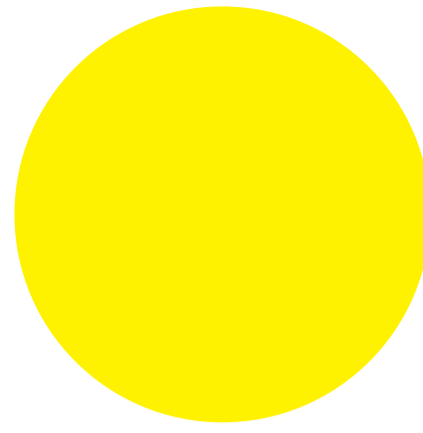




Syrian president hopes for 'new phase' in Arab cooperation



Iran, Pakistan launch joint border market, power transmission line



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Iran warns Afghanistan over violation of water rights

International Desk
Iran has issued a strong warning to Afghanistan's rulers, asking them not to violate water rights of the Iranian people from Hirmand River, which has become a matter of dispute between the two neighbors in recent years. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi on Thursday warned the Afghan rulers to take his words seriously and not complain later. Speaking on the sidelines of the inauguration ceremony of a number of water and electricity projects in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan, President Raisi said his

government is determined to defend Iran's water rights. The Iranian president also urged the Afghan Taliban to allow Iranian hydrologists to check the water levels of the river, which originates in the Afghan Hindu Kush mountain range. Raisi said, "If our experts confirm the lack of water, we will have nothing else to say; otherwise, we will not allow the rights of our people to be violated." Iran's Energy Minister Ali Akbar Mehrabian said on Friday that according to international data, there is enough water stored behind the Kajaki Dam constructed on the river.

The Iranian president said Iran's water rights have been enshrined in previous treaties, and the issue is not related to a specific period. Following more than a century of rifts over the river's water supply, Iran and Afghanistan signed the 1973 treaty, which established a means of regulating each country's use of the river. The Hirmand River (known as Helmand in Afghanistan), the longest water course in Afghanistan, rises in the Hindu Kush Mountains west of Kabul and flows in an arc southwest until it empties out into the Hamoun wetlands, located in Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan Province.

Iran should receive an annual share of 820 million cubic meters from the river under the accord, which Afghanistan has grossly violated in letter and spirit. Afghanistan has largely cut off the river's flow into Iran, endangering the lives of many Iranians. What has made the dispute bitter is the construction of many hydroelectric projects on the river, most importantly the Kamal Khan Dam in Nimrouz Province, and the Kajaki Dam 100 miles (160km) northwest of Kandahar Province. The dams have constricted water flow into Iran. [Page 2 >](#)

EXCLUSIVE
Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi addresses a ceremony to launch a water project in the southeastern province of Sistan and Baluchestan, Iran, on May 18, 2023. [president.ir](#)

Iran's foreign policy outlook in light of new world order

By Ali Baqeri Kani
Iranian Deputy FM
EXCLUSIVE

"The world order is undergoing a transformative shift, and this transition is, fortunately, aimed at undermining the adversaries of the Islamic Republic. Consequently, it necessitates an escalation of our proactive endeavors in the realm of foreign policy, as well as capitalizing on opportunities." This is a quote from Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei. In light of significant international and regional developments, an evaluation of foreign policy dynamics under the current Iranian government becomes necessary to analyze the emerging prospects in the evolving

global system. The Western world's belief in the "end of history" contrasts with the reality of an unfolding "commencement of history" on a global scale. The international system no longer adheres to a unipolar order, as the contours of the multipolar world remain unclear. This shift toward new organizations and regulations predominantly occurs through non-military means and civilian confrontations, employing soft tools that serve as the Achilles' heel endangering global hegemony. Unlike military confrontations that foster coalition and consensus-building, confrontations involving soft tools, such as sanctions, instead foster division and dispersion within the system of global hegemony. [Page 2 >](#)

Taliban responsible for water dispute ramifications

By Ebrahim Beheshti
Staff Writer
EXCLUSIVE

The Iranian president's unequivocal caution to the governing authorities of Afghanistan regarding Iran's claim to its water rights from the Hirmand River has prompted the Taliban to issue a politically-motivated statement in flagrant violation of good neighborliness. According to the ratified accord forged between the two neighbors in 1973, Afghanistan is committed to allotting

Iran with an annual water allocation of 850 million cubic meters. However, Iranian officials contend that over the past year and a half, the Taliban, while avowing adherence to their treaty obligations on numerous occasions, have obviously failed to fulfill the ensuing responsibilities and collaboration that are essential for the safeguarding of Iran's lawful rights. The Taliban claims that the persisting drought conditions in Afghanistan render the release of water to Iran unnecessary. [Page 2 >](#)



Assad's overwhelming presence at Arab League summit

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Foreign tourist visits to Iran quadrupled in 2022

Arts & Culture Desk

In 2022, Iran experienced a remarkable surge in foreign tourism, as declared by the World Tourism Organization (WTO), with a staggering 315% increase in the number of international visitors. The country welcomed 4.1 million tourists during this period compared to a mere 990 million foreign tourist trips recorded for 2021, marking a momentous achievement, IRNA wrote. It is worth noting that

Iran's fast-growing number of foreign tourists attracted last year was three times higher than the global average in this field. Looking at the broader Middle East region, the total number of foreign tourist trips to the region in 2022 reached an impressive 66 million, demonstrating a remarkable growth rate of 163% compared to the previous year. In this context, it is estimated that Iran attracted 6% of tourists visiting the Middle East.

According to statistics released by the WTO, global foreign tourist trips reached a record-breaking 963 million last year, showcasing a notable growth of 111% compared to the preceding year. The year 2021 witnessed more than 450 million trips made by international tourists worldwide. Thus, the global surge observed in 2022 amounted to an astounding 513 million additional foreign tourist trips compared to the previous year.

