near future," Farzad Sharifi said.

Seymareh is situated near Darreh Shahr, which was once the summer capital of Elamites, a pre-Iranian civilization dated from 2700 to 539 BC. The city also enjoyed centuries of prosperity during the Sassanid era (224 CE–651).

Covering an area of 200 hectares, the ancient city dates back to the Sassanid epoch and is believed to be built on remnants of the Elamite capital, Madaktu.

The first archeologist to visit Seymareh was Sir Henry Rawlinson. He began an expedition to the site in 1836.

Jaques de Morgan also visited this historical land in 1891 and introduced it as the same ancient city of Madakto. Then it was Aurel Stein who attempted to explore it in 1936, according to Visit Iran, the official travel guide of Iran.

The archeological findings show that the city included about 5,000 houses with some modern aspects like a water distribution system through clay pipes and underground sewers. The city was destroyed and deserted after a huge earthquake around 950 BC.

The remnants of the city were inscribed on the National Heritage list in 1931.

Darreh Shahr and its surrounding regions boast vestiges of Sassanid constructions such as arches, ceilings, alleys, and passages that follow a specific order of urban development criteria of the time.

The name Elam was given to the region by others – the Akkadians and Sumerians of Mesopotamia – and is thought to be their version of what the Elamites called themselves – Haltami (or Haltamti) – meaning "those of the high country". 'Elam', therefore, is usually translated to mean "highlands" or "high country" as it was comprised of settlements on the Iranian Plateau that stretched from the southern plains to the elevations of the Zagros Mountains.

Home to almost half of Iran's UNESCO sites, western Iran is a land of hospitable people, wild extremes, and wilder history, and it may be an independent traveler's adventure playground. The region also witnessed the rise and fall of many great empires once bordering Mesopotamia, Ottoman Turkey, and Czarist Russia.

From the fecund Caspian coast to the stark, mountainous northern borders, and the crumbling desert ruins of the southern plains, the region hosts everything from paddy fields to blizzards to Persian gardens.

## 'Beauty' of Turkmen horses admired at Golestan festival

From page 1 ► Iran and Turkmenistan are set to jointly put forward the Turkmen horses and their safeguarding practices as a candidate for inclusion in UNESCO'S list of Intangible Cultural Heritage.

Golestan is home to hundreds of historical and natural sites, with UNESCO-registered Gonbad-e Qabus – a one-millennium-old brick tower – amongst its most famous.

Moreover, the northern Gilan province has long been a hub for the breeding of Caspian Horses, which are believed to be depicted on bas-relief carvings of the UNESCO-registered Persepolis.

Caspians are extremely rare and were barely saved from extinction in 1965. Archaeozoologists are now studying the area to prove the connection between the modern Caspian and the tiny prehistoric horse of Persia.

Generally, Caspian horses stand between 100 and 120 cm tall, although better feeding conditions outside of Iran may result in taller animals. Their head is short and fine with a



vaulted forehead, large eyes, and short ears. The body is slim with a graceful neck, sloping shoulders, straight back, good withers, and a high-set tail.

Gilan is well-known for its rich Iron Age cemeteries such as Marlik that have been excavated over the past century. It was once within the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenian, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE. The subsequent Arab conquest of Iran led to the rise of many local dynasties, and Gilan acquired an independent status that continued until 1567.

## Exhibit brings craftspeople, visitors to centuries-old fortress

TEHRAN – In an innovative initiative to promote tourism, tens of craftspeople have held a sales exhibition at a centuries-old fortress in Iranshahr, southeast Iran.

"Collections of handicrafts and traditional arts, made by the native craftspeople of Iranshahr, were put on show at the southeastern city," Iranshahr's tourism chief said on Tuesday.

The Qajar-era (1789-1925) Nasserri Castle, a tourist attraction in Sistan-

Baluchestan province, hosted the exhibit for five days, Rahman Rigi explained.

Along with promoting indigenous handicrafts and providing a local market for them, the exhibit aimed at reviving and promoting the historical fortress, the official added.

The exhibit attracted more than 2,500 visitors, and artisans sold handicrafts in significant numbers, he noted.

From ancient to modern times,

defensive walls have often been necessary for cities to survive in an ever-changing world of invasion and conquest.

Fortresses were designed primarily to defend territories in warfare and were also used to solidify rule in a region during peacetime.

Many of the fortifications of the ancient world were built with mud brick, often leaving them no more than mounds of dirt for today's archaeologists.

## New properties in Tehran made national heritage

TEHRAN – A total of five historical buildings and aging structures, scattered across the Iranian capital, have recently been inscribed on the national heritage list.

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



Amin Darbar Public Bathhouse and Imam Sadeq University were among the properties added to the prestigious list.

The first time Tehran is mentioned in historical

accounts is in an 11th-century chronicle in which it is described as a small village north of Ray.

Ray, in which signs of settlement date from 6000 BC, is often considered to be Tehran's predecessor. It became the capital city of the Seljuk Empire in the 11th century but later declined with factional strife between different

neighborhoods and the Mongol invasion of 1220.

Tehran has many to offer its visitors including Golestan Palace, Grand Bazaar, Treasury of National Jewels, National Museum of Iran, Glass & Ceramic Museum, Masoudieh Palace, Sarkis Cathedral, Tehran Museum of Contemporary Art, and Carpet Museum of Iran, to name a few.

# Cradle of ancient civilizations, Iran is to mark cultural heritage week

TEHRAN – A cradle of ancient civilizations, and a crossroads of cultures, Iran is to celebrate its national cultural heritage week, which commences on Wednesday.

Various exhibitions, meetings, workshops, and festivals have been organized to mark Iran's rich heritage from the early civilizations through to the modern era.

Iran played a leading cultural role as a source of innovation, as a melting pot and cultural powerhouse connecting Africa, Asia, and Europe. Highlights are the pre-Islamic empires of the Achaemenids and Sassanids, the formation of a Persian-Islamic culture, and the artistic



masterpieces of the 9th to 13th centuries as well as the heyday of the Safavids to name a few.

The second day of the cultural heritage week is concurrent

with the International Museum Day, which represents a unique moment for the international museum community.

The objective of International

Museum Day is to raise awareness about the fact that, "Museums are an important means of cultural exchange, enrichment of cultures and development of mutual understanding, cooperation and peace among peoples."

"The Power of Museums" is selected as the motto of International Museum Day 2022, meaning museums have the power to transform the world around us.

The ancient land hosts some of the world's oldest cultural monuments including bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, gardens, and rich natural and rural landscapes, 26 of which are UNESCO World Heritage.

## Festival marks customary headscarf of Achaemenid Iran

TEHRAN – On Monday, the National Museum of Iran held a special festival to mark an ancient customary headscarf, which was popular during the Achaemenid era (c. 550 – 330 BC).

The festival aimed at promoting and introducing the indigenous handicrafts fields and traditional arts especially the tradition of sporting a customary headscarf called "Golvani", which is said to date back to the Achaemenid era, the report added.

Wearing Golvani is on Iran's national list of intangible cultural heritage and all efforts are being made to preserve and protect specific fields of handicrafts so they can be introduced

to the world under the name of Iran, said deputy tourism minister Pouya Mahmoudian on the sidelines of the festival.

A headscarf with beautiful designs and motifs, the golvani is a symbol of civilization, a symbol of the Zagros region, and a tool for unity and empathy between all Iranians, she added.

It is hoped that these festivals will continue to support handicrafts and introduce them to the general public, the official added.

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.

## Archaeologist to redraw map of Sirjan

TEHRAN – A team of archaeologists has commenced a mapping project to redraw the boundaries of ancient Sirjan, which has long been a hub for hand-woven kilim carpets.

Kerman province occupies a large portion of the southern half of Iran, and yet even though it has some interesting archaeological finds from different periods of Iranian history, this region has played a relatively small role in Iranian archaeological research



until recently, said Maryam Saberi, who presides over the mapping project, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

In the last two decades, however, a great deal of research has been

done in this province, including the archaeological excavations and studies, and works from various historical and prehistorical periods have been discovered, she added.

She also expressed hope that a completed archaeological map of the region would be ready as soon as possible based on the studies done.

The vast province has been a cultural melting pot since antiquity, blending Persians with subcontinental tribe dwellers.

It is home to myriad historical sites and scenic landscapes such as Bazaar-e Sartasari, Jabalieh Dome, Ganjali Khan Bathhouse, Malek Jameh Mosque, and Shahdad Desert to name a few.

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

## Global tourism estimated to achieve full recovery by 2025

TEHRAN – Global tourism is projected to gain full recovery by 2025, says GlobalData, a leading data, and analytics company.

International departures will reach 68% of the pre-COVID-19 levels globally in 2022 and are expected to improve to 82% in 2023 and 97% in 2024, before making a full recovery by 2025 at 101% of 2019 levels, with a projected 1.5 billion international departures, the company has announced.

However, the trajectory for the recovery in international departures is not linear across regions or countries, the analytics company suggests.

For instance, "In 2022, outbound departures

from North America are projected to reach 69% of 2019 levels, before making a full recovery by 2024, at 102% of 2019 levels, ahead of other regions," Hannah Free, a tourism analyst at GlobalData, comments.

"International departures from European countries are expected to reach 69% of 2019 figures in 2022. As travel confidence rebuilds, the intra-European market is expected to benefit, driven by preferences for short-haul travel."

Free concludes: "While global international travel is set to recover to pre-pandemic levels by 2025, tourism demand may look quite different. From two years of very limited

travel, several long-term shifts and short-term trends have emerged."

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

Some experts believe the Islamic Republic is still somehow "unknown" to many potential travelers due to the Western "media war". Several estimates have been released so far on the extent of the tourism-related losses incurred by the pandemic.

### First Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

### NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : 08-21-0040001

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

| Items | Material Description   | Quantity  |
|-------|--|-----------|
| 01    | TUBING API GRADE L-80 , SEAMLESS ,VAM , N.VAM OR SEC RANGE 3 (MAX LEN: 40.5 FT), AS PER API 5CT/ISO11960<br><br>MARKING: COLD DIE STAMPED IN ACCORDANCE WITH API\ 5CT ,4-1/2 IN . , 13.5 PPF , Drift : 3.795 IN. | 11,000 LE |

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tender are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no.2, available at: [www.nisoc.ir](http://www.nisoc.ir), not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded. The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 138,027 EURO or 36,500,000,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC.

Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: [www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab](http://www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab)  
**ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P., NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN**  
**PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D., SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL**  
**NO ADVANCE PAYMENT WILL BE PAID**

**FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT**  
**Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex**  
**Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran Tel. No.: 061 341 23455 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37**  
Public Relations [www.shana.ir](http://www.shana.ir) [www.nisoc.ir](http://www.nisoc.ir)

تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۱۴۰۱/۲/۲۸



# SDSs mitigation requires regional cooperation: expert

TEHRAN – Sand and Dust Storms (SDSs) have increased significantly in recent years as a result of climate change. So, a convention is needed to be set up in the region to come up with a solution, Abdolreza Faraji-Rad, a professor of geopolitics, has said.

The SDSs phenomenon has been exacerbated in recent years due to climate change, which is caused by areas in Iraq, parts of Iran, Syria, Jordan, and even Egypt and Saudi Arabia, and with the slightest movement of the wind, these dust particles rise and move slowly to the east and northeast of Iran, he said.

Of course, it is impossible to claim that SDSs are totally out of control, such phenomena require comprehensive regional cooperation, he stated.

A convention consisting of Iran, Iraq, Turkey, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and possibly Sudan, should be formed to provide funding and come up with a common solution to deal with the phenomenon, he also suggested.

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.

Over the past two years, the precipitation rate has been on a downward trend, as a result, sources of sand and dust storms (SDSs) have increased compared to a year before, Ahad Vazifeh, head of the national center for drought and crisis management has said.

Declining water levels in dams and lakes mean that water available to humans has been reduced and the



dust-raising areas have been increased, he lamented, ISNA reported.

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.

All the SDSs sources are not located in Iran, 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.

#### Enhanced diplomacy

Controlling sand and dust storms (SDSs) requires strengthening diplomacy, and it will never be eradicated unless international institutions reach a consensus.

Darius 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.

If serious action is not taken in the form of diplomacy and international institutions do not comply with the requirements to eradicate SDSs, the countries will always be haunted by the phenomenon, he lamented.

SDS not only affects people's health but also has a psychological effect, it also has a great negative effect on agricultural products, and on the reproduction of plant species and activities such as beekeeping, he further noted.

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

## Iran to mark World Environment Week 2022

From page 1 ► Iran also marks the day during a week, each day of the week has been assigned a special theme this year as follows:

Monday, June 6: "Environment, Regional Diplomacy, Climate Change, Water and Dust Management"

Tuesday, June 7: "Environment, Biodiversity and Endangered Plant and Animal Species"

Wednesday, June 8: "Environment of the Sea, Wetlands, and Watersheds (World Oceans Day)"

Thursday, June 9: "Environment, Industry, Waste and Sustainable Knowledge-Based Development"

Friday, June 10: "Environment, Religious Teachings, Social Responsibility, Culture, and Media"

Saturday, June 11: "Environment, environmentalist, self-sacrifice, and martyrdom"

Sunday, June 12: "Environment, New Technologies, Contributions, and Public Participation"

#### Biological diversity protection in Iran

To preserve the existing biodiversity over the wide geographic expanse of Iran, four types of areas have

been designated for preservation and protection, including, national parks, wildlife refuges, protected areas, and natural national monuments. In 1997, the DOE held supervision over 7,563,983 hectares of such areas.

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

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

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

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

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## Tribes in Iran

### Part 5

After the consolidation of the Safavid regime, Shah Tahmasb (r. 930/1524-984/1576) and especially Shah Abbas I (r. 996/1588-1038/1624) took steps to disband the unruly Qizilbash tribes, but after the regime's fall certain Qizilbash tribes decisively influenced the course of events.

Nader-qoli arose from the Khorasani branch of the Qerekle tira of the Afshar tribe and, after crushing the Ghaljā'i (Ghalzay) Afghans, founded the Afshar dynasty.

After a short period of rule by the Kurdish (or Lor) clan of Zand in the second half of the 12th/18th century, the government of Iran fell into the hands of the another set of Qizilbash chiefs, those of the Ashaqbash section of the Qajar tribe.

From a report which was compiled for the Qajar government in 1215/1800 and gives figures of local revenues and military strengths in Iran in 1128/1715 (reproduced by Daneshpazuh in FIZ 20, pp. 396-423), it is possible to outline the territorial distribution of the tribes (not counting the Afghans, Baluch, and Lezgians) at the end of the Safavid period.

In this document (pp. 406-15) the tribes are divided into two categories, those of Iranian origin and those "from outside," i.e., of immigrant origin but domiciled in Iran.

The first category comprises two main and some other groups. One main group is the Lor, made up of four tribes: the Feyli near Khorramabad, whose sections migrated seasonally to within three days march from Baghdad; the Lak and Zand, whose winter quarters were in the mountains of Erāq (-e Ajam) up to the domain of Ali Shokr; the Bakhtiari, who lived in Erāq (-e Ajam) between Kuh-e Gilu (=

Kuhgiluya), Behbahan, and Shushtar; and the Mamaysani (= Mamasani), who lived in Fars.

The other main group in this category consists of the Kurdish tribes: the Garrus; the Kalhor; the Mokri, whose abode stretched from Hamadan to the border of the Maragha district; and the Za'faranlu, Sa'danlu, Kavanlu, and Davanlu Kurds in the north of Khorasan.

The remaining groups said in the document to be of Iranian origin are the Jalayer around Marv-e Shahian, the Qara'i between Torbat (-e Haydariya) and (Torbat-e) Jam, the Langar, and the Jola'i. (In the other sources the Jalayer and the Qara'i are counted as Turks).

In the category of tribes "from outside," the first group named is that of the Turkish tribes: the Afshar, including the Shamlu, Qere?lu, and Sarvanlu, around Tus in Khorasan and Orumi (Urmia) in Azarbaijan and in several other parts of Iran (although the Bayat-e Donboli are stated in the document to have belonged to the Afshar tribe, they later broke away and made themselves the masters of Khoy and Salmas, later Shahpur); the Shaqaqi with summer and winter quarters in Azarbaijan and Gilan (in other sources the Shaqaqi and Donboli tribes are described as Kurds); the Qajar around Astarabad in Gorgan, Irvan (Erivan) in Azerbaijan, and Marv-e Shahian in Korasan (in the document the Zangana tribe, which is Kurdish, in Kerman-shah province and the Qaraguzlu tribe in Hamadan province are counted as Qajar) and the Shahsivan (= Shahsevan) living partly in Fars and partly in Azarbaijan and Gilan.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON MAY 17

|                                |             |
|--------------------------------|-------------|
| New cases                      | 352         |
| New deaths                     | 4           |
| Total cases                    | 7,228,786   |
| Total deaths                   | 141,236     |
| New hospitalized patients      | 68          |
| Patients in critical condition | 768         |
| Total recovered patients       | 7,024,787   |
| Diagnostic tests conducted     | 51,843,709  |
| Doses of vaccine injected      | 149,553,285 |

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## Precipitation forecast to reach above normal in next 3 months

The country is predicted to receive above normal rainfall over the next three months (February 20-May 21), head of the climatological research institute affiliated to Iran's Meteorological Organization (IMO) has said.

The whole country will meet normal and above normal rainfalls, the northern parts will receive above normal rainfall while southern provinces will receive normal to lower-than-normal rainfall, IRNA quoted Iman Babaeian as saying on Sunday.

This month, northern and eastern provinces will receive rain above normal averages, while in the first month of spring precipitation will be at normal amounts across the country, he noted, adding, during the second month of spring rainfall will reach its peak.

## بارش‌های کشور در سه ماه پیشِ رو بیش از نرمال است

رئیس پژوهشکده اقلیم‌شناسی سازمان هواشناسی گفت: پیش‌بینی‌ها نشان می‌دهد میزان بارش در کشور در سه ماهه پیش رو (اسفند ۹۷، فروردین و اردیبهشت ۹۸) در حد نرمال و متمایل به بیش از نرمال خواهد بود. ایمان باباییان روز یکشنبه در گفت‌وگو با خبرنگار ایرنا افزود: مجموع بارش‌ها در سطح کشور نرمال و متمایل به بیشتر از نرمال است اما در نیمه شمالی، بیشتر از نرمال و در نیمه جنوبی در محدوده نرمال تا کمتر از نرمال خواهد بود. وی اظهار داشت: بارش‌ها در اسفندماه ۹۷ در نیمه شمالی و شرقی بیشتر از نرمال است، در فروردین ماه ۹۸ نیز بارش‌ها در محدوده نرمال و برای اردیبهشت بیشتر از نرمال پیش‌بینی شده است.



