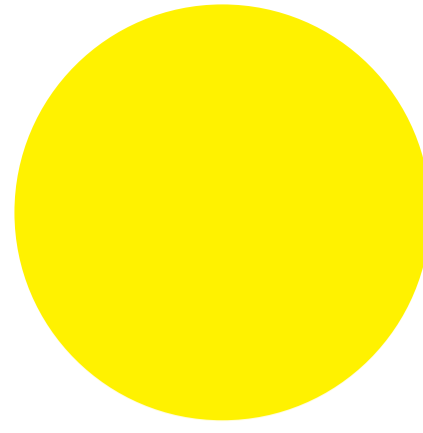




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Nearly 200 NTBFs active in Iran's agricultural biotech sector: *Official*

Economy Desk The head of the Agricultural Biotechnology Research Institute of Iran announced on Saturday that nearly 200 new technology-based firms (NTBFs) are active in the country's agricultural biotechnology sector. Gholamreza Salehi-Jozani put the value of products of the said NTBFs at about \$500 million, adding that the figure is expected to hit \$2 billion in the near future, IRNA reported. "The annual turnover of the technology market is close to \$1 trillion in the world, and by 2030 it will rise to about \$3 trillion, of which currently, \$200 billion, equal to 20 percent, is related to the agricultural sector." Salehi-Jozani said, "Certainly, the development of technology-based agriculture dealing with modern technologies (biotechnology and nanotechnology) is necessary to solve the challenges of the agricultural sector." [Page 2 >](#)

Iran-US deal just a prisoner swap and no more



By **Mostafa Khoshcheshm**
International affairs analyst

Following a recent agreement between Iran and the United States on the exchange of prisoners and analyses about this agreement. Citing Israeli officials, the media claimed that the prisoner swap was part of a larger deal between Tehran and Washington, and other media said that there was an unwritten agreement between Iran and the US, of which the prisoner exchange was part of it. They reported that the deal also contained Iran's nuclear activities, including the reduction of uranium enrichment, etc. [Page 4 >](#)

Saudi Arabia names first ambassador to Palestine

Saudi Arabia on Saturday named a non-resident ambassador for the Palestinian Territories who will also serve as consul general in Al-Quds. The role will be filled by Nayef al-Sudairi, the current ambassador to Jordan, according to a social media post from the embassy in Amman confirmed by a Saudi Foreign Ministry official. The appointment represents "an important step" underscoring the desire of King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman "to strengthen relations with the brothers of the State of Palestine and give it a formal boost in all areas", Sudairi said in a video broadcast by the Saudi state-affiliated Al-Ekhbariya channel. Saudi Arabia does not recognize Israel and did not join the 2020 US-brokered Abraham Accords that saw Israel establish ties with two of the kingdom's neighbors, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain.