

# Resumption of Vienna Talks Awaits U.S. Decision

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## Opinion

### Failure to fix nuclear deal will be a gift to Trump

By M. A. Saki

A failure to resurrect the 2015 nuclear deal will be celebrated by Donald Trump and his lieutenants like Mike Pompeo and other Iran hawks.

Inaction by Biden and his team to fix the nuclear pact will somehow vindicate Trump for his illegal move in abrogating the hard-won agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

In that case, if Trump runs for president in 2024 elections, he will use his decision in quitting the nuclear deal in violation of UN Security Council Resolution 2231 as a strong tool to attack Biden and his fellow Democrats and that his decision was right. Even if another hardline Republican race for the White House, he or she will also seek to justify the reckless decision.

When elected president, Biden said "America is back". However, if he fails to materialize this promise, which one of its cornerstones is multilateralism, he will look weak both at home and abroad and will do a serious blow to America and the Democrats in particular.

It is more than a year that talks have started to revive the JCPOA, yet no breakthrough is seen. European Union foreign policy chief Josep Borrell is quite right that "the more we wait the more difficult it becomes to conclude negotiations."

Biden should realize the urgency of the situation and show enough courage to remove the hurdles created by Trump to make a return to the JCPOA difficult.

The American president should be more worried about the global image of his country that suffered greatly during the Trump presidency rather than antagonizing the opponents who are eyeing on winning more seats in the upcoming mid-term congressional elections. ► Page 2

## Report

### Retirement party for Uncle Sam

TEHRAN— In his speech for the West Point graduates, the United States Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff uttered a bitter confession. Mark Milley said that the United States is not the superpower of the world anymore.

Although the words mentioned above are not direct quotes, this is the first implication we have from the U.S. general's words.

"The world you are being commissioned into has the potential for a significant international conflict between great powers. And that potential is increasing, not decreasing," Milley told the cadets at the 2022 commencement ceremony in West Point, New York.

He then went on to refer to the changes that are being made in the international arena.

"And right now, at this very moment, a fundamental change is happening in the very character of war. We are facing right now two global powers, China and Russia, each with significant military capabilities, and both who fully intend to change the current rules-based order," Milley added.

According to the U.S. Joints Chief of Staff, Russia's invasion of Ukraine is teaching the world that "aggression left unanswered only emboldens the aggressor." ► Page 2



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As anger and grief mount one week after the massacre in the U.S. city of Buffalo, 75 percent of black Americans say they are worried that they or someone they love will be physically attacked because of their race.

The mass shooting by a sole gunman targeted a black neighborhood at a Buffalo supermarket killing ten people and injuring three others in what authorities described as a "racially motivated attack". The massacre is being labeled as an act of terrorism in other parts of the world.

According to a new joint poll by the Washington Post and Ipsos, three-quarters of Black Americans across the country have voiced concern and worry that they or someone they love will be physically attacked on the basis of their skin color. ► Page 5

### Banks finance over 5,400 SMEs, semi-finished projects in a year

TEHRAN – Iranian banking system has provided 240.314 trillion rials (about \$937.3 million) of financial facilities to 5,410 small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) over the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20), according to the latest report by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry.

As IRIB reported, the mentioned facilities were paid under the framework of the Industry Ministry's program for financing SMEs and semi-finished projects with over 60 percent progress.

Based on the report, over 17,158 units applied for the mentioned facilities during the previous

year among which 9,500 were eligible to receive the loans.

The number of paid loans to SMEs and semi-finished projects increased by 13 percent compared to the Iranian calendar year 1399 (ended on March 20, 2021) while the value of the paid facilities also increased by 7.3 percent. ► Page 4

## Report

### Employment development through nanotechnology

By Faranak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – Unemployment of university graduates is one of the most important social issues in the country, which can be overcome with the help of knowledge-based nanotechnology companies.

The issue of employment is one of the most basic needs of every society so increasing employment and reducing unemployment are considered the main indicators of development.

Given the vital role of a specialized and educated workforce in the process of economic, social, and cultural development, and also considering that a huge amount of budget is spent annually on training costs, if the specialized and educated workforce is ► Page 7



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### National Organ Donation Day celebrated

Families of organ donors along with officials, artists, and athletes came together at the Milad Tower in Tehran to celebrate National Organ Donation Day, May 21.

The history of organ and tissue transplantation in Iran dates back to 1935 when a patient's cornea was transplanted in one of Tehran's hospitals.

### Achaemenid tablets returned to Persepolis for public show

TEHRAN – A selection of Achaemenid clay tablets, which were on loan from Iran to the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago since 1935, has recently been put on show in the UNESCO-registered Persepolis.

The show named "Returning Home" was officially inaugurated on Sunday to commemorate Iran's cultural heritage week, which comes to an end on May 24, IRNA reported.

"A selection of 110 (clay tablets), which can be

categorized into 12 groups, have been transferred to Persepolis from the National Museum of Iran," Fars province's tourism chief said on Sunday.

"So far, more than 2,000 clay tablets have been returned home as the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts are trying its best to recover the rest," Seyyed Moayyed Mohsennejad added.

In 2019, a total of 1,783 tablets were returned home from the Oriental Institute after 84 years.

"These treasured documents decipher an important segment of recorded history of Achaemenids during the reign of Darius I (Darius the Great who reigned from 522 to 486 BC)," said Jebrail Nokandeh, director of the National Museum of Iran.

In February 2018, following years of ups and downs, the fate of those ancient Persian artifacts was left in the hands of the U.S. Supreme Court, which ruled in favor of Iran. ► Page 6

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## Opinion

### Realizing CNG potentials through dual-fuel cars: merits and challenges

By Ebrahim Fallahi

TEHRAN – Holding nearly 18 percent of the global gas reserves, Iran is one of the most hydrocarbon-rich areas in the world, and the country's giant South Pars gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf, is by far the world's largest natural gas field.

Despite having abundant natural gas resources, the Islamic Republic is also one of the world's leading gasoline consumer countries, and a great part of the country's 100-million-liter gasoline output is used inside the country, while the exports of the mentioned fuel can be an excellent source of income for the country and less gasoline consumption would also mean less air pollution and a cleaner environment.

**Promoting CNG consumption by making dual-fuel cars**

Tackling this issue, the Iranian government has been promoting the use of Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) as a replacement for gasoline over the past few years and has declared the CNG as the country's national fuel.

Following the above-mentioned declaration, in December 2019, the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company (NIORDC) and Iran's state-owned Iran Khodro Company (IKCO) signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to add new dual-fuel vehicles to the country's public transportation fleet. ► Page 4

## Report

### World Cup prep: Iran likely to play Senegal

TEHRAN – Iran national football team will likely face African powerhouses Senegal ahead of the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

The football federation of Iran has already confirmed the friendly match with Ecuador but the two parties have not yet reached the point where they play the friendly.

Iran will meet Canada on June 5 in Vancouver and the federation announced that they are ready to play the South American team in Toronto but the match has not been finalized.

Dragan Skocic's team will play Senegal in Tehran if the match with Ecuador is cancelled.

Reigning Africa Cup of Nations champions Senegal have been drawn against hosts Qatar, the Netherlands and Ecuador in Group A in the 2022 World Cup.

Iran, who are playing in their third straight World Cup after featuring in the 2014 and 2018, are also pitted in Group B along with England, the U.S., and one of Ukraine, Wales or Scotland.

The 2022 FIFA World Cup will be held in Qatar, from Nov. 21 to Dec. 18.

This will be the first World Cup ever to be held in the Arab world, and it will be the second World Cup held entirely in Asia after the 2002 tournament was held in South Korea and Japan.



## Retirement party for Uncle Sam

From page 1 ► However, he refused to acknowledge that the U.S. war on Afghanistan in 2001 were not properly responded, and this led to the chutzpah of the Americans who invaded Iraq.

On Thursday, former U.S. President George W. Bush condemned the “decision of one man to launch a wholly unjustified and brutal invasion of Iraq,” Whoops! “I mean of Ukraine,” he added a second later, as laughter rang out in the room.

On the other hand, the Israelis are killing the Palestinians left and right, but barely any country responds to their atrocities. As the only regime that shoots journalists in the head, they have been “emboldened,” as Milley puts it.

The U.S. general added, “Let us never forget the massacre that we have just witnessed in Bucha nor the slaughter that occurred in Mariupol. And the best way to honor their sacrifice is to support their fight for freedom and to stand against tyranny.”

The people of Iraq have been standing against tyranny since 2003, but the tyrants have not “entirely” left their soil. It takes some guts to utter these words with cold blood, but somehow, U.S. officials are that cheeky.

Explaining the developments in the world, Milley told the cadets at West Point, “You’ll be fighting with robotic tanks and ships and airplanes.”

He added that the world has witnessed a “revolution in lethality and precision munitions.”

“What was once the exclusive province of the United States military is now available to most nation states with the money will to acquire

them,” Milley noted, leaving out Iran, the country who has not purchased anything and has relied on its domestic technology to further advance its defensive equipment.

The U.S. general believes that artificial intelligence is “resulting in that profound change, the most profound change ever in human history.”

“Whatever overmatch we the United States enjoyed militarily for the last 70 years is closing quickly. And the United States will be, in fact, we already are challenged in every domain of warfare in space and cyber, maritime air and, of course, land,” Milley bitterly confessed.

The confession, although uttered late, is still better than never. The U.S. has long lost its superiority and dominance in the world in various fields, such as military equipment, economic superiority, political dominance, and so on. However, the administration is still trying to maintain the master-slave relationship with the most countries in the world.

Perhaps Milley can remind Joe Biden that the master-slave relationship era is over. Diplomacy is the only thing that could prevail in the current global order, and if the United States wants to survive in this new order, it must stop dictating others what to do and what not to do.

Biden can start changing the U.S. attitude with the Vienna talks. If it agrees to stop dictating terms and making excessive, out of context demands, an agreement in Palais Coburg is closer than ever.

There is not much time. Opportunities are like clouds. Seize them before they disappear.

## Failure to fix nuclear deal will be a gift to Trump

From page 1 ► It will be highly regrettable to allow the negotiations that started in 2003 and finally led to the conclusion of the JCPOA in July 2015 and more than a year of efforts to revitalize it to collapse.

The U.S. and Iran can pin their hopes on settling certain other issues if the agreement is revived. A revived JCPOA may serve as a stepping stone to agree on certain issues which the two sides don’t differ such as war on terrorism and fighting

climate change.

However, if the chance to fix the nuclear agreement is lost not only Trump and other Iran hawks, including those in Israel, will be delighted, other wrong-headed persons around the world will also be energized and disrespect to international law and multilateralism will be more undermined.

And finally, Biden must be careful not to fall into a trap set by Trump, his lieutenants and propagandists in Tel Aviv.

## IRGC colonel assassinated in downtown Tehran

TEHRAN— The IRGC public relations office announced an IRGC colonel was martyred in downtown Tehran on Sunday at 4:00 pm.

Colonel Sayad Khodaei, who also fought against Daesh in Syria, was martyred in a terrorist act committed by “the anti-Revolution

and agents affiliated with global arrogance,” the IRGC said in a press release.

Condoling the martyrdom of the Quds Force military man, it emphasized “the necessary action to identify and arrest the assailant or assailants is anticipated and underway.”

## IRGC demolishes network of thugs affiliated with Israeli regime

TEHRAN— The public relations office of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps has announced in a statement the arrest of a network of thugs related to the Israeli regime’s intelligence service.

The statement which was issued on Sunday afternoon said, “This network, by the direction

of the Zionist regime’s intelligence service, attempted to steal and destroy personal and public property, kidnap and obtain fake confessions through a network of thugs. The agents of this network were arrested by the Islamic Revolution Guard Corps and the Ministry of Intelligence.”

## Iran, Slovakia embark on expanding mutual trade

TEHRAN— In continuation of Iran’s active diplomacy, Slovakia’s deputy economy minister came to Tehran to take part in a joint economic commission.

On Saturday morning, Jan Oravec met with Iran’s Deputy Foreign Minister for Economic Diplomacy, Mehdi Safari.

Oravec expressed his pleasure over the trip to Iran and described the economic potential of the two countries as huge.

The Slovak deputy minister of economy noted that there is a good potential for cooperation between Iran and Slovakia in various areas such as industries, agriculture, machinery and new technologies which will be taken into account while drawing up the final document of the joint commission.

He also described as important the capacity of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) for bilateral cooperation and expressed hope that trade relations between Iran and Slovakia would expand more than ever.

For his part, Safari referred to the history of cooperation between Iran and Slovakia in the field of industry, describing the holding of the joint economic commission as a key step toward strengthening bilateral trade cooperation.

He further pointed to the high economic potential of Iran and outlined the country’s achievements in the field of new technologies.

Safari also underlined the need to pay due attention to such advantages in bilateral cooperation.

# Iran’s Kharrazi: Tehran, Riyadh chose dialogue to resolve disputes

*Mora’s trip to Tehran paved the way for further talks in Vienna*

TEHRAN— Seyyed Kamal Kharrazi, President of the Iran’s Strategic Council on Foreign Relations, has touched on numerous issues at the first Iran-Arabs World Conference.

Speaking at the conference initiated by the Al-Jazeera Al-Darassat Institute in Doha, Kharrazi said, “The purpose of this meeting is to achieve a common understanding of the challenges and opportunities in relations between Iranians and Arabs in the current world.”

Referring to the services and mutual relations between Iran and the Arabs throughout the history of Islam and emphasizing that the great Islamic civilization is the pride of Iranians and Arabs, he said what is important now is a lesson to be learned from the formation of this civilization.

Kharrazi stated that Iran, above all, has a civilized view of the Islamic world and never separates itself from other Muslim nations, especially its Arab-speaking neighbors.

He then said the Islamic Republic system in Iran is based on “unity and coalition of Islamic nations.”

The former foreign minister added, “Iran is trying to cooperate with other countries in the region in order to develop the West Asian region and at a broader level, the Islamic world. This is not a cross-cutting policy, but a principled policy based on the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Iran.”

Explaining that the strategic policy of Iran in West Asia is that “security” and “development” are interconnected and inseparable concepts, Kharrazi continued, “Politics is based on three basic approaches: First, security is a matter which is interconnected and has a direct relationship with the security of other countries in the region. Second, security is not a commodity that can be purchased, but is achieved in the process of collective interaction and cooperation. Finally, economic relations with the countries of the region are an important factor in ensuring regional security.

He then pointed to Iran’s opposition to the presence of foreigners, particularly the United States and the Israeli regime, in the region, saying this policy is precisely in line with the protection of the security of the entire region.

“History has shown that the presence of foreign forces in the region has always led to successive conflicts and even war,” he added.



“From Iran’s point of view, the security of the Persian Gulf and each of its countries is considered the security of Iran, and insecurity in any part of it is considered the insecurity of Iran,” noted Kharrazi, who was Iran’s foreign minister from 1997-2005.

Kharrazi underlined that Iran has always emphasized dialogue as an effective way to clear up misunderstandings, resolve disputes and find a way to strengthen affinities. Therefore, he said, the best solution to security-wise problems in the West Asian region and the Persian Gulf is to increase fraternal, but frank dialogue between the countries of the region.

The former Iranian envoy to the United Nations described initiatives such as HOPE (the Hormuz Peace Endeavour) by Iran or prioritizing “neighborhood policy” as “signs of the determination and seriousness of the Islamic Republic of Iran in strengthening and expanding its relations with its southern neighbors and Persian Gulf Cooperation Council countries.”

According to Kharrazi, there is a similar mutual interest in the countries of the region, such as the efforts of the governments of Qatar, Oman and Iraq to establish peace.

“We firmly believe that all capacities should be used to strengthen bilateral and multilateral regional relations. Undoubtedly, promoting good neighborliness and establishing mechanisms for regional cooperation will increase the role of the regional countries at the international level,” he underscored.

**Iran-Saudi Arabia can complete each other’s capacity to ensure peace**

Elsewhere in his speech, the chief of the Strategic Council on Foreign Relations described Iran-Saudi relations, the Yemeni crisis, Iran’s view of Iraq, and the Palestinian issue as four central issues in Iran-Arab relations.

“Iran and Saudi Arabia cannot have a holistic view of each other

and as the two main powers in the region can complement each other’s capacities to ensure peace and stability and development in the region. The two countries have chosen the path of dialogue to resolve their differences by participating in five rounds of talks facilitated with the efforts of the Iraqi government,” he noted.

Regarding Iran-Saudi relations, Kharrazi said Tehran attaches great importance to Saudi Arabia as a major country in the region.

Clarifying on the issue of Yemen, he noted that the crisis in Yemen is one of the most important concerns in the region.

“This crisis is not just a result of Yemen’s internal conflicts, and Iran has always believed that the Yemeni issue has no military solution, a fact that everyone now acknowledges after seven years of war and destruction. We have made great efforts to prevent the killing of the innocent people of Yemen and to replace this bloody conflict with peaceful solutions.

Establishing ceasefire, lifting the siege, providing an atmosphere for Yemeni-Yemeni dialogue and finally forming a government based on the will of the Yemeni people has been the principled position of the Islamic Republic of Iran since the beginning of the war in Yemen and Iran continues to strive for its realization,” he underscored.

**Iran considers existence of a secure Iraq in its interest**

Regarding Iran’s third major issue in the Arab world, Kharrazi said Iran supports the formation of a strong, popular government in Iraq, as the security of Iraq and Iran are interdependent.

“We consider the existence of a secure and strong Iraq to be in the interest of Iran’s security and the security of the entire region, and we believe that Iraq’s positive role in regional developments will contribute to the formation of a collective security system in the region. Therefore, we encourage all Iraqi political currents to agree to form a government in that

country,” he added.

**There is no limit to Israelis’ crimes**

In another part of his remarks, the former foreign minister touched on the issue of Palestine as the chief headache of the Islamic Ummah.

“The Israeli regime continues to violate the rights of the Palestinians, so that in recent days we have witnessed the targeted killing of the brave Al Jazeera correspondent Shireen Abu Akleh by the Israeli forces and once again the Zionists showed that there is no limit to their crimes and even journalists are not safe from being killed,” He lamented.

According to Kharrazi, it is unfortunate that while the Arab countries are expected to defend the oppressed nation of Palestine in the face of the crimes of the Israeli regime, some have put the normalization of relations with this regime on their agenda.

“The Islamic Republic of Iran emphasizes that letting the Zionist regime into the Persian Gulf region will not lead to stability and security, because the Zionist regime has no goal other than creating conflict in the region and distancing the Persian Gulf countries from each other. In any case, the Islamic Republic of Iran will not allow the occupying regime of Quds to nest in this region,” he underscored.

**Indigenous peaceful nuclear technology in line with Iran’s national interest**

In the last part of the forum, Kharrazi answered the host’s questions.

In response to a question about the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal, he stated, “We have achieved nuclear technology without foreign dependence, and we consider the development of indigenous peaceful nuclear technology to be in our national interest.”

He reiterated that others are not allowed to determine whether Iran has the right to acquire nuclear technology.

“Iran has repeatedly stated that it only intends to use nuclear energy peacefully. In the current negotiations between Iran and Western countries, there are few issues that need to be resolved. Mora, the EU special envoy, recently arrived in Iran and the way was paved for the continuation of the talks,” he concluded.

**The Biden's Death plan**

- Hunter Biden's laptop emails are revealing connections to securing U.S. funding for deadly pathogen research,
- for a "science project" with high biosecurity level labs in Ukraine.
- Metabiota is billed to be a medical data company, but its vice president emailed Hunter Biden in April 2014 with a proposal
- to "assert Ukraine's cultural and economic independence from Russia," according to the Mail.
- senior CIA officer Sam Faddis told the Mail : "It raises the question, What is the real purpose of this venture? It's very odd,"
- why a medical data company should talk to Hunter Biden about Ukraine's independence
- The Defense Department awarded Metabiota an \$18.4 million contract between February 2014 and November 2014
- he helped Defense Department contractor Metabiota secure millions in contracts for research
- on pandemic-causing diseases that could be used as bioweapons.
- he introduced Metabiota to the corrupt Ukrainian gas firm Burisma

Source: newsmag



# Resumption of Vienna talks awaits U.S. decision

TEHRAN – After a three-day visit by the European Union’s coordinator for the talks in Vienna between Iran and major world powers, speculations resurfaced again that the revival of the 2015 Iran nuclear could happen soon.

But the current state of play between Iran and the U.S. suggests that the ball is in Washington’s court and that without a political decision from the White House the resuscitation of the nuclear deal, formally called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), would be far from being in the air.

Enrique Mora, the chief EU negotiator in the Vienna talks, paid a visit to Tehran on May 10 and stayed in the Iranian capital for about three days in a highly charged atmosphere marked by U.S. procrastination in terms of making the necessary political decisions required to push the stalled talks forward.

The visit was carried out at the initiative of EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell who described the effort as a “last bullet.” Borrell said he was dispatching Mora to Tehran for a “middle way” solution to the stalemated talks. He also outlined the broad contours of the aims of the visit. According to Borrell, Europe prepared a proposal under which the U.S. would approve removing the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) from its blacklist but retain its sanctions on the military organization.

In Tehran, Mora met with Iran’s



chief nuclear negotiator Ali Bagheri Kani. Very few details have been leaked to the press about what happened in Mora’s meetings with Iranian officials. But it seems that conveyed what Borrell openly said ahead of the visit. Hadi Afghahi, a former Iranian diplomat, told the Arabic-language Iran News Agency that Mora carried two messages: One is related to Europe’s desire to import energy from Iran in light of the war in Ukraine and the other includes ideas about the IRGC designation. According to Afghahi, Mora carried American proposals that included lifting the sanctions on some Iranian entities and companies, but keeping the IRGC and some of its figures on the U.S. blacklist. The American proposals also included a paragraph calling on Iran not to avenge the assassination of top IRGC general Qassem Soleimani, according to Afghahi.

If true, the U.S. proposals are

no different from what American officials already said to the press. The U.S. inaction over the talks seems to have prompted Iran to take the initiative again. Ali Hashem, a UK-based journalist who is close to the Axis of Resistance, said in a report for Al-Monitor that Iran presented Mora with new ideas that are “more than suggestions” to break the deadlock of the talks.

“Al-Monitor learned from multiple sources in Tehran that what was presented to the EU official were more than suggestions. ‘The Iranian side handed Mora a proposal with revisited ideas,’ an official source in Tehran told Al-Monitor,” Hashem wrote. “According to the same source, ‘the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) issue isn’t centric in the new proposal. It’s there, but there are other issues with more priority.’”

Hashem also quoted an Iranian official source as implying that the ball is now in the U.S.’s court. “The

Biden administration should decide, it can’t stay in the middle between the policies of [former President Donald] Trump and what [President Joe] Biden repeated during his election campaign. They master the art of over-simplifying complex issues, and taking things out of context, and this is creating more rifts over the nuclear agreement. It’s really easy to return to the deal, but Biden’s administration wants to have the cake and eat it at the same time, which isn’t possible,” the source told Hashem.

In his recent phone conversation with Borrell, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian referred to the recent visit by Mora to Tehran and said during his trip, some initiatives were reviewed.

Amir Abdollahian pointed to the seriousness of the Islamic Republic of Iran about reaching a strong and lasting deal in Vienna, saying Tehran has the goodwill and necessary determination to reach an agreement.

The top Iranian diplomat also thanked Borrell and Mora for their constructive efforts in this regard.

During the telephone conversation, the EU foreign policy chief put emphasis on Iran’s initiatives during the Vienna talks, saying, “We are now on a new path of continuing dialog and focusing on solutions”.

Borrell added, “We are determined to continue our efforts in constant touch with Tehran and Washington to bring their views closer together.”

Borrell then said he is optimistic about reaching a good deal.

## SPORTS

### Iran men beat S. Korea in IWBF Asia Oceania Championships

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Korea Republic 56-50 in International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) Asia Oceania Championships opening match on Sunday.

Iran, who started the campaign with a 47-44 loss against Australia, will play Japan on Monday.

Australia, Iran, Japan, Thailand, Malaysia and South Korea will compete in Pool A.

Afghanistan, Saudi Arabia, the UAE, Iraq and the Philippines have been placed into Pool B of the tournament.

The top two teams in Pool B will join the six Pool A sides in the quarter-finals of the competition.

The competition will be held in Phuket, Thailand from May 20 to 28.

### Iranian women come first at Asian Alysh Wrestling Championship

TEHRAN – Iranian women team finished in first place in the Asian Alysh Wrestling Championship.

The competition was held Osh, Kyrgyzstan and more than 300 athletes from 14 countries competed in the competition.

The Iranian wrestlers won a gold, four silver medals and one bronze.

Iran claimed the title with 115 points, followed by Kyrgyzstan (112) and Uzbekistan (94).

The event served as qualification for the 2022 World Nomad Games.

### No Tractor fans at home games until further notice

TEHRAN – Tractor fans are not allowed to enter Yadegar-e Emam Stadium in Tabriz until further notice.

The Disciplinary Committee of Iran football federation said on Saturday the match against Fajr Sepasi, slated for Tuesday will be held in an empty stadium.

On Thursday, the match between Tractor and Persepolis football teams was halted after Tractor fans threw objects at the players.

The match was held at the Yadegar-e Emam Stadium and the fans threw objects at the Persepolis players from the beginning of the match.

An object thrown from the stands hit a player and the match was abandoned for the minutes.

The referee finally halted the match in the 70th minute and the players retreated to the tunnel.

### Iran women fall short against Japan in IWBF Asia Oceania Championships

TEHRAN – Iran lost to Japan 66-34 in the International Wheelchair Basketball Federation (IWBF) Asia Oceania Championships in Phuket, Thailand on Sunday.

The Iranian team had lost to Australia 61-30 in their opening match on Saturday.

China won the women’s tournament at the last IWBF Asia Oceania Championships, but are absent this year for COVID-19 reasons.

Australia, Japan, Thailand and Iran are contesting the women’s tournament.

The women’s competition is scheduled to wrap up on May 27.

### Friendly: Iran U23 football team to play Iraq twice

TEHRAN – Iran U23 football team will play Iraq U23 team on May 24 and 27 in Baghdad.

Mehdi Mahdavia’s team left Tehran Saturday night to hold a camp in the Iraqi city.

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.

### Iran, Ecuador match on verge of cancelation

TEHRAN – The friendly match between Iran and Ecuador football teams will most likely be canceled.

Team Melli were supposed to play the South American team on June 11 in Toronto.

Iran football federation has announced that the match will likely be canceled.

Dragan Skocic’s team will likely play Senegal instead of Ecuador in Tehran on June 11.

Iran will meet Canada on June 5 in Vancouver.

### Taremi not for sale: A Bola

TEHRAN – A Portuguese newspaper reported that FC Porto have no intention of transferring Mehdi Taremi to other teams this season.

In a report on Saturday, A Bola announced that Taremi will play in Porto in the 2022-23 season for the third consecutive year.

Taremi joined Porto in August 2020 on a four-year contract. This will be his third season with the top Portuguese club.

Taremi’s promising performance in the past seasons led to putting him on the radar of prominent teams across Europe such as Arsenal and AC Milan.

Meanwhile, as Porto have always been active in transfer windows, speculations raised that Taremi may move to another team this summer.

FC Porto have sold several players to Manchester United, Sevilla, AS Roma, and Liverpool in the past two seasons. This shows that talent detectors of top European teams pay extra attention to the Portuguese team.

Taremi has been named the most influential player of Primeira Liga with 20 goals and 12 assists, helping the team to claim the league’s title.

Porto and Taremi play against Tondela in the final of Taca de Portugal.

### Iran volleyball to play two friendlies with Serbia

TEHRAN – Iran national volleyball team will depart for Serbia on May 29, the director of Iran volleyball team said.

Team Melli will play two friendly matches with Serbia in the training camp.

Behrouz Ataei’s men will hold camp as part of preparation for the 2022 FIVB Volleyball Men’s Nations League.

It will be the fourth edition of the FIVB Volleyball Men’s Nations League, an annual men’s international volleyball tournament. The preliminary round will be held during five weeks between 7 June and 10 July 2022. The final round will be held from 20 to 24 July 2022.

As there was no promotion or relegation in the 2021 VNL, 15 of the same 16 teams in 2021 are competing in this year’s edition.

On 1 March 2022, FIVB declared Russia and Belarus not eligible for international and continental competitions due to Russia’s invasion of Ukraine. As a result, Russia was out of the competition. On 29 April 2022, FIVB announced China replaced Russia for the competition.

## Raisi visit embodies good neighborliness between Tehran, Muscat: Oman

TEHRAN – The Diwan of the Royal Court of Oman issued a statement on Saturday in which it considered the visit of Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi this week to the Sultanate an embodiment of good neighborliness and the good relations between the Sultanate of Oman and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The statement added that the visit comes within the framework of the keenness of Sultan Haitham bin Tariq and President Raisi to strengthen bilateral ties in various fields in line with the interests of the two friendly countries.

The statement pointed out that during the Monday visit of the President of Iran to the Sultanate of Oman areas and common aspects between the two neighboring countries will be discussed in a way that contributes to achieving their interests and aspirations.



The Iranian presidency also issued a similar statement on the visit. “Ayatollah Dr. Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi is going to visit to the capital, Muscat, at the official invitation of the Sultan of Oman Haitham bin Tarik Al-Said, on Monday, May 23, at the head of a high-ranking delegation to follow the neighborhood diplomacy of the Popular Government and to expand the fields of economic, political and cultural interactions,” the Iranian statement said.

It added, “The official welcoming ceremony is going to be held at Al Alam Palace, and the programs of the visit will be a bilateral meeting with the Sultan of Oman, the signing of several cooperation documents, a meeting with Iranians residing in the country and a meeting with Omani businesspeople and economic actors in the one-day visit.”

The statement concluded, “Dr. Raisi’s visit to Muscat is the first visit of the President of Iran to the country during the term of the new Sultan of Oman and the fifth foreign visit of the President in the 9 months after the establishment of the 13th Administration. In order to expand the fields of economic and trade relations between Iran and Oman, a delegation of 50 Iranian businesspeople and economic actors have travelled to the country.”

## Iran rejects remarks attributed to Ayatollah Khamenei on Vienna talks

TEHRAN – Spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry Saeed Khatibzadeh has reacted to reports attributing remarks to the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei about the talks in Vienna over reviving a 2015 nuclear deal.

On Saturday, several Persian-language media outlets quoted an Al Jazeera report as saying that Ayatollah Khamenei had told the Qatari Emir that he was ready for a compromise on the Vienna talks. The Al Jazeera report, in turn, cited Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Abdulrahman’s interview with German newspaper Handelsblatt in which he pointed to the readiness of the Iranian “leadership” to reach common ground on the Vienna talks.

Khatibzadeh told Tasnim that the Qatari account of the remarks made during Ayatollah Khamenei’s meeting with Emir of Qatar Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad was fully incorrect and it seems that Al Jazeera mistranslated the Qatari foreign minister’s remarks.

“The Supreme Leader didn’t speak of compromise. Instead, he told the Emir of Qatar: ‘We have always said that negotiations should be result-oriented (and) not a waste of time. The Americans know what to do to achieve that,’” Khatibzadeh said.

He added, “It is quite clear from the content of the Supreme Leader’s remarks that the ball is in America’s court, which must make

a wise political decision to fulfill its obligations.”

Of note, the Persian word for compromise is sazesht, which connotes an extremely negative political meaning equal to surrender in Iran. Some Persian-language outlets used this word in translating the comments of the Qatari foreign minister and claimed that the Leader of the Islamic Revolution used the word in his meeting with the Emir of Qatar, something that was rejected by Khatibzadeh.

The Qatari foreign minister said that the Iranian leadership had told the Qatari side that it was ready for a middle-ground solution to the standoff, according to Al Jazeera.

He told Handelsblatt that a solution to the Iranian file would support stability in the Persian Gulf. He added that pumping additional quantities of Iranian oil to the market would help stabilize crude prices and reduce inflation.

Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani and his entourage met with Ayatollah Khamenei on May 12, 2022.

Speaking at the meeting, the Leader stressed the necessity of increasing political and economic relations between Iran and Qatar, according to the khamenei.ir. He stated that the way to resolve regional issues must be sought without the interference of foreign elements. Referring to the continuation of the crimes committed by the Zionist regime against the

people of Palestine, he said, “The Arab world is expected to explicitly enter into political action against these open crimes.”

Ayatollah Khamenei emphasized that the solidarity and stability of relations between Iran and Qatar is to the advantage of both countries and added, “The level of current economic dealings between the two countries is very low and it should increase to several times of this amount. Regarding political matters too, the ground is ready for more exchange of ideas. I hope this trip will mark a new beginning for expanding cooperation.”

While expressing his agreement with the statements of the Emir of Qatar in condemnation of the crimes committed by the Zionist regime, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution described the decades-long oppression of the vicious Zionists against the Palestinian people to be a bitter reality and a blow to the world of Islam. He said, “Against such crimes, the Islamic Republic of Iran expects the Arab world to explicitly enter the arena of political action.”

Referring to the statements of the Emir of Qatar regarding last year’s events in Sheikh Jarrah, Ayatollah Khamenei said, “Regarding that matter, some Arab countries’ support for the Palestinians was even less than that of some European countries. They took no stance, and presently too, they’re



## Banks finance over 5,400 SMEs, semi-finished projects in a year



From page 1 ► Over the past three years, the Central Bank of Iran (CBI) has been collaborating with the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry for implementing a program based on which bank facilities are provided to SMEs and semi-finished

projects.

The mentioned facilities are mainly provided for renewing machinery, equipping production units, or completing semi-finished projects.

In early May 2019, Former CBI Governor Abdolnaser Hemmati had outlined CBI plans for neutralizing or relieving the impact of U.S. sanctions on the country's economy and mentioned providing liquidity and working capital to maintain and boost domestic production as one of those plans.

CBI's plans take two major approaches, one of which is to secure finance for production activities and also to provide the working capital needed for such activities.

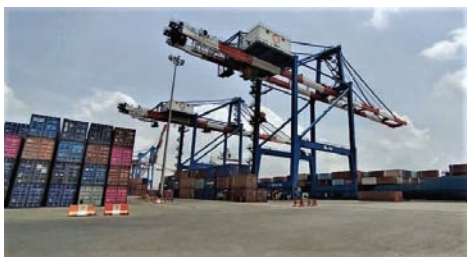
## Kazakhstan calls for expansion of maritime co-op with Iran

TEHRAN – Kazakhstan has called on Iran to take the necessary measures for the expansion of cooperation between the ports of the two countries, the portal of Iranian Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) reported.

As reported, a delegation from Kazakhstan's ports and rail transportation sectors including Chairman of the Executive Board of the country's Aktau port Turikpenbaev Abay Nogaevich visited Iran on Sunday and held a meeting with PMO's Director-General for Port Affairs Jalil Eslami to discuss ways of expanding mutual collaborations.

In the meeting, the Kazakh side emphasized that the two countries can also increase interactions between the ports of the countries in the region.

The head of the Kazakh delegation noted that his country is able to send up to six million tons of goods to Iran through railway, stressing that the capabilities of Shahid Rajaei port for distributing



and transiting goods in the region are much more than the current volume.

"It is possible for us to transit a significant volume of goods, including coal, from Kazakhstan to Iran and then to third countries," the official said.

He underlined the history of cooperation between his country and Iran's northern ports, saying: "We can cooperate with Iran as a friend and brother country with greater capacity in terms of cargo and transit."

## ICCIMA board of representatives holds 22nd meeting to discuss economic issues



TEHRAN – The board of representatives of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) held its 22nd meeting on Sunday during which various economic issues including the elimination of the subsidized foreign currency allocations for the import of basic goods, were discussed.

As reported by the ICCIMA portal, the meeting, which was the first gathering of the ICCIMA board members in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21), was chaired by the ICCIMA Head Gholam-Hossein Shafeie.

Speaking in the meeting, Shafeie touched upon major topics including the importance of knowledge-based production, the recent accusations leveled against the ICCIMA, the government's new economic policies, and the elimination of the import duty exemption for manufacturing and industrial machinery.

The official further criticized the government's disregard for the private sector's proposals in the process of eliminating subsidized foreign currency allocations.

He called on the government to consider people's livelihood as the priority before implementing any economic program or reform plan.

"The stability of macroeconomic variables, especially the exchange rate, is the first important issue. Another point is that changing the pricing mechanisms does not improve the production process alone," he said.

# Realizing CNG potentials through dual-fuel cars: merits and challenges

From page 1 ► The mentioned MOU was signed following a resolution by the Government Economic Council that targeted adding 146 million dual-fuel vehicles to the public transportation fleet.

Now, over two years after the beginning of the said program, about 200,000 vehicles have become dual-fuel and 350 million liters of gasoline are saved, according to a member of the country's CNG Industry Abscission.

"In the last two years, conversion of about 200,000 vehicles to dual-fuel has resulted in a saving of 350 million liters in gasoline consumption, and it is expected that higher savings will be achieved with the full implementation of the Government Economic Council's resolution in this regard," Navid Khaseh-Baf said in a press conference on Saturday.

According to Khaseh-Baf, although the goal of the program was only turning the public transportation fleet into dual-fuel vehicles, later the resolution was amended and other passenger cars and cars affiliated with online transportation services like Snap were also allowed to be included in this program.

Based on the new amendments,



the government pays for 75 percent of the conversion costs through bank loans offered to the car owners.

As mentioned earlier, increasing the number of the country's dual-fuel cars would mean a reduction in gasoline consumption; this gasoline could be exported and the earned revenues could be used for further development of such CNG-promoting programs.

**Necessary infrastructure must be developed**

In order for government's CNG promoting programs to succeed, the necessary infrastructure must be also developed.

Some experts believe that although the government is promoting the

use of CNG as the national fuel, the necessary infrastructure for the transition from gasoline to CNG is not well prepared in the country.

In an interview with Eghtesad Online, Hamidreza Salehi, the deputy head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA)'s Energy Committee, said: "One of the most important infrastructures needed for promoting CNG consumption is setting up enough CNG stations across the country, which unfortunately are not well provided even in metropolises such as Tehran."

"Many provinces lack enough gas stations, Sistan-Baluchestan is one of the most prominent examples in

this regard," he added.

"Government is inviting people to change their cars into dual-fuel ones; however, we see little changes in infrastructure and in the number of CNG stations, this could result in long lines at CNG stations and could add to the problem," he said.

In addition to the mentioned infrastructure, Salehi believed that another important aspect of the issue is the lack of education and cultural promotion of proper and optimized fuel consumption.

**What should be done**

Constructing new CNG stations in the country in order for people to have easy access to the fuel; monitoring the country's auto industry in order to produce high-quality dual-fuel vehicles, and also supervising the process of converting gasoline-fuel cars into dual-fuel ones in order to prevent equipment-related safety hazards, and finally teaching people about the merits of using clean fuels and the impact which they would have on the environment, can be mentioned as some of the ways through which the government would be able to successfully implement its plans for establishing CNG as the national fuel.

## Commodities worth nearly \$680m traded at IME in a week

TEHRAN- During the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday), 2,167,485 million tons of commodities worth more than \$679 million were traded at Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME).

As reported by the IME's Public Relations and International Affairs Department, the exchange traded on its metals and minerals trading floor 1.748 million tons of commodities valued at almost \$374 million.

On this floor, the IME's customers purchased 1,187,798 tons of cement, 170,000 tons of iron ore, 215,565 tons of steel, 83,000 tons of sponge iron, 11,925 tons of aluminum, 9,550 tons of copper, 140 tons of lead, 70,900 tons of zinc, 200 tons of molybdenum concentrate and 10 kg of gold bars.

Next was the IME's automobile trading floor with trades of 103 Cara Sedan automobiles.

Furthermore, the IME witnessed on both domestic and export rings of its oil and petrochemical trading floor 412,363 tons of



commodities worth more than \$296 million.

The exchange's customers purchased on this floor 114,185 tons of bitumen, 96,580 tons of polymeric products, 23,000 tons of lube cut, 121,650 tons of vacuum bottom, 41,125 tons of chemicals, 10,560 tons of sulfur, 4,330 tons of base oil, 110 tons of insulation and 70 tons of argon.

Last but not least was the IME's side market with 6,236 tons of commodities traded on it.

## TEDPIX rises 2,400 points on Sunday

Stock Exchange has been very good in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), and it is predicted that the growing trend of the exchanges will continue in the present year as well.

"Considering the general provisions approved in this year's budget bill we expect that companies will have good capital increase and take positive development measures, and it will be easier for investors to make decisions," Majid Eshqi told the press on March 12.

Mentioning the measures taken for the improvement of the market in the

past year, the official said: "For nearly 12 years, no new brokerage companies were established across the country, but since late October 2021, a licensing permit has been issued in this regard and a new brokerage firm has also been established."

The establishment of new financial institutions including investment funds, investment consulting companies, financing firms, and financial information processing companies were also mentioned as other steps taken in this regard.

Eshqi also pointed to the launch of Iran's largest and most advanced

capital market data center earlier this month and said that in order to promote the use of information technology in this sector, a smart system is also going to be unveiled for monitoring and assessing the capital market and investment companies.

The above-mentioned data center was established with the aim of stabilizing and developing technology infrastructure in all areas of processing, storage, and security in order to protect the interests of shareholders and meet the technological needs of the capital market.

## Over 4,800 ha equipped with modern irrigation in South Khorasan in a year

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, 4,808 hectares of farmlands were equipped with modern irrigation systems in South Khorasan province, in the east of Iran, during the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

Akbar Mohammadi, the director of water, soil and technical-engineering affairs department of the province's Agriculture Department, also said that modern irrigation systems are being established in 12,034 hectares of farmlands in the province.

Modern irrigation systems are being established in the counties of the province without any limitation, he added.

The official further announced that 430 hectares of farmlands were equipped with the mentioned systems during the first month of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-April

20).

As stated by the project manager of the Agriculture Ministry's smart irrigation systems development program, so far 2.6 million hectares of the country's farmlands have been equipped with modern irrigation systems.

Fariborz Abbasi has said that completing semi-finished agriculture projects is the priority of his ministry in the current Iranian calendar year, and expanding the modern irrigation network across the country is of significant importance in this regard.

The deputy agriculture minister noted that the project for implementing irrigation networks in the west and northwest of the country is about 70 percent completed and the ministry is pursuing to get the necessary funding for the remaining 30 percent.

The official expressed hope that



considering the budget allocation for the provinces at the beginning of the current Iranian year, the ministry would be able to develop the project in terms of both quantity and quality.

The purpose of implementing the plan of modern irrigation systems is to increase the productivity and sustainability of water and soil resources in the country to ensure the

sustainable production of agricultural products.

"Over the past three years, each year, an average of 150,000 hectares of farmlands have been equipped with modern irrigation systems, and we have witnessed a 300 percent jump", the official said.

Agriculture Ministry is also taking the necessary measures for supporting the

domestic manufacturing of equipment used in these systems, he added.

Back in September 2021, Abbasi had said that 95 percent of the equipment used in such systems is manufactured inside the country.

The official said the ministry has comprehensive plans for indigenizing the knowledge for the production of the other five percent as well.

He pointed to the filters and drippers in modern irrigation systems as the equipment whose domestic production is on the agenda and predicted: "In a two- or three-year plan, part of the imported equipment and supplies will be produced by domestic manufacturers."

Abbasi mentioned the quality improvement of modern irrigation systems as one of the main strategies of Agriculture Ministry and said: "We believe that along with the quantitative

development of new irrigation systems, quality improvement should also take place to improve productivity and ensure food security by increasing water efficiency in the best possible way."

He further underlined educating farmers, officials, and managers of companies active in the field of production and implementation of new irrigation systems as one of the programs that his ministry is pursuing in order to improve the quality and optimal use of these systems.

Referring to the activity of 2,400 private companies in the development of new irrigation systems in the agricultural sector, Abbasi said: "The private sector in this field includes 350 consulting companies, 1,600 contractors, 400 manufacturers and suppliers of equipment, and a number of monitoring firms."



# Moscow publishes list of 963 US citizens barred from entering Russia

The Russian Foreign Ministry has released a national stop list of 963 U.S. citizens who, as a tit-for-tat measure, are banned to come to Russia.

“In the context of retaliatory measures to the anti-Russian sanctions continuously imposed by the United States and in response to incoming inquiries about the individuals on our national stop list, the Russian Foreign Ministry is publishing a list of U.S. citizens who are permanently barred from entering the Russian Federation,” says the statement posted on the ministry’s website on Saturday.

A link to the list with the names of 963 individuals is attached to the document. Among them are U.S. President Joe Biden, Secretary of State Antony Blinken, FBI Director



Christopher Wray and other U.S. officials, whose entry bans have been announced by the Russian Foreign Ministry earlier.

“We emphasize that Washington’s hostile actions, which boomerang back on the U.S., will continue to be responded in kind,” the Foreign

Ministry said.

The Russian Foreign Ministry emphasized that the Russian countersanctions are involuntary and are aimed at “compelling the ruling U.S. regime, which is attempting to impose a neocolonial ‘rule-based world order’ on the rest of the world, to change its conduct by acknowledging the new geopolitical realities.”

“Russia seeks no confrontation and remains open to honest, mutually respectful dialogue, distinguishing the American people, who invariably enjoy our respect, from the U.S. authorities, who foment Russophobia, and those who serve them. It is these individuals who are put on Russia’s ‘blacklist,’” the statement concludes.

(Source: TASS)

## Ukrainian official claims US drawing up plans to sink the Russian Black Sea fleet

Shortly after Reuters published an exclusive story that the White House was looking to move advanced anti-ship missiles to Ukraine, an official in Kiev said that the U.S. is making a plan to sink Russia’s Black Sea Fleet.

Ukrainian Ministry of Internal Affairs adviser Anton Gerashchenko tweeted, “The U.S. is preparing a plan to destroy the [Russian] Black Sea Fleet. The effective work of the Ukrainians on [Russian] warships convinced [the U.S.] to prepare a plan to unblock the [Ukrainian] ports. Deliveries of powerful anti-ship weapons are being discussed.”



Gerashchenko cited the Reuters report on Washington’s effort to ship Harpoon and Naval Strike Missiles to Ukraine. The missiles have a range of up to 300 km and cost \$1.5 million each.

Three U.S. officials and two Congressional sources told the outlet the White House was still working out the details for sending the advanced weapons to Ukraine. Logistical issues and the possibility the U.S. would have to remove a launcher from one of its ships to send to Ukraine are current obstacles to completing the transfer.

Kirby told reporters Thursday afternoon. The Pentagon denial applied only to the Ukrainian official’s assertion the U.S. was helping sink the Black Sea fleet, and did not refer to the proposed anti-ship weapons transfer.

Gerashchenko said the attack would help to open up Ukraine’s ports. Russia currently controls the Black Sea and maintains a blockade. The UN has called for an easing of restrictions in the sea to allow food exports from Ukraine to help alleviate global food shortages.

Moscow has offered a diplomatic solution to the Black Sea standoff. On Thursday, the Kremlin proposed lifting the blockade in exchange for sanctions relief. The Russian Foreign Ministry said the problem goes beyond the blockade and includes Western sanctions restricting fertilizer exports. “You have to not only appeal to the Russian Federation but also look deeply at the whole complex of reasons that caused the current food crisis. [Sanctions] interfere with normal free trade, encompassing food products including wheat, fertilizers and others,” Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Andrey Rudenko said.

(Source: antiwar.com)

## Biden starts Japan tour as protesters take to streets

U.S. President Joe Biden arrived in Japan on Sunday, as about 750 protesters took to the streets of Tokyo against the planned U.S.–Japan summit and the summit of the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue (the Quad).

A series of meetings are scheduled during Biden’s three-day visit to Japan, following his trip to South Korea, including the summit of the Quad group involving Japan, Australia and India, during which the United States is expected to hustle the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework (IPEF).

Japanese public opinion, however, seemingly does not favor the IPEF too much.

Japanese media reported that the IPEF has no specific content such as tariff reduction, so it cannot bring visible economic benefits to participating members.

Takakage Fujita, director-general

of a civil group dedicated to upholding and developing the Murayama Statement, said in an interview with Xinhua that the United States cooked up the IPEF to use Japan and ASEAN (the Association of Southeast Asian Nations) countries for the benefit of its own.

Fujita said that if the U.S. truly wants to pursue peace and development in Asia, it should follow a coordinated and friendly approach and come up with decent economic ideas.

On Sunday afternoon, around 750 people took to the streets of Tokyo to demonstrate against the upcoming U.S.–Japan summit and the summit of the Quad group.

Tokyo authorities beefed up security and traffic control, mobilizing around 18,000 police officers.

(Source: Xinhua)

## Australia votes for change with election win for Labor Party

Australian Labor Party leader Anthony Albanese will be the country’s new prime minister, following incumbent Scott Morrison’s failure to win enough seats for the Liberal-National coalition in Saturday’s election, Politico reported.

Albanese’s win marks an end to a near-decade in opposition for the Labor Party.

Following early indications of the outcome of the results on Saturday evening, Morrison telephoned Albanese to concede defeat. Morrison later announced his decision to step down as leader of Australia’s Liberal Party, in comments carried by ABC News Australia.

In his victory speech, Albanese said that he wanted to unite the people of the country after an election campaign that was dominated by issues such as the rising cost of living and the climate crisis.

“Tonight the Australian people



have voted for change,” Albanese said at the Labor party headquarters on Saturday evening, in remarks broadcast by ABC News Australia. “My Labor team will work every day to bring Australians together.”

Australia’s new leader went on to highlight his humble beginnings, growing up as the “son of a single mum who was a disability pensioner, who grew up in public housing.”

UK Prime Minister Boris Johnson congratulated Albanese on his victory, and lobbied for the benefits of his country’s free-trade deal with Australia, under the Labor Party’s new leadership.

## Burqa has nothing to do with Afghanistan culture, says Karzai

The Taliban have recently issued a decree on the basis of which women are to wear head-to-toe clothing “Burqa” in public. The decree further instructs the female TV anchors to cover their faces during the program presentation.

In an interview with CNN, in response to the Taliban’s decree on women’s compulsory hijab, ex-Afghanistan president Hamid Karzai said covering the face does not have a root and history background in Afghanistan. He has said, “covering face is not Hijab” and the use of the Burqa is not “Afghanistan tradition”. According to Karzai, wearing “Burqa” is more of a tribal tradition being practiced in some parts of Afghanistan with a tribal history of 200–300 years.

In the interview, Karzai said that Afghan women in history have not covered face to toe. It has been more of an optional choice. Moreover, he



has claimed that the country has been a Muslim state for nearly 1400 years and Afghan women’s dress code has been based on Islamic norms and practices since then.

Now, in response to Karzai’s remarks concerning Burqa and covering faces by female anchors, the Taliban’s Ministry of Virtue

Promotion has said that Karzai’s position for the last two decades has been based on foreigners’ pre-defined agendas. He has applied freedom for others’ women, but not for his own. His position and stand are more on gaining the “satisfaction” of foreigners. “During the course of his presidency time and till now, no one has seen his wife on the screen.” Taliban’s Virtue Promotion added.

Moreover, Karzai has called on female TV program presenters in the country not to obey the order. It is more of humiliation and insult to the dignity of women rather than the hijab.

“Female presenters should not obey this order and the Taliban should discard the humiliating decree, no matter whoever has issued the decree. It hurts Afghanistan and its reputation,” Karzai said.

(Source: 8am.af)

## Great majority of Black Americans fear for their lives

From page 1 ▶ The new research also reveals other disturbing issues including seventy percent of Black Americans who believe half or more than half of all white Americans hold white supremacist beliefs in comparison to just 19 percent who said fewer than half of white Americans do.

Two-thirds of the respondents believe white supremacy is a bigger problem today than five years ago. In comparison, 28 percent said the size of the problem is the same.

The black Americans questioned were also asked to share their feelings following the Buffalo shooting and the suspect allegedly embracing the racist “great replacement theory.”

Seventy percent said the shooting made them feel sad, while 62 percent also said they felt angry. More than said they felt troubled, 34 percent said they felt afraid, 21 percent said they felt shocked and only eight percent replied they were surprised.

The terrorists behind the 2019 Christchurch mosque attack in New Zealand and the El Paso shooting in Texas in the same year also mentioned the “great replacement theory”. It has also been the subject of discussion by some right-wing lawmakers in the U.S. who have used it for political purposes.

The “great replacement theory” originates from a book called Le Grand Replacement written in 2011 by French white nationalist Renaud Camus. The racist far-right literature lays out the conspiracy theory that non-white people are “replacing” white people in Europe and the U.S.

Experts say those who believe in this theory claim it is being carried out by their respective governments who are “either deliberately importing non-white people or are powerless to stop them from entering.”

The racist rhetoric doesn’t take into consideration that the U.S. and it’s European allies have been invading countries across the world sparking a refugee crisis or the fact that African Americans and Black Europeans were shipped into the two continents as slaves.

The problem of hate on the basis of race in U.S. culture has been around for centuries. It’s not something that sprung up overnight with the influx of asylum seekers or the election of former U.S. President Donald Trump.

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More shockingly fears of racially motivated attacks by White Americans came first among Black Americans in the poll ahead of racial discrimination two years after Floyd was killed in Minneapolis.

Despite a video of the incident going viral and sending millions across the country and world to the streets in protest, chanting “Black Lives Matter.”

Many newly elected officials across the U.S. spoke out about the need for police reform and sweeping changes to combat racism. However,

Seven in ten Black Americans think at least half of White Americans have white supremacist beliefs when asked: Just your best guess, how many White people in America hold white supremacist beliefs, that is believing that White people are superior to people of other races?

Black Americans cited a mixture of factors that cause white Americans to commit hate crimes. 63 percent say access to guns contributes a “great deal” to people committing hate crimes, while 57 percent say “personal family and upbringing” are to blame.

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the poll finds 80 percent of Black people believe the police in their neighborhoods treat Black people less fairly than White people.

The optimism of any changes following the reaction to Floyd’s murder that police treatment of Black Americans would improve, and that whites’ concerns about discrimination against Blacks would grow, has faded away.

According to research, at the height of the Black Lives Matter protests one month after Floyd’s murder, 54 percent of Black Americans expected the police to treat Black Americans more fairly in the coming years.

Today, only 19 percent of black Americans believe it actually did, while 38 percent say police treatment has improved “a little” and 41 percent say it has not improved “at all.”

“You never know what it is. It could be a severe enough punishment to be a deterrent. But if you don’t ever admit that it’s there, you can’t legislate it. No problem can be solved until you first admit that the problem exists. And we still refuse to admit that we have a race problem in this country. And it’s been there for over 400 years,” he said.

Clyburn, who was part of the U.S. civil rights movement strongly denounced that the country had become used to the tragedy of hate crime.

“It seems as if they were just supposed to happen then you go and wait for the next one to happen. And

## Erdogan sets conditions for Sweden, Finland NATO bids

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan on Saturday told the leaders of Sweden and Finland that he would block their bid to join NATO unless they halt what he considers their support for “terrorist” groups threatening Turkey’s national security, DW reported.

The two Nordic countries this week formally submitted their application to join the military alliance, ending their neutral stance in the wake of Russia’s invasion of Ukraine.

The move sparked a threat by Turkey to object to their accession, as NATO membership requires the consent of all 30 existing members.

Erdogan’s office said the president had shared his concerns in a call with both Swedish and Finnish leaders about the Kurdistan Workers’ Party (PKK)

militant group — which Turkey’s government has been fighting since the 1980s — and the Gulen movement, which Ankara accuses of orchestrating a 2016 coup attempt.

Turkey has designated them as terrorist organizations and accused the Nordic countries of harboring people linked to both groups.

Erdogan told Finnish President Sauli Niinisto that failing to deal with terror groups that threatened a NATO ally would not suit the spirit of the military alliance, his office said.

He also told Swedish Prime Minister Magdalena Andersson that “Sweden’s political, financial and weapon support to terrorist organizations must end,” according to comments released by Ankara.



## Iran's tourism minister calls for further cooperation with Turkey



TEHRAN – Iranian tourism minister Ezatollah Zarghami on Saturday called for further efforts to deepen cooperation with Turkey.

The Minister of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts expressed hope that ongoing efforts and follow-ups would bring the two nations closer than ever, IRNA reported.

Zarghami made the remarks during a meeting with Ali Yildirim, the president of Turkey's Alevi community, the report said.

Identifying common grounds and investing in tourism facilities to expand relations are on the agenda, the Iranian minister said.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Zarghami said his ministry seeks to remove barriers and facilitate the issuance of investment permits in Iran.

Yildirim, for his part, said that identifying and introducing Iran more and better to Turkish Alevists around the world is one of their important missions.

Furthermore, the Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and Shrine Ensemble in Ardebil is scheduled to host a delegation of the Alevi community on Eid al-Ghadir, the day on which Imam Ali (AS) was appointed as the first Shia Imam as his successor and Muslims' next leader.

Alevism is a local tradition of Islam, whose adherents follow Haji Bektash Veli's mystical teachings, believed to have been passed down by Imam Ali (AS) and the Twelve Imams.

Approximately 20 percent of Turkish people are adherents of Alevism, and it is commonly practiced in the neighboring country.

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

Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

## Over 19,500 historical relics retrieved nationwide

TEHRAN – Iranian police have recovered more than 19,500 historical objects from smugglers or unauthorized diggers over the past Iranian year 1400 (ended on March 20), a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage said on Sunday.

"A total of 19,542 historical relics were retrieved throughout the country, of which 8,774 were original works, while others were fakes," ISNA quoted Hassan Mehri as saying.

"2,025 suspects were detained in this regard. They were surrendering to the judicial system for further investigation," the official added.

In this connection, 452 metal detectors, operated by unauthorized users, were seized as well, the official noted.

"Several exquisite and priceless relics that represent various eras of the country's rich history, have been unearthed in various excavations in the country's historical sites, and are mostly being kept in different museums."

Iran is home to one of the world's oldest continuous major civilizations, embracing settlements dating

back to 4000 BC.

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

The name of Iran, formerly known as Persia, mostly conjures up the first Persian Empire, ruled by the Achaemenids (550 – 330 BC) and sites such as Pasargadae and Persepolis. However, there are tens of prehistorical sites such as the Burnt City in Sistan-Baluchestan, Tepe Sialk in Kashan, Susa, Tchogha Zanbil in the Khuzestan province, and Ecbatana in Hamedan which predate the Achaemenid period.

From a wider point of view, Iranian history can be divided into Pre-Islamic and Islamic eras. The Medes unified Iran as a nation and empire in 625 BC. The Islamic conquest of Persia (633–656) that put an end to the mighty Sassanid Empire (224–651) was a turning point in the history of the nation.

## Baneh agritourism farm opened to nature lovers

TEHRAN – An agritourism farm has recently opened its doors to sightseers and nature lovers in Baneh, the western province of Kordestan.

The inauguration ceremony was followed

by a daylong tour, allowing tourists to experience the rural lifestyle, Baneh's tourism chief on Saturday.

Rose flower harvesting and traditional rosewater distillation, commonly known as "Golab-giri", were among the rituals, the tourists went through, Sadollah Rahimikhah explained.

Apart from being fun, such tours present agricultural products scientifically and practically and familiarize tourists with the methods for growing, picking, and maintaining these products, the official

added.

Such tours are expected to support the development and promotion of the region's agricultural products as well as the growth and prosperity of the tourism industry, he noted.

Agritourism and nature-tourism enterprises might include outdoor recreation (fishing, hunting, wildlife study, horseback riding), educational experiences (cannery tours, cooking classes, or tea or coffee tasting), entertainment (harvest festivals or barn dances), hospitality

From page 1 ► In addition, Majid Takht-Ravanchi, Iran's ambassador to the United Nations, said in January that the United States must return all Achaemenid clay tablets without any exceptions and excuses.

Even though these tablets are part of the culture and history of Iran and belong to its people, the U.S. continually delays returning them, Takht-Ravanchi said.

"The Iranian request is clear", he said, adding that they want their tablets to be returned home promptly and safely.

Last September, a study on the tablets that once belonged to the treasury archives of the Achaemenid Empire, revealed workers of the mighty kingdom were paid silver as the wage.

Conducted by Iranian archaeologist Soheli Delshad, the study investigated 33 clay tablets, the majority of which date back to the time of Darius I (Darius the Great), who was the third Persian King of Kings, reigning from 522 BC until he died in 486 BC. According to the archaeologist, 136 men who received the payments were described as masonry (and possibly plasterers).

In the 1930s, archaeologists affiliated with the University of Chicago discovered the tablets while excavating in Persepolis, the ceremonial capital of the Persian Empire. However, the institute has resumed work in collaboration with

# Achaemenid tablets returned to Persepolis for public show



colleagues in Iran, and the return of the tablets is part of a broadening of contacts between scholars in the two countries, said Gil Stein, director of the Oriental Institute at the University of Chicago.

The tablets reveal an economic, social, and religious history of the Achaemenid Empire (550-330 BC) and the larger Near Eastern region in the fifth century BC.

Darius I, byname Darius the Great, (born 550 BC—died 486), king of Persia from 522 to 486 BC, one of the

greatest rulers of the Achaemenid dynasty, who was noted for his administrative genius and his great building projects. Darius attempted several times to conquer Greece; his fleet was destroyed by a storm in 492, and the Athenians defeated his army at Marathon in 490.

The Achaemenid [Persian] Empire was the largest and most durable empire of its time. The empire stretched from Ethiopia, through Egypt, to Greece, to Anatolia (modern Turkey), Central Asia, and

India.

The royal city of Persepolis ranks among the archaeological sites which have no equivalent, considering its unique architecture, urban planning, construction technology, and art. Persepolis, also known as Takht-e Jamshid, whose magnificent ruins rest at the foot of Kuh-e Rahmat (Mountain of Mercy) is situated 60 kilometers northeast of the city of Shiraz in Fars province.

The city was burnt by Alexander the Great in 330 BC apparently as revenge on the Persians because it seems the Persian King Xerxes had burnt the Greek City of Athens around 150 years earlier. The city's immense terrace was begun about 518 BC by Darius the Great, the Achaemenid Empire's king. On this terrace, successive kings erected a series of architecturally stunning palatial buildings, among them the massive Apadana palace and the Throne Hall ("Hundred-Column Hall").

This 13-ha ensemble of majestic approaches, monumental stairways, throne rooms (Apadana), reception rooms, and dependencies is classified among the world's greatest archaeological sites. Persepolis was the seat of the government of the Achaemenid Empire, though it was designed primarily to be a showplace and spectacular center for the receptions and festivals of the kings and their empire.

## Measures to safeguard Karaftu caves discussed

TEHRAN- On Saturday, several researchers and speleologists came together to discuss ways to preserve the enigmatic Karaftu caves situated in western Iran.

The meeting aimed to collect opinions on the protection and restoration of the cave collection with the cooperation of the relevant officials and scholars, a local official said on Sunday.

One of the most significant touristic and historical sites in Kordestan province, Karaftu has a multitude of natural and architectural beauties as well as several temples dedicated to the gods and divine heroes such as Mitra and Heracles, the official added.

To mark the national cultural heritage week, which started on Wednesday, the province holds a number of meetings and exhibitions to demonstrate the intangible and tangible heritage and increase heritage literacy in the region, Mohammad Aminian said.

Set on the side of a large cliff, 42km from Takab, the Karaftu cave ensemble was used for habitation from early Sassanid times (224–651).

The caves were formed naturally but were



modified by inhabitants over the centuries. In ancient times, these caves were important from an economic point of view, as they were situated on the Silk Roads.

Today, they are significant for a Greek inscription found in them, as this is one of the few examples of such a script preserved in situ in Iran.

Exploring a cave may not be on the "to-do list" of travelers in Iran. However, Karaftu, Ali-Sadr and Quri Qaleh, and Katale-Khor are among the most visited caves.

Iran is geologically a part of the Alpine-Himalayan organic belt. According to Britannica Encyclopedia, the enigmatic evidence of human presence on the Iranian plateau is as early as Lower Paleolithic times.

The first well-documented evidence of human habitation is in deposits from several excavated cave and rock-shelter sites, located mainly in the Zagros Mountains of western Iran and dated to Middle Paleolithic or Mousterian times (c. 100,000 BC).

During the national cultural heritage week 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.

province of Kordestan. The city is located 20 kilometers from the Iranian-Iraqi border, 60 kilometers southwest of Saqez, and 70 kilometers southeast of Sardasht. The city is known for its large and natural oak forests.

In 1984, Iraqi planes bombed Baneh and some nearby settlements during the Iran-Iraq war (1980-1988). Dul Arzan village, Shevi cave, Baneh Dam, Sorin complex are among the city's tourist attractions, however, most of its reputation comes from its border malls and its status as a trade center. Local people speak Kurdish with Slemani accent.

### First Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

### NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : **48-32-0025002**

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	2 7/8" HT-PAC DRILL PIPEAS BELOW SPECIFICATION : 1 1/2" TOOL JOINT ID, 2.151" BODY ID, S-135 GRADE, PSL2, WT 10.4 PPE , 2 7/8 HTPAC CONNECTION, 3 1/8" OD TOOL JOINT , RANG2, BOX TAPER 18 DEGREE, PIN TAPER 35 DEGREE , BOX TONG LT 13" PIN TONG LT 9", IU(INTERNAL UPSET), 31-32 FT JOINT LT, IPC-207 INTERNAL COATING, ACCORDING TO API 5DP	37,200 FT

Participate“ letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, 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 39,668 EURO or 10,867,317,850 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 ۱۴۰۱/۳/۲

### First Announcement



N.I.S.O.C

### NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO. : **08-21-0040006**

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

Items	Material Description	Quantity
01	TUBING, API GRADE P-110, SEAMLESS “VAM FLUSH JOINT” THREAD , RANGE 3, LEVEL OF INSPECTION : 1 3-1/2 IN. , 9.3 PPF DRIFT : STANDARD	700 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 21,807 EURO or 6,129,102,264 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)  
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تهران تایمز : نوبت اول ۱۴۰۱/۳/۲



# Iran’s success in controlling coronavirus to spotlight World Health Assembly

TEHRAN – The successful experience of the Islamic Republic of Iran in controlling the coronavirus pandemic will be made known in the seventy-fifth session of the World Health Assembly, Health Minister Bahram Einollahi has said.

Focused on the theme of “Health for Peace, Peace for Health”, the Seventy-fifth World Health Assembly is being held in Geneva, Switzerland, from May 22 to 28.

Stating that the country has been able to reduce the Covid mortalities from 700 cases to less than 10, he added that this success has even been considered by the world’s scientific circles.

The summit will address health-priority issues around the world, including primary health care, sustainable development goals, vaccinations, the role of medicine and the environment in health, he said, adding that Iran’s achievement in containing the global pandemic is also mentioned.

The successes of the Iranian health sector in the last three decades, especially in the field of polio eradication, vaccination, measles control, and elimination of neonatal tetanus have always been considered by the World Health Assembly, he explained.

Einollahi is heading the Iranian delegation to the seventy-fifth session of the World Health Assembly.

Other key topics under discussion include strengthening WHO preparedness for and response to health emergencies, an implementation road map 2023–2030 for the global action plan for the prevention and control of non-communicable diseases, and an intersectoral Global Action Plan on epilepsy and other neurological disorders 2022-2031, prevention of sexual exploitation, abuse and harassment; poliomyelitis; and the Global Health for Peace Initiative.



He added that there are 13 science and technology parks and 95 technology growth centers in the field of health, while 343 technological products have so far been licensed, and 335 inventions in medical sciences have been patented.

The health technology development is evaluated by the Global Innovation Index with seven indicators, including institutional structure, human capital and research, infrastructure, market and business complexity, technological knowledge, and creativity, he explained.

In June 2021, Ahmed al-Mandhari, the World Health Organization director for Eastern Mediterranean Region, said the Islamic Republic of Iran is a role model for primary health care.

For the past four decades, its PHC network has aimed to ensure that people have timely access to affordable, accessible,

and acceptable essential health services, he explained.

“At the outset of the COVID-19 epidemic, the Islamic Republic of Iran made its primary health care system a core part of its national response. This PHC infrastructure allowed systematic outreach activities for early case detection, contact tracing, and triage for hospital referral (if necessary) by community health workers.

Ahmed al-Mandhari, the World Health Organization director for Eastern Mediterranean Region, has said Iran is a role model for primary health care.

## Tribes in Iran

### Part 9 (a) Lor and Lak tribes

The Lor tribes live mainly in the mountains of southwestern Iran, but a few small groups are found in Khorasan and in the Sirjan and Rudbar districts of Kerman province.

Information about the Lori-speaking Mamasani (Mam Hasani or Mohammad Hosayni) in Fars is scarce, but it is known that a Mamasani confederacy seized Shulestan district early in the 12th/18th century and thereby established another Lor domain, hence forth known as Mamasani, between Kohgiluyeh and Shiraz.

The shahrestan of that name, lying north of Kazerun and west of Ardakan and having its center at Nurabad, is today occupied by the four main Mamasani tayefas, namely the Takesh, Javid (or Javi), Doshmanziari, and Rostam. They are now almost entirely sedentarized.

North and west of the district lies the abode of other Lor tribes collectively known as the tribes of Kohgiluyeh-Boyer Ahmadi. Formerly part of Fars, the territory became a separate ostan (province) in 1355/1976.

According to reports written in the 1960s, the inhabitants were then divided into three tribal groups, the Jaki, Bavi, and Aqa Jari. The Jakis were originally divided into two moieties, one called Chahar Bonicha comprising the Boyer Ahmadi, Cherami, Doshmanziari, and Nu'i; the other called Liravi comprising the Liravis of the mountain and the Liravis of the plain.

The Liravis of the mountain were made up of tribes

called Bahme'i, Tayyebi, Shir Ali, and Yusofi. The Bavis were centered on Basht and Kuhmarra, and despite an opinion that they are an offshoot of the Bavi Arabs of Khuzestan, they all speak the Lori language.

The Aqa Jari originated in a confederacy of Turks, Tajiks, and Lors, as shown by the names of their constituent tiras, Afshar, Bigdeli, Jama-Bozorgi, Jaghata'i, and others; some of them are definitely remnants of the Shahsevans who governed Kohgiluyeh in the Safavid period. (Bavar, 1324/1945; Zarrabi, 1340/1961; Lom'a, 1346/1967; Afshar Naderi, 1347/1968; Safinezad, 1347/1968).

The tribal formations still existing in the province in the early 1980s were named as the Boyer Ahmad, Cheram, Babu'i, Doshmanziari, Tayyebi, and Bahme'i.

The Bakhtiari or Great Lor tribes are one of Iran's most important seasonally migrant communities. Their territory lies in the central Zagros north and west of the Kohgiluyeh territory. They are divided into two component parts (boluk), the Haft Lang and the Chahar Lang.

The first official appointment of a Bakhtiari ilkhan took place in 1284/1867 by the order of Mohammad Shah Qajar. This office and that of the ilbegi, which ranked second in the tribal hierarchy, were abolished in Reza Shah's reign.

The Haft Lang tribes migrate annually between southeastern districts of Khuzestan (Andika, Masjed-e Solayman, Shushtar, Izeh) and the district of Chahar Mahal-e Bakhtiari (Shahr-e Kord, Borujen).

They are divided into four tribes (bab), the Dura-ki, Babadi, Bakhtiarvand (or Behdarvand), and Di-



narani. The Janaki (or Javanaki) tira, also affiliated to the Haft Lang, is now sedentarized in the district of the same name in Khuzestan.

The Chahar Lang tribes have, for the most part, winter quarters in the shahrestans of Dezful and Izeh in Khuzestan and summer quarters in the shahrestans of Daran (Faridan) in Isfahan and Aligudarz and Borujerd in Lorestan.

They consist of four tribes (bab), the Mamivand, Mohammad Saleh (or Mam-Saleh), Muguyi, and Kayanerti. The Zalaqi tribes are sometimes counted as part of the Chahar Lang. Many tiras of the Chahar Lang tribes have become sedentary. (Owzan Bakhtiari, 1344/1965; Wezarat-e Abadani wa Mas-kan, 1348/1969; Sazman-e Barnameh wa Budjeh, 1355/1976, pp. 9–57; De Bode, 1845; Rawlinson, 1839, pp. 26–116; Wilson, 1925, pp. 205–25; Garthwaite, 1969; Garthwaite, 1978, pp. 173–97; Digard, 1979).

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica  
To be continued

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### ‘Water transfer from Sea of Oman entails no considerable environmental risk’

Transferring water from Sea of Oman to central drought-ridden provinces of the country, provided that the environmental requirements are met, will not poses threats to the environment, Issa Kalantari, the Department of Environment (DOE) chief has announced.

To provide the amount of water needed for the country, agriculture and industries, there is no choice but to use seawater, the incredible and abundant resources, now and in the future, Kalantari stated, IRNA reported on Monday.

He went on to say that Iran located in an arid and semi-arid area, is facing environmental problems including water shortage, sand and dust storms due to low precipitation amounts coupled with climate change.

“Renewable water resources have drastically decreased to less than 80 billion cubic meters from 132 billion cubic meters over the past 50 years, and 50 billion cubic meters water consumption rate have increased to 95 billion cubic meters,” he lamented.

### شیرین سازی و انتقال آب دریای عمان مشکل زیست محیطی ندارد

معاون رئیس جمهوری و رئیس سازمان حفاظت محیط زیست کشور گفت: شیرین سازی و انتقال آب دریای عمان به استان های مختلف به شرط رعایت الزامات محیط زیستی مانع زیست محیطی ندارد و از نظر این سازمان بلا مانع است.

عیسی کلانتری دوشنبه شب در گفت و گو با خبرنگار ایرنا در چابهار اظهار داشت: برای تامین آب کشاورزی، آشامیدنی و صنایع کشور چاره ای جز استفاده از آب دریا نداریم و باید چه اکنون و چه آینده به این منابع بیکران و بسیار فراوان رجوع کنیم.

وی افزود: ایران کشور پر آبی نیست و سالهای سال با بحران بی آبی، خشکسالی و مسائل زیست محیطی، گرد و غبار و ریزگردها مواجهه است.

معاون رئیس جمهوری تصریح کرد: ۱۲۰ میلیارد مترمکعب آب تجدید پذیر ایران در ۴۰ تا ۵۰ سال گذشته به کمتر از ۸۰ میلیارد و مصرف آب از ۵۰ میلیارد مترمکعب به بالای ۹۵ میلیارد مترمکعب رسیده است.

## SOCIETY

MAY 23, 2022

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

7

## Employment development through nanotechnology

From page 1 ► not used in jobs related to their fields of study, on the one hand, we have wasted costs and on the other hand, we have provided the emergence of frictional unemployment and migration in the society.

The Nanotechnology Innovation Council has started cooperation with the Ministry of Cooperatives, Labor, and Social Welfare to create employment by using the power of knowledge-based companies in this field to eliminate unemployment and prevent the migration of graduates.

Following this agreement, nano-companies that have the potential to produce nano-industrial and semi-industrial products will be supported.

Saeed Sarkar, the secretary of the Nanotechnology Innovation Council, said that one of the reasons and weaknesses that lead to the emigration of the elites is that these people do not find jobs that fit their specialty in the country so they choose migration.

Referring to two types of elite migration, he explained that one is geographical migration in which the elites cannot find jobs; and some people have graduated but are engaged in fields other than their own specialization and occupations, which is also a cause of migration.

In the past, unfortunately, the employment was thought to be in charge of labor or rural employment, and as a result, the quantity of employment was the priority, not the quality, he lamented.

Fortunately, the ministry of labor now has a new approach to job creation, which is to support specialized employment, to consider both the quantity and quality of employment, he noted.

With the cooperation of the Ministry, we intend to create conditions by granting low-interest loans that companies can be the source of creating specialized employment by developing their work, creativity, and innovation, he said, expressing hope to extend this model to other areas of technology.

There are 350 companies that have products in the market and their products are commercialized, in the country, so these firms are eligible to receive loans to create specialized employment, however, startup companies, research, and development companies that have a nano product in the path of production and commercialization are not included, he added.

One of the industries that have experienced good growth in Iran in recent years, proving the country's scientific development, is the nanotechnology industry, a subject area that has brought Iran to the world's fourth place.

Currently, nanotech products are produced and marketed in more than 15 industrial fields based on domestic technologies and are being exported to 49 countries from five continents.

Over the current year (ending March 20, 2023), the total sale of Iranian nanoproducts has been equal to 115 trillion rials (nearly \$425 million).



The expansion of nanotechnology export programs in recent years and the establishment of bases for exporting nanoproducts to China, India, Indonesia, Syria, Turkey, and Iraq have provided the opportunity for the entry of Iranian nanotechnology goods, equipment, and services into global markets.

Some 42 percent of the products in this field are related to construction, more than 17 percent to the field of oil, gas, and petrochemicals, 13 percent to the field of automobiles, and over 10 percent to the field of optoelectronic.

Some 270 companies are active in the nanotechnology field and it is predicted that their revenue will reach up to 80 trillion rials (nearly \$310 million), Vice President for Science and Technology, Sourena Sattari, announced.

#### Iran improves in nanotechnology

Iran's ranking in nanotechnology articles citation in 2019 has significantly improved compared to 2018, as it moved 26 levels higher, according to the StatNano's statistics collected from the WoS database.

Based on a report Nanotechnology Publications report, Iran ranked 38 worldwide for the average number of times the nano-articles have been cited in the Journal Citation Reports in 2019, while in 2018, it was placed 64.

Iran ranked 4th for the highest number of nano-article publications.

#### Knowledge-based ecosystem

Today, the country's knowledge-based ecosystem accounts for more than 3 percent of GDP. And the figure is projected to reach 5 percent, however, the main goal is to step toward a 10 percent share in GDP, Sattari told Fars on February 13.

The share of knowledge-based companies in the country's economy has exceeded 9 quadrillion rials (about \$34 billion), and since 2019, it has experienced a growth of more than 450 percent, he stated.

There are currently 6,263 knowledge-based companies operating in the country, offering advanced products and services in various fields of technology to domestic and foreign markets, and some of them have entered international markets, Siavash Maleki, deputy head of the Fund, stated.

The fields of aircraft maintenance, steel, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, oil, and gas are among the sectors that researchers in technology companies have engaged in, leading to import reduction.

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON MAY 22

New cases	312
New deaths	3
Total cases	7,230,053
Total deaths	141,274
New hospitalized patients	52
Patients in critical condition	670
Total recovered patients	7,033,986
Diagnostic tests conducted	51,001,656
Doses of vaccine injected	149,698,995



