



# No deal without safeguards

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## Report

### Anger over Macron's "abundance" remarks

A downbeat future assessment offered by French President Emmanuel Macron about an end to the era of "abundance" has angered many public figures who hit back arguing there was no abundance in the first place.

Speaking at the first cabinet meeting after the summer break, he warned of "tough months ahead" saying "I believe that we are in the process of living through a tipping point or great upheaval. Firstly because we are living through... what could seem like the end of abundance."

Macron referenced the disruptions to global trade, the drought, wildfires, and storms that hit France during the summer as well as the conflict in Ukraine.

Apart from a rise in the cost of living crisis Macron appears to be setting the stage for a tough winter ahead with higher energy prices and a potential cap on the use of energy in public and private places.

"This overview that I'm giving, the end of abundance, the end of insouciance, the end of assumptions – it's ultimately a tipping point that we are going through that can lead our citizens to feel a lot of anxiety. Faced with this, we have a duty, duties, the first of which is to speak frankly and clearly without doom-mongering," he said. ► Page 5

## Report

### Iran football elections: No turning point

By Masoud Hossein

TEHRAN - Football Federation of the Islamic Republic of Iran (FFIRI) will know its new president on Tuesday but there is no turning point in sight for the country's football.

Mirshad Majedi, Mehdi Taj and Azizollah Mohammadi will compete for the post in the Federation's headquarters in Tehran.

Shahaboddin Azizi Khadem was removed from the presidency of IRIFF in February, a year after he had been appointed president. ► Page 3

## Innovation ecosystem to receive \$1.4 billion

TEHRAN – A total of 400 trillion rials (nearly \$1.4 billion) of financial services will be allocated to the innovation ecosystem of the country.

Four organizations of the Innovation and Prosperity Fund, the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology, the Association of Private

Banks and Credit Institutions, and the Coordinating Council of State and Semi-State Banks, signed a memorandum of understanding to develop a knowledge-based economy and innovation and technology financing fields.

In line with the implementation of Article 18 of the Knowledge-Based Production

Surge Law, obstacles to banks' investment in the knowledge-based field will be removed.

Today, knowledge-based companies in the country's banking network are known as the most reliable bank customers, because they have not been late in paying their installments. ► Page 7



### Leader dusts holy tomb of Imam Reza

In an atmosphere full of spirituality, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei participated in a dusting ceremony of the tomb of Imam Reza (AS) in the city of Mashhad on Sunday. The ceremony was also attended by a group of religious scholars and those who serve in the shrine of Imam Reza.

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## Minister outlines plans to accelerate maritime tourism growth

TEHRAN—There would be an acceleration in the development of maritime tourism, Iran's Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts Minister Ezzatollah Zarghami has said.

Fuel subsidies will be allocated to cruise ships, which will lead to a reduction in sea travel costs and a rise in maritime tourism, the minister said on Sunday.

Zarghami made the remarks during a meeting with Iranian cruise ship owners, IRNA reported.

With this subsidy, fuel consumption for a cruise with 1000 passengers will be reduced

from 600 billion rials (\$2 million) to 500 million rials (\$1,700), he explained.

Over the past couple of years, the Islamic Republic has made various efforts to exploit maritime tourism potential by developing hospitality infrastructures, diversifying sea routes, and drawing private sector investors along its vast southern coasts.

Prosperous maritime tourism could help the country to meet its ambitious target of attracting 20 million annual tourists by 2025. It also keeps an eye on tourism developments in the Caspian Sea in the north.

## Opinion

### Iran's "green gold" bound to shine again in global markets

By Ebrahim Fallahi

TEHRAN – Although Iran is mostly known for its vast hydrocarbon resources, there are some other precious products that people all around the world put the Iranian brand on and appreciate greatly, one of such products is Iranian "green gold" or pistachio.

Cultivation of pistachios in Iran dates back to the Achaemenid period or the fifth century B.C; Like the great dynasty, the Islamic Republic was the world's unrivaled, leading producer of pistachios for a long time, with southeastern Kerman province being the hub of production for so-called green gold.

The country's reign over the pistachio market, however, ended in 2012, as the United States for the first time became the largest producer and exporter of pistachios because of the production decline in Iran, ► Page 4

Back in February, the Ministry of Tourism and the Ministry of Transport and Urban Development signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to develop maritime tourism and make the best use of its potential on the southern and northern coasts of the country.

Promoting the culture of using the sea as a tool to increase social vitality, developing coastal activities in the form of environmentally friendly plans and programs, and creating the necessary grounds for cooperation and exchange of knowledge and information was also among the topics of the agreement.

## From Inside

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## Sadr leaves politics, Iraq enters crisis

Prominent Iraqi Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr announced on Monday that he is quitting political life and closing his political offices amid a deepening political stalemate that has left the country without a new government since last October's parliamentary elections.

The announcement by the cleric pushed Iraq toward a new crisis. It was announced that eight people have been killed in the clashes between the supporters of the cleric and backers of rival groups in the capital Baghdad. Reportedly, the army also declared a curfew in all cities across Iraq.

Also, Iran has advised its citizen to avoid going to the shrine cities of Najaf and Karbala as the season to observe Arbäeen rituals is starting.

"I've decided not to meddle in political affairs. I therefore announce now my definitive retirement," Sadr wrote in an Arabic post published on his Twitter account, Press TV reported.

In his statement, Sadr also attacked his political opponents, and said they had failed to heed his calls for reform.

The statement comes as many of Sadr's supporters have been participating in a sit-in outside the Iraqi parliament since the end of July.

Several hundred supporters of the cleric gathered in front of the Supreme Judicial Council (SJC) in the capital Baghdad last Tuesday, reiterating their calls for the dissolution of the Iraqi parliament and holding early elections.

Images released by Sadr's movement at the time showed people setting up tents outside the gates of SJC's headquarters, as they carried placards demanding the non-politicization of the judiciary and ending corruption. ► Page 5

## "Katvoman" named best fiction at Tunisia amateur film festival

TEHRAN – Iranian film "Katvoman" has won the award for best fiction at the Festival International du Film Amateur de Kelibia – FIFAK in Tunisia.

Written and directed by Hadi Sheibani, the film shows a mom and son playing dressed up as Batman and Catwoman before dad returns for dinner. Through the play, the child discovers a difficult truth about his parents.

The 35th edition of FIFAK announced the winners on Saturday in the northeastern city of Kelibia as the Golden Hawk Grand Prix was awarded to "The Seine's Tears" ("Les Larmes de la Seine") by Yanis Belaid from France.

The animated film shows Algerian workers taking to the streets on October 17, 1961 to protest against the mandatory curfew imposed by the police prefecture. ► Page 8



## Iran unveils new precision-striking drone



TEHRAN- Days after the Iranian Armed Forces demonstrated their drone prowess in extensive drills, the Defense Ministry presented a brand-new, cutting-edge combat drone called Ababil (Flock of Birds) that is can hit targets with accuracy.

The new drone was unveiled on Saturday during a Defense Ministry show that was attended by Parliament Speaker Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf.

The most recent unmanned aircraft can carry cruise missiles with extremely high destructive capacity.

The aircraft is equipped with a warhead that can detect targets as well as an optical seeker. Additionally, it has the ability to acquire and transmit real-time photographs of the targets, latch on terrestrial targets, and precisely strike them.

More than 150 new sophisticated drones and various units participated in the recent large-scale drone war games that the Iranian Army conducted around the country. Four Army components, including the Ground Force, Navy, Air Force, and Air Defense Force, participated in the military drills.

Major General Abdolrahim Mousavi, commander of the Army, praised the accomplishments in creating various kinds of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and asserted that recent drone drills that spanned the whole nation's area carried a clear message.

The senior commander said the Iranian people

are happy to have their armed forces on their side.

The drills, Mousavi continued, are the biggest ever held by the four branches of the Army on the Iranian territory as well as in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

The senior officer stated, "Iran used all of its drone and electronic warfare assets in the drills."

General Mousavi went on to say that the allies of Iran are inspired by the Islamic Republic's will to advance despite animosities and vile actions committed by its enemies.

Iran has made considerable strides in creation of surveillance and war drones in recent years. According to military authorities, Iran is capable of producing drones on its own, including their fuselage, numerous subsystems, and engines. The Iranian Armed Forces are prepared and equipped to perform any kind of drone operations.

In late May, Iran displayed an underground drone station where a variety of cutting-edge drones are kept for possible future conflicts and other operations.

Major General Mohammad Baqeri, the Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces, stressed during his visit to the site that the pilotless aircraft had improved Iran's deterrence capability.

He emphasized the role drones play in protecting the nation's interests and said they had a specific position in a variety of offensive, defensive, land, sea, air, and air defense situations.

Major General Baqeri stated that "the drones that we observed today can play such a role," noting that deterrence is not achievable with outdated techniques and tools and necessitates modern techniques.

Iran's military capabilities, especially its drone and missile capacity, which are only intended for defense, will never be negotiable, according to Iranian authorities, who have emphasized this point time and again.

## Over \$5b investment in 10 months shows economic stability: Raisi

TEHRAN- President Ebrahim Raisi has defended the government's economic record, saying attracting \$5.16 billion in domestic and foreign investment during the first 10 months of the administration is an indication of economic stability.

Addressing the cabinet's Sunday session, he said it is an honor that government's economic team has been able to successfully attract such amount of money in domestic and foreign investment in 10 months.

Raisi stated that increasing production is a top priority of his administration, citing the efforts by the first vice president and other concerned officials to bring hundreds of idled and inactive

large and small industrial units back to operation over the past ten months across the country.

"The government's efforts are aimed at reviving the economic units at lowest possible cost," he added.

The president also praised the government economic team's efforts to reduce point-to-point inflation, highlighting the need for more in-depth discussion between economic professionals and the general public.

"The people should be informed that despite reforms in allocation of subsidies, the inflation rate is now under the control of the government," Raisi pointed out.

## Sanctions has boosted Tehran's courage to push for an ironclad deal: analysis

*'Russia sees no threat from robust civilian nuclear program in Iran'*

TEHRAN – In a commentary Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists has said "Iran's experience of living under sanctions, has boosted Tehran's courage to push for an ironclad deal."

The comments come as Iran responded to a European Union proposed text to finalize the diplomatic efforts to restore the 2015 nuclear deal. The EU text was proposed on August 8 and Iran responded to it on August 15. Iran received the U.S. response to the agreement on August 24 through the EU. The U.S. response lasted more than what was expected.

EU foreign policy chief Josep Borrell, who acts as coordinator of the nuclear talks, has described Iran's response as "reasonable" and said most parties to the agreement agree with his proposed text.

The commentary by Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists also suggests, "Before the Iran nuclear deal talks fall apart, Washington must make a bold move—practical or symbolic—to demonstrate its interest in restoring the deal and help Iranian negotiators convince the decision makers in Tehran that the United States respects Iran as a negotiator and knows what it means to honor an international agreement."

Following is the text of the commentary:

Iran's originally ambivalent feelings and later

frustration about the 2015 nuclear deal, formally known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action, is no revelation. Hassan Rouhani dedicated two terms of his presidency to building and preserving a negotiated solution on Iran's nuclear program, but his grand mission to lift sanctions through diplomacy failed miserably with Donald Trump's election and Trump's withdrawal from the nuclear deal in 2018.

Those in the Iranian establishment who counted on the nuclear deal and sanctions removal as the most effective way of securing Iran's economic welfare and development tried to convince skeptics that things would get back on track under a Democratic president. However, more than 500 days into Joe Biden's presidency, little has been done on the U.S. side to justify this expectation.

A week into August 2022, 17 months after the beginning of talks, the European Union offered a "final text" to revive the 2015 nuclear agreement before negotiations between Iran and the United States collapse for good. Days later, Iran responded with a demand for future guaranteed compensation if the United States were to again break the deal. Booming cooperation with sanctions-hit Moscow, as well as Iran's experience of living under sanctions, has boosted Tehran's courage to push for an ironclad deal.

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

TEHRAN- The biggest hurdle to the U.S. returning to compliance with the Iran nuclear deal – JCPOA – is Congress since lawmakers, many of whom are vehement opponents of the agreement, have a say in the matter, Jonathan Lord, a senior fellow at the Center for a New American Security (CNAS), says.

The Iran Nuclear Agreement Review Act (INARA), which granted Congress control over the agreement, was approved by Congress and signed into law by the president in 2015 when the Barack Obama administration was negotiating the initial JCPOA.

Writing in The Hill, Lords says, "INARA basically granted Congress veto authority over the JCPOA, or any new or altered deal with Iran. What remains legally uncertain is, what happens if the United States and Iran both return to compliance with the original JCPOA — would that constitute a 'new deal,' requiring submission to Congress? Legally, it's not clear."

It's difficult to picture the Joe Biden administration avoiding legislative supervision on a topic of such profound political consequence, says Lord, director of the Middle East Security program at the CNAS.

"In May, Biden's lead negotiator, Rob Malley, testified to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that any deal the administration reached would be submitted to Congress under INARA, initiating the 30-day review period and potentially enabling Congress to pass a JRD (Joint Resolution of Disapproval)

## Congress biggest impediment to restoring JCPOA: American think tank



and kill the deal," underscored Lord in his article titled "The greatest obstacle to returning to the Iran deal isn't Iran — it's Congress".

Since April of last year, negotiations have been underway in Vienna, the capital of Austria, to resurrect the JCPOA. After Biden was elected president of the United States, he pledged to reinstate the agreement and revoke the maximum pressure approach used by his predecessor Donald Trump against Tehran.

The extent of the sanctions that will be lifted and the requirement for the U.S. to provide guarantees that it won't exit the deal again are only two of the unresolved points that have prevented an agreement from being reached thus far in the negotiations. Republicans in Congress have been pressuring Biden not to reinstate the JCPOA or relax any of the restrictions enacted as part of the so-called maximum pressure campaign.

"Beyond the details of the deal being negotiated, it's hard to

imagine what lasting benefit there is for Iran in agreeing to return to a deal that has become so politicized in U.S. politics that any hypothetical Republican successor to Biden — who is currently polling around 40 percent approval — is likely to tear it up on day one of his or her presidency," Lord added.

"But," he said, "if we suspend our disbelief that the negotiating teams can succeed in overcoming doubts and disagreements, what legally must follow in Washington further complicates a return to the deal: Congress gets a say."

He said, "Providing that a deal is reached, and is submitted to Congress for review, would it survive? The short answer — and an evergreen one when dealing with the legislative branch — is probably, but it's going to be painful," he said.

Lord said Trump's maximum pressure campaign, which was put in place after he withdrew from the JCPOA in 2018, failed to persuade Iran to make more concessions.

The COVID-19 outbreak was a force multiplier that pushed Iran's economy into a fever-pitch disaster, and it was even helped along by accident, he added.

In his article, Lord wrote despite everything, Tehran still moving forward with its drone, ballistic missile, and nuclear programs.

"We could have lost the most valuable resource we have: time, by leaving the JCPOA. And it's difficult to understand how we're better off now that we're running out of time and alternatives. Let Congress think about it," Lord said in conclusion.

## Diplomat says Iran is serious for a lasting nuclear deal

*Kanaani says Iran will answer to U.S. after expert study*

TEHRAN- Iran is undertaking an expert assessment of the response the United States provided to Tehran's revisions to the EU text on reviving the 2015 deal, the Foreign Ministry spokesperson told IRNA on Sunday, noting that Iran would respond to Americans once that review is complete.

Nasser Kanaani stated that Tehran's reaction will be communicated to the Americans as soon as feasible.

Nour News, a news outlet close to Iran's Supreme National Security Council, said in a tweet on Sunday that Tehran will give its response to the U.S. by Friday.

But, Kanaani said, it is impossible to specify a precise timing for Iran's answer, adding Iran will reply after it carefully examines the U.S. response and a decision made.

"The important point is that the Islamic Republic of Iran is serious about reaching an agreement that would be both comprehensive and lasting and also meet the country's interests," he pointed out.

Iran and the U.S. communicate through the EU.

The spokesman also said, "All sides have so far tried to respect the confidentiality of the talks, because early revelations through media would not help the outcome of the negotiations," due to the sensitivity of the issues surrounding the nuclear deal and due to the confidentiality of the negotiations.

There are a small number of unresolved issues to resurrect the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), according to Kanaani.

"In other words, most issues related to the JCPOA agreement have been resolved, but the few (remaining) outstanding issues are sensitive, important and determining," he underlined.

"The Islamic Republic of Iran is committed to achieving a solution and thinks that restoring the JCPOA is in its own interests and the interests of other parties," he remarked.

The Foreign Ministry spokesperson stated that overall, this is a two-way street and reciprocal commitments must be honored. "The Islamic Republic of Iran believes that implementation of the agreement is a two-way road and all members of the agreement must remain committed to their obligations."

In May 2018, the United States, then led by President Donald Trump, unilaterally renounced the accord and reinstituted the sanctions that it had withdrawn.

In April of last year, a few months after Joe Biden succeeded Trump, the negotiations to save the deal began in Vienna, Austria.

Despite significant advancements, the lengthy negotiations were often interrupted by the U.S. indecision and delay.



On August 8, after four days of intense negotiations, a revised text was put forth by the EU. On August 15, Iran sent its response to the EU draft proposal. Following the submission of its reply, Tehran encouraged Washington to be realistic and flexible in order to establish a compromise.

The Biden administration's answer to Iran's response to the EU draft was sent on August 24.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has said the negotiations to restore the JCPOA and lift sanctions are in their final stages, but the U.S. must take a practical stance.

If the U.S. acts realistically, the unresolved issues in the JCPOA revival talks will be resolved, Amir Abdollahian pointed out.

# 400 WARS IN LESS THAN 250 YEARS

the US has engaged in almost 400 military interventions since its founding in 1776

A new research study has revealed that more than a quarter of the worldwide US military offensives in the American history have taken place in the West Asia region and Africa

Over the last 20 years the US has dropped an average of 46 bombs and missiles on other countries each and every day.



# Iran acquired nuclear technology against the will of enemies: Raisi

TEHRAN – Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim Raisi said Monday that Iran obtained nuclear technology against the enemies' will.

Speaking at a press conference on Monday morning, the Iranian president pointed to Israel's efforts to prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear technology.

"Nobody can take away from us the knowledge and the nuclear industry. The Zionist entity [Israel] did not want Iran to obtain this science from the beginning, but we obtained it against their wishes," Ayatollah Raisi said, according to Al Alam.

The Iranian president also said that Iran does not seek to build nuclear weapons because such weapons have no place in Iran's doctrine.

"The nuclear industry and capability is the right of the Islamic



Republic and the people of Iran, and we have repeatedly stated that nuclear weapons have no place in the doctrine of the Islamic Republic," he said, according to IRNA. "The Supreme Leader of the Revolution also declared them haram. The government and

officials have repeatedly announced that nuclear weapons have no place in Iran's politics in terms of Sharia and foreign policy."

The Iranian president also pointed to the talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal officially

known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA).

"We did not leave the negotiating table to remove the sanctions, the negotiation is for lifting the sanctions and those who abandoned their commitment should return and fulfill their commitments. Our emphasis in these negotiations is the lifting of sanctions," he said.

He continued, "Negotiations are conducted in the same framework with the focus on lifting sanctions. We emphasized on verification and confidence-building assurances in the negotiations."

President Raisi said, "We also emphasize that safeguard issues must be resolved and this is a pillar in the negotiations and without it the talk of an agreement has no meaning."

## Iran, Oman FM's discuss nuclear talks

*Amir Abdollahian says Iran carefully studying US response*

TEHRAN – The top diplomats of Iran and Oman spoke about the latest developments of talks in Vienna over reviving the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, a day after a senior Qatari diplomat visited Tehran for the same purpose.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and his Omani counterpart Badr al-Busaidi spoke about the latest developments in the sanctions removal talks over the phone, the Iranian foreign ministry said in a statement.

In the conversation, the top Iranian diplomat thanked the Persian Gulf sultanate, saying Iran is carefully studying the U.S. side's response.

Amir Abdollahian went on to say that the Islamic Republic will announce its views once it completes examining the U.S. response and making a conclusion.

Amir Abdollahian added, "We are determined to reach a good, lasting and robust deal."

Oman's foreign minister, for his part, appreciated the Islamic Republic of Iran's constructive and responsible efforts as well as its good will about reaching a deal.

Busaidi expressed hope that the Vienna talks will produce good results thanks to joint cooperation between all parties to the negotiations.

The Omani foreign ministry offered similar details about the call. It said the two foreign ministers dealt with bilateral relations and emphasized the continuation of serious efforts to resume the activation of the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official name of the 2015 Iran nuclear deal.

The phone conversation came a day after Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Ali Bagheri Kani held a meeting with Qatar's Deputy Foreign Minister for Regional Affairs Mohammad bin Abdul Aziz al-Khulaifi on Saturday evening.

Bagheri Kani pointed to the incumbent Iranian administration's successful one-year experience in pursuing the neighborly policy and said, "The second step in the neighborly policy is promoting multilateral and regional cooperation."

The Iranian diplomat highlighted the rapid growth in the already-excellent Tehran-Doha relations, especially over the past year, saying, "We welcome Qatar's effective role in advancing the second phase of Iran's neighborly policy and bolstering multilateral regional cooperation."

Elsewhere, the deputy foreign minister for political affairs said addressing the issue of Palestine is a human and Islamic duty on the shoulder of all regional countries. He said, "Any lasting regional arrangements depend on the realization of the Palestinian nation's rights."

The Iranian foreign ministry did not say if the meeting dealt with the nuclear file. But the Qatari foreign ministry said the situation around the nuclear deal was discussed in the meeting.

The Qatari foreign ministry said in a statement that the meeting also included discussions on the talks in Vienna over reviving the JCPOA.

"During the meeting, they reviewed the bilateral

relations, the developments in the ongoing negotiations to return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) with the United States, as well as a number of issues of common interest," the Qatari statement said.

The statement added that the Qatari diplomat "stressed the importance of advancing further in order to revive the nuclear agreement which is in the interest of the security and stability of the region, expressing the State of Qatar's aspiration for a close agreement between the United States and the Islamic Republic of Iran."

The Qatari diplomat also spoke over the phone with Enrique Mora, the European Union's coordinator for the Vienna talks, after his meeting with Bagheri Kani.

"During the phone call, the two sides reviewed aspects of the bilateral cooperation between the State of Qatar and the European Union, and the developments in the negotiations to return to the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA) on Iran's nuclear program, in addition to issues of common concern," the Qatari foreign ministry said in a separate statement.

The statement said that al-Khulaifi "expressed the State of Qatar's appreciation for the efforts exerted by the European Union to bring views of the parties closer together in order to revive the Iranian nuclear agreement; affirming that reaching a just agreement that takes into account the concerns of all parties is in the interest of the security and stability of the region."

Raisi's emphasis on the resolution of safeguards issues comes against a backdrop of Iranian consultations over how to respond to a U.S. response to an earlier Iranian response, which had been relayed to Washington by the European Union's foreign policy chief, Josep Borrell, who acts as coordinator for the Vienna talks.

In an interview with the Austrian Kronen Zeitung newspaper, Josep Borrell said he received the U.S. response to an Iranian response and is optimistic about the state of the talks.

"I got the response from the U.S. It is now up to Iran to respond to them," he said, thanking Austria for its role in the talks.

"We have arrived at the crucial moment. I'm optimistic, it's the last millimeters," Borrell said.

Iran is still reviewing the U.S. response, with reports saying that the review will come to an end by Friday. At least until the end of Friday, Iran will conclude a review of the United States' response to the European Union's draft text intended to revive the 2015 nuclear deal, a news website close to Iran's Supreme National Security Council said in a tweet on Sunday.

Nour News said the detailed examination of the U.S. response is going on at expert levels.

The Bolivian diplomat also met with his Iranian counterpart in line with the fourth round of political consultations between Iran and Bolivia.

The two officials discussed key issues of bilateral ties and international developments in the meeting.

Bagheri pointed to the Islamic republic of Iran's experience in countering foreign pressures and said the Islamic Republic is ready to share four decades of its experience in perseverance and progress with independent countries.

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

## Iran football elections: No turning point

From Page 1 ▶ Since then, the Federation has been run by Mirshad Majedi as acting president.

The appointment of Taj means a step back in the country's football. The former president of the Federation from 2016 to 2019 is one of the most debatable figures in the history of Iranian sports.

The Federation has been recently forced to pay about four million euros to Marc Wilmots, who was hired by Taj as Iran coach. The Iranians struggled during Wilmots' seven-month tenure, with the former Belgium coach leading the team to losses against Iraq and Bahrain that put progress to the third phase of the 2022 World Cup preliminaries in peril.

Now, Taj is favorite to win the elections and it's while his return could jeopardize future of Iran football.

Taj has promised that he will re-sign Carlos Queiroz as Iran coach if he takes the position.

Iran, headed by Dragan Skocic at the moment, have been drawn in tough Group B of the 2022 FIFA World Cup along with England, the U.S. and Wales.

The federation previously tried to change Skocic but did not receive positive feedback. The experts and football fans believe that it's not good time to change the coach but Taj doesn't think so. He is ready to bring back the Portuguese coach and controversy will arise ahead of the prestigious event for the Team who need to keep calm more than any time.

## Iran learn rivals at 2022 Asian Women's Handball Championship

TEHRAN – Iran have learned their opponents in the 2022 Asian Women's Handball Championship.

The Iranian team are drawn in Group A along with Republic of Korea, Uzbekistan, India and Australia.

Group B consists of Japan, Kazakhstan, Hong Kong, China and Thailand.

The 2022 Asian Women's Handball Championship will be the 19th edition of the Asian Women's Handball Championship, which will take place from Nov. 20 to Dec. 5 in Incheon and Seoul, South Korea.

The tournament will be held under the aegis of Asian Handball Federation and the top four team will qualify for the 2023 World Women's Handball Championship.

## Persepolis forward Temirov joins Paykan

TEHRAN – Persepolis Uzbek forward Sherzod Temirov joined Paykan football club on Sunday.

The 23-year-old forward joined Persepolis from Uzbekistan's Pakhtakor in early March but failed to meet the expectations.

He scored just one goal for the Reds.

Persepolis have already signed former VfL Bochum forward Jurgen Leonardo Locadia.

## Iran finish seventh in 2022 AVC Cup for Women

TEHRAN – Iran earned a 3-0 (25-19, 25-18, 25-22) win against Australia at the PhilSports Arena for the seventh place of 2022 AVC Cup for Women.

Aytak Salamat (15 points) and Mahsa Saberi (14 points) delivered in double-digits and consistently played throughout the match. Iran performed well in running the wings, and mostly through their strategic serves. They completed the match with seven service winners, which helped define the pacing of the match.

Australia have been unable to fully establish their rhythm, having to deal with the opponents' service, for their best finish in the competition as 8th placers.

Head coach Russell Borgeaud said "Our team is a very young team and this was such a big experience for them. Our main goal is to just keep improving every day. We played lots of good teams here. It's always a challenge but it's my job to always keep them positive about that."

Australia captain Kelly Lean, who has played her last match under the Volleyroos program added: "Volleyball in Australia is not on full-time basis, not just yet. Anytime we have a chance to get the girls together is a good idea especially now we're trying to get the help of our coach Russell."

Iran head coach Alessandra Kampedelli was pleased with her team's performance, which she will now consider in preparing for the Asian Championship in 2023.

"Today was an important victory because it somehow gave us more confidence. Throughout our matches here, we've seen little improvements along the way," she said.

Iran's Maedeh Borhani Esfahani, who has visited and played in the Philippines on multiple occasions, was happy to be back.

"There are so lovely many fans here in the Philippines and I am happy to be meeting all of them. It was great to play here. Sometimes we had difficult moments, but we always came out with a good fight no matter what. I'm really happy to finish this tournament with a win," she said.

Iran's best finish in the AVC Cup was in V?nh Phúc, Vietnam in 2012 as they ranked 6th. Australia finished in 7th place in the 2008 and 2018 editions, both held in Nakhon Ratchasima, Thailand.

## Australia down Iran at FIBA World Cup qualifying

TEHRAN – Dejan Vasiljevic has fired away to steer Australia out of danger against Iran and continue their flawless basketball World Cup qualifying campaign.

The sharpshooter had a game-high 23 points in Bendigo on Monday night as the Boomers prevailed 98-68.

There were some nervous moments when Iran scored the first 14 points of the third quarter to earn a surprise lead.

Vasiljevic backed himself, drilling a series of triples to snuff out any hopes of an upset as Australia moved to 8-0 in their pursuit of a berth at next year's Cup.

The Boomers, coached by Mike Kelly, have been dominant even without their US-based talent like Patty Mills and Joe Ingles, who led Australia to bronze at last year's Olympics and fourth at the previous World Cup.

Nick Kay (20 points, seven rebounds) provided a cool head while young talent Alex Toohey was also composed and Luke Travers had six blocks.

Mohammad Jamshidi (17 points) proved a handful but the Boomers' suffocating defence eventually told and Iran's six-of-25 three point shooting hurt them.

The win followed last Friday's victory in Bahrain, Australia all but qualified ahead of two more competition windows in November and February before the August tournament, to be co-hosted by the Philippines, Japan and Indonesia.

## Iran to play S. Korea in 2022 Asian Youth Handball final

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Saudi Arabia 33-32 in the 2022 Asian Men's Youth Handball Championship semifinals.

The Iranian team will meet South Korea in the final match on Wednesday.

Iran have already booked their place at the 2023 Youth World Handball Championship.

The competition is being held in Isa Town, Bahrain.

## Bolivia deputy FM meets Amir Abdollahian, Bagheri Kani

TEHRAN – Bolivia's Deputy Minister for Foreign Relations Freddy Mamani has met in Tehran with Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Ali Bagheri Kani.

Mamani and his accompanying delegation, who have traveled to the Islamic Republic of Iran for the first joint economic commission and the fourth political consultations meeting, discussed with Amir Abdollahian the state of bilateral relations.

In the meeting, Amir Abdollahian pointed out the importance of relations between Iran and South

America, stating that the Islamic Republic of Iran makes efforts to develop cooperation with Bolivia, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

The Iranian foreign minister expressed the Islamic Republic of Iran's private sector's readiness to develop economic relations with Bolivia, implement infrastructure projects in the country, export technical and engineering services to Bolivia, and increase bilateral trade in areas of mutual interest, including agriculture.

For his part, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Bolivia Freddy

Mamani Machaca said his trip to get to know about the high capacities of the Islamic Republic of Iran was useful.

He also stressed the need for cooperation and solidarity between the two countries to strengthen multilateralism and promote international peace and security.

He also described Iran's high capabilities and capacities in the fields of industry, science, technology and medicine as impressive, saying the joint economic commission is an important opportunity for the development of relations between the two countries.



## Iran ready to send 93m barrels of oil into market post sanctions: report



TEHRAN – Iran currently holds about 93 million barrels of crude oil and gas condensate stored on vessels in the Persian Gulf, off Singapore and near China ready to be injected into the market if the nuclear deal is revived, Bloomberg reported on Monday citing ship-tracking firm Kpler.

According to the report, Vortexa Ltd. estimates the reserves at 60 to 70 million barrels, saying that there are also some smaller volumes in onshore storage facilities.

“Iran has built up a sizable flotilla of cargoes that could hit the market fairly soon,” said John Driscoll, chief strategist at JTD Energy Services Pte.

Iran’s comeback to the global crude market would be very significant considering the fact

that the European Union is implementing tighter sanctions on Russian crude flows as of December and the Biden administration’s mammoth sale from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve will end in October.

Since former President Trump stopped granting waivers to import Iranian oil following American sanctions, Iran’s daily shipments have held at about one million barrels, according to Emma Li, an analyst at Vortexa.

The current volume of crude and condensate in onshore storages within Iran is estimated at about 48 million barrels, Kpler data showed, adding that the producer could be holding even more oil in some land storages around China.

Longer term after any deal is struck and the offshore cache is drained, Iran would seek to rebuild production and step-up overseas sales.

While Iran may aim to fill the void left by Russia in Europe, namely in Spain, Italy, Greece and even Turkey, Tehran would also attempt to reclaim share in the prized Asian market, even if it takes a sweetening of terms.

In 2017 and 2018, Europe consumed an average of 748,000 barrels and 528,000 barrels a day of Iranian oil, respectively, while Asia took 1.2 million and close to 1 million barrels a day, Kpler data showed.

From page 1 ► mainly due to water shortages and also because of the lack of access to modern technologies and using traditional methods of agriculture.

Over the past decade, climate change has caused severe drought in Iran, leading to 85 percent of the country being classified as arid or semi-arid. The decline in annual average rainfall and shortage of surface water has forced farmers to dig more wells to pump water from underground reserves. Nearly half of the 750,000 wells dug in Iranian farms are illegal, which indicates why the unconstrained use of underground water in agriculture is the main source of water waste in the country.

The situation is the same in Kerman province, which accounts for 70 percent of Iran’s pistachio production. As announced by Hossein Rezaei, the secretary-general of the Iran Pistachio Association (IPA), the production of pistachio in Iran fell by 70,000 tons in the previous Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20) to hover around 150,000 tons.

Hossein Rezaei said that the current year’s sprouts have also been destroyed by climate change, and this year it is difficult to keep the market, so government support is required.

According to the official, the country’s pistachio farmers are expected to produce only 135,000 tons of the nut in the current year.

In addition to the negative impacts of climate change, the Iranian pistachio industry has also been affected by western sanctions; although the industry has not been

# Iran’s “green gold” bound to shine again in global markets



directly targeted, sales of pistachios to foreign markets, including Europe, have been hindered because of the banking and shipping restrictions imposed as part of the punitive measures.

Despite the domestic hurdles and foreign challenges, Iran is still among the top global producers and exporters of pistachios. After relinquishing the top ranking to the United States in 2012, it regained it in 2015 as a result of better access

to international markets due to the removal of sanctions and a drop in U.S. production.

Iran and the United States together account for 70-80 percent of global pistachio production and have been competing for the top spot as both the biggest producer and exporter over the past several years. Also, recently Turkey, Australia, and Spain have also increased production and have joined the export market.

In an effort to maintain the country’s distinguished position in the global pistachio market, several plans have been formulated by the Iranian government to support the industry mainly by focusing on the reduction of the impact of the drought.

In August 2020, Iran’s Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) held a pistachio export desk meeting to investigate the challenges and barriers in the way of the country’s pistachio exports.

The government is also encouraging water conservation by allocating bank facilities to farmers to help them buy modern irrigation equipment to replace traditional systems.

Many experts believe that developing farms in regions with better soil and water resources, along with using modern cultivation methods and new types of pistachios with higher resistance to failure and disease would be the best way to regain Iran’s crown in the pistachio market.

Other than the above-mentioned measures, experts and scholars also say Iran could increase its exports by removing customs duty restrictions, providing support to exporters for long-term contracts, and establishing banking enterprises to connect producers and exporters.

With the Iranian government successfully moving toward reducing its reliance on oil revenues in recent years, it is expected to dedicate a good deal of attention and resources to other sectors including the pistachio industry to maintain its lion’s share of the global market.

## Russian large trade delegation to visit Iran next month

TEHRAN- A trade delegation of 125 traders and businessmen from 78 Russian companies, that are active in various economic and commercial fields, will visit Tehran during September 19-22 in order to meet and negotiate with their Iranian counterparts, the portal of Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) reported.

The field of activity of the members of this board includes areas such as food and agriculture products such as meat, pasta, mineral water, all kinds of drinks, grains, sweets and chocolates, all kinds of edible oils, and aquatics, as well as food and agriculture industry equipment and machinery, packaging, health, medicine and medical equipment, construction materials, glass and crystal, wood industry, auto parts, transportation, industrial equipment, metal industry, telecommunication and radio systems, drilling and mining, energy, recycling, advertising and digital marketing, education, etc.

Therefore, in order to make maximum use of the capacity of this trade delegation in Iran, the International Affairs Department of the TCCIMA intends to provide the opportunity for dialogue separately with interested Iranian businessmen and entrepreneurs by scheduling bilateral business

meetings.

Iran and Russia have taken significant steps for removing the U.S. dollar from their bilateral trade, launching a settlement system to use their national currencies in economic exchanges, renowned American business magazine Forbes admitted in an article piece published last month.

Iran’s Integrated Forex Market launched the Ruble/Rial currency pair in early July, following a visit of Central Bank of Iran (CBI) Governor Ali Saleh-Abadi to Moscow.

The new arrangement means the two countries can now settle trading debts in each other’s currencies. The first trade took place on July 19, the day that Russia’s President Vladimir Putin arrived in Iran for talks with Leader of the Islamic Revolution Seyyed Ali Khamenei and President Ebrahim Raisi.

As reported, the new monetary system could significantly reduce the two sides’ demand for dollars. Bilateral trade between Iran and Russia stood at four billion dollars in 2021 but the two countries say they are hoping to ramp up bilateral trade to eight billion dollars in the short term.

The new trading arrangement allows them to avoid the use of dollars and, by doing so, also sidestep the impact of the U.S. sanctions.



Iran’s deputy foreign minister for economic diplomacy Mehdi Safari has also floated the idea of developing a new interbank messaging system between Iran and Russia. This could act as an alternative to Swift.

Speaking to the media in late July, Saleh-Abadi said: “Two countries that want to de-dollarize their transactions must have a special system similar to Swift... We have practically reached a very good agreement.”

Last week, Iranian Minister of Industry, Mining, and Trade Reza Fatemi-Amin, who had traveled to Russia to visit the MIMS Automobility Moscow ??? exhibition, said that Russia is eager for expanding economic ties with Iran.

Fatemi-Amin made the remarks on the sidelines of a meeting with representatives of Iranian companies participating in the mentioned exhibition at the place of the Iranian embassy in Moscow.

Speaking at the meeting, Fatemi Amin said Russian companies are

interested in cooperation with Iranian counterparts, especially in the fields of automobiles, pharmaceuticals, and home appliances.

“All our efforts at the Industry Ministry are aimed to remove the existing obstacles as much as possible,” he stressed.

Iran and Russia have made agreements on cooperation in aviation and maritime industries and are planning on taking joint measures in the future, Fatemi-Amin said at the end of the meeting.

The minister told reporters that the two countries have made agreements on aviation and shipbuilding industries, noting that big steps have been taken in the industry sector in both Iran and Russia that has to be pursued to bear fruit.

The Iranian minister said that the main ties are being formed between Iranian and Russian businesses and the governments are only facilitating the relationship.

If the businesses are linked through joint investments, they can hardly be separated, he noted, adding that the cooperation being shaped between Iran and Russia wouldn’t be stopped even if the European and American sanctions on Russia are lifted.

## Home appliance output grows 5 folds

TEHRAN- After the government’s policy of supporting the manufacturing of home appliances in the last few years, this industry had a five-fold growth in output, so that it can meet the maximum demand of the market, Hamidreza Dehqani-Nia, the spokesman of the country’s headquarters to combat smuggling of foreign currency and commodity announced.

As an official with Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry has previously stated, manufacturing of home appliances in Iran is expected to reach 18 million sets in the year.

According to Mohsen Shokrollahi, the director-general of the home appliances office at the ministry, there are currently 220 active home appliance manufacturing units in the country that managed to produce 16.5 million sets of products in the previous year.

Considering the previous year’s data, the manufacturing of the said products is expected to increase by 1.5 million sets (about 10 percent) in the current year.

Shokrollahi put the country’s total value of home appliances exports in the previous Iranian calendar year at \$300 million, saying: “With the new approach, we will increase last year’s exports and provide strong support to the home appliance industry by reducing raw material tariffs.”

The official mentioned some of his ministry’s programs for supporting the domestic production of home appliances in the country and increasing the self-sufficiency rate in this industry, saying: “This year, we are pursuing an increase in both quantity and quality of home appliance production; in this regard, new plans have been set by our office, so that the domestic production in this sector is increasing and new investments



have been made.”

He further mentioned the significant role of the home appliances industry in creating job opportunities in the country and noted that there are currently 300,000 people working in this industry.

Shokrollahi also referred to the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry’s roadmap for the development of the country’s home appliances industry and said: “The roadmap for this industry is been formulated in collaboration with the country’s top think tanks and knowledge-based companies.”

Manufacturing of home appliances in Iran increased 756 percent during the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), from its previous year, according to the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry data.

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

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

## Over €700m invested in South Pars complementary plans

TEHRAN- The acting managing director of Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC), which is in charge of developing South Pars, Iran’s giant gas field in the Persian Gulf, put the amount of investment made in four complementary projects in South Pars at €712 million.

Mohammad-Hossein Motejalli made the remarks on Monday in a ceremony to inaugurate three projects and launch one project of the Oil Ministry in Assaluyeh, in southwestern Bushehr province, the Public Relations Department of POGC reported.

The inaugural ceremony was participated by Oil Minister Javad Oji and his deputies.

The first combined-cycle unit of Be’sat Power Plant with investment making of €454 million, unit of Demercaptization of gas condensate of South Pars phases 2 and 3 refinery with €74 million of investment, and building the pipeline to transfer gas condensate of South Pars refineries with

an investment of €19 million were the three inaugurated projects and subsea pipeline of South Pars phase 16 with the investment making of €165 million was the launched project, according to Motejalli.

South Pars gas field, which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf water, is divided into 24 standard phases of development in the first stage. Most of the phases are fully operational at the moment.

The huge offshore field covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which are in Iran’s territorial waters in the Persian Gulf. The remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in Qatar’s territorial waters.

The field 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.

## TEDPIX gained 1,000 points on Monday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 1,049 points to 1,445 million on Monday.

As reported, over 5.606 billion securities worth 36.67 trillion rials (about \$130.96 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market’s index rose 547 points, and the second market’s index gained 2,78 points.

TEDPIX fell 9,004 points (0.62 percent) in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

As reported, 32.361 billion securities worth 219.753 trillion rials (about \$784.83 million) were traded through 1,741 deals at the TSE in the past week.

The number and value of traded securities dropped 20.4 percent and 5.4 percent, respectively, while the number of deals fell 7.18 percent in the past week from the preceding week.

## 20 large companies on privatization list

TEHRAN – The head of the Iranian Privatization Organization (IPO) said that 20 large companies are on the list of privatizations.

Hossein Qorbanzadeh said that by the middle of the next Iranian calendar month Mehr (early October) all the companies that are on the list of transfers will be transparent.

In late July, the official had said that in order to get better outcomes from the privatization programs, the government must diversify methods for handing over state-owned companies to the private sector.

Qorbanzadeh said the previous government did not pay enough attention to reforming the structure of previously implemented privatization programs, and the companies were not also properly prepared for the transfer.

The official noted that IPO is currently considering 35 government-owned companies for privatization for which the necessary considerations will be made.

“In the last decade, more than 900 companies have been handed over to the private sector; and although some have not performed well, most of them have been very successful,” he said.

“The capital market is the best proof for this fact;

companies such as steel, copper, and petrochemicals which belonged to the government [and were handed over to the private sector] have been among the most profitable companies,” the IPO head added.

According to Qorbanzadeh; the status of privatized companies should be examined case by case and component by component.

“What we need to do now is to entrust unprofitable companies that are managed in an unfavorable way to capable managers and then when the entity reaches a stage of efficiency and productivity, increase the role of the private sector in the management,” he explained.

The head of the privatization organization further noted that the government cannot be indifferent to the companies that have been handed over to the private sector; Rather, these entities should be carefully watched over in the direction they will move in the future.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Qorbanzadeh said that based on the national budget bill for the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21), the government is expected to gain 710 trillion rials (about \$2.5 billion) from selling assets directly, while 1.3 quadrillion rials (about \$4.65 billion) is going to be gained from transferring shares to various organizations.





From page 1 ► Macron's warning comes as Europe faces an energy shortage after the continent caved in to American pressure and imposed sanctions on Russian supplies. Sanctions that have hit the regular maintenance of the Nord Stream 1 pipeline (the same pipeline Washington has long warned Europe against using). This is while Washington has been pumping billions of dollars worth of weapons into the war zone, in essence prolonging the conflict.

Its a conflict that has not affected the U.S. energy supplies as much as it has hurt European supplies. France's neighbors are struggling with vastly higher costs of wholesale energy, the consequences of which are being paid for by the general public.

The British public will be hit with an 80-percent increase in energy prices from October, which is almost double the current price already deemed as too expensive.

In Germany, energy-saving plans have been introduced that will see, among many new caps, limits next month on how much public buildings (with the exception of hospitals) are allowed to be heated.

France is already working on an energy restraint plan that Macron said, in the summer, would ask all people to commit to saving energy.

The country is also grappling with lower nuclear output, adding further pressure to wholesale energy markets on the continent already in crisis. Power from neighboring countries is needed to help France handle its nuclear shortage.

The German state secretary in the economy ministry, Patrick Graichen says "In France, only half the reactors are running, France is buying elsewhere even if power is expensive," Graichen also says Germany and Italy are sending

power to France.

Macron's government did warn that there may be increases in energy prices as the fighting in Ukraine continues. A conflict that was triggered by the eastward expansion of the U.S.-led NATO military alliance toward Russian borders despite Moscow's warnings.

However, unions have been the loudest in rejecting his call for sacrifices to be made, saying workers are in need of higher pay to cope with rising inflation.

Over the next month, the French government will have to decide whether to renew price caps on electricity and gas bills that expire at the end of the year and have helped keep inflation lower in France than many European countries.

France could not maintain energy price caps to help households cope with soaring inflation forever, government spokesman Olivier Veran claimed after the cabinet meeting. "There may be price increases," he said.

In September, the government will present legislation to speed up energy infrastructure projects and work out a short-term plan to secure energy supplies for the winter, Veran says.

However, in what looks like yet another era of austerity for France, reports suggest reforms to benefit schemes for those who are unemployed or on their pension could also be in the pipeline, measures that may see a return to street protests every Saturday.

The head of the CGT labour union, Philippe Martinez, said Macron's comments were "misplaced" and that many in France had never known abundance. The CGT Union has called for a day of nationwide strikes on September 29.

# Anger over Macron's "abundance" remarks

"When we talk about the end of abundance, I think of the millions of unemployed, the millions of those in a precarious situation. For many French people, times are already hard, sacrifices have already been made," Martinez said.

Jean-Luc Melenchon, who came third in the Presidential election condemned the words of the French President. "He does not realize that he is speaking to people who are destitute, there are words that one does not use as President of the Republic," he said.

"There has never been abundance, resources have always been limited", Melenchon says, accusing the head of state of "behaving like an old man overwhelmed by the situation".

"[Macron] doesn't understand how this can be hurtful for people, for his friends, the rich, abundance is continuing. When you are in a country where there are nine million poor people and hundreds of thousands of people facing impossible problems... He does not realize how hurtful it can be for people," said the former presidential candidate.

"[Macron] does not want us to tax the profiteers of the crisis, those who have accumulated millions on the back of the Covid crisis, inflation", Melenchon added, announcing that a march will be organized in mid-October against the "bad policy" led by the executive and called on "everyone" to participate.

"I'm meeting everyone in mid-October for the march that will allow us to confront this bad policy," he declared.

Other political critics see Macron's statements as further evidence that a leader who has been nicknamed "the president of the rich" is oblivious to the difficulties felt by many French people.

Images have gone viral online of the former investment banker jet-skiing in southern France near a state-owned island palace that serves as his private residence.

"For a large majority, the problem is not abundance, it's shortages," the Communist party leader Fabien Roussel told supporters at an event; "It's not insouciance, it's worried about the fridge being empty, holidays you can't take or the restaurant you can't afford."

Roussel also says that "we have ten million poor in France because of Macron's carelessness and the predatory behavior of the rich,"

Macron, who won a second presidential mandate in April but lost his majority in parliament, faces tough challenges, including persuading lawmakers to pass the 2023 budget.

His Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne heads a minority government that will be depending on opposition parties to pass future legislation.

Is Macron looking at stronger European unity to get out of this dilemma? The French President says there will be the first meeting in Prague in the coming weeks to discuss creating a new European political community to address political and security-related challenges facing the continent.

The Presidents critics back home want him to target the super-rich. They point to the high level of dividends paid by top French companies this year amid massive profits. Critics say it is time for Macron to end tax cuts on the wealth of the rich and start focusing on the poor and working class. Peace talks between Ukraine and Russia might not be popular with the French President's political elites but lower energy prices will be very popular among the French people.

## Sadr leaves politics, Iraq enters crisis



From page 1 ► Earlier, the top judicial body said it did not have sufficient authority to dissolve the country's parliament, urging all parties to refrain from getting the judiciary involved in political rivalries.

Sadr had demanded dissolution of parliament and early elections. He had also called on his supporters to continue the sit-in inside the parliament until his demands were met.

Sadr's bloc emerged from elections in October as the biggest parliamentary faction, but was still far short of a majority, causing the longest political vacuum in the country since the 2003 devastating invasion of the Arab country led by the United States.

In June, all 73 legislators of the bloc quit their seats in a move seen as an attempt to pressure political rivals into fast-tracking the formation of a government.

According to Iraqi laws, if any seat in parliament becomes vacant, the candidate who obtains the second-highest number of votes in their electoral district replaces them.

This means that many of the seats vacated by Sadrists will therefore be filled by member parties of the Coordination Framework Alliance, such as former Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's State of Law and

the Fatah Alliance, which is the political wing of the Popular Mobilization Units, better known as Hashd al-Sha'bi.

Following Sadr's announcement, dozens of his supporters stormed the Republican Palace on Monday, which is a ceremonial building inside Baghdad's fortified Green Zone of government buildings, AFP quoted a security source as saying.

Angry protesters "entered the Republican Palace" shortly after Sadr said he was quitting politics, the source said, with several thousand other Sadr loyalists heading towards the Green Zone.

Following the commotion, Iraq's Joint Operations Command set a full curfew in the capital Baghdad, which was to begin at 15:30 local time(1230 GMT), state news agency INA reported. It also urged the protesters to leave the Green Zone to avoid clashes.

Iraq's al-Sumaria network also reported that the Iraqi police have used water cannons and tear gas to disperse the protesters.

Following the unrest and after pro-Sadr protesters broke into the government's headquarters, Iraq's Prime Minister Mustafa al-Kadhimi suspended cabinet sessions until further notice, INA news agency reported.

## How would Japan respond to a Taiwan contingency?

While China is increasing military pressure on Taiwan following the controversial visit by U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi to Taipei, Japan is in a rush to prepare for a Taiwan contingency. Many experts disagree about how the Japanese government should respond, and what Japan's Self-Defense Forces (SDF) can actually do in such a scenario. However, given the harsh reality of its security environment, it is becoming evident that Japan's national preparedness for a Taiwan emergency has been far behind what is necessary.

It was a think tank's war games simulation that highlighted how vulnerable Japan's security framework for a Taiwan crisis is. This exercise, held in Tokyo on August 6 and 7 by the Japan Forum for Strategic Studies, involved lawmakers of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party and former defense officials.

They examined several scenarios as to how the Japanese government should respond as the situation progressed from peacetime to a possible crisis in the region. The simulation was set in August 2027, which marks the centennial of the founding of the People's Liberation Army. The exercise also assumed that both a Taiwan emergency and a contingency involving the disputed Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands, which Japan administers but China claims, would happen at the same time, forcing the Japanese government to conduct a two-front operation.

The first challenge they confronted is how to recognize the situation. Should any cross-strait

contingency occur, the Japanese government is supposed to assess the status quo immediately and place it within one of three categories: (1) a situation "that will have an important influence" on Japan's peace and security, including situations that, if left without response, could lead to a direct armed attack on Japan; (2) a "survival-threatening situation," where an armed attack against a foreign country that is in a close relationship with Japan occurs, which in turn poses a clear risk of threatening Japan's survival; or (3) an "armed attack situation and anticipated armed attack situation," where an armed attack against Japan has occurred or there is an imminent and clear danger such an attack.

The category, as determined by the government, is very important, because the government's response by law differs depending on which situation is invoked.

For example, under Japan's Civil Protection Act only in an "armed attack situation and anticipated armed attack situation" can the government demand that prefectural and municipal governments work out civil protection plans and allow the central government to use the SDF to evacuate citizens. In other words, even if a Taiwan contingency happens, Japan's Civil Protection Act cannot be applied if the crisis is officially deemed an "important influence situation" or a "survival-threatening situation."

During the table-top exercise, it was decided that the Taiwan emergency would be recognized

as a "survival-threatening situation" that poses a clear threat to Japan's survival, and that the Senkaku/Diaoyu contingency would be recognized as an "armed attack situation" in which Japan was attacked.

Japanese lawmakers and former senior officers of the SDF who attended the table-top exercise were faced with the question of how to safely evacuate about 100,000 Okinawans in the Sakishima Islands, located at the southernmost end of the Japanese archipelago, 1,500 Japanese stranded in Taiwan, and 110,000 Japanese remaining in China.

For one thing, as Morimoto Satoshi, a former Japanese defense minister, pointed out in an interview with The Diplomat earlier this year, there is the deficiency in the transport capabilities of the SDF, which again became evident during the simulation. Due to a lack of SDF capabilities and capacities, the participants found it difficult for the SDF to defend the inhabited Senkaku Islands and evacuate 100,000 citizens in the Sakishima Islands at the same time. The SDF has only about 10,000 members in total on Japan's southwestern Nansei Island chain, which spans about 1,200 kilometers.

For another thing, participants hesitated to deem the Taiwan emergency and the Senkaku contingency a "survival-threatening situation" and an "armed attack situation," respectively. By doing so, they were afraid of worsening relations with Beijing, which could negatively affect the

safety and evacuation of Japanese citizens remaining in China. In the simulation, incredibly it took two whole months for the government to formally categorize the two contingencies. As a responsible state, Japan should protect its citizens from anywhere at any time, regardless of which category the contingency falls into.

The second biggest challenge Japan confronts in a Taiwan contingency is how far the SDF can support U.S. forces.

In the case of a "situation that will have an important influence" on Japan's peace and security, the SDF is authorized to provide logistics support for the U.S. Armed Forces in rear areas.

In the case of an "armed attack situation and anticipated armed attack situation," since this is a direct attack against Japan, Japan will no doubt fight in the support of the U.S. troops. There is also no obstruction to cooperation between the SDF and U.S. Forces in this case.

The tricky one is a "survival-threatening situation." An important question arises when recognizing this situation, which is whether the U.S. military operations are for the defense of Japan or for the defense of Taiwan. According to Morimoto, under current Japanese laws, the government can acknowledge a survival-threatening situation only when the U.S. Forces are acting in defense of Japan, thus enabling the SDF to support U.S. troops. It's unclear the SDF could legally support U.S. troops in defense of Taiwan in this situation, he said.

However, former Japanese Prime Minister Abe Shinzo, who was assassinated in July, once said, "A Taiwan contingency is a contingency for Japan. In other words, it is also a contingency for the Japan-U.S. alliance. People in Beijing, particularly President Xi Jinping, should not misjudge that."

Abe was right. As soon as U.S. forces act to defend Taiwan, China may launch missile attacks on the U.S. military bases in Japan. Therefore, it is expected that Japan would be directly and inseparably impacted by a Taiwan emergency almost immediately. This will lead to a survival-threatening situation and Japan's full support of the activities of the U.S. military.

However, under Japanese law, this entire process is reactive. If the Japanese government judges that a Taiwan emergency is not an emergency in Japan, it will not be deemed a "survival-threatening situation" – and the SDF cannot assist the U.S. military in operations in defense of Taiwan.

In any case, one must remember if China were to invade Taiwan, Japan's government would not have much time – certainly not two full months, as it took in the simulation – to make a decision, especially considering the emergency evacuation procedure for citizens. It is necessary for Tokyo to review domestic laws, such as the 2015 Japanese security legislation, which Abe and the LDP promoted and the Diet passed.

(Source: The Diplomat)

## Brazil's Bolsonaro and Lula trade jobs in fiery presidential debate

Sparks flew Sunday as far-right President Jair Bolsonaro accused leftist rival Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva of massive corruption—and drew accusations of "destroying Brazil"

in return—as they faced off in their first election debate.

The two front-runners, who waited until the last minute to confirm they would attend the first televised debate ahead of October's elections, wasted no time in attacking each other in Sao Paulo.

Bolsonaro called Lula a "thief" in his opening salvo, pummeling the 76-year-old ex-president over the massive "Car Wash" corruption scandal centered on state-run oil

giant Petrobras.

The investigation landed Lula in prison from 2018 to 2019 on controversial corruption charges—annulled by the Supreme Court last year.

"Your government was the most corrupt in Brazilian history," said Bolsonaro, 67, rattling off figures from the Petrobras scandal in a rapid-fire attack.

"It was a kleptocracy, a government based on robbery... What do you want to come

back to power for? To do the same thing to Petrobras again?"

Lula fired back that Bolsonaro was spreading "untruths"—one of several exchanges in which they accused each other of lying—and in turn accused the incumbent of trashing the legacy of economic growth and anti-poverty initiatives that Lula left as president.

"This country has been destroyed," he said in his trademark gravelly voice.

Dressing the part in dark suits and ties—striped blue for Bolsonaro, red for Lula—the front-runners had numerous fiery exchanges, but hewed to the rules and kept their demeanor relatively civilized.

But tension erupted into the open in the press room where their entourages were watching. Pro-Lula lawmaker Andre Janones and Bolsonaro's ex-environment minister, Ricardo Salles, got into a ferocious shouting match and had to be pulled away from each

other.

In all, six of the 12 presidential candidates on the ballot were on the neon-blue-lit stage.

But all eyes in the deeply polarized Latin American giant of 213 million people were on front-runner Lula, the popular but tarnished ex-metal worker who led Brazil from 2003 to 2010, and his nemesis, Bolsonaro, the leader nicknamed the "Tropical Trump," who is vying for a come-from-behind win.

(Source: AFP)



## Yazd nominates 22 historical sites for national registration

Yazd province has nominated 22 historical sites and monuments for possible inscription on the national list for cultural heritage.

“Dossiers for 22 immovable historical and cultural monuments have been prepared for registration in the list of national cultural heritage,” the deputy provincial tourism chief said on Monday.

In addition, the sites have been documented as an essential prerequisite, the official said.

In July 2017, the historical core of Yazd was named UNESCO World Heritage. Yazd is regularly referred to as a delightful place to stay, or a “don’t miss” destination by almost all of its visitors. The city is full of mud-brick houses that are equipped with innovative badgirs (wind catchers), atmospheric alleyways, and many Islamic and Iranian monuments that shape its eye-catching city landscape.

Yazd is famed as a living testimony to the intelligent use of limited available resources in the desert for survival. Water is brought to the city by the qanat system. Each district of



the city is built on a qanat and has a communal center. Furthermore, the use of earth in buildings includes walls and roofs through the construction of vaults and domes. Houses are built with courtyards below ground level, serving underground areas. Wind-catchers, courtyards, and thick earthen walls create a pleasant microclimate.

It is chock-full of mud-brick houses, bazaars, public bathhouses, water cisterns, mosques, synagogues, Zoroastrian temples, and centuries-old gardens. From the divine point of view, the city enjoys the peaceful coexistence of three religions: Islam, Judaism, and Zoroastrianism.

## Ground broken for tourism projects in southeast Iran



TEHRAN—Implementation of 12 tourism-related projects officially began on Sunday with ground-breaking ceremonies across Sistan-Baluchestan, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

On the occasion of Government Week (August 24–30), the construction of the projects worth 140 billion rials (\$467,000) has begun in different cities of the southeastern province, Mojtaba Mirhosseini explained.

The projects include boosting tourism infrastructure as well as building accommodation centers, the official added.

## Hamedan to host national handicrafts exhibit

TEHRAN—An exhibition of Iranian handicrafts and traditional arts is scheduled to be inaugurated in Hamedan on Tuesday, the deputy provincial tourism chief has said.

Artisans and craftspeople from provinces across the country will showcase their handmade products in the exhibit, Hashem Mazaheri explained on Monday.

The exhibit will run until September 3, the official added.

With 14 entries, Iran globally ranks first for the number of cities and villages registered by the World Crafts Council, as China with seven entries, Chile with four, and India with three ones come next. For instance, Shiraz is named a “world city of [diverse] handicrafts”, Malayer is a global hub for woodcarving and carved-wood furniture, while Zanjan has gained the title of a “world city of filigree.”

In addition, the ancient city of Shiraz has been chosen to host the 39th General Assembly of the World Crafts Council-Asia-Pacific Region (WCC-APR) in May 2023. Shiraz has a remarkable amount of handicraft pioneers. With an average age of 70, some of these pioneers are still active at their workshops. The occupational records of about 100 pioneers are collected and are annually praised by the custodians of the WCC General Office.

Available data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts



suggests the value of Iran’s handicrafts exports stood at \$120 million during the first eleven months of the Iranian calendar year 1399 (March 20, 2020–February 18, 2021), Mehr reported. The country’s handicrafts exports slumped during the mentioned months in comparison to the same period last a year earlier due to the damage the coronavirus pandemic has inflicted on global trade.

The Islamic Republic exported \$427 million worth of handicrafts during the first eleven months of the calendar year, 1398 (started March 2019). Of the figure, some \$190 million was earned via suitcase trade (allowed for customs-free and tax-free transfer) through 20 provinces, according to data compiled by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts. Ceramics, pottery vessels, handwoven cloths as well as personal ornamentations with precious and semi-precious gemstones are traditionally exported to Iraq, Afghanistan, Germany, the U.S., the UK, and other countries.

# Archaeologists in search of 6,000-year-old ruins in Sialk hills

TEHRAN—An archaeological team has commenced work in a bid to unearth 6,000-year-old ruins and relics in Sialk hills, which was once the site of a fortified town near modern Kashan in central Iran.

“The archaeologists are currently looking for six-thousand-year-old layers in the Sialk hills, and of course, they plan to involve ordinary people in excavations,” ILNA quoted Sialk’s director Javad Hosseinzadeh-Sadati as saying on Sunday.

“Over the past few days, we have managed to determine the entirety of the excavation site, and after passing through this layer, which does not provide us with any specific information, we will reach the bottom layer, which is expected to provide more accurate information to archaeologists, because its soil is stronger and more intact.”

Last week, the team uncovered the ruins of a home, which according to preliminary estimates dates at least 5,000 years, according to Jebrail Nokandeh who presides over the National Museum of Iran.

“The archaeologists have also found engraved potteries in this layer... However, excavations will be continued to deeper layers after the current level

is documented with three-dimensional imaging technology, Hosseinzadeh-Sadati explained.

In addition, Nokandeh lamented that Sialk is not as well known among Iranian people as it should be.

“Sialk is a well-known site in the archaeology profession and major museums, but as much as it is famous in the world, it is unknown to its motherland,” Nokandeh said.

“Sialk needs more introduction. I don’t know how many tourists come to Kashan in a year, but less than 10% of Kashan tourists come to see the archaeological site because it is not known.”

Earlier this month, a team of cultural heritage experts and archaeologists was tasked with conducting extensive field research to verify the legal boundary of the site.

Situated halfway between Kashan and Fin in Isfahan province, Tapeh Sialk (“Sialk Hills”) has yielded interesting pottery pieces, metal tools, and domestic implements made from stone, clay, and bone that date from as early as the 4th millennium BC.

“Sialk is one of the most important hubs of civilization in Kashan and Iran. Due to this importance, determining the area and boundaries of this ancient



site is the expertise of archaeologists and the final opinion must be announced by those experts,” Isfahan’s tourism chief Ahmad Danainia said earlier this month. Danainia reminded efforts underway to register the site in the UNESCO World Heritage list, saying “For the global registration of these ancient hills, its limits should be modified...”

Sialk is said to be a treasure trove of information about diverse subjects such as palaeobotany, palaeozoology, palaeoanatomy, diet, climate change and ancient metallurgy.

In 2019, the Louvre museum hosted an international conference on Tapeh Sialk (“Sialk hills”), which was attended by archaeologists from Germany, England, France and Iran. According to Louvre, the event was aimed to cast a new light on the ancient site some 80 years after its first excavation to lay an opportunity to present to the public the diversity of research and projects, as well as current issues of preservation and enhancement of the site.

According to the Louvre, the oldest levels document the occupation of the Iranian plateau from the Neolithic to the Cholutic over more than two millennia. Then, around 3000 BC, the site is integrated into the vast cultural

area called Proto-Elamite, during which specific writing appears.

Much later, in the Iron Age, the local culture, represented by beautifully painted pottery, is best known through the excavation of necropolises. This culture, which appeared new in the region, has long been identified with the Medes and fueled the debate over the arrival of new populations speaking Iranian languages from which comes modern Persian.

Several excavation projects at the site have so far been conducted, beginning with a 1933 French Louvre delegation led by Roman Ghirshman; capping with a most recent project in 2009, which was led by Hassan Fazeli-Nashli, a faculty member of the Archaeology Department, University of Tehran.

When it comes to tourism, travellers regularly opt to pass Kashan on their journeys between Tehran, Isfahan, Shiraz, and Yazd because this delightful oasis city on the edge of the Dasht-e Kavir is one of Iran’s most alluring destinations. Kashan not only boasts a cluster of architectural wonders, an atmospheric-covered bazaar, and a UNESCO-recognized garden, but it also offers some of central Iran’s best traditional hotels.

## Ecbatana: photo exhibit, workshop to spotlight 22 seasons of excavation

TEHRAN— Ecbatana, which was once a summer residence for the Persian Achaemenid kings, will be hosting a workshop and a photo exhibition in a bid to mark 22 archaeological seasons conducted on the ancient Iranian city so far.

“In line with education and promotion, a workshop will be held soon with the presence of expert professors in the field of restoration and archeology. Moreover, a photo exhibition dedicated to Hegmataneh’s archaeological activities will open to the public here,” CHTN quoted the director of the archaeological site as saying on Sunday.

“Ninety-one years ago, on the 10th of Shahrivar 1310, (September 2, 1931), the historical site of Hegmataneh (Ecbatana) was registered on Iran’s national cultural heritage list under the number 28,” Hassan Soltani said.

Organized to mark 22 chapters of archaeological excavations on Hegmataneh, the event will be turning the spotlight on the scientific and specialized concepts of protection and restoration conducted on the discovered ruins and relics, the official stated.

Situated in modern Hamedan, west-central Iran, Ecbatana was one of the ancient world’s greatest cities. Pitifully little remains from antiquity, but significant parts of the city center are given over to excavations. Ecbatana was the capital of Media and subsequently a summer residence of the



Achaemenid kings who ruled Persia from 553 to 330 BC.

Ecbatana is widely believed to be once a mysterious capital of Medes. According to ancient Greek writers, the city was founded in about 678 BC by Deioces, who was the first king of the Medes.

French Assyriologist Charles Fossey (1869–1946) directed the first excavation in Tepe Hegmataneh for six months in 1913. Erich Friedrich Schmidt (1897–1964), who was a German and American-naturalized archaeologist, took some aerial photos from Hamedan between 1935 and 1937.

As mentioned by the Greek historian Xenophon of Athens (c.430–c.355), Ecbatana became the summer residence of the Achaemenid kings. Their palace is described by the Greek historian Polybius of Megalopolis. He writes that the city was richer

## Large audio-visual museum opened in Kerman

TEHRAN—A museum dedicated to audio and visual equipment was officially inaugurated in the southern Kerman province on Sunday.

The museum, which is the largest of its kind in the country, opened its door to the public on the occasion of Government Week (August 24–30), said an official with the tourism ministry.

The museum was set up inside a Qajar-era (1789–1925) mansion,

which has been fully restored, Javad Vahedi explained, CHTN reported.

A budget of 760 billion rials (\$2.6 million) was allocated to the restoration project, he added.

The museum displays 300 pieces of historical audio and audiovisual equipment, the official noted.

Kerman has been a cultural melting pot since antiquity, blending Persians with subcontinental tribe dwellers. It

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

The UNESCO-tagged Bam and its Cultural Landscape is located on the southern edge of the Iranian high plateau, in Kerman province, close to the Pakistan border. It’s highly regarded as an outstanding example of an ancient fortified settlement.

According to UNESCO, the origins of the citadel can be traced back to the Achaemenid period (6th to 4th centuries BC) and even beyond. The ensemble was at the crossroads of important trade routes as well in its heyday sometime between the 7th to 11th centuries. The massive fortress and its environs were almost completely brought down to earth due to a devastating earthquake on December 26, 2003.

## Eco-lodge units inaugurated in Mazandaran

TEHRAN—On Saturday, a total of 18 eco-lodge units were inaugurated in the northern province of Mazandaran on the occasion of Government Week (August 24–30), the provincial tourism chief has said.

With a budget of 344 billion rials (\$1.2 million), the eco-lodges came on stream in eleven cities across the province, Mehdi Izadi explained on Sunday.

The eco-lodges are estimated to generate over 60 job opportunities for the locals, the official added.

Sandwiched between the towering Alborz mountain range and the Caspian Sea, Mazandaran has a rich yet turbulent history. An early civilization flourished at the beginning of the first millennium BC in Mazandaran (Tabarestan).

Historically speaking, its insecure eastern and southeastern borders were crossed by Mongol invaders in the 13th and 14th centuries. Cossacks attacked the region in 1668 but were repulsed. It was ceded to the Russian Empire by a treaty in 1723, but the Russians were never secure in their occupation. The area was restored to Iran under the Qajar dynasty.

The northern section of the region consists of lowland alongside the Caspian and upland along the northern slopes of the Alborz Mountains. Marshy backlands dominate the coastal plain, and extensive gravel fans fringe the mountains. The climate is permanently subtropical and humid, with very hot summers.

Iran’s tourism body said in 2018 that 2,000 eco-lodges will be constructed nationwide until 2021. Experts say each eco-lodge unit generates jobs for seven to eight people on average, so the scheme could create 160,000 jobs.

Having a very diverse natural setting, Iran offers varied excursions to nature lovers. Sightseers may live with a nomad or rural family or enjoy an independent stay. The country is home to abundant historical mansions, caravanserais, bathhouses, madrasas, and other massive monuments, which can buttress its budding tourism and hospitality sectors if managed appropriately and refurbished properly.



# Over 100 vertebrate species in danger of disappearing

TEHRAN – A newly-updated list of endangered vertebrate species showed that 100 species are threatened with extinction, IRIB reported on Monday.

The Department of Environment (DOE) has updated and published the list of endangered and protected vertebrates after about 20 years.

According to this list, more than 100 vertebrate species are in danger of extinction and over 160 species are on the list of supported and protected vertebrates.

Considering the different threat status of some wildlife species in our country with the IUCN Red List, the list was revised with the efforts of the National Museum of Natural History and Genetic Resources and the Office of Wildlife Conservation and Management, based on criteria such as threat factors, population status, limited distribution and endemism, smuggling status, etc.

Regarding aquatic animals and crustaceans, the previous approval of the organization is still in place and will be notified and informed in case of changes, also the list of



endangered invertebrates is under final review.

According to the IUCN, at least 40 percent of animals, insects, and plants are at risk of extinction across the world.

Currently, more than 41 percent of amphibians, 26 percent of mammals, 21 percent of reptiles, and 13 percent of birds are threatened. In the latest statistics, the number of endangered species in the country is 75 vertebrate

species (18 species of mammals, 29 species of birds, 4 species of amphibians, and 16 species of reptiles) on the IUCN Red List.

Iranian vertebrates are counted as 198 mammal species, 559 species of birds, 242 species of reptiles, and 25 species of amphibians (1023 species in total); 274 approved species of fish in inland waters, and 975 species of marine fish (sharks and aquatic fish) has

been registered in the country, but this list is subject to change due to genetic and field studies.

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

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

According to the IUCN, at least 40 percent of animals, insects, and plants are at risk of extinction across the world.

## Police cracks down on internet gambling gangs

TEHRAN – The Iranian Police has arrested six gambling gangs targeting internet users with phone and online scams, with a turnover of 12 trillion rials (around \$42 million).

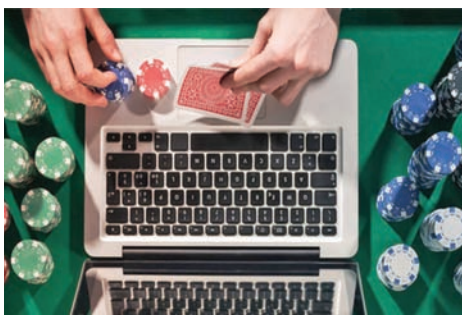
Since the beginning of the current [Iranian calendar] year (March 21), the police identified six criminal gangs after a thorough and careful investigative work, Cyber police chief Vahid Majid said.

Some 93 members of the gangs were captured while they committed fraud at their criminal den and introduced to judicial authorities, he stated.

Criminal evidence was confiscated, including 210 credit cards that belonged to other people used in gambling sites.

After a preliminary investigation, the Police found that the gang had connections with criminal people in gambling sites abroad.

Through several links in the field of renting



bank accounts, the suspects have deceived people with excuses such as investing in the stock market, tax evasion, activities in the field of digital currencies, etc.

By checking the identified bank accounts while blocking more than 50 billion rials (around \$180,000), it was found that the fraudsters have spent large sums of criminal

funds on purchases from the commodity exchange and other domestic companies.

Majid earlier in 2021 said that in the past Iranian year, 53 people involved in seven betting and gambling groups were arrested. Moreover, some 3,000 websites and accounts active in social media have been identified and up to 800 persons have been handed to the judiciary in this regard.

As per Iranian law, designing, launching, and running betting and gambling websites are forbidden.

The Police found that the gang had connections with criminal people in gambling sites abroad.

## Innovation ecosystem to receive \$1.4 billion

From page 1 ▶ Over the past year, in order to realize a resilient and knowledge-based economy, the Vice Presidency for Science and Technology has implemented a series of activities to further develop the ecosystem of innovation and technology in the country.

The Vice Presidency for Science and Technology was founded in 2006 as one of the sub-sets of the government with the slogan of moving from an oil-based economy to a knowledge-based one, aiming at increasing technological capabilities and innovation in order to generate wealth from the knowledge and improve people's quality of life.

So, over 7,000 knowledge-based and 1,600 creative companies have

so far been registered and started operations.

The fields of biotechnology, agriculture, food industries, chemical technologies aircraft maintenance, steel, gas, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment and medicine, oil, electronics and telecommunica-

So far, 65 creative houses and innovation centers, and 30 specialized accelerators have been established.

tions, information technology, and computer software are among the sectors that researchers in technology companies are working in.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei designated the current Iranian year (March 2022-March 2023) as "The Year of Production: Knowledge-Based and Job-Creating". Strengthening knowledge-based companies are on the agenda, raising hope for reducing obstacles on the path to development.

In this regard, a strategic technology development headquarters was formed and 362,000 technological projects and 154 commercialization projects were supported, in addition to the inauguration



of 23 national mega projects.

Moreover, in the field of innovation and entrepreneurship ecosystem development, 65 creative houses and innovation centers, and 30 specialized accelerators have been established with the aim of empowering and strengthening the export capacity of knowledge-based, creative, and technological companies.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

### Iran spends \$477m on refugee education annually

Iran spends about 20 trillion rials (nearly \$477 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials) every year on the education of foreign national students residing in the country, head of the international affairs department of the Ministry of Education has said.

Over 558,000 foreign national children are receiving education in Iran completely free of charge, 474,000 of whom are Afghan children, ISNA quoted Gholamreza Karimi as saying on Wednesday.

Karimi said that there are currently about 137,000 undocumented Afghan students in the country, adding that their parents do not have valid residency documents, "but we have provided the conditions for enrolling them in schools."

A number of foreign nationals from neighboring countries came to Iran over the past four decades due to numerous regional crises and civil wars, he lamented.

### ایران سالی ۲ هزار میلیارد تومان برای دانش آموزان اتباع خارجی هزینه می کند

ایران هر سال حدود ۲ هزار میلیارد تومان برای ۵۵۸ هزار دانش آموز اتباع خارجی در مدارس سراسر کشور هزینه می کند. به گزارش روز چهارشنبه ایسنا، غلامرضا کریمی رئیس مرکز امور بین الملل و مدارس خارج از کشور وزارت آموزش و پرورش گفت از این تعداد ۴۷۴ هزار نفر آنها اتباع افغانستانی هستند.

کریمی با بیان اینکه در حال حاضر ۱۳۷ هزار دانش آموز غیرمجاز در کشور داریم گفت پدر و مادر این افراد مدارک اقامتی معتبر ندارند اما ما شرایط ثبت نام آنها را مدارس فراهم کردیم.

تعدادی از اتباع کشورهای همسایه به خاطر بحرانیهای متعدد منطقه ای و جنگهای داخلی در طول چهار دهه گذشته به ایران آمدند. پس از صدور فرمان مقام معظم رهبری در پایان سال ۱۳۹۳ هیچ کودک ایرانی و خارجی مستقر در ایران نباید از تحصیل محروم بماند.

## SOCIETY

AUGUST 30, 2022

Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

7

## Climate change and challenges

### Part 4

Abnormality reduction in rainfall data and increase in rainfall data, upward radiation of long waves makes the effects of global warming and climate change intensify.

Iran submitted the 1st and 2nd national reports in 2003 and 2011, respectively, to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

In 2017, the third national report is submitted to the UNFCCC. Uncoordinated inter-departmental collaboration, insufficient collection of data and information as well as international sanctions prevent the implementation of Iran in the Climate change adaptation program.

### The future and climate change

Forecasting the future under the effect of climate change is inevitable. Many of the problems and solutions are now known to us, and ongoing research continues to provide new ones.

Experts believe that there is still time to prevent the most negative consequences by limiting the heat.

Reducing the emission of greenhouse gases as soon as possible requires investment in technology and new constructions that cause employment growth with environmental considerations.

In addition, such progress would reduce greenhouse gas emissions, reduce the harmful effects on human health, and save countless lives and billions of dollars in associated costs.

Changes in weather patterns can endanger life. Heat is one of the deadliest atmospheric phenomena. As the temperature of the atmosphere increases, storms become stronger and more humid, which can cause direct deaths and injuries.

Dry conditions lead to more forest fires, which pose greater health risks. The Indian Ocean monsoon phenomenon, which was mainly limited to the coastal areas, now affects areas as far as northern India (Himalayas) and northern Iran (Alborz) and has caused loss of life, damage to food sources, and as a result, threatens the health of more people.

concluded

## BIRDS IN IRAN

### Part 10

#### Greater flamingo studies

Since its discovery in the mid-1960s the breeding colony of some 20,000 to 25,000 pairs of greater flamingos *Phoenicopterus ruber* on islands in Lake Urmia, Azarbaijan, has been the subject of continuous study by ornithologists from the department.

The entire lake and its islands, an area of 483,000 ha, were given reserve status in 1967 and the flamingo declared a fully protected bird.

Banding studies have revealed that immediately after fledging young birds undertake a wide dispersal out of the Iranian region, with recoveries coming from as far afield as Libya, Sudan, Ethiopia, Somalia, Pakistan, and India.

The adults, however, winter mainly within Iran, in the Bakhtegan Protected Region in central Fars, and along the coasts of the Persian Gulf and Baluchistan (Scott, 1975).

#### The wetlands and their wildfowl

The wetlands of Iran constitute one of the main

wintering areas for wildfowl belonging to the West Siberian-Caspian-Nile flyway population.

The millions of ducks, geese, and coots in this flyway have long supported an annual harvest in the south Caspian region (Schuz, 1957; Savage, 1963; Firouz, 1968) and are increasingly attracting the attention of sport hunters.

In an attempt to conserve and manage this valuable natural resource the Department of the Environment has introduced realistic game laws and regulations, created a number of protected regions and wildlife refuges, and drawn up a detailed inventory of the nation's wetlands.

Nationwide mid-winter wildfowl censuses have been conducted annually since 1966, and these have provided valuable information on population size and trends.

A booklet entitled The Wetlands and Waterfowl of Iran, published by the Department of the Environment in 1971 (Firouz, 1971b), gives a general account of the situation in Iran, while a paper by Ferguson looks at the south Caspian region in some detail.

To be continued

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON AUGUST 29

New cases	1,966
New deaths	48
Total cases	7,525,628
Total deaths	143,776
New hospitalized patients	458
Patients in critical condition	1,117
Total recovered patients	7,288,750
Diagnostic tests conducted	53,774,846
Doses of vaccine injected	154,065,553



TEHRAN TIMES

www.tehrantimes.com

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

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

Tehrantimes79

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

AUGUST 30, 2022

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

When you get ill do not get nervous about it and try as much as possible to be hopeful.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:13:05    Evening: 19:53    Dawn: 5:08 (tomorrow)    Sunrise: 6:35 (tomorrow)

## Iranian calligraphy (khattati, khoshnevisi)

Part 9

The product of this mixture came to be known simply as shekasta, and being more easily legible than taliq it gradually replaced the latter as the script of decrees and documents and later also came into use for writing books, poems, albums, etc.

Certain features of shekasta can be traced back to experimental devices (tafannon) used by scribes of thulth, to ornamental letter shapes found in rayhan and mohaqqaq, and to decorative styles of secretarial (tarassoli) nastaliq used in official documents of the Safavid and Timurid periods.

Traces of some of the letter combinations of shekasta have been found in various styles of Ottoman divani calligraphy.

Two main styles of shekasta handwriting can be distinguished: one that is simple and clear, another complex. The latter is sometimes called “correspondence script” (khatt-e tarassol).

In its first phase, for instance in the work of Mortazaqoli Khan Shamlu (d. 1688-89), shekasta lacked consistency, being a mixture of taliq, nastaliq, and shekasta, and contained letter combinations which were afterwards dropped.

Mortazaqoli Khan Shamlu and Mohammad Shafi’ Heravi Hosayni known as Shafi’a (d. 1670-71) produced beautiful work in early shekasta and were pioneers of shekasta calligraphy.

It reached the peak of artistic perfection in the work of Darvish Abd al-Majid Taleqani (d. 1771), who gave the script its distinctive and definite form.

His pupils and followers and other interested calligraphers successfully promoted the spread of the script and use of his special style, which is still the norm today.

There are some intricacies in Darvish’s shekasta that may make it somewhat difficult to read, but his craftsmanship is very strong and his composition and artistic touches very beautiful.

The use of shekasta for writing decrees and documents and for many other purposes prompted clerks and scribes to add frills which made it unduly complex.

Eventually the need for simplification was recognized, and several new styles emerged, the best known being the secretarial styles (shekasta-ye tahriri) of Abul-Qasem Qa’emmaqam Farahani (d. 1835-36), Hasan Ali Khan Amir(-e) Nezam Garrusi (1820-1900), and Mirza Ali Khan Amin-al-Dawla (1844-1904).

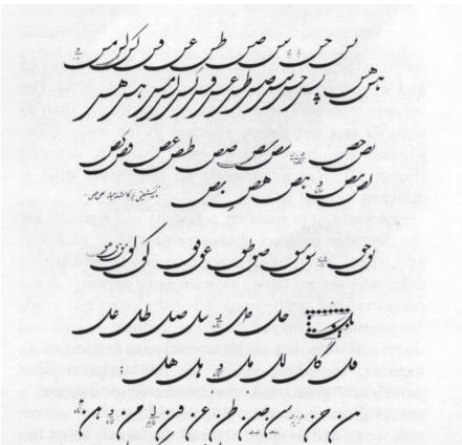
Qa’emmaqam, who also played a big part in simplifying the Persian prose of his time, assimilated the elements of shekasta to those of nastaliq, thereby making shekasta simpler and greatly increasing its popularity.

Amir Nezam Garrusi also made an important contribution, particularly by showing how shekasta could be made thinner and neater.

Amin-al-Dawla’s style, however, made shekasta more difficult to read and was therefore, despite its beauty, soon forgotten. The secretarial style (khatt-e tahriri) is really a simplified form of shekasta adapted for ease and speed of writing and reading. Proper shekasta is more artistic.

For speed of writing, shekasta stands first among the scripts. It is elegant, being predominantly round with few flat strokes. The movement of the hand and pen is less constrained than in nastaliq.

The Harakat are not inserted unless absolutely



Shekasta-nastaliq, two-letter combinations.

necessary. The vertical letters are relatively short, and the final flourishes of syn, saad, qaf, and nun may be stretched out instead of being written in the usual semicircular form.

There are three different forms of final laam, nun, and yaa. The loops of haa and ayn are somewhat more open than in nastaliq.

The oblique crossbars of kaf and gaf are longer than in nastaliq and not always attached to the letter. Elongations are more often used than in nastaliq. Not infrequently an unjoinable letter is attached to what follows.

In shekasta, as in nastaliq, simplicity and legibility are the desirable qualities. Exaggerated joining of words and letters, omitting of diacritical points, and letting differently shaped letters have the same appearance are considered bad faults (naqs).

When the letters and words are consistently shaped and have uniform heights and slopes and when they are juxtaposed so as to stand nicely together, something which for this script requires particularly great skill, the shekasta script acquires a special grace and beauty.

A rough and irregular form of the shekasta script has long been used in governmental and other offices and institutions in Persia for writing letters, reports, and so on.

Degenerating in the first half of the 20th century, it has now again engaged the attention of calligraphers. In other Muslim countries also, particularly Afghanistan, the shekasta script is used, but not according to the Persian norm and sometimes only as experimental devices (tafannon).

In Afghanistan the simple form is called shekasta-amiz, and the complex form shekasta.

**Toghra**

In medieval times an edict of a ruler was headed with a monogram, called a toghra, containing his name and title.

It was written in a very intricate script with parallel curvilinear strokes and customarily placed at the head of the document.

In ministerial offices (divans) the toghra was used as royal seal and was considered to validate a decree in the same way as a royal signature.

There are mentions of this practice in Persia as early as the Seljuk period (Nezami Ganjavi, Makhzan al-asarar). The toghra was at first confined to headings of royal edicts, coins, seals, and agate signets, but in late medieval and modern times it was more widely used.

As can be expected, the early toghras are not written in any particular shape.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued.

# San Francisco Iranian Film Festival unveils lineup

TEHRAN – The Annual Iranian Film Festival – San Francisco has announced the lineup for its 15th edition, which will take place on September 17 and 18.

This year’s festival presents 50 feature, documentary and animation films from Iran, USA, Italy, France, Luxembourg, Greece, UK, Canada, Australia, Denmark and several other countries.

“Wolf Cubs of Apple Valley” by Fereidun Najafi is a highlight of the feature film competition.

The film begins with a shot that rings out in the valley, and then Asho’s friend drops to the ground. The rifle bullet was meant for Asho; his father is wanted for murder and he, too, is being hunted. To evade those who are looking for him, Asho is forced to dress up as a girl and hide at his aunt’s house. In his hunt for answers, he heads out to Apple Valley with his cousin, Pari, to look for his mother, who he has always believed to be dead.

“Staging” will also be screened in this section.

Directed by Alireza Samadi, the film is about Asad, a man who works as a private bodyguard at night. But during the day he and his criminal gang stage accidents to



A scene from “Wolf Cubs of Apple Valley” by Fereidun Najafi.

collect money from the insurance companies. Leyla is a social worker who finds out and that’s when the troubles start.

Manijeh Hekmat’s acclaimed drama “Bandar Band” will also be screened.

In this film, after a long time, some Iranian women singers

are going to enter an unofficial competition in a coffee shop in Tehran. Pregnant Mahla along with the other members of Bandar Band, her husband, and one of their closest friends, starts her journey to Tehran from a southern province just when they have lost all they had in the flood. They still keep their hopes alive, however, every road

they take leads to a dead end in a flood-stricken land. They intend to go to Tehran, but they wonder if it is just another turn around a vicious circle.

The Iranian Film Festival – San Francisco aims to discover and support the next generation of Iranian filmmakers living and working around the world.

## “Katvoman” named best fiction at Tunisia amateur film festival

From Page 1 ► The award for best animation film went to “Tea Hole” by Pierre Kazmierczak, while “Alaman” by Kyrgyz filmmaker Ilgiz Sherniyaz was selected as best documentary.

The award for best experimental film was given to “Palimpseste” by Mohamed Osman Kilani.

Created in 1964, FIFAK is a film event organized by the Tunisian Federation of Amateur Filmmakers and supported by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs.

The festival is held with contributions from the National Center for Cinema and Image, and the Municipality of the city of Kelibia.

It is the oldest manifestation of cinema in Tunisia and the cradle of the majority of

filmmakers and technicians of the Tunisian scene.

The festival is the most important meeting for young filmmakers, film lovers and students of film schools in Tunisia.

FIFAK aims to encourage the promotion and distribution of works of amateur, independent and school cinema.

It also enables amateur, independent and student filmmakers to compare their experiences, in particular through debates devoted to the participating films.

Each edition brings together more than 1,200 people from festival participants, members of the Tunisian federation of amateur filmmakers and the various Tunisian film associations,



“Katvoman” by Iranian director Hadi Sheibani.

students from film schools, professionals and guests from the field, in addition to the summer public finding themselves already there and who is increasingly trying to fit his stay with the event.

## “Undercover Robot” infiltrates into Iranian bookstores

TEHRAN – A Persian translation of English writer David Edmonds’ young adult novel “Undercover Robot: My First Year as a Human” has come into the Iranian bookstores.

The book has been published by Now with its original illustrations by Bertie Fraser. Meisam Mohammadamini is the translator of the book.

If super-high-tech android Doty can spend an entire year masquerading as a twelve-year-old schoolgirl, she could win a multi-million-pound prize that will enable her creators to continue their ground-breaking work in the development of AI.

Easy-peasy, right? As Doty navigates the social expectations of Year 7 she gets



Front cover of the Persian edition of David Edmonds’ book “Undercover Robot”.

into a series of hilarious scrapes, and encounters numerous ethical dilemmas both at school

and at home.

Then a boy in her class discovers there’s a reward for outing the robot, and becomes intent on proving that Doty is not who – or what – she says she is.

To prevent herself from being discovered, Doty needs to put into practice everything she has learned about being human. But will it be enough?

It is a hilarious story that poses some fascinating philosophical and ethical questions, told from the point of view of a smart, sassy android robot.

Edmonds is a radio feature maker at the BBC World Service. He studied at Oxford University, has a Ph.D. in philosophy from the Open University and has held fellowships at the University of

Chicago and the University of Michigan.

He is the author of “Caste Wars: A Philosophy of Discrimination” and co-author with John Eidinow of “Wittgenstein’s Poker: The Story of a Ten-Minute Argument Between Two Great Philosophers” and “Bobby Fischer Goes to War: How the Soviets Lost the Most Extraordinary Chess Match of All Time.”

He has also written a book on the trolley problem, entitled “Would You Kill the Fat Man?”. In this he outlines the problem and several of its variations, providing a rounded view on the trolley problem while analyzing many ethical theories and how they would respond to the trolley problem.

## Re-discovering the Ashura and exploring the connection between history and literature



The historical novel is a hybrid of history and literature and has the ability to describe historical events in great detail and excitement without taking them as seriously as a historical report would. Additionally, in this genre of stories, history and literature advance alongside one another, creating a beautiful fusion of the past and present that

updates the experiences and tales of the past.

The book “Confessions of a killed scribe” by Sasan Nategh, is a historical novel about the events of Ashura.

The tale concerns a shepherd who, in order to receive payment for the sheep purchased by Ubayd Allah’s soldiers, travels to their army and enters the tent of the scribes who are attempting to record the battle’s events for their commanders. By the time the shepherd reaches Karbala, hours have passed since the battle between Ubayd Allah’s soldiers and Imam Hussain’s companions. The shepherd, the son of the great scribe, who conceals this fact by living a hidden life, watches the battle with the occupants of that tent.

Each of the book’s seven chapters described an Ashura event while also

including the confessions of the killed scribe who was seeking the truth about the tragedies at Karbala.

In this book, Muawiyah’s tricks and plans against Imam Ali (AS) and his family are described in detail using the words of a shepherd whose father once served in Muawiyah’s court.

While Sasan Nategh has remained true to the historical sources and has given the readers a fantastic story, his work is still not a documentary narrative.

It’s also important to note that although the author’s imagination was used in this book to describe events like blocking off water to Imam Hussain (AS) and tricking riders and warriors into enlisting in Umar ibn Saad’s army, the realism of the narrative and the truth were not compromised.