

# France Takes on Role of Bad Cop

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## Opinion

### Unprecedented leap in agricultural mechanization development indicators

By Mahnaz Abdi

As the world's population grows, the importance of agriculture and meeting human needs through agriculture is increasing day by day.

Today, traditional methods no longer meet this need. To succeed in this way, we must use modern agricultural methods in the country.

At present, the general movement of countries towards development and progress and achieving independence is directly related to agricultural production, and on the other hand, raising the quantity and quality of production is not possible without mechanization of agriculture.

The agricultural sector, due to its significant share in GDP and export revenues, has a key role in determining the direction and general position of the economic development process, especially in third world countries.

Thus, the prosperity of the agricultural sector with regard to its role in food security and job creation has a high importance and priority in economic, social and cultural development programs.

The production of agricultural products is the result of the interaction of three important factors: water, soil and machinery, and the role of the human factor ► Page 4

## Interview

### Woman volleyball coach Imani makes dream come true

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Samira Imani Fouladi is now the first Iranian women's volleyball coach to work in Europe, as she has been appointed as coach of Portuguese women's volleyball team AJM FC Porto.

Imani has signed a contract as Portugal's champions assistant coach.

"It feels like a dream," said the former Iran women's national team player in her exclusive interview with Tehran Times.

"I always had the dream of working in Europe as a player or as a coach. After finishing my career as a player, I sought to improve my coaching knowledge to achieve this goal. So, I participated in coaching courses to obtain the necessary certificates to be able to achieve my dream," said Imani.

Imani has won eight championships in the Iranian Volleyball Super League as a player. She also has played in the national volleyball team for 12 years and acted as a coach in different Iranian teams.

"Since no Iranian woman had not worked in European countries as a coach, I was determined to break this barrier. My agent helped me a lot in this regard and connected me with AJM FC Porto. They reviewed my career record at the club and international level and offered me the coaching job. ► Page 3

### Biden reneges on campaign pledge with Saudi arms sale

TEHRAN - This is what the U.S. candidate in the Presidential campaign race Joe Biden said if he reached the White House "I would make it very clear, we are not going to in fact sell more weapons to [Saudi Arabia] ... we are going to make them in fact the pariah that they are."

Eight months later, the Pentagon has announced the administration of President Joe Biden has approved a \$650 million sale of missiles to Saudi Arabia. The sale is being billed as the Biden White House's first major weapons deal with the Persian Gulf kingdom.

In addition to the 280 Advanced Medium Range

Air-to-Air Missiles, the military package will also include 596 LAU-128 Missile Rail Launchers (MRL) along with containers and support equipment, spare parts, U.S. Government and contractor engineering and technical support.

The more balanced approach towards Saudi Arabia that Biden promised during the election has gone out of the window after Raytheon knocked on the White House door. Raytheon Technologies is one of America's largest weapons manufacturers and will be the principal contractor of the arms sale package. The approval will allow the Saudis to replenish an existing supply of the missiles.

Despite oil-giant Saudi Arabia being an important partner in West Asia for Washington, U.S. lawmakers have criticized Riyadh for its war on Yemen, a conflict considered one of the world's worst humanitarian disasters. They have voiced their opposition to the approval of many military sales for the kingdom.

A spokesperson for The State Department said it had approved the sale on October 26, claiming that the missile sale "is fully consistent with the administration's pledge to lead with diplomacy to end the conflict in Yemen." ► Page 5

### Amir Abdollahian: Tehran-Baku ties continue in a positive direction

TEHRAN — Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has said although there might be differences of opinion with the Republic of Azerbaijan on some issues, it is important to note that there is a serious will on both sides to overcome the obstacles, the Iranian Foreign Ministry website reported.

"I and my colleague Jeyhun Bayramov, on behalf of the two countries, will continue our positive contacts and consultations for the comprehensive development of bilateral relations and clearing up misunderstandings," he said on late Wednesday.

According to the top diplomat, the two sides have agreed to enhance bilateral cooperation for better management of public and media environment, and to form a joint committee between Iran and Azerbaijan.

"We consider our neighbors as our relatives and in this regard, we appreciate the principles governing these relations," he added.

In this regard, the Azerbaijani foreign minister commented to Azerbaijan24 website as well.

"For many years, one of the main priori-

ties of Azerbaijan's foreign policy has been to establish and develop high-level friendly relations with all countries, including neighboring nations. Over the years, Azerbaijani-Iranian ties have developed in this direction. Numerous joint projects have been implemented between the two countries in recent years," said Bayramov.

It seems that the diplomatic overtures pursued by the foreign ministers and envoys have been fruitful, as tensions over border transit between Tehran and Baku have deescalated.

On October 24, Amir Abdollahian and Bayramov held consultations over the phone.

In the conversation, Amir Abdollahian referred to the recent constructive contacts between the two ministers, praising the Republic of Azerbaijan for the release of two Iranian drivers detained in the country.

Amir Abdollahian emphasized the need to adopt a positive approach and look to the future by the two countries and said the joint economic commission of Iran and the Republic of Azerbaijan should be activated as soon as possible.

### Eight Iranians in world's top scientists list

TEHRAN – Eight Iranian scientists have been listed among the top two percent of the scientists with the greatest impact in technology in 2021 worldwide, according to Stanford University and global indicators.

Stanford University has created a database to introduce and present the information of more than 100,000 prominent scientists in the world and provide information to scientists in 22 scientific fields and 176 sub-disciplines. Eight Iranians are among the top two percent of scientists in the world, who are selected based on indicators such as the number of articles published, the number of scientific works done, the extent of their impact and articles, and the number of citations to their published articles.

Each year, Stanford University's research team selects the most influential scientists in their fields, one percent, and two percent, according to scientometric criteria. Based on a study conducted by Stanford University scientists on the Scopus data, a list of highly cited scientists in all disciplines as well as the top two percent of scientific fields was identified and introduced, and this year eight Iranian top scientists have been included. ► Page 7

### Iran seeks to attract more tourists from China

TEHRAN - Home to one of the world's oldest continuous major civilizations, with historical and urban settlements dating back to 7000 BC, Iran seeks to attract more foreign travelers, and in particular, vacationers from China.

Iran's deputy tourism minister on Wednesday stressed the need for all-inclusive fault detection, and identification of effective factors to expand tourism ties with China in a meeting with travel experts from the state-run institutes and the private sector.

"We should pay attention to the Chinese market in a more pragmatic approach," Ali-Asghar Shalbafian said in the follow-up session held to formulate new strategies to expand tourism cooperation between the two ancient countries.

"So far, steps have been taken to examine

### Raisi says Iran won't give in to excessive demands

TEHRAN - President Ebrahim Raisi said on Thursday that Iran will not leave the negotiating table, but will not give in to excessive demands that would lead to violation of the Iranian nation's interests.

Raisi made the remarks in an address to a gathering of people in city of Semnan, held to mark the 42nd anniversary of the students'

the Chinese tourism market, but today the (essential) need is to implement executive measures based on [our] fault detection and macro planning," the official noted.

Insignificant numbers of Chinese restaurants, Chinese-language guides, or even inappropriate lodging facilities are deemed to be among the main reasons why Chinese arrivals in Iran fall short of expectations.

Some experts believe that part of this failure comes from inside Iran because Chinese restaurants are scanty across the country while the cuisine is of high importance for the majority of the Chinese people. Moreover, Chinese travelers need fluent Chinese-language tour guides whose numbers are limited in the Islamic Republic. ► Page 6

takeover of the U.S. embassy in Tehran, commonly known as the "Den of Espionage."

"As Iran has already announced, we will never leave the negotiating table, but will resist excessive demands that would lead to violation of the Iranian nation's interests," president said, according to Press TV. ► Page 2

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## Interview

### Riyadh chiefly responsible for economic crisis in Lebanon: researcher

By M. A. Saki

TEHRAN- A Lebanese political researcher is of the opinion that Saudi Arabia's unbalanced economic policy has led to the current economic crisis in Lebanon.

"Saudi Arabia is the number one state responsible for the current financial and economic crisis taking place in Lebanon," Ali Mourad tells the Tehran Times.

"So now after the financial situation has collapsed, Mohammed Bin Salman is trying to exploit it to attack the resistance forces," he remarks.

Mourad says Riyadh is interfering in Lebanese affairs as it is demanding Lebanon to fire information minister.

Following is the text of the interview:

**What are the causes of the recent escalation between Lebanon and Saudi Arabia?**

It's obvious that what Information Minister George Kardahi said about the war on Yemen is not the reason for this Saudi escalation towards Lebanon. Saudi Crown Prince is trying to fulfill what he failed to achieve in November 2017 when he kidnapped then Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri. He simply wants to push Lebanon into chaos, and as the 2017 scheme turned out to be coordinated with the Zionist Netanyahu government, we can't exclude a current coordination taking place between Riyadh and Tel Aviv. ► Page 5



### Iranians celebrate fight against "global arrogance"

TEHRAN — Iranian marched onto the streets on Thursday across the cities to celebrate the "fight against Global Arrogance Day." On Aban 13, (November 4) 1979, Iranian students took over the U.S. embassy in Tehran, considered as the "den of espionage." The event, marked as the "second revolution," turned the course of history.



## Iranian ambassador meets Taliban officials in Ghazni

TEHRAN — The Iranian ambassador to Kabul has promised that his country is ready to cooperate to reconstruct and restore historical monuments in Ghazni province.

Bahador Aminian made the offer after visiting Ghazni and meeting with Taliban officials in the province on Thursday.

During the visit, the diplomat promised that the Iranian government would cooperate in reconstruction of the province's historical monuments, ISNA reported.

Aminian also met with local officials and visited the museum and some historical monuments in Ghazni.

The Iranian ambassador to Afghanistan



called Ghazni a historic province and said that Iranians had always been interested in Ghazni and that the province had figures such as Abu Rayhan al-Biruni and Hakim Sanai.

Ghazni was once one of the glorious cities of the region.

## Taliban's education delegation to travel to Iran

TEHRAN — During a meeting between Iranian Ambassador to Kabul Bahador Aminian and the caretaker Afghan higher education minister, it was decided that a Taliban delegation would visit Iran to strengthen cooperation between the two countries, ISNA reported on Friday.

According to the news website of the Afghan Ministry of Higher Education of Afghanistan, caretaker minister Alhaj Mawlawi Abdul Baqi Haqqani commended Iran for its cooperation in the field of higher education.

The Afghan official noted, "We have now begun our efforts for the prosperity of our country and in this regard we need

the cooperation of Iran."

In order to create educational opportunities for Afghan immigrants in Iran and strengthen cooperation between the two countries and scholarships, a technical team from the Afghan Ministry of Higher Education will travel to Iran to work on these issues jointly with related Iranian officials, the ministry said.

Ambassador Aminian, while assuring the Afghan said about the educational cooperation, said that according to the priorities of Afghanistan, Iran is ready to cooperate with the team from the ministry and will share its experiences with them.

# Iran's 20% enriched uranium reserves exceed 210 kg, 60% to 25

TEHRAN — A spokesman for the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) announced late on Wednesday that the reserves of the uranium enriched to 20 percent had exceeded 210 kilograms.

Behrouz Kamalvandi also said 25 kilograms of nuclear fuel enriched to 60 percent had had been produced so far.

Kamalvandi broke the story on the sidelines of a nuclear industry exhibition entitled "The Road to Progress" in which a number of legislators, including Mojtaba Zonour from the Majlis National Security and Foreign Policy Committee, the vice president for parliamentary affairs, university professors and others attended.

The exhibition was held at the Fakhrizadeh Center of the Aban 13 Complex of the Pupils Basij Organization in which the sons of martyrs Moshen Fakhrizadeh and Masoud Alimohammadi also attended.

The exhibition was inaugurated on the eve of November 4, the date marking the seizure of the U.S. embassy in Tehran in 1979.

He said now Iran produces 150 types of deuterons that a milligram of each of them value about tens of thousands of dollars.

Kamalvandi added the West was refusing to sell deuterons to Iran.

Iran is now producing radiopharmacies used for diagnosing and treating various diseases, including cancer, he stated.

Iran is also producing the best heavy water in the world that has been confirmed by the most advanced laboratories in the U.S.,



the nuclear spokesman explained.

He also said Iran has made considerable progresses in producing laser applicable in healthcare as well as industrial sectors.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the nuclear official said progress in the nuclear fuel cycle from the stage of exploration, extraction, conversion, enrichment, fuel production to waste management, as well as mastering various types of lasers and quantum technology is "remarkable and miraculous".

"This industry is growing and moving forward. We had some restrictions for a while, but fortunately the law of strategic action of the Majlis (parliament) removed the obstacles. By law, we were asked to produce 120 kilograms of 20%-enriched uranium, while now we have exceeded 210 kilograms. So far, we have produced 25 kilograms of 60%- enriched uranium, which

no country is able to produce, except by countries with nuclear weapons."

Referring to the Leader's emphasis on the nuclear industry as a sphere of authority, he said: "We have different achievements in advanced technologies such as nuclear, nano, etc. They create deterrence. In this industry, the quality of 20% is higher than other industries."

In the exhibition, some of the important and marketable achievements in nuclear industry, including those in the fields of radiation application, nuclear agriculture, industrial and medical centrifuges, diagnostic and therapeutic radiopharmaceuticals, laser prostate surgery, nuclear fuel cycle, heavy water production and deuterons, yellow cake, fuel complex, airborne geophysics, nuclear fusion, screening kit, quantum technology, etc. are on display, Kamalvandi explained.

Kamalvandi added: "Because of the issues related the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) we faced some restrictions but when we decided to go forward, you saw how fast we moved forward and did the tasks specified by the law much higher than expected. The nuclear industry is a strong industry that is the source of authority, and pride of the country. Arrogant countries have now acknowledged that they can no longer take the industry from the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Regarding the importance and level of the nuclear industry, he said that this industry is ahead of all industries and is a driving force.

Its quality and standards are much higher than other industries, he opined.

"When you master this industry, you are in fact paving the way for the high quality of other industries. The enemies know that this industry is a sensitive and key industry, so they try to deprive the Islamic Republic of an important component of power. They have politicized the nuclear issue and accused us of seeking weapons, while they themselves have weapons and used them," he said in open reference to the U.S. atomic bomb attacks on the cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in Japan in August 1945.

On the nuclear talks for possibly reviving the JCPOA, he also said the responsibility for the negotiations lies with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Atomic Energy Organization only deals with technical issues.

November 29 has been set as the date for resuming the Vienna nuclear talks for lifting the illegal sanctions.

## Raisi says Iran won't give in to excessive demands

From page 1 ► He reiterated that the Islamic Republic seeks "result-oriented" negotiations with the aim of lifting Washington's anti-Iran sanctions, which the U.S. reinstated in 2018 after it unilaterally withdrew from the 2015 nuclear agreement, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

U.S. not only quit the JCPOA and returned sanctions, it also added new harsh sanctions under different names.

"We will never compromise on the rightful demand of the Iranian nation, namely the lifting of the cruel sanctions," Press TV quoted Raisi as saying.

The remarks come a day after new Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Baqeri and chief negotiator announced that the next round of nuclear talks in Vienna with the aim of lifting U.S. sanctions will be held on November 29.

In a statement on Wednesday, the European Union also confirmed the report and said participants will "continue the discussions on the prospect of a possible return of the United States to the JCPOA and how to ensure the full and effective implementation of the agreement by all sides."

Iran and the remaining parties to the JCPOA – France, Britain, Germany, Russia, and China – began negotiations earlier this year for a possible revival of the nuclear deal. The negotiations started in April after the Joe Biden administration showed willingness to rejoin the accord and end the so-called "maximum pressure" campaign against Iran starred his predecessor, Donald Trump.

The talks have been stalled since Iran's presidential election in June. Iran's new administration has dismissed the prospects of partaking in "talks for the sake of talks" and said the U.S. and EU face a decision-making crisis.

Biden, for his part, has failed to provide Iran with a guarantee that the U.S. would not leave the JCPOA again.

The 2015 nuclear deal was endorsed by UN

Security Council Resolution 2231. Its violation was a breach of international law.

On Monday, Biden apologized to other world leaders for Trump's withdrawal from another globally-endorsed accord, the Paris climate agreement.

"I guess I shouldn't apologize, but I do apologize for the fact that the United States, the last administration, pulled out of the Paris accord. It put us sort of behind the eight ball a little bit," he said during a session on "action and solidarity" at the United Nations' climate summit in Glasgow.

Biden, however, has not apologized for Trump's withdrawal from the Iran nuclear agreement, but rather, has kept the inhumane sanctions targeting the Iranian population intact.

In his Thursday remarks, President Raisi stressed that his administration will not back down on safeguarding the Iranian nation's interests, adding, "We will pursue both the removal and the neutralization of the sanctions simultaneously."

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has urged Iranian authorities to "neutralize the sanctions" through efforts aimed to materialize self-sufficiency and economic prosperity, at the same time that they pursue diplomatic channels to remove them.

The Iranian president also noted that the Iranian people have always denounced the meddlesome measures of the United States in the region, including their latest conduct.

He was making a reference to the U.S. seizure of an Iranian oil shipment late last month that led to a confrontation between the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) and the vessel that had stolen the shipment in what Iran slammed as "an act of piracy" in the strategic Sea of Oman, where the IRGC Navy succeeded in landing its forces on the ship's deck and navigating it towards Iranian waters.

The Iranian people, Raisi continued, are always thankful to the revolutionary guards for protecting Iran's dignity and independence.

## Ambassador consults Azerbaijani officials

TEHRAN— Seyyed Abbas Mousavi, the Iranian ambassador to Baku, consulted with Azeri officials on Friday.

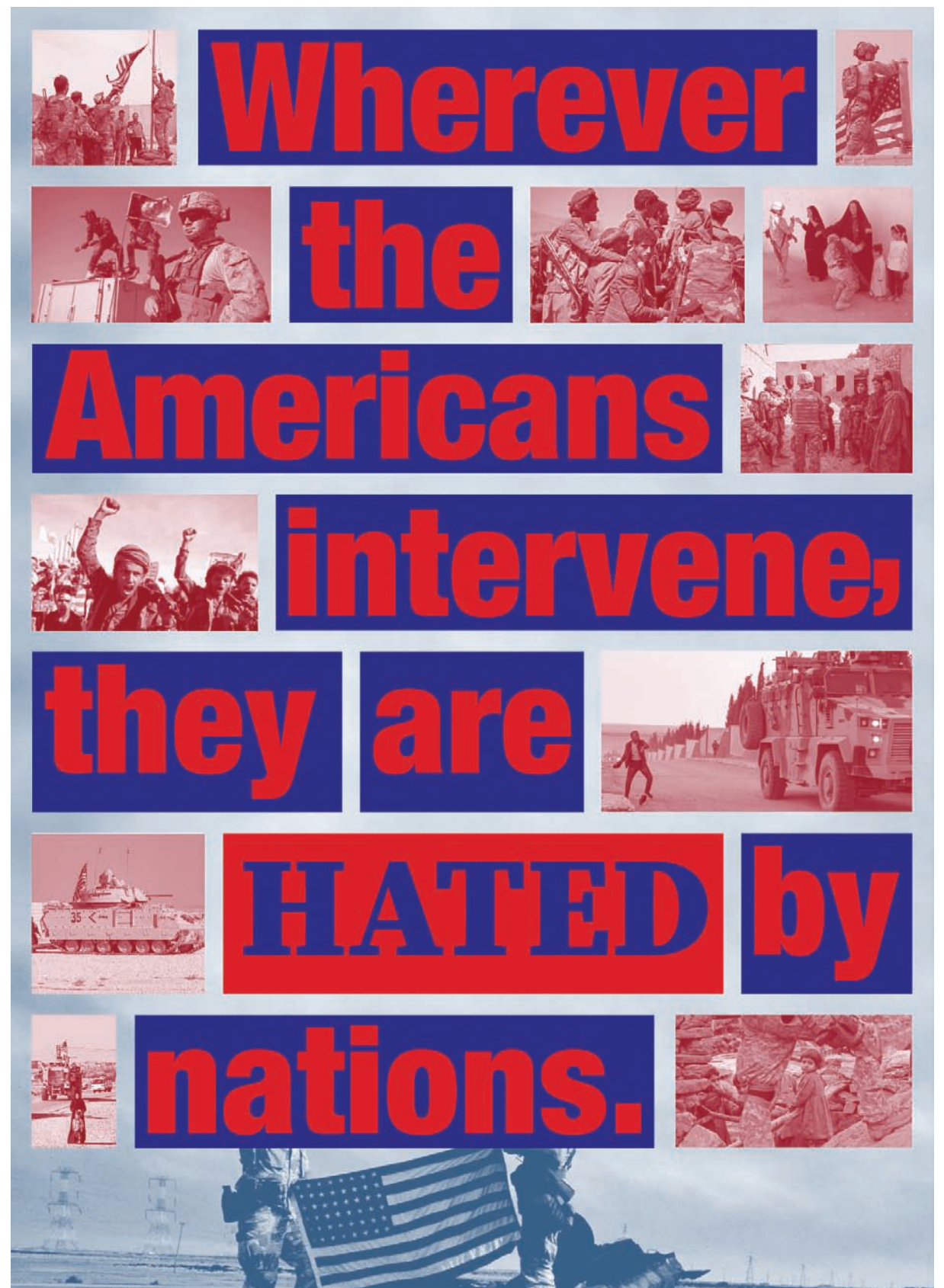
In separate meetings, Mousavi met with the Chairman of the

State Oil Fund of the Republic of Azerbaijan and the country's Deputy Foreign Minister for International Affairs.

The diplomat discussed bilateral relations as well as cooperation in

international organizations with the Azeri officials.

Tehran-Baku relationship is improving after some tensions over transit of goods from Iran to Armenia.





# France takes on role of bad cop

TEHRAN – As Iran and the West gear up for a consequential round of talks in Vienna, France is signaling that it's ready to play the role of a bad cop in the Vienna negotiations.

After months of heightened tensions over when to resume the stalled Vienna talks, Iran's top nuclear negotiator announced the exact date for resuming the talks, putting an end to mounting pressures from the negotiating partners.

In a phone conversation with Enrique Mora, Deputy Secretary-General of the EU External Action Service, Deputy Foreign Minister of Iran Ali Bagheri Kani said the negotiations over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, officially known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), would be resumed later this month.

"In a phone call with @enriquemora\_, we agreed to start the negotiations aiming at removal of unlawful & inhumane sanctions on 29 November in Vienna," Bagheri said on Twitter.

With Iran setting a date for resuming the talks, diplomatic tensions have largely subsided, save for France which appeared willing to spearhead a diplomatic campaign against Iran ahead of the next meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency's board of governors which is to take place a few days before the resumption of the Vienna talks.



While most JCPOA partners and the U.S. cautiously welcomed Iran's announcement on the talks, France moved to ramp up diplomatic pressures on Iran by putting more emphasis on the current state of play between Tehran and the UN nuclear watchdog.

A French foreign ministry spokesperson said on Thursday that France still could take action against Iran in the next meeting of the IAEA board of governors. Anne-Claire Legendre said France was in contact with its allies on how to respond to what she called Iran's "non-cooperation" with the IAEA.

France's position could not come at a more sensitive moment. The IAEA board is preparing for a meeting ahead of the seventh round of Vienna talks.

So, it's not clear yet if France would push for censure against Iran during the meeting.

Some pundits believe that France could be trying to set the stage for pressuring Iran by pushing the board of governors into adopting an anti-Iran stance. If true, such an effort would highly likely further complicate the situation around the JCPOA as Iran repeatedly warned about exerting pressure during talks and said it won't acquiesce to any effort to pocket concessions through pressure.

Therefore, France is unlikely to succeed in censuring Iran at the board of governors. Because such a move would probably anger Iran at a time when it announced a return to Vienna only grudgingly.

So why France did take a hawkish

stance against Iran while others breathed a sigh of relief after Iran announced the exact date for its return to Vienna. Some believe that France returned to its old habit of taking on the bad cop role.

"As the next meeting of the Board of Governors is scheduled for mid-November (before the start of a new round of nuclear talks), a statement by a French Foreign Ministry spokesperson indicates that the country is wearing bad cop uniforms and intends to use IAEA as leverage on behalf of Western negotiators to pressure Iran ahead of resuming a new round of nuclear talks," wrote Nour News, a news website close to Iran's Supreme National Security Council.

It added, "Passing between the IAEA and France, which has always played the role of a bad cop in the nuclear negotiations, is also a continuation of the Western scenario of using the IAEA tool to shape the political pressure at the beginning of a new round of negotiations."

Nour News warned that creating an atmosphere of threat and pressure against Iran would undermine the negotiations and create more complications.

"Negotiation in an atmosphere of political threat and pressure practically contradicts the principle of dialogue to reach an agreement, and the result is nothing but more complicated conditions," the website said.

## President Raisi visits Semnan

TEHRAN - Iranian President Seyed Ebrahim Raisi visited the province of Semnan in continuation of his provincial visits in weekends.

Ayatollah Raisi arrived at Semnan Airport on Thursday morning and was received by the representative of the Leader in the province, the governor-general and senior provincial officials upon arrival.

Visiting the plans and infrastructure projects of the province, meeting with the elites, martyrs' families, war veterans and different groups of the people, participating in the meeting of the Administrative Council and the press conference were the most important programs of the president during the visit to Semnan province.

President Raisi was accompanied on this trip by his Chief of Staff, the Vice President for Executive Affairs, the Minister of Agricultural Jihad and the Head of Plan and Budget Organization.

Speaking on Thursday morning upon his arrival in the province, Raisi briefed reporters on the objectives of the trip. "Before this trip, the problems and shortcomings of Semnan province in various fields have been examined by experts and during this trip we are determined to have meetings with relevant officials and economic entrepreneurs to make clear decisions to solve the problems of Semnan province," he said, according to the presidential website.

Pointing out that Semnan province has many capacities in the fields of agriculture, industry and mining, the president added, "We believe that if these capacities are used properly, we can see an increase in productivity and production in the province despite some shortcomings and the government will pursue to activate all these capacities seriously."

Ayatollah Raisi also described the proximity of Semnan province with other provinces as one of the other capacities for development and prosperity of the province and said, "We are determined to make decisions in order to solve the problems of the province, paying special attention to all the capacities of Semnan province."

He further referred to the concurrency of his trip to Semnan province with the day of anti-arrogance and said, "Aban 13 (Nov. 4) is a reminder of the courage of the students and the flag of the great Imam against the Global Arrogance."

November 4 in Iran marks the anniversary of the takeover of U.S. embassy in Tehran by the revolutionaries in 1979.

During his trip to Semnan, President Raisi also paid a visit to the nomads of Mahdishahr. In an unannounced visit to the tent of Mahdishahr nomads, Ayatollah Raisi said, "The provision of livestock feed for nomads and ranchers in the region and the establishment of a livestock complex should be pursued and implemented by the governor-general of Semnan."

He added, "The issues raised here are mostly about water shortage, and in addition to taking the required measures, we need to pray for divine blessings on the country."

He noted, "Livestock feed should be provided to Mahdishahr nomads and ranchers in such a way that after the growing of their livestock, the repayment of loan instalments will begin."

Appreciating the efforts of nomadic women to produce handicrafts and the importance of the location of Semnan province, which is known as Bab al-Reza (AS), the President said, "Creating a market and marketing for selling handicraft products is very important in supporting this local industry."

During a visit to the closed factory of Pakris in Mahdishahr, the president closely examined the problems of the production unit. He was briefed by the relevant managers about the reasons for the closure and the obstacles and problems of the production unit.

The president also met with Ayatollah Seyyed Mohammad Shahcheraghi, the representative of the people of the province in the Assembly of Experts.

In the meeting, while appreciating the efforts of Ayatollah Shahcheraghi alongside the people of Semnan, the president said, "The effects and blessings of your presence in this province are eternal because you worked sincerely and God accepts sincere deeds."

Raisi added, "Ayatollah Shahcheraghi is the axis of solidarity and empathy of the revolutionary forces in Semnan province and his guidance and support of the government is a valuable asset."

The president also pointed to the U.S. sanctions on Iran during the visit. Emphasizing that we will pursue the simultaneous policy of lifting and neutralizing sanctions, the President said, "The people of Islamic Iran appreciate the intelligent and authoritative actions of the country's border guards."

In an unannounced appearance amongst 13 Aban demonstrations of people of Semnan on

Thursday morning, Ayatollah Raisi said, "The history of America's enmity with the Iranian people is not 40 years, but this enmity is more than 70 years."

"The difference is that in the first thirty years, the United States succeeded in plundering the interests of the Iranian people by coup d'état and supporting the dictators, but in the 43 years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the Iranian nation has won the battle against the endless hostilities of the United States," he said.

The president said, "The Iranian people have always condemned the interventionist and bullying actions of Americans in the region, including their recent behavior, and they are always grateful for the intelligent and authoritative responses of the brave border guards of the Guards (IRGC)."

He also referred to the date of the start of negotiations on possible lifting of oppressive sanctions against the Iranian people and said, "Our negotiation is a result-oriented negotiation and we will not hesitate supporting the rightful demands of the Iranian people to lift the oppressive sanctions."

President Raisi said, "As Iran has previously stated, we will not leave the negotiation table, but we will also stand against the excessive demands that lead to the loss of the interests and rights of the Iranian people."

Ayatollah Raisi said, "At the same time, we will pursue the lifting of sanctions and the neutralization of sanctions."

The president described the way out of the existing problems of the country as possible and achievable and said, "Today, the country needs jihadist and coherent work to overcome the problems, and I consider this possible because WE CAN."

Speaking on Thursday afternoon in a meeting with elites, scholars, families of martyrs and war veterans and a group of different groups of the people of Semnan province, Ayatollah Raisi said, "By relying on God and trust in the internal resources and capacities of the country, especially our talented human resources, we can solve problems."

He added, "The United States wanted to cause serious problems to the Iranian people with maximum pressure, but today even our enemies admit that the maximum resistance of the Iranian people has defeated the maximum pressure of the enemies and today the position of the Islamic Republic is stronger than ever."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said late on Monday that Amir Abdollahian had tested positive for COVID-19.

Upon advice from doctors, the foreign minister was quarantined and discharged his day-to-day duties from home, Khatibzadeh said, adding that the general health conditions of the minister were good.

## IRAN IN FOCUS

NOVEMBER 6, 2021

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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## SPORTS

### Woman volleyball coach Imani makes dream come true

From Page 1 ► "I had some other offers as well, but I was ambitious to work in a high-level team like Porto. They are the champions of the 2021 Portuguese League, Cup, and Super Cup, and now they are competing in European Volleyball Champions League," she stated.

"I'm supposed to work as a coach in Porto's senior team and at the same time help the U21 team," the 37-year-old coach added.

When asked about the current condition of the Iranian women's volleyball, the former middle blocker of the Iran national team said: "First of all, I should say that I am representing Iran's women volleyball in Europe at the moment. I hope I can show Iranian women's capacity in European leagues. Since Mr. Davarzani was appointed as the president of the Iran volleyball federation, Iranian women's volleyball has made significant progress because the federation has had special support for women's volleyball. Now, we have foreign-based players both as players and coaches in other countries. Our national team also has had good training camps. So, in general, Iran's women volleyball has a bright future ahead," concluded Samira Imani.

### Esteghlal held by Sepasi, Zob Ahan edge Sepahan

TEHRAN - Esteghlal football team were held to a 1-1 draw by Fajr Sepasi in Shiraz's Hafezieh Stadium in Matchday 4 of Iran Professional League on Friday.

Arthur Yamga gave the visiting team a lead from the penalty spot in the hour mark and Sirvan Ghorbani equalized the match in the injury time.

In Isfahan's Fooladshahr Stadium, Zob Ahan edged past Sepahan 1-0 courtesy of Sajad Danai Baghaki's 57th-minute goal.

Sepahan's Jalal Alimohammadi was shown a red card in the 68th minute.

In Tabriz, Paykan defeated Tractor 2-1. Peyman Babaei scored for the hosts just five minutes into the match but Esmail Babaei and Mohammadjavad Azadeh found the back of Tractor's net before the halftime.

Havadar also defeated Padideh 2-0 thanks to first half's goals from Mohammad Ghazi and Nima Entezari.

On Saturday, Persepolis will host Gol Gohar in Tehran, Mes play Aluminum in Rafsanjan, Nassaji host Sanat Naft and Foolad meet Naft Masjed Soleyman in an away match in Ahvaz derby.

### Dragan Skocic shortlisted for 2021 IFFHS World Best National Coach

TEHRAN – Iran football team coach Dragan Skocica has been shortlisted for the 2021 IFFHS World Best National Coach.

Skocic is on the verge of leading Iran to the 2022 FIFA World Cup in Qatar.

He did a fantastic job in the current year, earning several consecutive victories with Iran.

Roberto Mancini, Lionel Scaloni, Roberto Martinez, Djamel Belmadi, Didier Deschamps are also candidates for the Award 2021.

Mehdi Taremi and Sardar Azmoun had been previously nominated for the IFFHS World Best Forward, while Amir Abedzadeh is also shortlisted for the IFFHS World Best Goalkeeper.

### Shahrdari Sirjan primed for success, says confident Motevalli

TEHRAN – Melika Motevalli is confident of winning the 2021 AFC Women's Club Championship crown with Shahrdari Sirjan following the club's maiden title winning season in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Shahrdari Sirjan came out tops in the 2021 Kowsar Women Football League regular season, netting 48 goals to advance to the Final Round, where they pipped seven-time champions Bam Khatoon Football Club to the title.

"Preparations for the tournament have been smooth so far with about two months of solid pre-season training," said Motevalli.

"I think our team is at the peak of readiness and we are focused for the upcoming matches."

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Motevalli, who played an integral part in Islamic Republic of Iran's qualification for the AFC Women's Asian Cup 2022, believes Shahrdari Sirjan can improve further heading into the tournament.

"It's a blessing that we won the domestic league title for the first time and that another opportunity has been given to us to participate in the AFC Women's Club Championship.

"We have the potential to elevate our game further in this competition and I hope this upward trend will continue in Jordan.

"This tournament is very important for us, competing with some of the best teams in Asia. We are fully prepared for battle and will treat each match as a final.

"We are ready to create history. The team is motivated because expectations are high and we want to be worthy representatives for Iran."

Shahrdari Sirjan begin their campaign against Uzbekistan champions FC Bunyodkor on Sunday with Gokulam Kerala FC of India three days later before playing Jordan's Amman Club on November 13.

### Iran Greco-Roman runners-up at U23 Worlds

TEHRAN – Iran Greco-Roman team finished in second place at the 2021 U23 World Wrestling Championships held in Belgrade, Serbia.

Russia won the Greco-Roman team title, thanks to the two gold medals on Wednesday, which propelled them to 190 points. Iran finished second with 155 points, while Georgia ended up on the podium in third place with 105 points.

Iranian wrestlers Mehdi Mohsennejad and Mohammadjavad Rezaei won two silver medals in the 60kg and 67kg in the final day of the competition.

Amin Mirzazadeh won a gold medal in the 130kg Tuesday night.

Pouya Dadmarz and Amin Kaviyaninejad claimed two silvers in the 55kg and 72kg.

Alireza Nejati and Naser Alizadeh also took two bronze medals at the 63kg and 87kg categories.

## Iran FM receives calls and messages from foreign counterparts

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has received phone calls and messages from a number of foreign ministers after testing positive for Covid-19.

On Thursday, Iraqi and Syrian Foreign Ministers Fuad Hussein and Faisal Mekdad called Amir Abdollahian to greet him and briefly discuss issues of mutual interest including bilateral relations with Iran and regional

developments, the Iranian foreign ministry said.

The Iraqi foreign minister briefed Amir Abdollahian on the latest developments regarding the formation of his country's new government.

The top Syrian diplomat also gave Amir Abdollahian an update on the developments in Syria and its people's

resistance.

It should be noted that in addition to phone calls by the Syrian and Iraqi foreign ministers, the top diplomats of China, Kuwait, Jordan and a number of foreign ambassadors in Tehran sent separate messages to Amir Abdollahian and wished health and fast recovery for the Iranian foreign minister.



## South Pars complex fully prepared for gas supply in winter

TEHRAN – The managing director of Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC), which is in charge of developing Iran's giant South Pars gas field, said all the necessary measures have been taken for the preparation of the complex for sustained supply of gas during the winter, the POGC portal reported on Thursday.

Mentioning the completion of the annual overhaul program at all of the field's platforms, Mohammad Meshkinfam said the field is ready to produce 700 million cubic meters (mcm) of gas during the winter of the current Iranian calendar year (starts on December 22).

"Pre-scheduled plans are being seriously pursued in both development and production sectors, and we are fully prepared to produce 700 million cubic meters per day of gas from 37 South Pars offshore platforms," Meshkinfam said on the sidelines of a visit to the field's development projects.

He further mentioned the completion of the first train of the South Pars Phase 14 Refinery as the top priority of his company at the moment, saying: "at the beginning of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 21) there were short interruptions in the implementation of the company's development projects, but with the double effort made by employers and contractors good work has been done and we



are compensating for the delays."

According to the official, the first train of the Phase 14 Refinery is expected to go operational by the end of the ninth Iranian calendar month of Azar (December 21).

The overhaul of South Pars gas platforms is carried out in the first half of the year due to the reduction in natural gas demand across the country; the overhaul planning is made in a way that there will be no interruptions due to breakdowns and other technical problems during the cold period of the year.

South Pars Gas Field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf, is currently divided into 24 standard phases in the Iranian side and is estimated to contain a significant amount of natural gas, accounting for about eight percent of the world's reserves, and approximately 18 billion barrels of condensate.

## GSI announces discovery of 13 new minerals

TEHRAN – Head of Iran's Geological Survey and Mineral Explorations Organization (GSI) Alireza Shahidi has announced the discovery of 13 new minerals across the country over the past five years, saying that the number of the country's various types of minerals has now reached 81.

"Given that in recent years the government and private sector have been using devices that perform a better analysis of minerals compared to the past, the number of newly discovered minerals has increased and the existence of 81 types of minerals in the country has been proven," IRIB quoted Shahidi as saying.

"Due to the mineral diversity and the special geological situation of the country, the number of elements in the country can even increase to 85," the official said.

According to the official, the details about the mentioned

discoveries will be announced publicly in the near future.

The total proven reserves of the country's mines are estimated at about 60 billion tons, which is expected to reach more than 100 billion tons with the implementation of the country's first exploration priority in an area of 500,000 square kilometers. Therefore, the mining sector and mining industry are the most important and influential areas in the production and trade of the country.

Given the significance of the mining sector in Iran, the implementation of projects to develop different parts of this sector has been always a major program of the governments.

Achieving a 10.5-percent value-added rise in the mining sector, and increasing mining exploration to two million meters from 510,000 meters is a top agenda of Iran's new Industry, Mining



and Trade Minister Reza Fatemi-Amin's activity.

As a major state-owned holding company active in the mining sector in the country, the Iranian Mines and Mining Industries Development and Renovation Organization (IMIDRO) is playing a significant part in this regard, and in line with its development role, it is seriously pursuing the target of conducting two million meters of mining exploration by the next three years.

To this end, the organization has defined a number of programs including supporting the contractors active in the

# Unprecedented leap in agricultural mechanization development indicators

From page 1 ► is in the field of thinking, planning and production management, and agricultural mechanization can be considered as a system that with proper management can create fundamental changes in the agriculture sector of a country.

Another advantage of mechanization is the creation of desire and attractiveness to do agricultural work, which is done by reducing the difficulty of work.

All the above-mentioned factors prove the significance of mechanization in the agriculture sector.

In Iran, some unprecedented leap has been witnessed in terms of agricultural mechanization development indicators over the past decade.

Head of Iran's Agricultural Mechanization Development Center Kambiz Abbasi has recently said that through investing over 200 trillion rials (about \$4.76 billion) in the field of agricultural mechanization, the country has experienced a historical leap in this due over the past ten years.

This has led to quantitative and qualitative development, improvement of mechanization indicators, as well as prosperity of activities in the manufacturing of agricultural machinery, he noted.

The official has also



announced that up to 95 percent of agricultural machinery in Iran is manufactured domestically.

According to Abbasi, the country's agricultural production has increased by 350 percent due to the implementation of the Agriculture Ministry's mechanization programs.

He has noted that Iran's domestic industry of agricultural machinery has experienced a boom during the past 10 years thanks to the Comprehensive Agricultural Mechanization Plan ratified by the government for which so far over 200 trillion rials has been invested.

One of the basic approaches followed by the ministry for promoting agricultural mechanization in the country over the past few years has been holding international and domestic exhibitions, such as the

Ifarm Agricultural Exhibition, he said.

"By holding such exhibitions, we have been able to introduce new technologies in the field of agricultural production," Abbasi noted.

The official has also said that the Agricultural Mechanization Development Center plans to increase the country's agricultural mechanization coefficient to 2.3 horsepower per hectare in the current Iranian calendar year (ends on March 20, 2022).

Iran's agricultural mechanization coefficient has currently reached 1.65 horsepower per hectare.

"Our ultimate goal is to inject enough machines into the sector to improve the status and degree of mechanization in the process of agricultural production,"

Abbasi said back in April.

According to the official, the Agriculture Ministry has been allocating a separate credit line for the mechanization of the agriculture sector every year, so that since the Iranian calendar year of 1392 (March 2013-March 2014) so far, nine credit lines have been opened for this sector.

Abbasi also said on Wednesday that over 33 trillion rials (about \$785.7 million) of facilities have been paid to farmers for agricultural mechanization since the beginning of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21).

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the 4th International Agricultural Exhibition (Ifarm), the official said that investment in the field of agricultural mechanization has doubled in the current Iranian calendar year compared to the previous year.

It is estimated that more than 86 percent of the country's wheat, barley and rapeseed fields will be fully mechanized in the current Iranian calendar year, he had said back in early September.

According to Abbasi since over 95 percent of the technology and knowledge in this area is domestic, despite the U.S. sanctions most of the goals in the mechanization of various agriculture sectors will be achieved without any problems.

## Cellphone imports up 20% in 7 months yr/yr

TEHRAN – Iran's import of mobile phones increased 20 percent in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), as compared to the last year's corresponding period, IRNA reported.

According to the Association of Cellphone, Tablet and Accessories Importers, 10.57 million cellphones were imported into the country in the mentioned period, while in the previous year's same time span 8.04 million devices had been imported.

As reported, the coronavirus pandemic and home officing have pushed education and businesses towards online activities, while travel restrictions and changes in people's lifestyles have also led to an increase in the consumption of mobile phones in the country.

Iranian mobile phone traders imported 15.8 million smartphones over the previous Iranian calendar year, according to the Iranian Association of Cellphones, Tablet, and Accessories Importers.

Back in January, the spokesman of the

Iranian Association of Cellphone, Tablet, and Accessories Importers had announced that the price of cellphones had dropped 12-20 percent in domestic markets.

With the implementation of Iran's National Mobile Registry Plan back in October 2017, people must register all new mobile phones to be eligible for use in the country. This law is to fight smuggling phones to Iran. As a result, all people who want to use their phones for more than one month in the Islamic Republic will need to register their phones as a way to pay the customs fees.

In April, Iran's Deputy Minister of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Sattar Hashemi announced the launch of a five-year plan for the domestic production of 14 million cellphones and tablets.

According to Hashemi, the mentioned program is going to create job opportunities for over 43,000 people and save the country over \$1 billion during the said five years.

## Nearly 480,000 tons of paper produced in H1

TEHRAN – Iran produced 479,100 tons of paper in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), according to the data released by Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry.

The ministry's data show that the paper output has fallen 1.6 percent in the six-month period of this year from that of the previous year.

The head of the Iranian Syndicate of Paper and Cardboard Manufacturers says that considering the country's potentials and capacities Iran could easily become a hub for the supply of mentioned products in the region.

"Due to the general conditions and available facilities, Iran has the potential to become a regional production hub in many industries including the paper and cardboard sector," Abolfazl Roghani Golpayegani told IRNA in mid-June.

According to the official, the government has issued a license for an annual production of 2.8 million tons of packing paper, while the country's annual production capacity is currently 1.6 million tons and the domestic demand is 900,000 tons per year.

"Therefore, surplus production must be exported, and exports are already underway

to Europe, including Germany, Finland and the United Kingdom, as well as Asia and the Persian Gulf Arab nations," he said.

Golpayegani noted that by creating the necessary infrastructure, using the existing vacant capacities and developing the production units, while improving international interactions and resolving the country's political issues, the paper industry can achieve the goal of becoming the region's main supplier.

The head of the Syndicate of Paper and Cardboard Manufacturers pointed to the supply of raw materials as the main challenge of this industry and said: "Department of Environment is the first authority to approve orders for raw material, but strict regulations by this organization have become an obstacle to the industry's activities."

Currently, the per capita consumption of paper products in Iran is 22 kilograms (kg), while in Europe the figure stands at 55 kg and in the United States is 160 kg.

Also, the annual consumption of textbook paper is 40,000 tons, according to the official.

Some 120,000 tons of sanitary paper is also consumed annually in the country, but the production in this field is more than 200,000 tons.

## Iran-Canada Joint Chamber of Commerce holds meeting to revive trade

TEHRAN – The board of directors of the Iran-Canada Joint Chamber of Commerce gathered at the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) to discuss ways of reviving trade relations between the two countries, ICCIMA portal reported on Friday.

During the meeting, the attendees offered three proposals for the resumption of trade relations between the two sides, including the establishment of a think tank comprised of the Iran-Canada Joint Chamber board members, introducing an advisor from the joint chamber to the Canadian government, and finally sending a delegation from Iran to visit Canada.

Speaking in the meeting, Ala Mirmohammad-Sadeghi, Chairman of the Iran-Canada Joint Chamber, said the Iran-Canada Chamber is one of the oldest chambers in Iran that has developed and pursued Iran's trade policy in this country.

According to the official, the chamber has sent numerous business delegations from Iran to Canada and reciprocally hosted delegations from Canada.



ICCIMA Deputy Head Mohammad Reza Karbasi (R) and Ala Mirmohammad-Sadeghi (L) Chairman of the Iran-Canada Joint Chamber

"Unfortunately, over the last year, with the stagnation in the political atmosphere between the governments of Iran and Canada, commercial activities have also diminished," Mirmohammad-Sadeghi regretted.

"Canada has an extraordinary advantage for Iran compared to other countries, and that is the presence of many Iranians with good business opportunities in Canada. We would like the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to state its policy in this regard so that the Iran-Canada Chamber can

pursue its trade goals within the framework of this policy," he added.

Stating that the Iran-Canada Chamber has more than 500 members, he said: "Unfortunately, due to the situation between Iran and Canada in the past year, only about 100 members and owners of businesses residing in Iran have been able to do business; We expect the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to take the necessary measures so that the Joint Chamber can use the capacity of Iranians in Canada like the previous years."

Further in the meeting, Mohammad Reza Karbasi, ICCIMA deputy head for international affairs, stated that the Iran-Canada Chamber of Commerce used to receive two or three Canadian business delegations annually and held important trade fairs and seminars in this country.

"Unfortunately, due to the political reasons at the moment, although these trade relations have not been completely cut off, they are done through third countries, which leads to increased costs," he said.

## TSE's main index gains 5,000 points in a week

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 5,000 points (less than three percent) to 1.398 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

During the past week, the indices of

Isfahan Refining Company, National Iranian Copper Industries Company, Mobarakeh Steel Company, Bandar Abbas Refining Company, Sabzevar Pars Steel Complex, and Arian Chimia Tech Industrial Group were the most widely followed ones.

Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi hosted a meeting with the representatives of over 30 major companies active in the capital market on Monday to exchange ideas for resolving issues and developing the economy.



# Biden reneges on campaign pledge with Saudi arms sale



From page 1 ► Some have questioned how the flow of deadly arms diplomatically ends a conflict? Writing on social media, Author and former presidential candidate Marianne Williamson said “This has nothing to do with making the world a better place and everything to do with fueling our defense economy, America’s economy should not be built around merchandising death.”

Since taking office, advocates and regional experts have denounced Biden for failing to hold Saudi Arabia accountable for the death of U.S.-based journalist Jamal Khashoggi and allowing the country impunity for other human rights abuses.

During the first major foreign policy speech of his presidency, Biden announced the U.S. would end support for Saudi Arabia’s offensive operations in Yemen. However, any efforts by the Biden administration efforts to bring about an end to the conflict, which has been fueled by U.S. backed Saudi airstrikes on the Kingdom’s southern neighbor, have been far from successful.

This sale is actually the second to Saudi Arabia that Biden has rubber stamped, the first was for \$500 million late last month. The Biden administration approved a new possible sale of military-related maintenance services to Saudi Arabia. Riyadh requested to buy around \$500 million in maintenance and support services for the Royal Saudi Land Forces Aviation Command’s helicopter fleet. According to a State Department statement, the purchase would include component repairs, installation of engineering change proposals, aircraft simulator logistics, training and more. Congress has 30 days to review the sale which may face a pushback from Democrats.

The State Department claimed the sale will help bolster Saudi Arabia and stability in the region. The Defense Security Cooperation Agency said “this proposed sale will support U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives by helping to improve the security of a friendly country that continues to be an important force for

political stability and economic growth in West Asia.”

Saudi Arabia has spent a fortune buying arms from America to prosecute a war that has killed almost a quarter of a million people, the world’s worst humanitarian catastrophe. Three American administrations have enabled the war. The latest arms package represents an enhancement of Saudi Arabia’s military capabilities.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, Saudi Arabia was the world’s largest arms importer from 2015 to 2019, the first five years of the war on Yemen. The prominent think tank that tracks arms sales says Riyadh’s imports of major weapons increased by 130% compared with the previous five-year period. That was despite wide-ranging concern around the world, including in the U.S. and the United Kingdom (two countries who ironically provided most of the arms) about the Kingdom’s deadly attacks in Yemen.

A total of 73% of Saudi Arabia’s arms imports came from the U.S., and 13% from the UK.

In the five years before the war, U.S. arms transfers to Saudi Arabia amounted to \$3 billion; between 2015 and 2020, the U.S. agreed to sell over \$64.1 billion worth of weapons to Riyadh, averaging \$10.7 billion per year.

Then U.S. President Barack Obama could have stopped the war when it started in 2015 by cutting off military, diplomatic, and intelligence support for the Saudi-led coalition that imposed a blockade on its southern neighbor and began tens of thousands of deadly air strikes on different civilian targets.

At a Senate confirmation process, the Obama administration’s military commander for West Asia, now Secretary

of Defense Lloyd Austin, advised against supporting the Saudi bombing campaign and predicted it would be a failure.

Former President Donald Trump’s administration was very enthusiastic about the war. Trump, who was surrounded by hawks, made his first international trip to Riyadh in May 2017, where he was convinced the Saudis could defeat the Yemeni revolution. He certainly prolonged the war by striking a massive multibillion arms deal with the Saudis. According to the Trump White House the agreement was worth \$350 billion over 10 years and \$110 billion that took effect immediately.

This was at a time when Human Rights groups and international organizations had been warning about potential war crimes being committing in Yemen. According to activists, over the years Saudi Arabia has lobbied heavily against international resolutions that would have extended the mandate of UN investigators who have documented possible war crimes in Yemen. Back in 2017 a group of experts set up by the UN Human Rights Council repeatedly found that Saudi air strikes and shelling may amount to war crimes.

But Human Rights Watch said “Saudi Arabia, a leading party to the conflict in Yemen accused of serious violations including likely war crimes, together with its coalition allies, is engaging in a tireless lobbying campaign to deter states at the Human Rights Council from renewing an inquiry mandate [into possible war crimes].”

Even in Washington, U.S.-Saudi military ties have come under the spotlight. Many Democratic lawmakers and some Republicans are critical of American support to the Saudi military. Much of the disagreement in Capitol Hill is focused on the Saudi war on Yemen, the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi as well as the Kingdom’s record on women’s rights and the role of some Saudi citizens in the 9-11 attacks have also been cited by lawmakers and activists calling for more scrutiny or conditions on arms sales.

Lockheed Martin, another huge American arms contractor whose military hardware has played an instrumental part in U.S.-Saudi arms sales is among several American weapons makers who have made massive profit from the war on Yemen. Some experts say the company has cashed in the most.

The U.S. military-industrial complex is once again the winner, with critics holding the White House responsible for having the power and influence to end this tragic conflict.

**A total of 73% of Saudi Arabia’s arms imports came from the U.S., and 13% from the UK.**

## Drowned in debt: NYC cabbies end hunger strike after weeks

After weeks of hunger strike, taxi drivers in the New York City, battered by the coronavirus pandemic and crippling debt, have headed back home following a deal with officials.

The détente came on the 15th day of a strike launched by the drivers of iconic yellow taxi cabs, who have been struggling with hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of debt.

New York City’s Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) agreed to a city-backed guarantee to lower the monthly payments of taxi medallion owners to a maximum \$170,000, according to the New York Taxi Workers Alliance (NYTWA).

The agreement made with Marblegate, the largest medallion loan-holder, requires a driver to pay back in loan just over \$1,100 per month now.

“Drivers will no longer be at risk of losing their homes, and no longer be held captive to a debt beyond their lifetime,” Bhairavi Desai of the NYTWA was quoted as saying.

In a statement on Thursday, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio said he was “proud to have worked with” the NYTWA, Senator Chuck Schumer and Marblegate to come to the



agreement.

Many of these taxi drivers have been forced to commit suicide in recent years, with their plight receiving zero attention from the US government or the local municipality officials in New York.

A report said at least 9 New York City taxi drivers have died by suicide since 2017 — one owed over \$700,000 for his taxi medallion.

On October 20, they eventually decided to begin a hunger strike outside City Hall to build pressure on Mayor Bill de Blasio and the city to guarantee the loans they took out to purchase medallions required to operate yellow cabs in the city.

The large debt owed by taxi drivers is mainly attributed to lack of regulation by New York City officials, allowing the price of the medallion to be artificially inflated, and predatory lenders targeting taxi drivers who are mostly people of color and immigrants.

According to New York City data, 40 percent of medallion owners are from South Asia.

In a statement, Schumer said the medallion debt crisis has gone on for years, taking lives and livelihoods, while commending Mayor de Blasio “for his leadership, the New York Taxi Workers Alliance for their steadfast advocacy, and Marblegate for their good-faith effort to forge a

workable solution.”

Steven W. Thrasher, author of The Viral Underclass, called it the “amazing story of the day.”

“After a two-week hunger strike, New York’s licensed taxi drivers have gotten their average medallion debt of a \$500,000 capped at \$17,000. The debt has led to many suicides & familial harms. Solidarity works,” he wrote on Twitter.

Journalist Brain Rosenthal said for years, thousands of New York City taxi drivers were “channeled into exploitative loans that enriched bankers, brokers and city officials but left them (drivers) in deep debt and financial ruin”.

The medallion market has for long been a major source of revenue for New York City, generating a total of \$850 million for the administrations of Mayor Bill DeBlasio and his predecessor Michael Bloomberg.

Service providers Uber and Lyft as well as the COVID-19 pandemic have reduced demand in recent years, leaving yellow cab drivers struggling to pay their medallion debts.

(Source: Press TV)

## Riyadh chiefly responsible for economic crisis in Lebanon: researcher



From page 1 ► The reasons of this pressure and what can be described as an aggression on Lebanon should be linked to the massacre conducted by the number one Saudi agent in Lebanon Samir Geagea two weeks ago. Geagea failed in succeeding to ignite an internal sectarian war due to Sayyed Nasrallah’s wisdom. He was ordered by the Saudis to attack the peaceful protest on October 14th so that the Resistance would retaliate and a sectarian clash would break out.

**Why have the Saudis been pressuring Lebanon in recent months? Is Lebanon the weakest player in West Asia?**

Saudi Arabia is the number one state responsible for the current financial and economic crisis taking place in Lebanon. They sent their man Rafiq Hariri in 1990 after the end of civil war to lead a political bloc in the Lebanese government that ruled for several years and founded the base of disastrous financial policies that strangled the productive economic sectors and put Lebanon under the bus when Hariri decided that the economy must only rely on foreign

Paris are investing in the upcoming election to be held in March 2022. Both are funding local NGOs and forces aimed at having the majority in the next parliament, so that they form a government that would work against the resistance. On the other hand, Hezbollah and allies are firm in their patriotic stance that refuses to give Saudi Arabia what it wants and Kordahi won’t resign. So what the government will do depends on what Washington will decide. Will it prevent Mikati from resignation and work on softening the Saudi pressure or they would abandon their stance to satisfy Riyadh? We’ll see.

**Do you think Kordahi’s remark about Yemen war is a kind of intervention in Saudi affairs?**

Of course, Kordahi’s remarks about the Saudi war on Yemen was nothing but the truth. He even didn’t mention Saudi Arabia or the UAE and he used diplomatic terms when he was answering the anchor’s question in his interview. Other Lebanese politicians had already used the same words when talking in their previous speeches about the importance of ending this war. Saudi Arabia wanted

**“What Saudi Arabia is doing with Lebanon has no place in international relations and wise foreign policy.”**

an excuse to launch its aggression, and they thought Kordahi’s words would fit to forge that excuse for their campaign. Describing reality and facts as Kordahi did can never be regarded as interference in Saudi affairs. The latter is interfering in Lebanese affairs when they ask Lebanon to fire Kordahi from the government.

**What will be the implications of Saudi Arabia’s harsh reaction to such a remark by a Lebanese minister for the region and the world? Intolerance or unbalanced approach in foreign policy?**

What Saudi Arabia is doing with Lebanon has no place in international relations and wise foreign policy. MBS is just confirming to us that he is unfit for managing relations and diplomacy. He will fail again as he has failed in all of his battles and wars. If he’s counting on the Americans, they are not enthusiastic to defend him, and if he’s relying on Zionists, he will be disappointed soon because they cannot defend themselves anymore. MBS’s leadership in Saudi Arabia is not only harmful to its neighbors, but in the first place to Saudi Arabia itself, because the longer his dictatorship lasts the weaker the Saudi Kingdom will be. We shouldn’t be fooled by his acrobatic campaigns on his neighbors, because none of them is succeeding, and the most decisive one would be his historic defeat in his war on Yemen.



## Iran seeks to attract more tourists from China



From page 1 ► Last year, Tehran's ex-ambassador to Beijing said Iran was seeking to become a tourist destination for millions of potential travelers from China as the two countries are working on a 25-year comprehensive cooperation plan that includes boosting relations in the field of tourism.

Speaking in the TV program, Mehdi Sa-fari reminded some 200 million Chinese

tourists to visit different countries annually, adding "according to this agreement Iran will become one of the tourist destinations for Chinese travelers so that Iran can attract one to two million Chinese tourists to the country."

"This will create a transformation in Iran's tourism industry and will create jobs and a large market for the handicrafts industry of the country," he expanded.

In 2019, the Islamic Republic waived the visa requirement for Chinese nationals willing to visit the country. The decision was made to attract more foreign tourists to the country; however, it was a unilateral measure, because Iranian tourists visiting China still need visas.

Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran is expecting to increase the number of tourism arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million by 2025.

## Turkmen horses may enter UNESCO list

TEHRAN – Iran and Turkmenistan will jointly put forward the Turkmen horses and their safeguarding practices as a candidate for inclusion in UNESCO's list for Intangible Cultural Heritage.

"Iran and Turkmenistan are working together to develop a dossier on the breeding and maintenance of Turkmen horses to be submitted to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization," IRNA quoted Golestan province's tourism chief as saying on Thursday.

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

Such animals are dominantly found in the pasturelands of Turk-

men Sahra, a region sandwiched between Iran and Turkmenistan.

Moreover, another dossier for the Great Wall of Gorgan -- one of the longest brick barriers of the ancient world -- was submitted to UNESCO last month after several years of continuous work and effort, Ahmad Tajari added.

The defensive wall is about 200 km in length and it was built to prevent the invasion of the northern tribes. It is said to be the longest architectural work of ancient Iran, which was built in 90 years.

Also known as Red Wall, which in some ancient texts is referred to as the Red Snake, this wall is the longest brick ancient barrier between Central Europe and China, longer than Hadrian's Wall and the Antonine Wall put together and the third-largest wall in the



world after the walls of China and Germany.

Most parts of the gigantic monument are still hidden underneath the surface through some segments that have so far been unearthed and even restored to former glory.

It is worth mentioning that archaeological excavations have so far identified ditches, brick kilns, earthen dams, water canals, 38 forts, and watchtowers attached to the wall, and more than 25 castles in the southern margin of the wall as well as several ancient sites from prehistoric, historic, and Islamic eras.

The gigantic barrier is also more than three times the length of the longest late Roman defensive wall built from scratch, the Anastasian Wall west of Constantinople. The

combined area of the forts on the Gorgan Wall exceeds that of those on Hadrian's Wall about threefold.

Furthermore, the wall and its associated ancient military monuments provide a unique testimony to the engineering skills and military organization of the Sassanian Empire. They help to explain its geographic extent, from Mesopotamia to the west of the Indian Subcontinent, and how effective border defense contributed to the Empire's prosperity in the interior and its longevity. These monuments are, in terms of their scale, historical importance, and sophistication, of global significance.

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

## Russian tour operators begin excursions to Iran

TEHRAN – A number of Russian travel agents and tour operators have recently arrived in Iran for a week-long familiarization tour, Mehr reported on Friday.

The group, which entered the Islamic Republic on Thursday through Imam Khomeini International Airport, was scheduled to travel earlier this year following the implementation of Iran-Russia visa waiver for group tours; however, because of coronavirus restrictions, they were forced to postpone the journey, the report added.

Supported by Mahan Airlines, the group will tour the southern cities of Kerman, Mahan, Shiraz, and central city of Isfahan as well as the UNESCO-registered Lut Desert in the barren heartland of Iran.

The tour will be held observing strict health protocols and social distancing rules.

Earlier in June, the former Iranian tourism minister Ali-Asghar Mounesan finalized work on a bilateral visa-free agreement for tourist groups with Russia.

In 2017, former Iranian President Hassan Rouhani and his Russian counterpart Vladimir Putin inked a visa-free agreement for tourist groups.

A joint technical committee has been developing an action plan for the previously agreed visa-free travel arrangements since then, in order to put the agreement into effect.

However, the outbreak of the coronavirus put a halt to the agreement.

Based on the 2017 agreement tour groups of 5 to 50 people heading to [easternmost parts of] Russia from Iran or vice versa are granted a visa-free stay of up to 15 days.

Back in May, Mostafa Sarvari, who presides over the tourism marketing and advertising office of the Iranian Tour Operators Association, announced many Russian tourists are eager to travel to Iran, recounting his Russian counterparts. "Many [potential] Russian travelers are motivated to visit novel and lesser-known destinations such as Iran that could be a safe and attractive destination," he said.

"According to Russian tourism experts, the



feedback from Russian tourists who have traveled to Iran has been very positive, and its reflection, especially on social media, has caused a great deal of enthusiasm and interest."

According to Ebrahim Pourfaraj, who heads the Iranian Tour Operators Association, rounds of negotiations have been held between Iranian tour operators, travel marketers, and their Russian counterparts. "We've been commenced talks with some Russian travel agents to put Iranian destinations on their itineraries.... And the Iranian Tour Operators Association has also entered negotiations with Russian unions for

outbound tours to attract more travelers from Russia."

Pourfaraj says the majority of potential Russian travelers are unaware of the vast tourist attractions that exist in every corner of Iran. "The fact is that Iran's political and economic relations with Russia are considered as good, but this has nothing to do with attracting tourists because it is directly connected with the Russian people. It is the Russian people who must choose Iran as their destination."

Maya Lomidze, executive director of the Association of Tour Operators of Russia, had told Sputnik that the visa agreement may significantly surge the tourist flows between the two countries, just like it happened when a similar deal was signed between Russia and China. The flow of Iranian tourists to Russia increased by 50-70 percent following the operation of direct flights that connect Iran to St. Petersburg, Moscow, and Sochi, she said.

Iran is taking proactive measures in line with the long-term goal of 20 million tourists by 2025.

## Hospital hotels expected to cement medical tourism in Kermanshah

TEHRAN – Two hospital hotels are scheduled to come on stream in the western province of Kermanshah in the near future, the deputy provincial tourism chief has announced.

The opening of the hospital hotels in Kermanshah and the improvement of conditions for providing distinct medical services to tourists will allow the city to become a health tourism destination, Ali Saber said on Friday.

There are excellent facilities, equipment, and medical specialties in Kermanshah, which can be used to attract tourists, the official added.

"Due to decisions made by the National Headquarters for Coronavirus Control to allow foreign tourists in, Iraqi tourists will now be able to enter the province of Kermanshah from the Parviz Khan border," he noted.

The majority of these tourists seek medical treatment, he mentioned.

Kermanshah embraces a variety of awe-inspiring historical sites, of which Bisotun and Taq-e Bostan are both on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Inscribed into the base of a towering cliff, Taq-e Bostan comprises extraordinary Sassanian bas-reliefs of ancient victorious kings divide opinions. Late afternoon is the best time to visit, as the cliff turns a brilliant orange in the setting sun, which then dies poetically on the far side of the duck pond.

Bisotun is a patchwork of immense yet impressive life-size carvings depicting king Darius I and several other figures. UNESCO has it that Bisotun bears outstanding testimony to the important interchange of human



values on the development of monumental art and writing, reflecting ancient traditions in monumental bas-reliefs.

### Medical tourism in Iran

The developing health tourism industry is one of the most important fields of Iran's travel sector, which is trying to prove its capabilities and capacities in attracting medical and health tourists to the country.

Many domestic experts believe that medical tourism in Iran is a win-win

opportunity both for the country and foreign patients, as they are offered affordable yet quality treatment services and the country gains considerable foreign currency.

Iran's two most popular medical tourist cities are Tehran and Mashhad, but the coronavirus outbreak has significantly reduced the number of travelers.

Iran is one of the major destinations for health tourism in the region, and patients with 55 different nationalities, mostly from neighboring countries including Iraq, Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Oman, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Tajikistan, and Turkmenistan are seeking to use Iran's services and facilities in this field.

Iranian hospitals admitted nearly 70,000 foreign patients over the Iranian calendar year 1397 (March

2018 – March 2019) and it made an economic contribution of around \$12 billion to the country, according to the medical tourism department at the Ministry of Health.

In April 2018, the rotating presidency of the International Health Tourism Conference of Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) was handed to the Islamic Republic for a three-year term.

Mohammad Jahangiri who presides over a national center for developing health tourism said in May 2018 that Iran can annually earn \$7 billion in medical and health tourism, though the sector now brings in only one-seventh or even lesser of the sum.

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

## Webinar to discuss 50 years of archaeological survey on Burnt City

TEHRAN – An online seminar will be discussing archaeological projects carried out in the Burnt City, a UNESCO-registered site in southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province, the deputy provincial tourism chief has announced.

Organized by the province's association of archaeologists, the session will review the archaeological activities and surveys in the World Heritage site over the past 50 years, Majid Kolanuri said on Friday.

Iranian archaeologist Seyyed Mansour Seyyed Sajadi is scheduled to give a speech at the webinar, which will be held today at 7 p.m., the official added.

"Organizing such webinars is aimed to analyze

information on archaeology research, as well as information dissemination obtained from archaeology activities, while also reviewing recent findings in the field in the province," he noted.

Called "Shahr-e Sukhteh" in Persian, the Burnt City is associated with four rounds of civilization, all burnt down by catastrophic sets of fire. It is situated in Sistan-Baluchestan province, which was once a junction of Bronze-Age trade routes crossing the Iranian plateau.

Spanning an area of 280 hectares, the site had extensive commercial, political, and social relations with other important cities in the region. Founded around 3200 BC, the city was populated during four main periods up to



1800 BC, during which time there developed several distinct areas within the city. These include a monumental area, residential areas, industrial zones, and a graveyard.

Previous rounds of excavations showed that

the residents of Burnt City had great skills in weaving, creating fine arts such as decorative objects, stone carving, and pottery painting. Four civilizations have lived in the city which was burnt down three times and not rebuilt after the last fire. The world's oldest animated picture, as well as the earliest-known dice, backgammon set, caraway seeds, and artificial eyeball, are among the most significant discoveries at the site.

According to UNESCO, diversions in watercourses and climate change led to the eventual abandonment of the city in the early second millennium. The structures, burial grounds, and a large number of significant artifacts unearthed there, and their well-preserved state due to the dry desert climate, make this site

a rich source of information regarding the emergence of complex societies and contacts between them in the third millennium BC.

Sistan-Baluchestan is home to several distinctive archaeological sites and natural attractions, including two UNESCO World Heritage sites, namely Shahr-e-Soukhteh (Burnt City) and Lut desert.

In ancient times, according to Encyclopedia Britannica, the Baluchistan region provided a land route to the Indus Valley and the Babylonian civilizations. The armies of Alexander the Great marched through Baluchistan in 326 BC on their way to the Hindu Kush and their return march in 325 experienced great hardships in the region's barren wastes.



# Plan to revive 23 wetlands awaiting approval

TEHRAN – A comprehensive plan aiming to rehabilitate 23 wetlands nationwide has been prepared and is waiting to be approved by the national coordination and management headquarters.

Regardless of the drought conditions, the process of rehabilitating the country's wetlands is positive, and consultations continue to ensure the water rights of the wetlands by the Ministry of Energy, IRNA quoted Ahmad Reza Lahijanzadeh, an official with the Department of Environment (DOE), as saying on Friday.

It is necessary for this ministry to have more control over the illegal water withdrawals of rivers, and thus to guarantee the water rights of the wetlands, he noted.

In addition to climate change, some natural disasters have exacerbated the condition of water resources in Iran, climate change had a share of about 10 to 15 percent, and natural disasters about 50 percent; which highlights the need for comprehensive management.

In Iran, 141 wetlands with ecological value with an area of over 3 million hectares have been identified.

**Eight wetlands to join Ramsar Convention**

Regarding the possibility of registering the country's wetlands in the Ramsar Convention and improving the support, he stated that "plans have been prepared since



the past two years to identify wetlands that meet the registration conditions in this convention."

He stated that eight wetlands have been filed to the Ramsar Convention Office in Geneva for review.

Usually, committees are formed and visits are made to the wetlands, but at present, due to the pandemic, the visits will be done by delay, so that efforts are being made to continue the registration process.

**Wetlands' importance**

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

Wetlands play a major role in protecting the land against floods

SOCIETY

NOVEMBER 6, 2021

Straight Truth

TEHRAN TIMES

7

Schools gradually reopen as coronavirus declines

TEHRAN – Schools are gradually reopened with a delay of one month or two under health protocols with the decline in COVID-19 cases.

Students in tenth, eleventh, and twelfth grades will attend schools from November 6, while students in seventh, eighth, and ninth grades, as well as elementary students will go to school from the beginning of November 22.

In 16 provinces, 90 to 99 percent of the students have received the vaccine and in 11 provinces, 80 to 90 percent of students, Mehr reported on Friday.

All educational centers in Iran have been closed since February 2020.

In order for students to keep in touch with their studies, the Ministry of Education launched a homegrown mobile application on April 9, called SHAD, providing students with distance learning programs. More than 60 percent of students and 94 percent of teachers attended 64 percent of classes through the SHAD app, whose acronym in Persian translates as the Students



Education Network.

Moreover, the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting (IRIB) also began to broadcast televised educational programs on a daily basis after school closures.

Due to the vaccination and the reduction of transmission, schools are gradually reopened since September, and about 15 million students across the country can benefit from face-to-face education with strict observance of health protocols during school hours.

## Global CO2 emissions shooting back to record levels

Global carbon emissions are shooting back to the record level seen before the coronavirus pandemic levels, new analysis has shown. Scientists said the finding is a "reality check" for the world's nations gathered at the Cop26 climate summit.

The emissions driving the climate crisis reached their highest ever levels in 2019, before global coronavirus lockdowns saw them fall by 5.4%. However, fossil fuel burning has surged faster than expected in 2021, the international research team said, in stark contrast to the rapid cuts needed to tackle global heating.

The data shows world leaders have failed to build back greener, with just a small proportion of pandemic spending going to sustainable sectors. But the scientists said hopes of keeping global heating to 1.5C remain alive if Cop26 leads to rapid global action.

The Global Carbon Project (GCP) report shows emissions from coal and gas jumping this year by more than they fell in 2020. Oil use is also rising in 2021, but more slowly because transport activity remains below normal.

Unlike most countries, emissions in the world's biggest polluter, China, actually rose slightly during the pandemic in 2020 and are expected to rise another 4% in 2021. India has very low emissions per person but will see CO2 rise 12.6% in 2021, almost double the fall in 2020.

The US and EU27 will also see sharp rises of 7.6% in 2021, but remain on a longer term trend of slowly declining emissions. Renewables were the only energy source that continued to grow during the pandemic.

The scientists said 2022 could set a new record for global emissions, depending on whether the expected increase in oil consumption, as travel recovers further, is offset by reversal of the surge in coal burning seen in 2021.

The world's "carbon budget" is the total emissions allowed to retain a 50% chance of keeping global temperature rise below 1.5C, but analysis shows this will be blown in 11 years if the current rate of emissions continues.

"What is surprising is that [the rebound in emissions] happened so quickly, in spite of the fact that much of the global economy has not yet recovered," said Prof Corinne Le Quéré, at the University of East Anglia, UK, and one of the analysis team. "This is really a reality check."

"However, we do not yet see the effect of the climate policy decisions that will be taken at Cop26 in Glasgow, which could be really a gamechanger," she said. "1.5C is still alive. The decrease in emissions needed is very large indeed, but feasible with concerted action."

Glen Peters, at the Centre for International Climate Research in Oslo, Norway, said: "Many of us were [expecting] a recovery spread out over a few years, as opposed to a big hit in 2021." He said Covid recovery funding had been too "dirty", with not enough low-carbon investment. "If we continue on the current trajectory, then that may push emissions in 2022 up."

Prof Pierre Friedlingstein, at the University of Exeter, UK, said: "To achieve net zero by 2050, we must cut emissions every year by an amount comparable to that seen during Covid. This highlights the scale of the action that is now required, and the importance of Cop26."

The 196 nations at the Cop26 summit are charged with pushing national pledges to cut emissions towards that needed for 1.5C, with India's new commitment to net zero a notable advance. But the \$100bn promised by rich nations to poorer nations has yet to be delivered. Voluntary international pacts to end deforestation, cut methane emissions and make green technology the cheapest option have been announced. But global heating will only stop when emissions reach net zero.

The GCP report was produced by almost 100 scientists from 70 organisations across the world and, based on the figures to date, calculated that CO2 emissions from fossil fuels will rise by between 4.1% and 5.7% in 2021, compared with a fall of 5.4% in 2020. That fall is bigger than seen after the global financial crisis in 2008 (1.2%) and the collapse of the Soviet Union (3.1%).

COVID-19 UPDATES ON NOVEMBER 5	
New cases	8,633
New deaths	132
Total cases	5,973,457
Total deaths	127,053
New hospitalized patients	1,163
Patients in critical condition	3,732
Total recovered patients	5,574,246
Diagnostic tests conducted	36,057,315
Doses of vaccine injected	92,677,737

## About 20% of Iranian couples have infertility problems: expert

TEHRAN – Four million Iranian couples (equivalent to 15-20 percent of total couples) suffer from infertility, Naser Amir Jannati, an infertility specialist, has said.

Numerous studies show that men are involved in more than 50 percent of infertility cases. In other words, they can be the main cause of this problem or play a role in this disorder along with female causes.

Although some of the causes of male infertility are still unknown, most of the causes are known and treatable, he highlighted, IRNA reported.

The provinces that have the highest number of infertile couples are Kerman, Bushehr, Sistan-Baluchestan, and Ilam, he added.

**Births declined by 10,000**

A total of 269,748 births were registered in the spring (March 21-June 21), showing a decrease of 10,816 births compared to the same period last year, according to the report released by the Statistical Center of Iran.



Over the first three months of this year, 130,715 girls and 139,033 boys were born in the country.

The fertility rate declined to 1.71 children in the past [Iranian calendar] year (March 2020-March 2021), reaching below the replacement level.

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

The fertility rate from 2.07 children in the

Iranian calendar year 1396 (March 2017-March 2018), which can be considered fertility at the replacement level.

While 1,594,000 births were registered in the [Iranian calendar] year 1394 (March 2015-March 2016), the downward trend continued annually to the point that the number of births reached about one million in the [Iranian calendar] year 1399 (March 2020-March 2021); In other words, we lost more than 550,000 births in five years.

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

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

## Eight Iranians in world's top scientists list

From page 1 ► The selected scientists and professors in this list include Ahmad Reza Dehpour, Mostafa Ghanei, Morteza Izadi, Majid Saeedi, Seyed Fazel Nabavi, Seyed Mohammad Nabavi, Azadeh Manai, and Sedigheh Asgari, IRNA reported on Friday.

**Iran's significant contribution to world's scientific growth**

The share of Iranian articles with international participation has had significant growth of 209 percent during an eight-year period (2013-2020), becoming the Islamic world's leading country in science diplomacy, according to the Scopus International Citation Database.

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

The growth has not been limited to the field of research and has been very significant in the field of technology; for instance, the creation of 13 science and technology parks, 4,553 technology units, and 1,653 new knowledge-based companies during the last eight years could provide employment for 34,707 university graduates.

In November 2020, scientific studies and analyses extracted from the Scopus International Citation Database showed that the rate of scientific contributions of Iranian researchers to the world increased from 17 percent in 2011 to 31 percent in 2020, becoming the world's leading country in science diplomacy with 14 percent growth.

The development of international scientific partnerships and diplomacy is one of the main policies of Iran, which is also emphasized by the country's higher education system, Mohammad Javad Dehghani, head of the Islamic World Science Citation Center (ISC), said.

## The development of international scientific partnerships and diplomacy is one of the main policies of Iran.

One of the most important indicators of scientific participation is the share of the latest joint international scientific findings in the total scientific publications of the country, he added.

### ENGLISH IN USE

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### Iran capable of manufacturing any medicine in two years

Iranian pharmaceutical industry and scientists are capable of producing any kind of medicine over a two-year period, Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz, head of Food and Drug Administration, has said.

Some medicines are not currently manufactured domestically as their production is not economically justifiable because of low consumption, he added, IRNA reported.

In some cases, medicines are new pharmaceutical molecules that have recently been produced worldwide, he noted.

"The U.S. has sanctioned medicine as far as possible, but we have been able to provide patients with the required medicine, and currently there is no shortages," he explained.

### ایران می تواند هر دارویی را ظرف دو سال تولید کند

رئیس سازمان غذا و دارو گفت هر دارویی را می توانیم طی ۲ سال در داخل کشور تولید کنیم.

به گزارش ایرنا، محمدرضا شانه ساز روز دوشنبه گفت این یک بلوف نیست و صنعت داروسازی و دانشمندان کشور توان تولید همه داروها را دارند.

به گفته شانه ساز، برخی اقلام دارویی که اکنون در داخل تولید نمی شود به علت کم مصرفی است زیرا توجیه اقتصادی ندارد یا مولکول های دارویی جدیدی هستند که به تازگی در دنیا تولید شده اند.

او ادامه داد: آمریکا هر دارویی را که توانسته تحریم کرده اما ما توانسته ایم از راهپایی که می دانیم داروهای مورد نیاز بیماران را تامین کنیم و اکنون دارو به میزان کافی در سراسر کشور وجود دارد.



