

## Social Desk

Iran has demonstrated significant progress in managing and controlling the COVID-19 pandemic, with multiple days recording zero deaths and the country experiencing favorable conditions. This achievement comes despite facing numerous sanctions from certain powers claiming to uphold human rights, which have hindered the import of vital medications and healthcare facilities necessary for treating the disease.

According to the World Health Organization and international organizations, Iran ranks among the top countries in COVID-19 prevention and treatment. This success is attributed to the nation's trust in its internal capabilities and the tireless efforts of healthcare and vaccination staff, according to IRNA.

When the current administration took office on August 25, 2021, Iran recorded 709 daily COVID-19 deaths, and public vaccination faced uncertainty and delays. The country's Leader called for an immediate response to the virus, and the government began importing vaccines and implementing large-scale vaccination efforts with the support of the public, popular groups, and armed forces. By May 4, 2022, daily COVID-19 deaths had dropped to single digits, with only seven reported fatalities.

On June 2, of the same year, the first day without COVID-19 deaths was recorded in Iran, coinciding with nationwide vaccination efforts. Iran's Leader praised the nation, officials, and managers for achieving self-sufficiency in vaccine production despite sanctions.

President Raisi acknowledged the milestone in a message, praising the "understanding, and hard work" of the people and the efforts of healthcare workers in the all-round management of COVID-19.

Pedram Pak-Ayin, spokesperson for the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education, attributed the success to the import of five times more vaccines than the previous administration and the production of six effective, high-quality domestic vaccines. These efforts have led to the restoration of social vitality, business prosperity, and control of COVID-19 in the country. Pak-Ayin noted that the current administration faced over 5,000 COVID-19 infections and more than 700 deaths upon taking office. Despite sanctions and pressure from Western countries, the government worked tirelessly to provide the necessary vaccines and expand national vaccination efforts. Consultations with other countries' presidents and health ministers were initiated by the president

# Iran a remarkable success story in curbing COVID-19 amid sanctions



IRNA

and health minister to facilitate widespread vaccine entry into Iran. In addition to importing various vaccines, domestic vaccine production increased, and the number

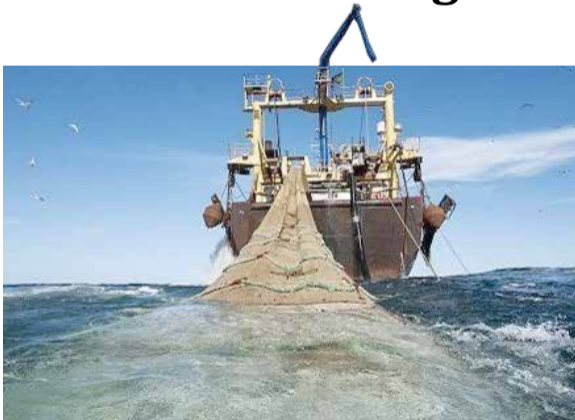
of vaccination centers expanded to expedite the process and minimize wait times. Pak-Ayin stated that vaccination efforts would reach 160 million doses in the short-

est time possible, contributing to the reduction of COVID-19 deaths in the country. As of now, the number of COVID-19 infections has dropped below 20, and

the death rate has reached two, with many days recording no fatalities. This progress signifies a promising future for managing and containing COVID-19 in Iran.

## In pursuit of aquatic preservation

### Environmental faction seeks permanent ban on industrial trawling



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The leader of Iran Parliament's environmental faction announced the end of the plundering of the nation's aquatic life and expressed determination to permanently ban industrial trawling in the country. In response to a petition from hundreds of southern fishermen demanding an end to industrial trawl fishing, Sommyeh Rafiei, a member of the Islamic Council's environmental faction, emphasized the faction's commitment to supporting local fishermen. Rafiei highlighted the positive impact of the two-year suspension of trawl fishing, which was implemented with the president's approval, on preserving aquatic resources in the south and sustaining local livelihoods.

She stressed that economic activities must align with the country's environmental capacity to prevent degradation.

Before the trawl fishing ban, local fishing communities expressed dissatisfaction with the depletion of aquatic resources caused by industrial trawling vessels. Rafiei revealed that these vessels received fuel subsidies from the government while claiming to create jobs and meet the country's needs. As fish stocks dwindled, local fishermen incurred higher costs and used more fuel to venture further out to sea, often returning empty-handed.

The parliamentary environmental faction successfully imposed a two-year ban on industrial trawling activities starting November 21, 2020, despite significant pressure from the industrial trawling entities. Rafiei stated that the Iranian Fisheries Science Research Institute was tasked with monitoring aquatic stocks in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman during this period and submitting a report for further decision-making. However, no comprehensive report has been provided to date. Rafiei warned that the trawl profiteers are seeking to revive trawl fishing and

emphasized the need for environmentally friendly fishing methods to replace destructive trawl fishing. Despite allocating the required amount of money for membership fees in international conventions to obtain fishing licenses in the Indian Ocean, none of the mentioned ships have begun operations in those waters.

In their petition, local fishermen expressed gratitude for the two-year ban on fishing trawlers in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, which has led to the relative revival of aquatic resources and improved the food basket of indigenous people. The petitioners urged the members of the parliamentary environmental faction, academic staff, and officials to take decisive action regarding the permanent ban of trawlers. The local fishermen's letter emphasized that industrial fishing vessels, under the pretext of having a fishing license, operated without proper monitoring and supervision by the Iranian Fisheries Organization. These vessels encroached upon the waters of the southern coast, destroying habitats and looting valuable aquatic resources and species, despite warnings from local fishermen.

## Official: 370,000 Iranian students registered for summer camps

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The Deputy Director of Education and Culture at Iran's Ministry of Education, Asghar Baqerzadeh, revealed that 370,000 students have registered for summer camps thus far.

Baqerzadeh emphasized that this year's summer slogan is "non-stop training," with the aim of providing educational opportunities through all institutions, families, and schools, Mehr News reported. Since late May, approximately 25,000 camps have been established in 20 percent of the nation's schools, along with 1,000 cultural and educational centers within ministry facilities and 1,000 bases in Center for the Intellectual Development of Child and Adolescents across various cities and regions. Registration for these camps will continue until June 28.

Students have until July 6 to register in these camps, which can be accessed through the education services portal at <https://my.medu.ir>. The portal allows families, students, and other interested parties to learn about the summer camps, view the fields, locations, and event times, and participate in the programs.

Baqerzadeh noted that all camps registered in the system must declare the amount they claim as tuition or tuition assistance, ensuring proper oversight. While some programs and activities are free, skill and professional training courses may require special tools, equipment, and expert trainers, resulting in tuition fees. However, the official clarified that tuition fees are not entirely optional and that there is a ceiling for such fees.

The Deputy Director advised parents and families to utilize summer education centers close to their homes which employ well-known, suitable trainers and teachers approved by the Ministry of Education. Additionally, he urged families to verify that there are no unconventional fees by checking the numbers recorded in the database.



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