

# A Syria Recipe for Iran

▶ Page 3

## Report

### The not so suspicious Nord Stream blasts

Since the outbreak of the Ukraine war and many years before the conflict even erupted, the signs were clear. The United States was and continues to wage economic war against Russia and all other countries, such as China and Iran, that pursue independent foreign and economic policies.

On Russia, Congress loathed the idea of Moscow sending 40% of Europe's gas supplies mostly through the Nord Stream 1 pipeline. Over the years, the U.S. imposed so much diplomatic pressure on Europe to abandon the implementation of another pipeline: Nord Stream 2.

It was supposed to be a major energy project in Europe, perhaps the biggest but also of major concern in Washington, where officials tried their best at scaremongering their counterparts in Europe.

Nord Stream 2 is designed by Russian energy giant Gazprom and the aim of the new pipeline was to double the amount of gas flowing from Russia straight to Germany.

The concern in Washington was the U.S. sitting on an excess amount of gas supply from the shale gas boom but unlike Russia there was little buyers.

The U.S. has been so eager to export the surplus to Europe on tankers in the form of liquefied natural gas (LNG) and essentially replace Russian supplies. ▶ Page 5

### Iran's Intelligence Ministry says U.S., UK "directly" complicit in recent riots

TEHRAN- Iran's Intelligence Ministry has stated that the United States and the United Kingdom were "directly" involved in the recent unrest in certain cities in the country.

In a statement released on Friday, the ministry said that during the recent disturbances, dozens of terrorists connected to the Zionist regime and anti-revolutionary organizations had been apprehended.

The ministry emphasized the conditions that led to the foreign-backed riots following the tragic death of Mahsa Amini, a 22-year-old Kurdish woman, protests turned violent in the country, security personnel were assaulted, police cars, ambulances, and other public property were smashed.

The Mujahedin-e-Khalq Organization (MKO), an anti-Iranian terrorist group that its operatives are mostly based in Albania, as well as persons affiliated with other anti-revolution terror groups were cited by the Intelligence Ministry as the main forces behind the violence.

The statement said in recent days security forces, who are preserving law and order, had to deal with a variety of cult-like organizations, agents of foreign spy agencies, fooled agents of rioters on the streets as well as direct involvement of the American and British governments and their Saudi allies.

The Iranian Intelligence Ministry highlighted the fact that 49 MKO terrorists have been detained for actively disseminating false information, inciting protestors to carry out terror and sabotage acts, directing slogans, and being present in the streets to cause damage to public property. ▶ Page 2



### Afghans shout 'stop Hazara genocide'

Women from Afghanistan's minority Hazara community have held a protest following a suicide bombing that took place in an educational center and killed more than 35 people on Friday, Press TV reported.

A suicide bomber blew himself up in the study hall of Kaj Education Center in Dasht-

e-Barchi, a mainly Hazara neighborhood west of the Afghan capital Kabul.

The neighborhood is an area where most residents are Afghan Hazara Shiites, who have been the target of brutal suicide attacks by terrorist groups including Daesh in recent years.

The UN said on Saturday the death toll

had risen to 35. More than 20 of the killed were girls and women, it said.

"The latest casualty figures from the attack number at least 35 fatalities, with an additional 82 wounded," the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said in a statement. ▶ Page 5

### Transit of goods via Iranian ports increasing noticeably

By Mahnaz Abdi

TEHRAN- In a press conference on Saturday, Ali-Akbar Safaei, the head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO), underlined the significant growth of transit of commodities via the ports of country and said that

transit via some ports has risen by 150-170 percent in this year.

During the conference, which was on the occasion of World Maritime Day, the official said that the PMO has held many sessions with the neighboring countries as well as In-

dia and took many follow-up measures to facilitate trade with those countries which has also led to the rising trend of transit via Iran.

According to a report released during the press conference, the loading and unloading of goods in the ports of the country ▶ Page 4



### Young sports talents Olympiad held

TEHRAN - The opening ceremony of the 3rd Olympiad of the Iran's young sports talents was held on Friday in the basketball hall of the Azadi Complex in Tehran.

Hamid Sajadi, Minister of Sports and Youth, and deputy minister Mohammad Pooladgar attended the ceremony.

### Tehran seen to become top tourism hub in two years, official says

TEHRAN - A short-term plan is underway to make Tehran a top tourist destination in the country, the provincial tourism chief has said.

There is a two-year plan for Tehran to become the epicenter of tourism, which will last until the Iranian calendar year 1402 (March 2023-March 2024), CHTN quoted Parham Janfeshan as saying on Saturday.

Tehran's accommodation centers and hotels have been empty, especially on holidays, as Tehran always provides tourists to other

cities, the official explained.

However, it has one advantage for the city and when people realize Tehran is quiet and uncrowded during the holidays, they will prefer to travel there, he added.

Tehran offers many attractions to visitors from around the country, including entertainment centers, parks, historical centers, the historical core of the city, shopping centers, and tourist complexes, as well as several tours organized for travelers, he noted.

## Report

### Iran on the verge of aging crisis

By Farnak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN - Over the [Iranian calendar] year 1410 (March 2031-March 2032), the elderly population will reach 13.5 million people, which is 14 percent of the country's population, and Iran will officially be an old country.

Currently, the elderly population is 9.2 million, which constitutes 7.10 percent of the country's population.

The aging issue in Iran is very special from three perspectives, firstly, the fast pace of aging. Second, along with these very rapid quantitative changes, qualitative changes in aging such as feminization are happening.

The third feature of aging in Iran is that the progress in the field of health and nutrition has increased life expectancy, and besides, due to the decrease in the fertility rate, the infrastructure for the elderly population is not available in the country. ▶ Page 7

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## Report

### Are JCPOA revival talks really dead?

By Saeed Azimi

TEHRAN— Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and his Omani counterpart Sayyid Badr Al-Busaidi discussed the latest developments in bilateral ties and also regional developments in a phone call on Friday.

The two sides also held consultations over the latest developments surrounding the talks to revive the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), the official name for the 2015 nuclear deal.

The phone call comes while the JCPOA talks have reached a stalemate.

In an interview with IRNA correspondent in New York published on Friday, Iran's top diplomat stated that Washington's response to the EU proposal was "interpretable" in many ways, and Tehran sought to "strengthen" the U.S. response.

"We tried not to change the balance and the content. The framework of the agreement that we have should be maintained, but this text should have been strengthened by maintaining our red lines. One of the dimensions of this strengthening was 'clarification' so that when the text is published, 10 interpretations of a single text would not come out, but at least, the majority of the readers of that text should feel that they have a single understanding of that text. Moreover, more important than that text for us is the implementation of agreements," Amir Abdollahian clarified.

However, U.S. Congressman Darrell Issa (Republican from California) told Washington Free Beacon, "Two weeks ago, they thought they had a deal, and now they know they don't have a deal, and are stymied about how they get to a deal because they've negotiated all there was to negotiate, and, at the end of the day, Iran doesn't want the deal that was negotiated." ▶ Page 2

### "Funeral" by Iranian photographer wins FIAP Gold Medal at Dushanbe Aqua Salon

TEHRAN - Iranian photographer Amin Behjat's "Funeral" has won the FIAP Gold Medal at the 4th Aqua International Salon of Photography in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

This black and white photo shows people attending a funeral on a snowy day in a cemetery in the northwestern Iranian city of Urmia.

Behjat received the honor in the People category of the exhibition, which is organized every year with contributions from the Federation Internationale de l'Art Photographique (FIAP), the Photographic Society of America (PSA) and the Focus Photo Club, Iran's branch of the FIAP.

In this section, Iranian photographer Hossein Davudi's photo "Road Closed" won the FPC Trophy. This photo depicts a visually impaired man walking on a street. ▶ Page 8

## Iran's Intelligence Ministry says U.S., UK "directly" complicit in recent riots

From page 1 ▶ The ministry reported that 77 mercenaries, including those aligned with groups trained by the Zionist regime such as

Komala Party of Kurdistan, Kurdistan Democratic Party, PAK (Parti Azadi Kurdistan) and PJAK (Kurdistan Free Life Party) have also been detained on the two sides of Iran's western borders. It added one of the detainees is a leading member of the Kurdistan grouplets that are stationed in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region (KRG). He had received training in the American-Zionist military bases in the KRG and was considered a leading militant, the ministry said. It added he was detained in a secret operation and is now in prison.

Also, five members of a group aligned to terrorist and Takfiri groups were nabbed together with 36 kg of explosives that were intended to be blasted in public gatherings and at scenes of protests, according to the statement.

The ministry added 92 individuals connected to the old U.S.-supported Pahlavi regime had been found and detained during the unrest.

In addition, nine nationals from countries like Germany, Poland, Italy, France, the Netherlands, Sweden... were arrested during the unrest.

According to the Iranian Intelligence Ministry, several handguns, different kinds of machine guns, cartridges, shotguns, and ammo were also confiscated.

The Tehran Times has learned that four European countries and an Asian one have been involved in inciting riots and protests. According to information received by the Tehran Times, Germany has been at the center of the European efforts to fan the flames of the protests. And the German embassy in Tehran has served as a coordinating center for the other European embassies in Tehran involved in these efforts. This entirely matches with the data released by the intelligence ministry in its statement.

According to the statement, necessary warnings have been given to the German embassy.

Meanwhile, the Tehran Times has learned that the German embassy established contacts with some public intellectuals and scoundrels as well as members of the Amini family.

According to information received by the Tehran Times, the German embassy contacted the Amini family and encouraged them to speak out against the police and reach out to foreign media outlets to keep the death of Mahsa Amini in the news.

In addition to Germany, a number of Dutch nationals have been involved in Iran's unrest and some of them have even been arrested, the Tehran Times has learned. These nationals played an "active role" in the unrest, according to the information received by the Tehran Times.

## Iran sending message of peace through naval voyage

TEHRAN— The commander of the Iranian navy announced the beginning of the mission of the 86th navy fleet's voyage around the open seas with a message of peace and friendship for all the nations across the world.

Speaking on state TV on Friday, Admiral Shahram Irani spoke about the actions taken by the Iranian naval force in the field of international maritime.

"Since 2007, following the theft of an Iranian vessel by pirates, the Iranian navy took steps to establish security for ship navigation upon order of the commander-in-chief," the admiral said.

According to the admiral, naval forces have escorted about 5,000 domestic vessels so far.

Emphasizing that Iran's armed forces help any vessel that requests help in the oceans, he said the actions taken by the forces under his command have caused international organizations to praise the navy on a number of occasions.

"Today, we have gifted maritime security both to the region and to the world, and the world should know that Iranians always have a positive effect wherever they are," Admiral Irani stated.

The best news for the Iranian nation is the navy's authority in the open seas, he added.

Announcing the beginning of a special sea voyage by Iran's navy, the commander also noted that the flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran is being flown in seas all around the world.

The details of this sea voyage will be released



to the people soon, he added.

"The 86th naval fleet of the army started its journey on Wednesday, and it is going to travel around the globe in order to show the authority of the dear people of Iran to the whole world," he pointed out.

Admiral Irani noted that the message of the 86th naval fleet is "peace and friendship for all the nations of the world," emphasizing, "If the people support the armed forces, which are always standing by the people, the result will be the authority of the people."

He went on to announce the simultaneous presence of three army fleets in the seas, adding that the point of this voyage is that all three destroyers are homegrown and purely Iranian (Jamaran destroyer with its combat support ship in the Gulf of Aden and the Red Sea, Sahand destroyer and Dena destroyer).

Referring to the constant updates in the force, the navy chief noted that the Jamaran destroyer is very different from the Jamaran destroyer of 2008, as the navy is constantly updating itself in the field of renovation.

## Amir Abdollahian says Iran will never forget China as 'friend of difficult days'

TEHRAN – Writing on his Twitter page in Chinese on Friday, Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian said Iran "will bear in mind the friends of difficult days forever".

The tweet by Iran's chief diplomat comes as China is celebrating the 72nd anniversary of the People's Republic of China.

Abdollahian also said Iran is a partner in this national celebration.

He also said joint efforts in the campaign against the Coronavirus pandemic, advancing the One-Belt and One-Road initiative coupled with the implementation of the 25-year partnership are in line with cooperation between the two countries' civilizations.

"Once again, we congratulate the birth (national day) of China," the Iranian foreign

minister tweeted.

China held a flag-raising ceremony to mark the 72nd anniversary of the founding of the PRC at Tiananmen Square in Beijing on Friday. Local residents and tourists from across China witnessed the event.

The Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) government also held a ceremony at Golden Bauhinia Square on Friday morning to celebrate the event. The national flag and the flag of the HKSAR were raised in the presence of government officials and other representatives.

Also on Friday, the Macao Special Administrative Region government held a flag-raising ceremony at Golden Lotus Square to celebrate the national day.

# Are JCPOA revival talks really dead?

FM discusses JCPOA revival with Omani counterpart

From page 1 ▶ "I can confirm these comments," Issa's office confirmed to Sputnik when reached for comment.

The U.S. has started the usual blame game, a tactic familiar to those who have been closely following the JCPOA revival negotiations for over a year and a half.

Nonetheless, it is now clear that what Washington seeks is a deal that is beneficial only to them. What they fail to realize is that the process of negotiations is based on give and take. One can't possibly imagine that an agreement is being between seven sides (Iran on one side and the five permanent members of the UN Security Council) Germany and the European Union on the other) and the text of that agreement only preserves a single party's interests. That sort of thinking predates to medieval times.

The latest status of the talks stands at this: There are differences remaining between Iran and the U.S. These differences are less than a hand's fingers, but they are of utmost significance. Here is why.

There is a saying in Farsi that says, "A wise man won't be bitten from the same hole twice." It means that one should not experience the bitter things it has experienced before.

Therefore, Iran wants three things. First and foremost, Iran wants to put an end to the political claims made by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). This

is exactly what Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi told his French counterpart Emmanuel Macron when the two met in New York on the sidelines of the annual United Nations General Assembly.

According to Raisi, Macron sought to justify the political approach of the IAEA, but Raisi cited examples for him.

"First, sometimes the IAEA chiefs come to Tehran and after visiting our nuclear industry, they officially announce that there has been no deviation in Iran's nuclear activities, but as soon as they return to Europe, they are contacted by the Zionist regime. It is possible that their tone and rhetoric will change, which is a sign of a political approach to the issue," the president told state TV on Wednesday.

Raisi clarified that he had asked Macron why France is paying attention to the suspicions being raised against Iran's nuclear activities, but when the IAEA confirmed 15 times lack of deviation in the nuclear activities of the Islamic Republic of Iran, France didn't take notice of that.

The IAEA and Iran have been at loggerheads over the last year due to a safeguards probe initiated by the UN nuclear watchdog. The probe is centered on allegations stemming from Israel, a fierce opponent of the JCPOA. Israel has presented the IAEA with "information" that is claimed to have been stolen from Iran. Based on this information, the IAEA



insisted on visiting a number of sites inside Iran.

Iran fully cooperated with the IAEA in this regard. But the IAEA still demands more cooperation, something that Iran considers unacceptable because the IAEA requests in this regard are all built on Israeli allegations.

While the IAEA has sent a positive signal to resume dialogue with Iran, all the signs are indicating that Director General Rafael Grossi is ready to settle the issue, that is, if the Israelis allow him.

Tehran will remain steadfast on the path to diplomacy. That's a given, and nobody can deny that. However, time is money! Iran cannot wait forever. If Washington wants to waste time by adding unnecessary additional explanations, Iran doesn't have time for that.

"They took the text and, according to that text, in some clauses, added conditions and provided more explanations. In some cases that I cannot reveal the details, their additional explanation was exactly in conflict with the first two lines of the same paragraph. We tried to bring this to a point where everyone has a single understanding of this text, based on what was done in the exchange of messages between us and the American side with the coordination of the European Union," Amir Abdollahian told IRNA.

The second issue Iran wants is strong, verifiable guarantees that Washington won't tear up the agreement again. However, the U.S. is sending signals that it cannot

guarantee it.

Robert Malley, the White House's top negotiator for reviving the JCPOA, said Friday, "If a future president decides again recklessly to unilaterally withdraw from the deal at a time that the deal was working, if that's what they decide to do, there's nothing we, as in Biden, can do to stop that."

"Without getting into sort of what our intelligence community would say I think at this point it doesn't appear that Iran has made a decision to acquire a nuclear weapon. It doesn't mean they're not expanding their program so they could be on the threshold of doing so," he added.

The U.S. is explicitly stating that it won't guarantee that the future administration, which most probably will be a Republican one, will adhere to its commitments in case Tehran and Washington strike a deal. In other words, international law means nothing to them.

In this regard, the foreign minister told IRNA, "This behavior of the Americans is not based on logic. They clearly state that what we agree is valid until the end of the Biden administration, and we will not give guarantees for the next administration. It is true that Mr. Biden's government is on our side today, but the ruling political system is established in each country. If any agreement is supposed to be operational and valid until the end of the administration that signed it, international law has no meaning at all."

## Raisi sends message to Xi, says Iran willing to deepen ties with China

TEHRAN - In a message delivered to his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on Saturday, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi has reaffirmed Tehran's readiness to cultivate full collaboration with Beijing.

In an extended message, President Raisi wished his Chinese counterpart a happy National Day falling on October 1.

"Iran and China, as two countries opposed to unilateralism, have many grounds for comprehensive development of relations, and there is no doubt that the serious will of both sides to implement a comprehensive strategic partnership draws a clear perspective to realize the common interests of the two

countries," Raisi underscored.

In reference to world's challenges, President Raisi stressed, "The current world is facing challenges that, in order to overcome them, it is necessary to increase the cooperation of independent countries and find global solutions."

Ayatollah Raisi went on to remark that "undoubtedly, the serious will of the two sides to implement a comprehensive strategic partnership draws a clear perspective for strengthening ties and realizing the goals and common interests of the two countries, so I would like to express the readiness of the Islamic Republic of Iran to strengthen all-round

cooperation with the People's Republic of China as much as possible in the form of bilateral mechanisms and in the framework of multilateral arrangements and institutions."

He further emphasized that Iran appreciates the Chinese President's "global development" and "global security" initiatives since they are founded on the interests of all nations, aim to increase welfare, and improve world peace and stability.

The day was designated as the People's Republic of China National Day following the communists' triumph in October 1949.

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**UK NEARLY DOUBLES ENERGY PRICE AMID WORSENING COST-OF-LIVING CRISIS**

**THE UK'S ENERGY BILLS ARE SET TO JUMP 80 PERCENT TO AN AVERAGE OF 3,549 POUNDS (\$4,188) PER YEAR FROM OCTOBER**

# A Syria recipe for Iran

By Mehran Shamsuddin

TEHRAN – Over the last two weeks, Iran has been in the throes of nationwide unrest that started peacefully but quickly turned violent, something that bears striking resemblance to what happened in Syria and Libya nearly a decade ago.

On Friday, the wave of unrest in Iran took a new turn when a terrorist attack rocked the southwestern province of Sistan-Baluchistan. The terrorists attacked police stations and public properties in Zahedan after Friday prayer rituals. Hossein Modarres Kheyabani, governor-general of Sistan-Baluchistan, said 19 people were killed and 20 wounded in the clashes in Zahedan. General Seyed Hamid Reza Hashemi, the head of IRGC intelligence in the province who goes by the pseudonym of Seyed Ali Mousavi, was gunned down during the terrorist attack.

“Those who tried to take over the police station were terrorists and these individuals went on setting fire to public properties. They plundered and set ablaze a number of chain stores belonging to the people. They also did damage banks and government institutions,” the provincial governor told IRNA.

Protests in Iran began two weeks ago over the death in police custody of Maha Amini. Mahsa Amini collapsed as a result of a stroke suffered in the



custody based on a footage released by police authorities. The incident caused huge anger and sorrow in Iran, prompting the country's highest political echelons to highlight the need to investigate the incident. Iranian President Ayatollah Seyed Ebrahim ordered an investigation into the tragic death. He also spoke to the family of Amini to offer condolences and assure them about following up on the case.

“I learned about this incident during my trip to Uzbekistan, and I immediately ordered my colleagues to investigate the matter especially. I assure you that I will demand this issue from the responsible institutions so that its dimensions are clarified and no rights are violated,” President Raisi told the family, adding, “Your daughter is like my own daughter, and I feel that this

incident happened to one of my loved ones. Please accept my condolences.”

But protest soon turned violent amid Western propaganda reminiscent of the early years of the 2010s, when Western media fanned the flames of protests in Syria and Libya in what later paved the way for the two Arab countries' near total destruction at the hand of transnational terrorists and Western-backed opposition groups.

Western media outlets and those based in the West have in recent weeks focused on propagating a narrative that is similar to what they did when covering early protests in Syria and Libya: Radicalizing the atmosphere through pushing forward harsh political polarizations.

Independent analysts have raised alarm bells about the possibility of the Syrianization of Iran unrests. Ali

Alizadeh, a London-based political analyst, has said that the West seeks to replicate what it did in Syria and Libya in Iran.

Alizadeh said Western officials – like Samantha Power – who were behind the destruction of Syria and Libya are now expressing support for protests in Iran. “Exactly the same scenario and the same figures,” Alizadeh said of the similarity between the unrests in Iran the two forgoing Arab countries.

He called on the leaders of the so-called “progressive movement” of Iran to denounce “war criminals” such as Power. “Despite all the resemblances to Libya and Syria, not a single one of this so-called progressive movement distances himself from these war criminals. Not a single one cries out that we don't need the backing of you criminals. That's why we say these protests are of a reactionary nature and do nothing but pave the way for imperialist interventions,” the London-based analyst said.

The warning by Alizadeh comes amid blatant incitement from Iran's enemies. Israel is a case in point. “Protests will only succeed in toppling the Iranian regime if they explode rapidly and shake the regime to its foundations before it has time to catch its breath,” wrote the Jerusalem Post.

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Straight Truth  
TEHRAN TIMES

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## SPORTS

### Esteghlal earn a late win over Gol Gohar: IPL

TEHRAN – Esteghlal football team earned a late 2-1 win over Gol Gohar on Matchweek 7 of Iran Professional League (IPL) on Saturday.

Mohammad Mohebi put the visiting team into the lead in the 29th minute but Mehdi Tikdari leveled the score in the 54th minute.

Esteghlal French winger Kevin Yamga scored a goal from the penalty spot in the dying moments of the match to seal three points for the Blues.

Foolad were held to a goalless draw by Mes Kerman.

Zob Ahan also edged past Paykan 1-0 in Isfahan.

On Sunday, Persepolis will host Tractor in Tehran, Sepahan play Havadar in Tehran and Sanat Naft entertain Mes Rafsanjan in Abadan.

### Iran rise in latest FIBA rankings

TEHRAN – Iran's men's basketball team have moved up one place in the latest FIBA World Ranking.

The team are now ranked 21st in the ranking.

The top three teams U.S., Spain and Australia remained unchanged.

In addition to the FIBA AmeriCup, FIBA Asia Cup and FIBA EuroBasket, the latest edition of the FIBA World Ranking, Presented by Nike also included the results from this summer's two Windows of the FIBA Basketball World Cup 2023 Qualifiers.

### Iran to play Laos in AFC U17 Qualifiers opener

TEHRAN – Iran will start the AFC U17 Asian Cup 2023 Qualifiers with a match against Laos on Wednesday (October 5).

Iran has been drawn in Group I along with host Kyrgyzstan, Hong Kong and Laos.

Iran will also meet Kyrgyzstan and Hong Kong on October 7 and 9, respectively.

In each group, teams will play each other once at a centralised venue. The ten group winners and the six best runners-up will qualify for the final tournament.

The 2023 AFC U-17 Asian Cup qualification is an international men's under-17 football competition which will be held to decide the participating teams of the 2023 AFC U-17 Asian Cup.

It will be held as under-17 tournament for the first time after rebranding by AFC.

### Tayebi demands more from Iran teammates

TEHRAN – Player of the Match Hossein Tayebi wants his Islamic Republic of Iran teammates to be fully focused on their title aspirations following their 10-1 victory over Chinese Taipei in Group C of the AFC Futsal Asian Cup™ Kuwait 2022 on Friday.

The win sealed Iran's passage into the quarter-finals, while Chinese Taipei must beat Indonesia, who stunned Lebanon 7-2, on Sunday for a chance to advance.

Despite scoring a hat-trick alongside Saeid Ahmad Abbasi, Tayebi wants his teammates to stay focused with title No. 13 only four matches away.

“After the match, I spoke to the players and told them that we all make mistakes in the game and we should play as a group and not as individuals,” said Tayebi.

“We want to go back to Iran with the title. After our victory against Chinese Taipei, we have four more matches to achieve our target.

“The Saad Al Abdullah Hall is where we will lift the trophy and it is here where we will create history,” added the two-time AFC Futsal Asian Cup Top Scorer.

## Taliban must step up, take responsibility for its citizens' lives

By Saeed Azimi

TEHRAN – A suicide blast at an education institute in Kabul on Friday morning killed 32 people and wounded 40, police said. Most of the casualties were said to be young women.

The explosion happened inside the education institute in the Dashti Barchi neighborhood of Kabul, said Khalid Zadran, the Taliban-appointed spokesman for the Kabul police chief.

Many of those living in the western area where the blast occurred are Hazara, an ethnic minority frequently targeted by the Daesh militant group.

Iranian officials quickly reacted to the tragic incident, highlighting that the Taliban must step up to ensure security for all Afghan citizens, regardless of their ethnicities.

Hassan Kazemi Qomi, Iran's envoy for Afghanistan, said on Twitter that Iran condemns the attack and expects the Taliban to make sure that such attacks won't happen again.

Similarly, Nasser Kanaani, spokesman for the Iranian Foreign Ministry, said Afghanistan's caretaker government bears the responsibility for ensuring the security of its citizens. He also expressed condolences with the families of the victims and wished the wounded a speedy recovery.

Meanwhile, another blast on Saturday occurred near the Maulana Jalaluddin Mohammad Balkhi Highschool in PD11 of Kabul, security officials told TOLONews.

Kabul Police spokesman Khalid Zadran said the blast was due to explosives near the school.

Zadran said there were no casualties from the blast. However, he did not provide further details.

Residents said that the sound of the blast was extremely loud.

“I was working here when I heard a rocket sound. When I went out, I saw the kids were running away... There were no wounded,” said Noor Mohammad, a resident of the area.

“There was a blast. I went out and saw the school students screaming and running away. I saw then that the blast happened on the riverbank,” said Bariatlai, a resident of the area.

The blasts come while thus far, the interim governing body of Afghanistan has failed to form an inclusive government consisted of all minorities.

The Taliban administration, which is now ruling Afghanistan, rose to power in August of last year.

It has been more than a year since Haibatullah Akhundzada has taken the reign. A year seems more than enough to form an inclusive cabinet.

Iran and several other countries, both in the West Asian region and beyond the region have called on the Taliban to take into serious consideration the formation of an inclusive government.

Tehran went so far as to indicate that it will correspond with the interim Taliban governing body based on their behavior. Analysts believe that Iran won't recognize the Taliban unless it forms an inclusive government with inclusion of all ethnicities.

Several countries have joined hands with Iran and called on the Taliban administration to speed up the process, a call which has gone unanswered so far.

According to Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Iran's Foreign Minister, one of the prerequisites for establishing peace and stability in the conflict-ridden Afghanistan is the creation of an “inclusive government with the robust involvement of all ethnic groups.”

Iran's top diplomats made the comments at a webinar on September 12 that was conducted by his New Zealander counterpart, Nanaia Mahuta.

This is merely an example. Over the past year, this position has long been reaffirmed by several Iranian officials.

On June 26, Iran's Armed Forces Chief Major General Mohammad Bagheri told Nadeem Reza, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the Pakistan Army, that Tehran is concerned about the spread of terrorism in some areas of Afghanistan.

“Given the situation in Afghanistan, the participation of other ethnic groups will play a constructive role in creating security and stability in the future of this country,” he added.

Under the Taliban reign, the crisis-hit Afghanistan have seen several blind terrorist acts that have resulted in the killing and wounding of hundreds of Afghans. Since past year, Iran has exercised restraint on Afghanistan and has even extended a helping hand to the battle-scarred country. During the cold winter of last year, Tehran offered free gas to help the Afghan citizens. However, it seems that the governing body in Afghanistan is evading its responsibility.

Despite the Taliban rulers' claim that they have secured the country since taking power,

international officials and analysts say the risk of a rebellion remains.

A former Iranian diplomat said in April that the recurring blasts in Kabul are another proof that the Taliban is incapable of stabilizing Afghanistan.

“This event showed once again that the Taliban is not competent to manage and rule Afghanistan,” Abolfazl Zohrevand, Iran's former ambassador to Afghanistan, told ISNA.

“We are currently noticing political, economic and security collapse in Afghanistan,” he added.

The interim governing body also failed to secure diplomatic missions, as protesters in Herat broke the windows and CCTV cameras of the Iranian consulate in April.

Less than 24 hours later, the director-general of South Asia at the Iranian Foreign Ministry summoned the charge d'affaires of the Afghan embassy in Tehran to strongly protest against the attacks on the Iranian embassy in Kabul and the consulate in Herat.

Recalling the responsibility of governments in ensuring the security of diplomatic missions, the diplomat called for legal action against the attackers on the Iranian missions in Afghanistan.

At the time, the director-general informed the Afghan chargé d'affaires that the consular sections of Iran's missions in Afghanistan had ceased their activities until further notice in order to get the necessary assurances from the Afghan Foreign Ministry about the full security of the diplomatic offices.

Amir Abdollahian also stepped in, chastising Afghanistan's leadership for failing to make the required preparations to protect the security of diplomatic missions, which is the obligation of the host country.

Iran has proven to be a good neighbor and friend that helps friends in need. However, an insecure Afghanistan will be detrimental to Tehran and all the neighboring countries. The Taliban administration claims that the international community must recognize them. However, what they don't take into account is that when they fail to ensure the security of their own citizens, how can they ensure the neighbors' security? Serious concerns remain regarding the Taliban's approach to manage border crossings. The neighbors must be assured, as well as the people of Afghanistan. The Taliban must step up and do serious work to ensure its citizens' security.

shots at a police station in the city.

Elsewhere in the city, rioters set tires and garbage containers on fire, while armed gunmen stormed a bakery in another region.

Moreover, the rioters set fire to a fire truck, an emergency medical service center, and a number of other locations.

The attempts to foment chaos in the city have failed as the security forces brought the situation under control.

southeastern province was martyred after he was shot near the Makki Mosque of Zahedan, the provincial capital.

After the eruption of riots in Zahedan on Friday morning, a crowd of anti-revolution agents gathered near the Makki Mosque and started to open fire to innocent civilians.

The security forces were immediately deployed to the scene. Nevertheless, the commander of the IRGC intelligence department

at Sistan-Balouchestan, Seyed Hamidreza Hashemi, serving under the alias Seyed Ali Mousavi, was shot in the chest and taken to the hospital, a statement by the governor general's office said.

The commander was martyred in the hospital on Friday evening.

The riots began on Friday noon, when armed terrorists affiliated with Jeysh ol-Adl attacked three police stations in Zahedan.

They caused panic and fired

Despite their second win of the tournament, head coach Vahid Shamsaee believes Iran still have room for improvement.

“We had a wonderful game but there are still some areas where we can improve,” said Shamsaee. “We need to regroup and refocus on the next match. For sure, the goal is to be champions but my role here is also to groom the future stars of Iran.”

“Replacing 10 established players and expecting the new recruits to adapt and play the way that we want is no easy task. Japan, Vietnam and Thailand remain the traditional contenders for the title. However, there is also Uzbekistan and even Saudi Arabia and Kuwait, who are equally impressive.”

Chinese Taipei head coach Jose Adil Amarante summarised what his players had learned after the match.

“We enjoyed the stage and opportunity to play a very rare game against a team like Iran,” said Amarante. “We had our chances, scored one goal and our players learned a lot.

“After conceding six in the first half, I told my players to stick to the game plan. We can't play Iran on every matchday so the most important thing is to learn from this experience. The physicality of the game, especially in one-on-one situations and futsal skills, can only benefit us.”

### Iranian students grasp five medals in FISU World Cup Combat Sports

TEHRAN – Iranian Greco-Roman wrestling team won one gold, two silver, and two bronze medals in the Samsun 2022 FISU University World Cup Combat Sports.

The Samsun 2022 FISU University World Cup Combat Sports is underway in Turkey.

Iranian Greco-Roman wrestling team has partaken in the event with six wrestlers.

Sajjad Abbaspour won the gold medal in the 60 kg category. Mohammad Hadi Shabani (55 kg) and Armin Moheb Sabet (63 kg) won silver medals.

Meanwhile, Mohammad-Amin Jebalifard and Gholamreza Farrokhi won bronze medals in the 67 kg in the 72 kg weight categories.

This unique event for FISU has seen six sports come together to feature their top university athletes in boxing, karate, muaythai, SAMBO, wrestling and wushu.

### Group C: Iran aim to finish in style

TEHRAN – Iran will be aiming to finish in style when they face Lebanon in Group C of the AFC Futsal Asian Cup Kuwait 2022 on Sunday.

Meanwhile, Indonesia need just a draw, while Chinese Taipei must win, to be assured of a place in the last-eight. Iran, who have already qualified, head into their final group game against Lebanon with head coach Vahid Shamsaee saying that some of his players are suffering from flu.

“Iran's philosophy is simple: win matches,” said Shamsaee. “However, some of our team members are feeling under the weather and it will be a challenge to prepare them for the match against Lebanon.”

“I have 10 years of experience playing in this competition and every game that we play will be different. So, we need to prepare differently against Lebanon.

“We saw plenty of Iran fans at the stadium and I appreciate all of them taking time to come and see us play. I hope to see them in our next match.”

Lebanon head coach Joao Nuno De Almeida said he wasn't overly concerned with their results as the team is still in the process of rebuilding

“We are in the process of rebuilding the team and Iran will be a tough team to beat,” said Almeida.

“We have been experiencing plenty of setbacks before and during the tournament with our players. However the whole team is united and will fight hard for the three points.”

IR Iran v Lebanon

Venue: Saad Al Abdullah Hall (Kuwait City)

Kick-off: 20:00 (UTC+3)

## The terrorist who assassinated IRGC officer in Zahedan is killed

TEHRAN – The Tasnim news agency on Saturday confirmed that an assassin who on Friday had martyred an IRGC officer in charge of Sistan-Balouchestan province's intelligence department has been killed.

Quoting an informed source, Tasnim said, “The assassin of the IRGC general has been killed by the forces serving at the IRGC's Salman unit in Sistan-Balouchestan.”

The commander of the IRGC intelligence department in the

## Over 425 exhibitors partaking in Iran's intl. industry exhibition

TEHRAN – The 22nd International Industry Exhibition of Iran kicked off on Saturday at the Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds, IRNA reported.

As reported, 426 domestic and foreign exhibitors from China, Germany, Japan, Turkey, Spain, Italy, Belgium, Malaysia, Taiwan, South Korea, Poland, and Hungary are showcasing their latest industrial products and services in this four-day exhibition.

The opening ceremony of the exhibition was attended by senior officials and industrial managers including Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mohammad-Mehdi Baradaran.



The exhibition covers a variety of areas including machinery and production lines, cement and steel industries, industrial automation, industrial and workshop equipment, tools, technical engineering services, investment services, advanced industries, safety equipment, storage industries, etc.

## Exports to Turkey increases 49% in 8 months



TEHRAN – The value of Iran's exports to neighboring Turkey increased by 49 percent to reach \$2.382 billion in the first eight months of 2022, according to the figures recently released by the Turkish Statistical Institute.

Iran had exported \$1.592 billion worth of goods to Turkey in the previous year's first eight months, the mentioned data showed.

During the said period, the total trade between Iran and Turkey increased by 29 percent to \$4.332 billion, up from \$3.344 billion in January-August 2021.

Based on the mentioned data, Iran's imports from the country also marked an 11-percent rise to hit \$1.950 billion during the January-August period, in comparison with the same time span in 2021.

The two countries' trade balance in the first eight months of 2022 was \$432 million in favor of Iran.

According to the Turkish Statistical

Institute, the country exported \$248 million worth of goods to Iran in August, while the imports from the Islamic Republic stood at \$237 million in the mentioned month.

Turkey's exports to Iran grew by 1.2 percent this month and imports from the Islamic Republic increased 10 percent compared to the same month last year.

Increasing non-oil exports to neighboring countries is one of the major plans that the Iranian government has been pursuing in recent years.

Having 543 kilometers of shared border with Iran, Turkey is among the country's top trading partners.

Earlier in July, high-ranking officials from the two countries discussed ways of expanding economic relations along with political ties in a Turkish-Iranian High-Level Cooperation Council in Tehran.

During the meeting, which was co-chaired by Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, the two sides stressed the need for taking new measures for the expansion of trade ties.

The value of Iran's exports to Turkey increased by 61 percent to reach \$1.904 billion in the first half of 2022.

The trade between the two countries had also increased by 37 percent to \$3.365 billion, up from \$2.448 billion during the same period a year earlier.

## Over 120,000 tons of copper cathode produced in 5 months

TEHRAN- According to the data released by Iran's Ministry of Industry, Mining and Trade, 122,600 tons of copper cathode was produced in the country during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22).

As reported, the five-month output shows 2.2 percent drop as compared to the production in the last year's same period of time.

Production of copper cathode in Iran rose 2.8 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), from its previous year, Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry has previously reported.

As reported, the country produced 299,000 tons of the product in the past year.

Copper cathode is the primary raw material input for the production of copper rods for the wire and cable industry.

In May, Head of Iran Copper Association Bahram Shakouri said

the country is going to increase its copper cathode production from the current 300,000 tons to one million tons by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (starts on March 21, 2025).

"Although less than 300,000 tons of copper cathodes are currently produced in the country, with the development of reserves and more exploration and extraction, the production of one million tons of the product is projected by 1404," Shakouri stated.

"For the 1404 horizon, production of 800,000 tons of copper is targeted, and if we develop mineral reserves and expand exploration operations while creating more processing plants, the production ceiling of one million tons of copper cathode can be considered for the mentioned year," he explained.

Referring to the global target for copper production in 2050, the official added: "According to forecasts, copper production in the world by 2050 should reach four

times the current level which is over 1.8 million tons."

Being located on the Alpine-Himalayan orogenic belt, of which about 12.5 percent is located in Iran, the country should contribute greatly to the fourfold increase in the world's copper production by 2050, Shakouri said.

Stressing the need for planning to increase Iran's share in the world's copper production, he added: "To increase our share in the global copper production in the 2050 horizon, we must develop both exploration and extraction and discover new world-class reserves."

According to the official, Iran Copper Association is currently leading the country's copper exploration programs in collaboration with the private sector.

"New copper mines recently discovered in Sistan-Baluchestan Province (in the southeast of the country) have been the result of

# Transit of goods via Iranian ports increasing noticeably

From page 1 ▶ has risen 4.8 percent during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

Based on the mentioned report, 109.733 million tons of goods were loaded and unloaded in the ports of Iran during the first half of this year, while the figure was 104.698 million tons in the first half of the previous year.

As reported, loading and unloading of non-oil products stood at 54.777 million tons in the six-month of this year, up 0.8 percent from 54.366 million tons in the same time span of the previous year.

In terms of oil products, this year's figure was 54.955 million tons, rising 9.2 percent from 50.331 million tons in the past year.

For the container sector, a growth of 8.2 percent was achieved, as 1.273 million TEUs were loaded and unloaded in the first half of this year, while the figure was 1.176

million TEUs in the first half of the past year.

### Infrastructure development being highly paid attention

Elsewhere in his remarks, the PMO head said that his organization is paying serious attention to the development of infrastructure in the ports as well as the development of human resources.

"We have defined projects worth 69 trillion rials (about \$250 million) from the PMO's budget for the establishment of proper infrastructure in the ports which will worth 100 trillion rials (about \$350 million)," the official stated.

He also announced that 33.5 trillion rials (about \$120 million) of investment has been attracted since the year start.

Safaei also mentioned the PMO's supporting the knowledge-based companies and said that these companies have managed to achieve the technical knowledge for the domestic manufacturing of 768 types of marine and port equipment.



Among the outstanding measures recently taken by the PMO, the head of organization also referred to launching a liner between the ports of Iran, Kazakhstan and Russia for the first time and said that 20 vessels are operating in this line.

### PMO's major measures in line with World Maritime Day's motto

The head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization further referred to the motto of this year's World Maritime Day, which is New Technologies for Greener Shipping, and mentioned three major actions of his organization in line with this motto as:

- Preserving the environment through producing low-sulfur fuel
- Instruction for scrapping the vessels
- Using new energies such as wind and wave

He also referred to the active presence of Iran in the sessions of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and said that the representatives of our country have always played effective roles in the

decisions made in these meetings.

Addressing the same press conference, which was also attended by the PMO deputies, Jalili Eslami, the deputy for ports affairs, put the current capacity of the country's ports at over 270 million tons and said that the figure is planned to reach about 300 million tons by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (begins in March 2025).

While Iran is combating the U.S. unilateral sanctions on its economy, the country's ports as the major gates of exports and imports play a significant role in this battle. This role makes all-out support to ports and more development of them serious and vital.

Such necessity has led the government to define projects for more development of the ports and also take some measures to encourage investment making in ports, in addition to facilitating loading and unloading of goods, especially basic commodities, there.

## Gas flaring in SP refineries to be reduced by 2,000 mcm in 2 years



TEHRAN – Gholamreza Bahman-Nia, head of the National Iranian Gas Company (NIGC)'s Health, Safety and Environment (HSE) department has said his company is following a comprehensive plan for reducing gas flaring in South Pars refineries by 2,344 million cubic meters (mcm) in two years.

"Reducing the release of pollutants has always been one of the main approaches of the National Iranian Gas Company and its subsidiaries in order to protect the environment, and so far, many programs and measures have been carried out in this regard," Bahman-Nia told Shana on Saturday.

Stating that NIGC's plan is divided into three major sections, the official clarified: "Reduction

of gas flaring, reduction of sulfur oxides emission and additional treatment of wastewater are the three main programs for which several projects have been defined."

According to Bahman-Nia, NIGC's projects are mainly focused on reducing flare gases and the emission of sulfur oxides.

Based on the NIGC programs, in addition to reducing gas flaring, the total sulfur dioxide emitted from South Pars refineries is also going to be reduced by 488,500 tons per year, he stated.

In this regard, several measures, including resolving operational problems, process optimization, and installation of additional systems, are underway in the operational units of the refineries and especially their sulfur production units, the official added.

In order to achieve a desirable level of environmental protection and sustainable development, National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) and the Oil Ministry have been implementing various programs, one of which is promoting the establishment of flare gas recovery units in the country's oil-rich regions.

These projects have been defined with the aim of preventing the waste of natural gas, protecting the environment, creating added value, and providing sustainable feed to the country's petrochemical plants in the mentioned areas.

To this end, back in September 2018, National Iranian South Oil Company (NISOC) inked two deals worth \$1.3 billion with Persian Gulf Bid Boland Gas Refining Company and Maroon Petrochemical Company.

Also, in June 2020, Iranian Central Oil Fields Company (ICOFC) signed a €125-million Engineering Procurement, Construction and Financing (EPCF) deal with an Iranian company for implementing a project that would prevent 82 million square feet of gas flaring every day.

Back in August 2019, Hamid Chitchian, a former minister who currently advises the government on energy issues, said the country had major projects planned to prevent flare gas waste.

According to Chitchian, at the time about 16 billion cubic meters (over 52 billion cubic feet) of flare gas was burning in the country that could be used for various economic purposes, including power generation.

## TV sets manufacturing rises 20% in 5 months on year



TEHRAN- Manufacturing of TV sets in Iran increased 20.7 percent during the first five months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-August 22), as compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to the data released by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry.

The ministry's data show that 598,700 TV sets were manufactured in the five-month period of this year.

Manufacturing of TV sets in Iran increased 3.6 percent during the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (ended on March 20), from its previous year, according to the data previously released by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry.

"The government should support downstream industries, including wire and cable production units, and provide incentives to other high-tech industries that use copper products," Shakouri stressed.

The ministry's data show that 1,305,400 TV sets were manufactured in the past year.

Manufacturing of home appliances in Iran rose 7.56 percent during the previous year from its preceding year.

According to the industry ministry's data, over 6,273,600 sets of large home appliances, including TV sets, refrigerators and freezers, washing machines, and air coolers were manufactured in 1400, while the figure was 5,832,400 in 1399.

Among the mentioned products, just air cooler experienced a production drop, and production of the other items increased.

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.

## TEDPIX drops 15,000 points on Saturday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), lost 15,684 points to 1.33 million on Saturday (the first day of Iranian calendar week).

As reported, over 5.421 billion securities worth 33.017 trillion rials (about \$118 million) were traded at the TSE.

The first market's index dropped 17,026 points, and the second market's index lost 14,921 points.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, the other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

## Russia's 2nd transit train passing Iran through INSTC

TEHRAN – Head of Islamic Republic of Iran Railways (known as RAI) has said the second Russian transit cargo for India has entered Iran from the northeastern Sarakhs border and is currently heading towards Bandar Abbas in the

south, IRNA reported.

According to Miad Salehi, carrying 37 containers the freight train has passed the route of Russia-Kazakhstan-Turkmenistan into Iran and will pass another 1,600 kilometers across the International

North South Transit Corridor (INSTC) inside the country to arrive at Bandar Abbas Port where the cargo will be shipped to India.

Russia's first freight transit train arrived in Iran in mid-July.

# German government approves arms exports to Saudi Arabia: reports

Germany's coalition government has approved new arms export deals to Saudi Arabia, media reported on Thursday.

The reports emerged after German Chancellor Olaf Scholz returned from a trip to Saudi Arabia, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Qatar.

Berlin had imposed a ban on weapons exports to Riyadh over its involvement in the war in Yemen, as well as accusations of murdering the dissident journalist Jamal Khashoggi.

## New export licenses

Robert Habeck, Germany's economy minister and vice chancellor, confirmed in a letter to the Bundestag that several deals on arms exports had been approved by Scholz before his trip to the region, Der Spiegel and the dpa news agency reported.

The export licenses are part of a joint program with Italy, Spain and Britain, according to the letter.

Riyadh will be able to purchase equipment and ammunition for Eurofighter and Tornado jets worth €36 million (\$35.2 million), according



to Der Spiegel.

The European cooperation project will also supply spare parts for the Airbus A330 MRTT worth €2.8 million, dpa reported.

## Banned in 2018

German weapons sales to Saudi Arabia peaked at €1.24 billion in 2012.

But in 2018, Germany's ruling bloc of the conservative CDU/CSU and the Social Democrats (SPD) agreed to ban arms exports to countries involved in the Yemen war.

The agreement had several exceptions that allowed some exports of German military materials to the Persian Gulf Arab state.

A complete ban came into effect a year later, after Khashoggi's murder. The ban was extended twice since then.

## What changed?

The ban was in line with Germany's stance of not exporting weapons to active conflict zones.

That stance has shifted this year

as Germany came under pressure to provide Ukraine with weapons during Russia's invasion.

Riyadh has led an alliance in Yemen that is fighting the Houthis rebels alongside the government since 2014, creating what the UN has called the world's worst humanitarian crisis.

But hopes that the conflict could soon come to an end have risen as a UN-brokered cease-fire took effect in April and has since been renewed twice.

Berlin is also looking to improve its ties with energy exporters as it cuts its reliance on Russian gas during the war in Ukraine. Saudi Arabia is one of the world's most important energy exporters.

Germany is one of the world's top arms producers and exporters, with sales increasing 21% from 2016 to 2020, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Its largest customers were South Korea, Algeria and Egypt.

(Source: dw.com)

## The not so suspicious Nord Stream blasts

From page 1 ► What stood in the way of the LNG companies was Nord Stream 2, which all but ended the European Union's interest in building the more expensive LNG gas terminals that are needed to import American gas. The logistics of the whole operation did not make sense when there was a much cheaper option from Russia.

As the momentum for Nord Stream 2 was gaining speed, former U.S. President Donald Trump, in his last year in office, signed into law sanctions from the U.S. Congress against companies involved in the construction of the new gas pipeline between Russia and Germany.

However, many said at the time that the sanctions came too late and would do little to end the project's completion. Too much money had already been spent on Nord Stream 2, something to the tune of \$11 billion.

The layout of the new pipeline followed the route of the existing Nord Stream 1 pipeline under the Baltic Sea. While the Russian gas would serve most of Europe's energy needs the main countries involved, Russia and Germany, accused the U.S. of using energy security concerns as a smokescreen for its own economic interests.

Former German Chancellor Angela Merkel even condemned the American sanctions, with then foreign minister Heiko Maas saying they amounted to "interference in autonomous decisions taken in Europe. European energy policy is being decided in Europe, not in the U.S." he said. An EU spokesperson said the 27-nation bloc "opposes the imposition of sanctions against EU companies conducting legitimate business".

To the huge frustration of the American Congress, Moscow and Brussels brushed aside the sanctions and it was obvious that the pipeline was almost complete. Denmark gave the final approval needed for the project. The company constructing Nord Stream 2 said it was putting the final touches with over 2,000 kilometers already laid at the bottom of the Baltic Sea. The pipeline was expected to start pumping gas earlier this year.

Did the U.S. really run out of options? It appears not. NATO's eastward military buildup toward Russian borders was met with the following threat by U.S. President Joe Biden: "If Russia invades (Ukraine), then there will be longer Nord Stream 2. We will bring an end to it." Before adding "I promise you we will be able to do it"

Moscow says the NATO military buildup on Russian borders, the abandonment of the Minsk agreement and Washington's refusal to answer Russian security guarantees forced it to conduct what the Kremlin describes as a "special military operation" in Ukraine.



And then it happened: three unexplained gas leaks, preceded by two explosions, occurred on the Baltic Sea's Nord Stream 1 and 2 pipelines last Monday. Did the U.S. force Russia into military action to exchange Russian gas to the EU with U.S. gas in the aftermath of the Covid-19 pandemic that battered the American economy?

In the aftermath of the Ukraine conflict, the U.S. offered a quick commitment to deliver its own LNG to the EU telling Brussels this is a big step towards making Europe less dependent on Russian gas.

EU Commission head Ursula von der Leyen said, "We aim to reduce this dependency on Russian fossil fuels and get rid of it. This can only be achieved through... additional gas supplies, including LNG deliveries."

"The U.S. commitment to provide the European Union with additional at least 15 billion cubic meters of LNG this year is a big step in this direction because this will replace the LNG supply we currently receive from Russia."

The United States has committed to providing the EU with an additional 15 billion cubic meters (bcm) of LNG this year, with both sides aiming to ramp up deliveries to 50 bcm per year over time.

"Looking ahead, the United States and Europe will ensure stable demand and supply for additional at least 50 billion cubic meters of U.S. LNG until 2030," von der Leyen said, adding this would replace one third of Russian gas supplies to the EU today.

"We need to secure our supplies not just for next winter but also for the years ahead," she added. "Our partnership aims to sustain us through this war."

The timing of the leaks and explosions has raised many eyebrows. It occurs just as Europe is getting restless with skyrocketing energy bills that are making voters topple one government after the other. While Nord Stream 1 was filled with gas when the explosions occurred, it was not pumping to Europe as a result of Western sanctions that had led to technical issues.

However, such is the severity of the European energy crisis. The sanctions could have been lifted on the pipeline, the maintenance issues resolved and the energy flows resumed. Not just Nord Stream 1 but gas could have been delivered through Nord Stream 2 as well to get Europe by the winter.

Was this idea in the thought process of some EU leaders? Russian has said that the ruptures appear to be the result of state-sponsored "terrorism".

Russian President Vladimir Putin has accused the West of organizing the blasts that led to numerous gas leaks.

"Sanctions are not enough for the West. They have switched to sabotage. Unbelievable, but it is a fact!" Putin said during a televised speech.

"By organizing explosions on the Nord Stream international gas pipelines that run along the bottom of the Baltic Sea, they actually started destroying European energy infrastructure," Putin said. "It is clear to everyone who benefits from this," he added.

The Kremlin says the incidents on two major undersea gas pipelines from Russia to Germany look like acts of state-sponsored "terrorism".

"This looks like an act of terrorism, possibly on a state level," Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters.

"It is very difficult to imagine that such an act of a terrorism could have happened without the involvement of a state of some kind, this is a very dangerous situation which requires an urgent investigation," Peskov said.

There have been many protests against energy price hikes across Europe which has put pressure on governments to return Russian energy. The German chancellor visited Persian Arab Gulf countries to try to secure energy supplies.

The Russian foreign ministry says U.S. President Joe Biden is "obliged" to answer if Washington is behind the gas leaks. "On February 7, 2022, Joe Biden said that Nord Stream would be finished if Russia invaded Ukraine," foreign ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on social media, posting a video of Biden saying "we will bring an end" to Nord Stream 2 if Russian tanks cross Ukraine's border.

"Biden is obliged to answer the question of whether the U.S. carried out its threat," Zakharova added.

"A statement of intent was backed by a promise. We must be responsible for our words... Europe must know the truth," Zakharova added.

The ministry says the ruptures to the pipelines occurred in territory that is "fully under the control" of U.S. intelligence agencies.

## Afghans shout 'stop Hazara genocide'

"It's not a crime to be a Shia"

From page 1 ► Afghan women gathered in front of a hospital in Dasht-e-Barchi where some of the injured and victims of the attack are hospitalized, chanting, "Stop Hazara genocide, it's not a crime to be a Shia."

"Yesterday's attack was against the Hazaras and Hazara girls," protester Farzana Ahmadi, 19, told AFP. "We demand a stop to this genocide. We staged the protest to demand our rights."

Daesh terrorist group claimed

responsibility for the attack hours after the explosion in the center.

The Hazara community, the poorest of the country's ethnic groups, accounts for about 22 percent of Afghanistan's population. Its members have been targeted in several large-scale kidnappings and killings across Afghanistan in the past.

In May last year, at least 85 people - mainly girl students - were killed and about 300 wounded when three

bombs exploded near their school in Dasht-e-Barchi.

In October 2020, Daesh admitted to attacking an educational center in the same area that killed 24 people, including students.

In May 2020, the group was blamed for a bloody attack on a maternity ward of a hospital in the same neighborhood that killed 25 people, including new mothers.

Daesh has a foothold in eastern and northern Afghanistan,

particularly in Nangarhar, which is regarded as its base in the war-torn country. It has recently claimed responsibility for several attacks across Afghanistan.

Since returning to power, the Taliban have pledged to provide security for minority groups in Afghanistan. However, Amnesty International said Friday's attack is a reminder of the utter inability and failure of the Taliban to protect the lives of the people of this country.

## WORLD HEADLINES

### Beijing, Moscow develop all-round partnership: Putin

Russian President Vladimir Putin has sent greetings to Chinese President Xi Jinping on 73rd anniversary of China's National Day, saying that Beijing and Moscow develop all-round partnership despite complicated international situation in different areas, the Kremlin said on Saturday.

"Russian-Chinese relations are developing dynamically in the spirit of all-round partnership and strategic interaction. Despite the complicated international situation, we are cooperating successfully in the most diverse areas, pooling our efforts to build a more democratic and equitable world order and to counter modern threats and challenges," the statement read.

Putin reaffirmed Moscow's readiness to continue the bilateral dialogue and close joint work with Beijing for the benefit of the friendly nations of Russia and China, the statement also said.

### New junta stages coup in Burkina Faso, announces new leader

Burkina Faso's military junta confirmed a second coup on national television late on Friday that toppled the now-previous leader in power since January.

A statement announced the ouster of Lieut. Col. Paul-Henri Damiba, the military president of the transition, and introduced Capt. Ibrahim Traore as his successor.

The new junta also announced the suspension of the Constitution, dissolution of state institutions and the closure of borders until further notice.

"All political activity, all civil society activity is suspended, the nation's active forces will be convened," according to coup leaders.

### European stocks edge higher, euro zone inflation hits record 10%

European stocks were a touch higher on Friday as government bond yields pulled back from recent peaks, but higher-than-expected inflation continued to weigh on markets.

After a week of market turmoil in which recession fears sapped stocks and currency markets were rocked by dollar strength, Asian shares fell on Friday and were on track for their biggest monthly loss since the start of the pandemic in 2020.

Investors took little comfort from data showing that Japan's factories ramped up output in August and China's factory activity returned to growth.

But European shares saw some recovery, although they remained on track for a third consecutive quarter of losses as markets worried about the impact on global growth of central banks hiking interest rates to counter inflation.

Euro zone inflation hit a record high of 10% in September, surpassing forecasts for a 9.7% rise, flash inflation data showed.

David Madden, market analyst at Equiti Capital, said a pullback in government bond yields enabled stocks to edge up, but this was unlikely to be the start of a longer recovery.

"The big picture hasn't changed: yields are an upward trend, inflation is still really high, interest rates are set to continue on the path of higher rates," he said.

### Lebanon receives response from US mediator over maritime borders

Al Mayadeen correspondent reported Saturday that Lebanon has received the written response

from the US mediator, Amos Hochstein, regarding the indirect negotiations with Israeli regime over the demarcation of maritime borders.

This was preceded by the Deputy Speaker of Parliament, Elias Bou Saab, announcing that Lebanese President Michel Aoun is expected to receive the written response within 24 hours, adding that "the proposal will be studied, and if it meets the conditions, it will be positive and will be capitalized on."

### Liz Truss to face crushing defeat at next election, poll says

Conservative UK Prime Minister Liz Truss may be heading for a humiliating defeat at the next general election, according to current polling.

Only 54 percent of British voters who backed the Conservatives at the last election in 2019 say they still support the party, whereas 15 percent have switched to Labour, an exclusive BMG poll for the newspaper has shown.

The opposition party led by Sir Keir Starmer enjoys a 17-point lead in the polls, with 47 percent of voters backing the Labour party, and 30 percent supporting



the Conservatives. The Liberal Democrats are on 9 percent, the Greens on 5 percent and Reform UK on 3 percent, according to the survey.

Furthermore, polling shows Starmer's personal ratings are much higher than those of Liz Truss, who is almost as unpopular as her predecessor Boris Johnson was towards the end of his tenure.

### North Korea fires two ballistic missiles

North Korea fired two ballistic missiles towards the Sea of Japan, the Yonhap news agency reported on Saturday, citing the South Korean military.

Japanese Deputy Defense Minister Toshiro Ino, in turn, told reporters that "for the first time ever, North Korea conducted four missile tests in a week." He added, "Such an escalation threatens the security of Japan, the region and the international community, therefore we protested through our embassy in Beijing."

According to Ino, one of the missiles fired on Saturday flew for up to 400 kilometers and the second one flew for about 350 kilometers, both presumably falling into the sea outside Japan's exclusive economic zone.

### 'US lawmakers not opposed to sale of F-16 jets to Turkey'

A Turkish lawmaker visiting the US capital said that congressional members his delegation met were "positive" during talks on modernization of the fleet of Turkey's F-16 fighter jets.

Justice and Development (AK) Party Deputy Chair in charge of Foreign Affairs, Ekan Ala, led a Turkish delegation that included Akif Cagatay Kilit, head of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Commission, Osman Askin Bak, chair of the Turkish delegation to the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, Volkan Bozkir, AK Party Istanbul deputy and Mehdi Eker, AK Party Diyarbakir deputy.

During a news conference at the Turkish Embassy, Ala said the delegation discussed bilateral and regional issues, including the F-16 fighter jet sales with two senators and 17 Democrat and Republican representatives.

## Tehran seen to become top tourism hub in two years, official says



From page 1 ▶ He also noted that the projects are estimated to generate over 415 job opportunities.

The first time Tehran is mentioned in historical accounts is in an 11th-century

chronicle in which it is described as a small village north of Ray.

Ray, in which signs of settlement date from 6000 BC, is often considered to be Tehran's predecessor. It became the capital city of the Seljuk Empire in the 11th century but later declined with factional strife between different neighborhoods and the Mongol invasion of 1220.

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

## Excavations resume on Sassanid-era fortress

TEHRAN – New rounds of archeological excavations have been commenced on the Sassanid-era (224–651) Oltan Fortress in Ardabil province, a local tourism official has said.

A road construction operation near the historical site led to the discovery of ancient graves, prompting an urgent excavation to document and preserve the artifacts, Ruhollah Mohammadi said on Saturday.

Evidence shows that the Oltan historical cemetery was used by the residents of this historical fortress for about 700 to 800 years, however, some graves were damaged during road construction, he added.

Back in September ISNA reported that a team of Iranian archaeologists finished an archaeological season on Oltan Fortress.

The new archaeogeophysical studies with magnetometric methods have led to novel discoveries, the report added.

As a result of this method, as well as the aerial photographs taken by a drone from 95 meters above the ground of the castle and its surroundings, digital maps of the terrain will be prepared.

There can be no doubt that this castle was an important defensive structure in northwest Iran during the Sassanid era, but its studies and excavations have largely been neglected until this day.

The fortress has been inscribed on the national heritage list.

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



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

Uruk in ancient Sumer (Mesopotamia) is one of the world's oldest known walled cities. The Ancient Egyptians also built fortresses on the frontiers of the Nile Valley to protect against invaders from neighboring territories.

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

Sprawling on a high, windswept plateau, Ardabil is well-known for having lush natural beauties, hospitable people, and its silk and carpet trade tradition. It is also home to the UNESCO-registered Sheikh Safi al-Din Khanegah and the Shrine Ensemble.

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

TEHRAN – Handicraft exports from the northern province of Gilan reached some \$800,000 during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year 1401 (started March 21).

Pottery and ceramic, woodwork, wickerwork, and leatherwork were amongst the objects exported to some European and neighboring countries, said the provincial tourism chief Vali Jahani, CHTN reported on Saturday.

Gilan province exported handicraft products worth \$9.6 million during the past Iranian calendar year 1400 (March 21, 2021–March 21, 2022).

The major share of this "success" was due to the registration of Qasemabad by the World Crafts Council as a global hub of handicrafts, a local official said.

"The WWC inscription has made the handicraft brand of Gilan province much more prominent and has provided a good ground for exports."

Situated in Roodsar county, Qasemabad village is nationally known for its traditional costumes because of its vibrant colors and uniquely beautiful designs. However, the Chador Shab, a kind of homemade outer garment for women, was the main subject of the WWC assessment.

Gilan is well-known for its rich Iron Age cemeteries such as Marlik that have been excavated over the past century. It was once within the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenian, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century

## Gilan province exports \$800,000 of handicrafts in H1



CE. The subsequent Arab conquest of Iran led to the rise of many local dynasties, and Gilan acquired an independent status that continued until 1567.

Sophisticated Rasht, the capital of Gilan province, has long been a weekend escape for residents of Tehran who are looking to sample the famous local cuisine and hoping for some pluvial action – it's the largest, and wettest town in the northern region. Gilan is divided into a coastal plain including the large delta of Sefid Rud and adjacent parts of the Alborz mountain range.

### Wide-ranging handicrafts

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

## Excavations to shed new light on ancient underground city

TEHRAN – Archaeologists have commenced an archaeological survey to shed new light on the underground city of Nushabad in the central district of Aran-Bidgol county, Isfahan province, CHTN reported on Saturday.

Preparing the underground city, which is considered one of the oldest in the world, for public viewing is the ultimate goal of this round of excavation, said Reza Nuri Shadmahani, who presides over the project.

Several residential houses in the area have over the years allowed their sewage to drain into the wells of the underground city, causing damage to it, he added.

It will be the first step of the project to recognize the damage, then move the sewage into the new well and then repair and strengthen this part of the area over the coming seasons, he explained.

The labyrinthine city of Nushabad is comprised of three stories of tunnels, chambers, air ducts, staircases, and canals. It is widely considered a marvel of ancient architecture and engineering.

Despite its impressive scale as the biggest underground city in Iran, the 1,500-year-old city was completely unknown until a decade ago, when a resident of a village nearby stumbled upon a tunnel while digging a well in his home.

What was discovered was a sprawling underground city set between three to 18



meters deep. The construction of this man-made subterranean city, called Ouee (or Ouyi), dates back to the Sassanid era (224 CE–651).

Inhabitants would dig underground chambers as hideout spots for women, children, and the elderly in frequent attacks by foreign invaders.

Over the years, the individual chambers were amalgamated, and air ducts, water pipes, storage spaces, and toilets were all built—creating a sustainable underground city, in which ancient Persians took refuge in times of war. Each family had a room of sorts, with a tunnel running down the length of these rooms, similar to a hotel hallway.

The city could also be used as a shelter for the desert's summer heat as the remarkable complex of tunnels originally grew up around a freshwater spring, credited with supplying delicious, crystal-clear water. Only part of the tunnel system is open to visitors today, and

those parts are often subject to flooding.

The underground structure included several ingenious devices to trap and ambush hostile intruders, such as curving corridors and disguised pits covered with stones. The tunnels, which were put to good use during the Mongol invasion in the 13th century, worked particularly well as an emergency shelter because there were several entrances to the underground chambers, some of which surfaced within the town's houses.

The underground city was eventually abandoned in the 1920s, however, it is promoted as one of the main tourist attractions in the region nowadays.

Nushabad underground city was inscribed on the National Heritage list in 2006.

Iran is a haven for ancient troglodytic architecture which is somewhat forgotten though they are filled with life and creativity. The northwest Kandovan village is one of the most famous examples of troglodytic architecture in the country; its ice-cream cone-shaped homes resemble that of Turkey's Cappadocia.

In October 2018, the country hosted the 3rd International Troglodytic Architecture Conference in which tens of experts, researchers, and academia discussed troglodyte-associated architecture, culture, and technology.

## 184 tourism projects underway in Fars

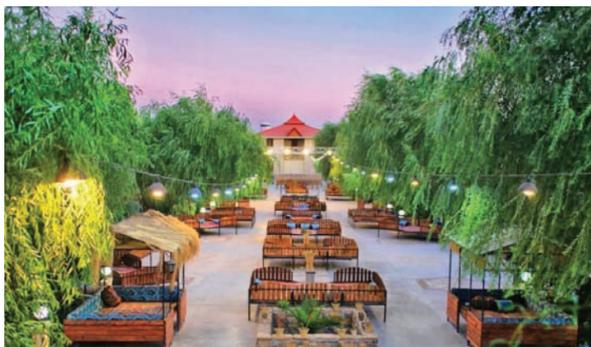
TEHRAN – A total of 184 tourism-related projects are currently underway across the southern province of Fars, the provincial tourism chief has said.

An investment value of 64 trillion rials (\$214 million) has been channeled into the projects, Seyyed Moayyed Mohsen-Nejad explained on Saturday.

The projects are expected to generate over 5,000 job opportunities upon their completion, the official added.

The ancient region of Fars, also spelled Pars or Persis, was the heart of the Achaemenian Empire (c. 550–330 BC), which was founded by Cyrus the Great and had its capital at Pasargadae. Darius I the Great moved the capital to nearby Persepolis in the late 6th or early 5th century BC.

The capital city of Shiraz is home to some of the country's most magnificent buildings and sights. Increasingly, it draws more and more foreign and domestic sightseers flocking



to this provincial capital which was the literary capital of Persia during the Zand dynasty from 1751 to 1794.

Shiraz is home to some of the country's most magnificent buildings and sights including Eram Garden, Afif-Abad Garden, Tomb of Hafez, Tomb of Sa'di, and Jameh Mosque of Atigh.

### Underway tourism-related projects across Iran

Back in September, the tourism ministry announced that tourism-

related projects worth three quadrillion rials (\$10 billion) are currently underway across Iran.

According to the ministry some of the projects, which are under construction in different provinces, have achieved 70 percent physical progress.

A total of 183 projects are also scheduled to be inaugurated nationwide during the national tourism week (September 27–October 3), with a budget of 310

trillion rials (\$1.1 billion).

These projects, which include hotels, apartment hotels, eco-lodges, traditional restaurants, and tourist complexes, are expected to generate some 2200 job opportunities.

Experts suppose the country is to achieve a tourism boom after the coronavirus is contained, believing its impact would be temporary and short-lived for a country that ranked the third fastest-growing tourism destination in 2019.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 26 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list. Under the 2025 Tourism Vision Plan, Iran aims to increase the number of tourist arrivals from 4.8 million in 2014 to 20 million in 2025.

## Gigantic water park under construction in Yasuj

TEHRAN – A gigantic water park is being constructed in Yasuj, the capital of Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province, southwest Iran, according to the provincial tourism chief.

A budget of 130 billion rials (\$434,000) has been allocated to the project, Saeid Talebipour said on Saturday.

There has been more than 95 percent physical progress on the project's construction, which is scheduled to be inaugurated within two months, the official added.

The project is expected to generate 84 job opportunities upon its inauguration, he noted.

Kohgiluyeh and Boyer-Ahmad province is known for being home to various nomadic tribes. Sightseers may live with a nomadic or rural family for a while or enjoy an independent stay and assist them with day-to-day life. It also opens up an opportunity to feel rustic routines, agriculture, traditions, arts, and culture.

Despite its arid climate, Iran's tourism sector has tried to boost hydro tourism or water tourism in recent years.

This branch of tourism involves traveling to places specifically to take part in water-based activities. Some individuals who do not wish to partake in water-related activities embark on water tourism trips so that they can visit tourist sites that sit close to bodies of water



such as lakes, rivers, dams, oceans, etc.

While water tourism often includes active chases, some water tourists visit islands and shore regions to join more relaxed pursuits such as diving or swimming. Travel businesses organize tours of coral reefs and arrange for local tour guides to preside over excursions on which travelers can swim with local marine life such as dolphins or even sharks. Some tour operators also cater to families who are primarily focused on swimming and tanning rather than interacting with aquatic life.

Water trips occasionally involve inland destinations such as lakes and rivers. Holidaymakers can sail or swim on lakes while many rivers are ideally suited to white water rafting. Additionally, some leisure businesses operate water parks that contain swimming pools, water slides, and areas for kayaking or canoeing.

# Iranian nanotechnology products expand markets in 6 countries

TEHRAN – The Vice presidency for Science and Technology has supported Iranian companies to expand their markets for nanotechnology products in six countries.

The overseas representatives of the Vice presidency office in different countries are marketing and networking the sale of Iran's nanotechnology products.

Currently, the products are being exported to six countries of Italy, Turkey, Thailand, the Philippines, Armenia, and Syria.

Their efforts in Italy have led to negotiations to register the activities of one of the knowledge-based companies and to export semi-industrial and industrial electrospinning machines.

Also, negotiating for the export of diagnostic kits to Syria is one of these achievements.

In Thailand, the cooperation agreement with 2 Iranian technology companies for the export of synacorcum products has been extended.

A sum of 45 billion rials (around \$160,000) has been paid to support 256 nanotechnology companies over the past Iranian calendar year (March



2021-March 2022).

Some 1,498 support services worth 45 billion rials (around \$160,000) have been provided to 256 companies holding a nanoscale certificate.

## Nanotechnology improvement

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

Currently, nanotech products are produced and marketed in more than 15 industrial fields

based on domestic technologies and are being exported to 49 countries from five continents.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## Iranian, Russian Pasteur Institutes sign MOU

TEHRAN – A memorandum of understanding (MOU) was signed between the Pasteur Institute of Iran and Russia to enhance joint research cooperation.

Rahim Sarvari and Areg Totolian, the presidents of the Pasteur Institute of the two countries, inked the MOU at the Pasteur Institute in St. Petersburg on September 29.

By signing this memorandum, it is planned to develop research projects focusing on emerging and re-emerging infectious diseases and focusing on zoonotic diseases, gastrointestinal infections, hepatitis and HIV, microbial resistance, and COVID-19.

The parties also expressed their desire to implement joint educational programs and improve their educational and research systems based on international standards; These joint programs can lead to further strengthening of the abilities of both sides and help to realize joint scientific and educational missions.

Regarding the COVID-19 pandemic and the subsequent global challenges and the possibility of these threats continuing in the future, the officials agreed to exchange the experiences gained in order to create greater capacities for the diagnosis, control, and prevention of infectious diseases, in-



cluding the production of vaccines and share diagnostic kits with each other.

Earlier in September, Health Minister Bahram Einollahi said that Iran has one of the strongest health systems in the region and this opportunity should be used optimally in the field of health diplomacy.

One of the successful aspects of health diplomacy in the region is this cooperation, he said, adding, "We are looking to implement this program in the region as in European countries to facilitate the exchange of students and professors, and to facilitate their participation in international conferences."

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

role model for primary health care.

For the past four decades, its PHC network has aimed to ensure that people have timely access to affordable, accessible, and acceptable essential health services, he explained.

## Health development

Based on innovative indicators of health technology development in 2021, Iran was ranked 60th among 132 countries, which shows an improvement of 60 steps compared to 2014, the deputy health minister for research and technology, has announced.

A total of 1,670 knowledge-based firms are operating in the health sector, ISNA quoted Younes Panahi as saying.

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

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

## IRANIAN LANGUAGES AND SCRIPTS

Part 4

For instance, the languages of southwestern and southern Iran often have a d- where other Iranian languages have a z- (e.g., the verb "to know": Persian dan-, dun-, but elsewhere zan-, zun-, etc.). This isogloss separates Persian from most other Iranian languages and dialects, including Kurdish and Mazanderani, for instance.

Other isoglosses, however, such as the words for "to do" and "to speak," are shared by Persian (and the other Persian dialects), Kurdish, and Mazanderani, which all have forms from kun- kart (kirt) and gow- guft, against surrounding dialects with forms from kar- kart (kirt) and wach- (waj-) waxt (wat).

A grammatical feature typical of most Iranian languages (including

Pahlavi), but lost in New Persian, Lori-Bakhtiari, and the Caspian dialects, is the ergative construction, according to which, instead of saying "I saw them," one uses a construction meaning literally "by me seen they are."

## Earliest evidence

Archeological identities of the proto-Indo-Iranians and proto-Iranians. The Indo-Aryan and Iranian tribes separated

about 2000 B.C.E., but attempts to correlate the proto-Indo-Iranians with archaeological sites are all problematic.

Theories about this also have to take into account the presence of Indo-Iranian words in typically Indic phonetic form in the Near East in the first half of the 2nd millennium B.C.E. (for an overview, see Mayrhofer in Indogermanische Grammatik I, Heidelberg, 1968, pp. 23-24, with bibliog.).

The archeological identity of the early Iranians is also a problem. Several scenarios have been considered (see, e.g., Young, 1967; Ghirshman, 1977), but recently the so-called Bactrian-Margiana Archeological Complex (BMAC) in Bronze-Age Central Asia (see Hiebert, 1994) has been proposed as that of the Iranians (see, for instance, Hintze, 1998).

The archeological picture of Central

Asia and the Iranian Plateau is quite sketchy, however; most of the exploration has taken place in the area of modern Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan, and there are still large, unexplored areas that contain potentially crucial evidence, notably most of Khorasan, but also the area to the northeast of the Caspian Sea.

To be continued  
Source: Iranica

## Iran capable of manufacturing any medicine in two years

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

به گفته شانه ساز، برخی اقلام دارویی که اکنون در داخل تولید نمی شود به علت کم مصرفی است زیرا توجیه اقتصادی ندارد یا مولکول های دارویی جدیدی هستند که به تازگی در دنیا تولید شده اند. او ادامه داد: آمریکا هر دارویی را که توانسته تحریم کرده اما ما توانسته ایم از راههایی که می دانیم داروهای مورد نیاز بیماران را تامین کنیم و اکنون دارو به میزان کافی در سراسر کشور وجود دارد.

## ENGLISH IN USE

### LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

## COVID-19 UPDATES ON OCTOBER 1

New cases	538
New deaths	3
Total cases	7,549,186
Total deaths	144,429
New hospitalized patients	109
Patients in critical condition	148
Total recovered patients	7,325,962
Diagnostic tests conducted	54,112,310
Doses of vaccine injected	154,796,688



OCTOBER 2, 2022

## GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

The mind of a wise man is the safest custody of secrets; cheerfulness is the key to friendship; patience and forbearance will conceal many defects.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon: 11:54 Evening: 18:05 Dawn: 4:37 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:01 (tomorrow)

## History of modern Persian novel

Part 4

The noted journalist and writer Sadreddin Elahi also wrote several serialized novels during this period and under different names in Tehran-e Mosavar.

Serialized stories were published in a more or less continuous stream into the next years by many authors such as Majid Davami and Manuchehr Motiei.

After a brief interruption following the Revolution of 1978-79, such writing resumed with intensity and culminated in the works of many female writers.

Mohammad-Ali Jamalzadeh, noted mainly for his short stories, published his first novel *Dar al-Majanin* (The Lunatic Asylum) in 1942.

It is an intricate account of a set of characters detained in an asylum. They are not depicted as social types emblematic of different and contradictory forces in the Persian society of the time, as was the case in the author's earlier stories in *Yaki Bud Yaki Nabud*, but complex individuals hovering in the shifting sands between sanity and madness.

His second novel, *Qoltashan Divan* (1946), on the primordial battle between good and evil, was followed by the publication of *Rahab-nameh* (The Story of the Aqueduct, 1948) and *Sar o Tah-e Yak Karbas ya Esfahan-nameh* (1955; tr. W. L. Heston as *Isfahan Is Half the World: Memories of a Persian Boyhood*, Princeton, 1983), a bildungsroman in two volumes.

Critics often make a distinction between the early works of Jamalzadeh, which they praise for their novelty and clarity, and his later works, which they consider as overtly didactic and out of touch with the Persian society they endeavor to describe from a comfortable distance, but this view has recently been challenged by at least one critic.

The early social novel, with its preoccupation with sensationalist plots and its lack of interest in stylistic innovations, was discarded by a new generation of writers who had begun to experiment with new techniques in the years before the advent of the Second World War.

Sadeq Hedayat, acclaimed for both his short stories and novellas, was to have a lasting impact on the course of Persian fiction in this century.

His writings cover many genres. Besides his short stories and articles on literature, his book on Omar Khayyam, folklore, and translations from French, he wrote five long stories: *Alavieh Khanom* (1933, tr. Ch. Reyhani into French as *Mme Alavieh*, Paris, 1997); *Bu-f-e Kur* (1937; tr. D. P. Costello as *The Blind Owl*, London, 1957; tr. R. Lescot into French as *La chouette aveugle*, Paris, 1953); *Ab-e Zendagi* (The Water of Life, 1944; tr. M. E. and F. Farzaneh as *L'eau de jouvence*, Paris, 1996), *Haji Aqa* (1945, tr. G. M. Wickens as *Haji Agha: Portrait of an Iranian Confidence Man*, Austin, Tex., 1979; tr. into French by G. Lazard as *Hadji Agha*, Paris, 1996), and *Farda* (1946; tr. L. Ray as "Tomorrow," *New Left Review* 24, 1964), as well as several satirical sketches.

While differing in their representations of life and humanity, taken together they offer a kaleidoscopic view of the 1930s and 1940s. In *Haji Aqa*, a satirical depiction of an avaricious, hypocritical, corrupt, and reactionary businessman of the bazaar, for example, the unresolved discord between corrupt tradition and crude modernity finds an ideal home at his house.

The Haji himself embodies all the



Mohammad-Ali Jamalzadeh's first novel "Dar al-Majanin" ("The Lunatic Asylum", 1942).

contradictions of the society at large, becoming the microcosmic symbol of its disparities.

The same ubiquitous discordance is also heard in the fugue-like composition of Hedayat's short novel *BUf-e Kur*, whose narrative techniques resist prescriptive judgments and classifications.

In its structure, *Bu-f-e Kur* falls into two parts. It is narrated in the first person-singular by a traditional artist obsessively engaged in painting the slim figure of an ethereal woman, whose haunting image he paints on pen-boxes.

In the second part she is transformed into the woman he marries, and whom he ultimately murders. Throughout the novel, scenes and events reflect and echo each other, time does not follow a linear progression and dream and reality remain intertwined.

The very ambivalence of the novel gives it a haunting effect that remains with the reader long afterwards. It has been translated into many languages and has generated a considerable amount of literary criticism.

It was praised highly by the founder of the surrealist movement André Breton (in "Des Capucines violettes," *Médiun* 8, June 1953).

As perhaps the most seminal work of fiction in Persian, it has been both the subject of several illuminating attempts at "close reading" and explication de texte by Persian and Western critics, as well as the victim of some hasty generalizations.

While drawing on sources and resonances of world literature, *Bu-f-e Kur* remains strikingly Persian. Its influence on Persian fiction can be felt in the writings of later generations of experimental writers like Hushang Golshiri, Taqi Modarresi, and Bahram Sadeqi.

Bozorg Alavi (1907-97) was influenced, like Hedayat, by modern psychological theories and narrative techniques.

His collections of prison stories, *Varaq Pareha-ye Zendan* (1941; tr. in Raffat) and *Nameha* (The Letters, 1952), as well as his account of his own arrest and life in prison, *Panjah o Se Nafar* (The Fifty-Three, 1942), distinguish him as the first Persian writer to describe prison life in an objectively realistic manner, thus making a new departure from the classical genre of prison literature (*habsiyat*).

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued.

# "Funeral" by Iranian photog wins FIAP Gold Medal at Dushanbe Aqua Salon

From Page 1 ▶ Omidreza Purnabi, another Iranian photographer, received an honorable mention for his photo "After Fishing".

Water is the central theme of the exhibition, which is held in the categories of Open Monochrome, Open Color, Water Color, Travel, Landscape Color and People.

Several Iranian photographers were also honored in other sections.

Abbas Hajhossein-Kalantar was awarded the FPC Trophy in the Open Monochrome section for his photo "Line". It shows a man standing under Tehran's Azadi Tower. His photo "Macro Water" also won the FIAP Ribbon in the Water Color category.

The FIAP Gold Medal of the Open Monochrome section went to Diana Chan from Hong Kong for "Motorcycle Race". Chan also won the FIAP Light Blue Badge, which is the grand prize of the exhibition.

Iranian photographers Hossein Davudi and Fatemeh Moeinifar also received honorable mentions.

The FIAP Ribbon in the Travel section was also given to Iranian



"Funeral" by Iranian photographer Amin Behjat won the FIAP Gold Medal at the 4th Aqua International Salon of Photography in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

photographer Seyyed Reza Javadi for "Man and Fire" depicting a man climbing up a ladder to a brick kiln roof.

Hossein Davudi and Alireza Musavi won honorable mentions in this category.

Saeid Sabetqadam-Moqaddam

was honored with the FPC Trophy in the Landscape Color section for "Khaled Nabi", which shows a view of the tomb of a prophet, Khaled Nabi.

In the Open Color section, Hossein Davudi, Abbas Hajhossein-Kalantar, Zeinab

Mokhtari and Mohammadreza Puri were awarded honorable mentions.

The winners were selected by a jury comprising Djordje Vukicevic from Serbia, Reha Bilir from Turkey, and Ahmad Khatiri from Iran.

## Voice actor Nasser Mamduh to try hand at theater with "A View from the Bridge"

TEHRAN – Iranian voice actor Nasser Mamduh has said that he plans to try his hand at stage directing with Arthur Miller's play "A View from the Bridge".

Speaking to the Persian service of IRNA on Saturday, he said that he had played the role of the narrator in the play, which was directed by Parviz Bahram in the 1960s.

By staging the play, Mamduh plans to pay tribute to Bahram, who passed away several years ago.

In this production, he will repeat the role he played in Bahram's performance.

The play translated by Manijeh Mohamedi will be staged during autumn, he said.

In "A View from the Bridge", Miller explores the intersection between one man's self-delusion and the brutal trajectory of fate.

Set among Italian-Americans on the Brooklyn waterfront, "A View from the

Bridge" is the story of longshoreman Eddie Carbone. When his wife's cousins arrive as illegal immigrants from Italy, he is honored to take them into his house.

But when his niece begins to fall in love with one of them Eddie grows increasingly suspicious, eventually precipitating his violation of the moral and cultural codes of his community and leading to the play's tragic finale.

With its examination of the themes of sexuality, responsibility, betrayal and vengeance, the play is vintage Miller and a modern classic.

The play was first staged on September 29, 1955, as a one-act verse drama with "A Memory of Two Mondays" at the Coronet Theatre on Broadway.

The run was unsuccessful, and Miller subsequently revised and extended the play to contain two acts; this version is the one



Voice actor Nasser Mamduh in an undated photo. (ISNA/Ali Taqavi)

with which audiences are most familiar.

The two-act version premiered in the New Watergate theater club in London's West End under the direction of Peter Brook on October 11, 1956.

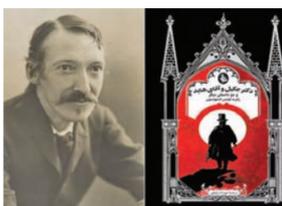
## "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" published in Persian

TEHRAN – "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde" by Robert Louis Stevenson has been published in Persian.

Qoqnus is the publisher of the novella rendered into Persian by Mehrdad Vosuqi.

Stevenson's masterpiece of the duality of good and evil in man's nature sprang from the darkest recesses of his own unconscious, during a nightmare from which his wife awakened him, alerted by his screams.

More than a hundred years later, this tale of the mild-mannered Dr.



A combination photo shows Robert Louis Stevenson and the front cover of the Persian edition of his novella "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde".

Jekyll and the drug that unleashes his evil, inner persona – the loathsome, twisted Mr. Hyde – has

lost none of its ability to shock.

Its realistic police-style narrative chillingly relates Jekyll's desperation as Hyde gains control of his soul – and gives voice to our own fears of the violence and evil within us.

Written before Freud's naming of the ego and the id, Stevenson's enduring classic demonstrates a remarkable understanding of the personality's inner conflicts – and remains the irresistibly terrifying stuff of our worst nightmares.

Stevenson was a Scottish novelist, poet and travel writer, and

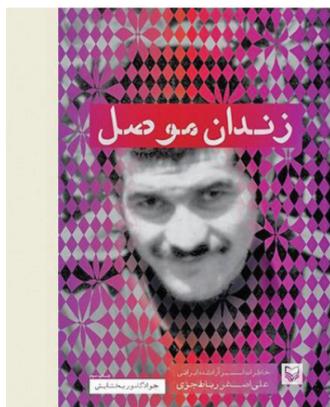
a leading representative of English literature.

He was greatly admired by many authors, including Jorge Luis Borges, Ernest Hemingway, Rudyard Kipling and Vladimir Nabokov.

Most modernist writers dismissed him, however, because he was popular and did not write within their narrow definition of literature.

It is only recently that critics have begun to look beyond Stevenson's popularity and allow him a place in the Western canon.

## Writer: "Mosul Prison" is an encyclopedia of captivity



The writer of "Mosul Prison" is Javad Kamvar. He said at this book interview session in Bojnurd that this book contains memories of Ali Asghar Robot Jazi's nine years of captivity in Mosul camps.

According to the author, the cultural

efforts of the story's main character were quite successful in inspiring others who were unable to bear the severe conditions of captivity and imprisonment in the camps.

"Ali Asghar had a significant impact in the Mosul camps and will be regarded as a cultural leader despite all the tortures that were administered to every prisoner and the tortures that the Iraqis themselves planned," he said.

"He was one of the ideological teachers and religious speakers who encouraged people to join the fronts with his talks in various gatherings, mosques, and schools. He possessed extensive knowledge in numerous fields of science and religion both before and after the revolution's success," added the author of the book.

Regarding the process of writing and editing the book, Javad Kamvar explained that he attempts to give the reader a lot of information on the main character and the subject of the book in addition to interviewing

the narrator himself for more than 50 hours.

"I made an effort to track down and speak with important figures throughout Robot Jazi's life. I even spoke with his wife, whose husband was captured just three months after their marriage. I also spoke with his friends and colleagues," he said,

The author explains that there are eight chapters in this book. He travels through seven phases in his life, and the eighth stage, which is indicated in the book's introduction, is the stage of his victory and peace. This is because he endured these challenges in order to achieve his goal and arrived at the last stage.

In addition, he said that he sought to give the reader with an easygoing prose style that would make the book interesting to read. The narrator's use of everyday language sets the tone of the novel.

Soore Mehr has published the book "Mosul Prison," which contains 642 pages.