

Restoring Bakhtegan and Parishan wetlands a priority

Social Desk

The Governor of Fars province emphasized the significance and evident role of restoring Bakhtegan and Parishan wetlands for the well-being of people, making it a top priority.

During the 16th meeting of the Fars Wetland Restoration Headquarters, focusing on reviving Bakhtegan and Parishan wetlands, Mohammad Hadi Imaniyeh expressed concern about the impact of these two dry wetlands on the health of local communities. The drying process generates fine dust that negatively affects people's health, underscoring the need to restore them with utmost care, ISNA reported. Imaniyeh further stressed that environmental organizations, regional water authorities, and agricultural entities hold direct responsibility for restoring these crucial wetlands.

The governor outlined several

proposed measures for restoration efforts in their catchment areas. These include promoting pressure irrigation methods while sealing unauthorized wells. Additionally, encouraging reforms in cultivation patterns and implementing effective watershed management near these wetlands are gaining momentum. Imaniyeh mentioned one specific program aimed at accelerating water transfer from Nargesi dam to alleviate issues faced by Parishan wetland. However, he also emphasized that closure of unauthorized wells along the lagoon's edge is necessary before allowing farmers access to this water resource.

Highlighting concerns over both Bakhtegan and Parishan wetlands' complete drying up, Director General of Fars Environmental Protection acknowledged Governor Imaniyeh's support as well as actions taken by responsible organizations towards their

restoration. He underlined how this dire situation poses significant problems for local communities and neighboring villages.

Pourshirzad revealed that studies indicate a staggering 15-meter drop in water levels at Parishan wetland due to approximately 1,200 wells dug around it – 30 percent being unauthorized – a major factor contributing to its depletion. Moreover, there are around 20,000 wells surrounding Bakhtegan lagoon; again with 30 percent being unauthorized extractions which have resulted in its dryness. The absence of water in these wetlands not only creates a breeding ground for harmful fine dust but also poses a threat to citizens' health. The Director General of Fars Environment further emphasized the impact of Bakhtegan's dry state on seven neighboring cities, leaving them vulnerable to the adverse effects of fine dust.

Asylum seekers say Bibby Stockholm conditions caused suicide attempt



Thirty-nine asylum seekers who were briefly accommodated on the Home Office's controversial Bibby Stockholm barge in Dorset have said conditions onboard were so bad that one was driven to attempt suicide.

A three-page letter sent to the home secretary, Suelia Braverman, also sets out the asylum seekers' fear and despair at being trapped on the barge and appeals to her to help them in their search for safety and freedom in the UK, according to The Guardian.

They describe the barge as "an unsafe, frightening and isolated place" but said that as law-abiding people they were fearful of not obeying Home Office instructions. The asylum seekers described the barge as "a place of exile" and said the conditions were "small rooms and a terrifying residence".

Some of the asylum seekers have told The Guardian they are too traumatized to return to the barge in Portland.

According to the letter some people fell ill on the barge.

The letter says: "Also in a tragic incident one of the asylum seekers attempted suicide but we acted promptly and prevented this unfortunate event. Considering the ongoing difficulties it's not unexpected that we might face a repeat of such situations in the future."

"Some friends said they even wished they had courage to commit suicide. Our personal belief is that many of these individuals might resort to this foolishness to escape problems in the future."

They said they were the last people to be informed about the legionella bacteria found on the barge and announced by the Home Office on 11 August.

They said their brief stay on the barge had led to a deterioration in their mental health. "Currently we are staying in an old and abandoned hotel. The sense of isolation and loneliness has taken over us and psychological and emotional pressures have increased significantly."

The letter to Braverman concludes with a plea to consider their situation as a priority. "We are individuals who are tired of the challenges that have arisen and no longer have the strength to face them."

A peek from other side of the fence



By Ali Amiri
Staff writer

Even though this period is not designed so that the staggers become responsible for the patients, and instead, they are supposed to keep studying while gaining experience, yet some universities of medical sciences lack the staff required to exempt externs from having to standby.

"But we, as externs, had such responsibility. It was both good and bad. It was good because it helped us become confident in engaging with patients, and it was bad because it was highly stressful," Negin recollects.

After passing through this ordeal, medical students must embrace internship. Before that, however, they have to pass a difficult exam, known as pre-internship exam. It comprises of questions regarding their clinical learning – major and minor courses.

During the year and a half internship, medical students have to have 24 hours of standby regularly.

"Sometimes even more. I myself have experienced many standbys up to 72 hours. Once even for 96 hours," she remembers.

It is safe to assume that for many of us, not getting an eight-hour-long shut eye is synonymous with misery. Yet, these brave souls undertake such feats in order to help the sick.

Finally, to seal the deal on their education, students need to write a dissertation.

That is the seven-year-long training that medical students get in order to become general practitioners. Although there might be criticisms regarding some of its aspects, but considering Iran's impressive medical sector, one sees its apparent merits. Still, it would be wise to keep our medical students from burnout during all this. After graduation, young doctors head either to medical university hospitals or health centers scattered across the country, some on them in really disadvantaged areas.

"I started by practicing in a village in Alamut District in Qazvin Province," Negin says, adding, "Because

I thought I would rather go to village and visit more outpatients." But things did not quite match her expectations, since she had to visit many critical patients without proper equipment and staff.

"We were two doctors there with rotating shifts. One of the shifts was from 8 am to 4 pm. Then we rested for a while, and took another shift from 12 am to 8 am."

This working schedule does not sound right for many who have bought into the idea of a daily routine of work, leisure, and sleep. Working like this needs a strong sense of duty and self-sacrifice.

"And I had so many patients in critical conditions. I had a pregnant woman giving birth. I had instances of seizures and heart attacks, you name it," Negin says with a trembling voice.

She believes that it seems everything pushes the graduates towards residency to become specialists, since they endure so much to finally become belittled general practitioners.

"In many countries, family medicine itself is a specialty and is valued greatly," she says.



Although there are doctors, specialists to be accurate, who earn a lot of money and live good lives – whether through honest work or in some cases, shady businesses like tax evasion – general practitioners do not make good money. Not in comparison with many others. In order to join the other class of doctors, they have to embark on another journey, which at best takes four more years of their lives. And that road also takes its toll in terms of long heavy workload and irregular work schedule. "If someone enters the field of

medicine for money, it would take them forever to get there, and it's really hard, especially if there is no genuine interest in medicine and interacting with people," Negin warns the younger individuals whose sole purpose in pursuing medicine is becoming rich.

"If someone does not like all this, and does not wish to study all their life in order to stay updated, would really suffer."

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