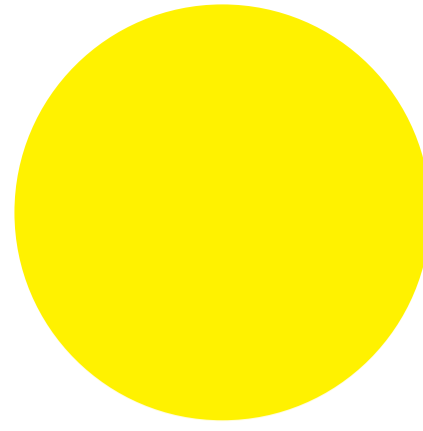


First green children's hospital opens in Tehran

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# Iran Daily



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Relatives mourn during the funeral of the victims of a drone attack targeting a Syrian military academy, outside a hospital in Homs Province, on October 6, 2023.   
 ● LOUAI BESHARA/AFP



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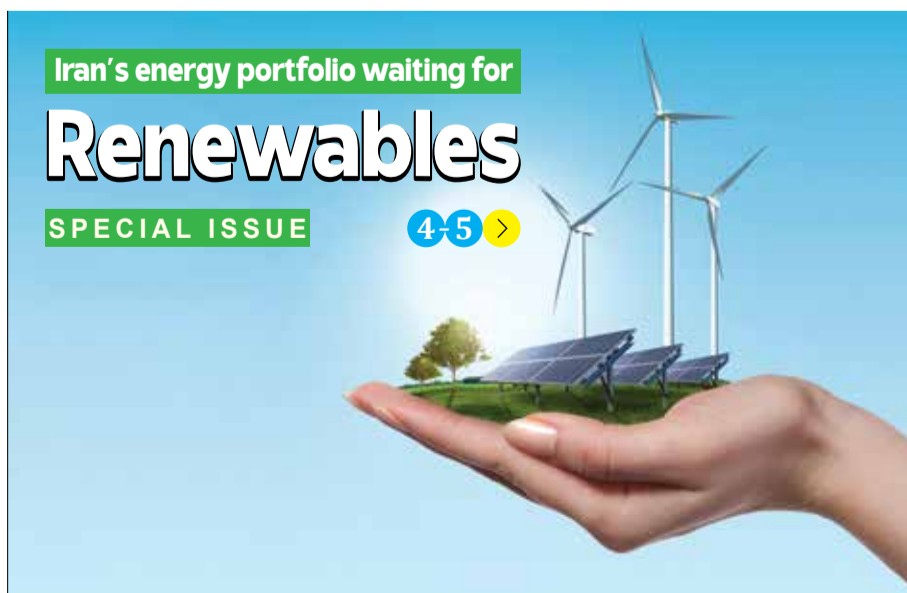
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## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Iran, Azerbaijan begin constructing transport corridor



IRIB

IRNA – Iranian Transport and Urban Development Minister Mehrdad Bazrpash and Azerbaijani Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev participated in the concrete-pouring ceremony for the construction of the Aghband Highway and Bridge at the border zero point of the two countries on Friday, IRNA reported. This joint border bridge will be built on the Aras River and be a passage between Iran, Nakhchivan, and the Republic of Azerbaijan.

## Iran, Italy to facilitate economic cooperation

IRNA – Iran's Ambassador to Italy Mohammad-Reza Sabouri and President of the General Confederation of Italian Industry (CON-FINDUSTRIA) Carlo Bonomi have agreed upon the formation of a joint working group for the development of economic cooperation between the two countries. The two sides discussed the cooperation capacities of both countries in various fields including energy, agriculture, technology, and tourism on Thursday. Bonomi, for his part, emphasized that the Italian private sector is ready to utilize its capacities to help develop economic ties between Iran and Italy.

## Transshipment from Khuzestan surged

## Economy Desk

The transshipment from two border terminals of Iran's Southwestern province of Khuzestan exceeded 1.883 million tons of goods, said the deputy director of transport of the General Department of Highways and Road Transport of Khuzestan. Foad Ghaziali added that 1.42 million tons were transhipped solely from the Shalamchek border terminal, which indicates an 89% growth compared to the same period last year. Meanwhile, the transshipment volume recorded from Chazabeh border terminal has been 455,417 tons, which shows a 23% decrease compared to the same time last year.

# Iran mulling over restoring tourism ties with Egypt

Canceling visa requirements for Saudis on agenda: *Minister*

## Economy Desk

Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Ezzatollah Zarghami said that the Islamic Republic of Iran has started mulling over the restoration of tourism ties with Egypt, adding that the ministry is waiting for the diplomatic decision that would be taken by the Foreign Ministry. In an interview with IRNA on Friday, Zarghami said that Iranian travel enthusiasts and those involved in the tourism have for months been discussing the possibility of traveling to Egypt in the near future. "Our private sector has even commenced its negotiations with its Egyptian counterparts," he pointed out. Zarghami maintained that the ministry has been in contact with a representative of the Iranian Air Travel and Tourism Offices, some of whom have

traveled to Egypt to lay the groundwork.

"Expanding tourism ties with Egypt is a useful way to enhance ties between the two nations," said Zarghami.

He said that expanding tourism relations with foreign countries and facilitating travel to Iran is the priority of the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, and added that his ministry has provided the government with a visa waiver plan with 68 countries.

Visa-free travels of the first group of Russians to Iran began recently, he said, expressing hope that by facilitating travel to Iran, tourists from other countries will soon follow suit.

"The first successful instance of implementing such a plan was achieved last year for Iraqi tourists, who can now easily drive to Iran through border crossings," the minister highlighted.



Referring to the recent ceremony held in Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, to celebrate World Tourism Day, Zarghami said that his deputy Maryam Jalali attended the cere-

mony and proposed the formation of a working group to cancel visas between the two nations. Zarghami noted that in his message to his Saudi counterpart Sultan al-Musallam

— which was conveyed by Jalali — the high official of the Saudi Ministry was invited to visit Iran, and it was decided to make the necessary planning and coordination.



Iran's Minister of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts, and Tourism Ezzatollah Zarghami  
IRNA

## 15 GW power shortage addressed



QUDS ONLINE

## Economy Desk

The incumbent Iranian government has solved the 15,000-megawatt (MW) power shortage it was facing when it took office more than two years ago, according to the head of Iran's Plan and Budget Organization. Davoud Manzoor said Friday that the country and especially its households have not witnessed a widespread power outage during the summer of this year, thanks to the efforts made by the

government and the Ministry of Energy, Quds Online reported. He made the remarks on the sidelines of inaugurating a 16,000 MW power plant in Siminshahr in Iran's northeastern province of Golestan. Manzoor added that the government plans to supply the power needs of its farming and industry sectors by attracting investments from the private sector so that it would no longer be forced to cut the power to those sectors. "Iran has the capacity to

generate 91,000 MW of electricity," he said, adding that it is among the top countries of the world when it comes to transmitting and distributing electricity. The official noted that further investment from the private sector would reduce losses during power transmission and distribution, which is why the government plans to buy the products of the private sector, thereby hopefully creating motivation for investing in the power sector.

## Causes, potential solutions to gasoline 'imbalance'

## Economy Desk

The widespread importation of vaccines and the decline in COVID-19 cases in Iran since mid-2021 have led to a sudden and significant increase in gasoline consumption. This situation, combined with the neglect of new refinery construction and gasoline production, resulted in a supply-demand imbalance in the country. According to an analysis of the 10-year trend in gasoline consumption reported by the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company, the average daily gasoline consumption this year is estimated at 120 million liters, while conventional refinery production averages 105 million liters daily, indicating a daily imbalance of 15 million liters. Ali Akbar Nejad-Ali, the former CEO of the company, discussed the latest gasoline

consumption figures for the first six months of the Iranian year, which began on March 21, 2023. He said that average daily gasoline consumption during these six months was 116 million liters. However, during the same period last year, this figure was 102.5 million liters, indicating consumption growth of 13.5 million liters per day, as reported in an interview with Fars news agency.

## Disadvantage to the economy

According to statistics from the Iran's customs office, Iran had no gasoline exports last year, and in an optimistic scenario, maintained a favorable trade balance. Therefore, the 13.5-million-liter per day increase in gasoline consumption this year has resulted in a gasoline supply-demand imbalance. However, the Min-

istry of Oil appears to have implemented measures to prevent gasoline imports, such as increasing production quantities at existing refineries at the expense of quality and utilizing petrochemical capacities to secure gasoline raw materials. Nevertheless, this means that the disadvantage caused by the increase in the consumption of 13.5m liters of gasoline has been imposed on the country's economy in a way that if it is not compensated in the form of imports, it will definitely lead to a drop in the production of petrochemicals and a decrease in the quality of produced gasoline. Is there a solution to address the gasoline imbalance? Certainly, the fundamental solution to this problem is to improve the country's automotive industry, which produces

cars that consume twice the global gasoline standard. Jalil Salari, the CEO of the National Iranian Oil Refining and Distribution Company, said, "In a situation where there is no attention to optimization, and domestic cars consume, on average, twice the global standard of gasoline, it is impossible to meet the demand by building more refineries and increasing gasoline production." Experts highlight that a major obstacle to constructing refineries and increasing gasoline production is the lack of financial resources. The construction of a 300,000-barrel refinery requires an investment of approximately \$10b, which is challenging even in non-sanctioned conditions. Calculations suggest that if Iran's automotive industry were in standard condition, gasoline consumption would have halved by now.

Assuming an export price of \$0.5 per liter, the country could have generated an annual income of \$10b. Furthermore, utilizing CNG can significantly reduce gasoline consumption. For every one cubic meter of CNG consumption at existing stations, there is a potential reduction of one liter of gasoline consumption, potentially saving up to 40 million liters of gasoline, according to the head of Iran Gas Station Owners Union, Homayoun Salehi. In a discussion of the relatively small position of CNG

in the country's fuel basket, Salehi said, "It is undeniable that CNG can carry a significant load off gasoline. However, the plan and strategy were to have car manufacturing plants produce vehicles that could use CNG as a standard fuel, both to reduce gasoline consumption and because CNG is a more cost-effective fuel. Moreover, clean air is important, and pollution should be minimized. But according to predictions, automakers did not take significant steps toward achieving these goals.







PHOTOS BY ALI TAFRESHI

# Ancient Sheshnav Complex in Tafresh, a marvel to be seen



By Mahdiah  
Qazvinian  
Staff writer

A large number of tourists from across the country travel to Tafresh, a city in Markazi Province, every year to visit its historical and natural sites.

If you happen to pass by the city of Tafresh, be sure to visit the Fam neighborhood and see its beautiful old Sheshnav Mosque, with its brick facade and three-meter-high minarets, part of a historical complex with the same name. Speaking in an exclusive interview with Iran Daily, Ali Tafreshi, a tourism and cultural heritage expert from Tafresh, said that the name Sheshnav refers to the water of a qanat that exits from the courtyard of this mosque and is distributed equally to six different neighborhoods through channels (shesh means six, and nav means channel). The history of the mosque dates back to the pre-Islamic era.

## Pre-Islamic era

He said some special ceremonies and rituals, related to the goddess of water, were held in the complex by people to pray for more water, which flowed out from here and was used for drinking and agriculture.

## Post-Islamic era

He added that after the advent and expansion of Islam, most of the Zoroastrian buildings were destroyed, especially during the Seljuk period in the 11th century CE, and some mosques were built in their places. Tafreshi said that this complex, featuring an ancient plane tree, includes a mosque, a *tekiyeh* (a gathering place for Shia Muslims to hold religious ceremonies), a bathhouse, and a qanat.

## Sheshnav Mosque

The construction of the Sheshnav Mosque, adorned with brickwork and turquoise glazed tiles dating back to the Seljuk period, has played a prominent role in the development of architecture in Tafresh. The single-*ivan* plan of this mosque, as one of the most distinctive architectural styles belonging to the Seljuk period, was used in mosques built during the early Islamic era. *Ivan* is a rectangular hall or space, usually vaulted, walled on three sides, with one end entirely open. The *ivan* of the mosque which is five meters wide, four meters deep, and seven meters long, has an entrance facing the *qibla*. It is decorated with turquoise glazed plasterwork and tiles. There is an inscription in Nastaliq script on the wall of the *ivan*, dated 1859 CE, bearing the name of the builder of the structure as Mohammad Ibrahim bin Abbas. The mosque is home to the shrine of one of the companions of Imam Hassan al-Askari (PBUH), named Mohammad Mohaddes, who was buried in the 12th century CE. The mihrab of Sheshnav Mosque is beautifully decorated with brickwork. The double-layered dome of the mosque, positioned above the main courtyard, is octagonal in shape and has a height of 15 meters and a diameter of 16 meters. The mosque has two winter and summer prayer

halls that are amazingly decorated with plasterwork. The mosque's minaret, located on the northern side, is 20 meters tall and has a diameter of three meters. It is one of the most special and oldest structures of the mosque, which has a spiral staircase. The only decoration of this minaret is an engraved inscription in Kufic script, containing holy Islamic names. Several rooms belonging to a seminary are located on the northern side of the mosque's courtyard. They were built during the Safavid era and have been attached to this complex. Inside the rooms there are old manuscripts dating back to the 17th and 18th centuries CE.

## Qanat

There is a qanat, a gently sloping underground channel or tunnel constructed to lead water to a city or a village, under the mosque, the outlet of which is located in the middle of the courtyard. A water stream that is directed from two mountainous and plain regions towards this long and full qanat, flows out from the middle of the mosque courtyard. In the past, people in this area used this water for drinking and agricultural purposes.

## Tekiyeh

On the western side of this complex, there is a two-story building used as a *tekiyeh*, with three entrances. It was built during the Qajar era to host mourning ceremonies and *ta'zieh* (traditional religious play), held for the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam Hussein (PBUH) and his companions during the lunar months of Muhrram and Safar. Extending in an area of 300 square meters, the building has a wooden ceiling and columns. There are seating areas around the *tekiyeh* for the audience, and a raised platform is placed in its middle where the performance is held.

## Sheshnav Bathhouse

Sheshnav Bathhouse, which was built during the Safavid era, is positioned on the western side of this complex. To enter it, you go down a few steps. A separate channel passing under the *tekiyeh* conveys water from the qanat to the bathhouse.

## Old plane tree

In front of the stairs of the bathhouse there is a plane tree, about 700 years old, which has a sturdy trunk with a diameter of about nine meters. The roots of this tree are inside the canal.

## Tourism route planned for Shushtar aquatic structures

The head of the World Heritage Site of Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System Amin Mahdavi said that a tourism route has been planned in this area. The Shushtar Historical Hydraulic System is one of the most amazing UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Located in southwestern Iran, near the city of Ahvaz, it is a combination of dams, manmade rivers, bridges, mills, and even a castle, built 2,500 years ago, on the Karun River, Iran's longest river.

He said that when this operation is finished, there will be a massive change in this world historical site.

"During several visits to this area, based on professional studies, we have decided to use this construction plan in order to develop tourism in this area," he added, highlighting the fact that Shushtar, a county in Khuzestan Province, contains 18 historical heritage sites and draws many tourists to the area.

Explaining the purpose of this plan, he noted that the building process starts from Kolah Farangi to Salasel Castle.

"Introducing the historical values of this site and the connection between them will help keep this monument

safe, while prioritizing this project for residents and tourists in this area to improve their quality of life, expand their abilities, and find weak spots, which are all the main goals of this project," he stated.

He claimed that there will be resorts built for tourist accommodations along the road. He said that another positive aspect of this plan is traffic reduction in roads, making it easier for travelers to approach their destinations. It will also make the area of this region safer for residents, along with the capability of visiting three sites at the same time.



visitiran.ir



# Iran's energy portfolio waiting for

# Renewables

Although oil and gas are still important fuel resources in the energy basket of European countries, reports indicate that the share of renewable energy in the European Union is increasing daily. Increasing renewable energy is very important for containing carbon emissions to achieve climate goals, and in the last two years, the world has reached a milestone in renewable energy, setting a new record. The positive news is that investment in clean energy has been increasing 12 percent annually since 2020.

Today's hot weather and unprecedented records show the worst effects of climate change, and work must be

done in this field, which requires effective action in the energy sector to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the world by 2030, and to improve technologies related to renewable energy, including solar energy.

Wind farms and solar power stations provided 80 percent of growth in global electricity demand last year. As announced by the International Energy Agency, it is expected that solar and wind energy will grow by 17 percent and 16 percent, respectively, in 2023, and renewable energy will make up more than a third of the world's electricity supply in 2024.

More than half of the electricity consumed in Portugal

now comes from solar energy, while Spain, Finland and Belgium have also set new records in this field.

According to data from the Ember energy think tank, for the first time this year, more than half of Portugal's electricity consumption has been provided by wind and solar energy. Portugal has long been working on its solar infrastructure and is now reaping its benefits. Last year, the country increased its solar energy collection capacity by 50 percent throughout the country with the extensive installation of photovoltaic systems. The move was enough to supply electricity to about one million homes.

## Breaking records in Europe

This spring, in many other European countries, the use of wind and solar energy broke records. In April, Spain saw an unprecedented record in the production of solar energy, amounting to 22 percent of the country's total electricity production. The combined use of wind and solar energy also set a new record in the country and accounted for 46 percent of the electricity produced in the country. This year, Sweden provided more than a quarter (27 percent) of its electricity through wind and solar energy. The figure reached 29 percent in Finland, and 29 percent in Belgium, for total electricity production.

Germany, Europe's first industrial country, also prefers to focus on its goal of meeting 80 percent of its electricity needs by 2030 through renewable energy. As part of a long-term plan to end the process of generating electricity through atomic energy, Germany has shut down its three remaining nuclear reactors. The share of renewable energies in the basket of energy production methods in Germany reached 46 percent in 2022, while 10 years ago this share was less than 25 percent. At the same time, the country has decided to close its coal power plants by 2038.

In Switzerland, based on a plan offered by a startup, the panels are spread between the rails like a carpet so that the electricity generated from it can be used to move trains. Since 2020, high-speed trains in France have used 100 percent green energy when

they pass through Germany.

Europeans have also built a fully solar-powered mobile home that could generate enough energy to travel 730 kilometers on a sunny day.

Another report states that Iceland, Denmark, the Netherlands, England, Norway, Finland, and France are the most prepared for a future with low carbon emissions. Some countries that make up the top 10 of the 2022 Green Future Index include the United States, Australia, France, Germany, Sweden, and South Korea.

In 2020, the production of electricity based on renewable energy in the European Union, for the first time, exceeded the electricity from total consumption of fossil fuels and nuclear energy.

Electricity produced from fossil fuels in the European Union fell by 17 percent in the first half of 2023, reaching a record low. In total, 17 EU countries had high electricity generation using renewable energy in the first half of 2023, and Greece and Romania for the first time crossed the 50 percent ceiling for power generation using renewables. Also, the share of renewable energy in electricity production in Denmark and Portugal reached over 75 percent.

The US solar industry installed 6.1 gigawatts of solar panels in the first quarter of this year, enough to power more than four million homes.

Japan was the first country in the world to formulate Basic Hydrogen Strategy in De-

cember 2017, which aims to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 46 percent by 2030, and achieve zero-carbon status by 2050. From 2000 by 2030, the Japanese government plans to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by half. According to new regulations passed by the Japanese capital's local assembly, from 2025, all new houses in Tokyo built by mass builders must be equipped with solar energy panels. This law was passed to reduce domestic carbon emissions.

Two 175-meter chimneys, as well as a boiler room of a decommissioned coal-fired power plant in New South Wales, Australia, were recently destroyed with explosives

so that it would soon become a renewable energy center. In the Middle East, King Salman's renewable energy initiative, under Saudi Arabia's Horizon 2030 plan, has set renewable targets of 27.3 GW (20 GW of solar photovoltaics and 7.3 GW of wind power) by

2023. The next goal is focused on 58.7 GW by 2030.

The United Arab Emirates, in an ambitious strategy, plans to invest \$54 billion over seven years to develop renewable energy in the country.

## Below one percent share for Iran

Currently, around 30 percent of the energy produced in the world is provided by renewable methods, while in Iran, the share of renewable and clean energy production in the country's total electricity production has been 0.6 percent since the beginning of the year.

A researcher of a new technology-based firm said, "Today, more than 10,000 megawatts of renewable power plants have been installed in Turkey, while in Iran, the total of renewable and wind resources is nearly 900 megawatts. Less than one percent of the

country's electricity is supplied from renewable sources, which is 15 percent in Turkey.

Mohammadreza Navazani noted, "Due to the fact that the price of energy carriers is low, renewable energies, including solar energy, are ignored in Iran.

On the other hand, fossil resources are provided to power plants for free to produce electricity. If fossil resources are fed into refineries and petrochemicals, it will be possible to earn foreign exchange for the country, but we just burn it and generate electricity from it."





# Renewables plans solution to Iran's power shortages



By **Mostafa Shirmohammadi**  
Staff writer

Iran has been dealing with electricity shortages in the past decade, particularly in the summer, when the demand for power surpasses the available supply. The frequent summertime power outages come despite the country's abundant oil and gas reserves to generate electricity at thermal power plants. The challenge especially stands out in southern regions, where temperatures can soar up to 50 degrees Celsius. As a result, the ongoing issue has led to outages in cities, prompting authorities to cut power to industries including steel and petrochemicals to ensure that households have access to electricity. Such measures definitely cannot resolve the problem for good and the government needs to come up with long-term solutions, which

could include developing renewable-energy farms, building more thermal power plants, and optimizing current operating power stations.

For a nation with vast deserts packing high temperatures and gusty winds, solar and wind parks could be a lucrative and cost-effective option. On Wednesday, First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber announced a comprehensive plan to build solar farms to generate 15,000 MW of green electricity to overcome energy shortages and reduce fuel consumption at thermal power plants.

"Energy imbalance is a major challenge [...] we need to move toward developing renewable power plants to resolve such discrepancies," Mokhber said.

The 15-GW projects will be handed over to the private sector to be developed in three phases with a \$8.3 billion investment, around 80 percent of which is made by the National Development Fund.

Iran's Ministry of Energy has set ambitious goals for green energy production. In the first step, it seeks to produce 20,000 MW of renewable electricity by 2027, followed by a target of 50,000 MW by 2031 in the second phase. The ministry has so far given permits for the generation of 2,000 MW via solar and wind farms to various industries to help them accommodate their own electricity demand.

Iran's annual electricity production amounts to around 83,500 MW, 84 percent of which comes from thermal power plants and the rest is supplied through renewables with hydroelectric power stations contributing over 15.4 percent and only 0.6 percent is generated at solar and wind parks. The figures indicate that there is huge untapped potential in clean energy production via solar and wind farms.

There are 38 solar power plants across the nation with a total out-

put of 164 MW. While wind parks are significantly outnumbered by solar farms with only 11 operating facilities, they generate more than 350 MW of electricity altogether annually.

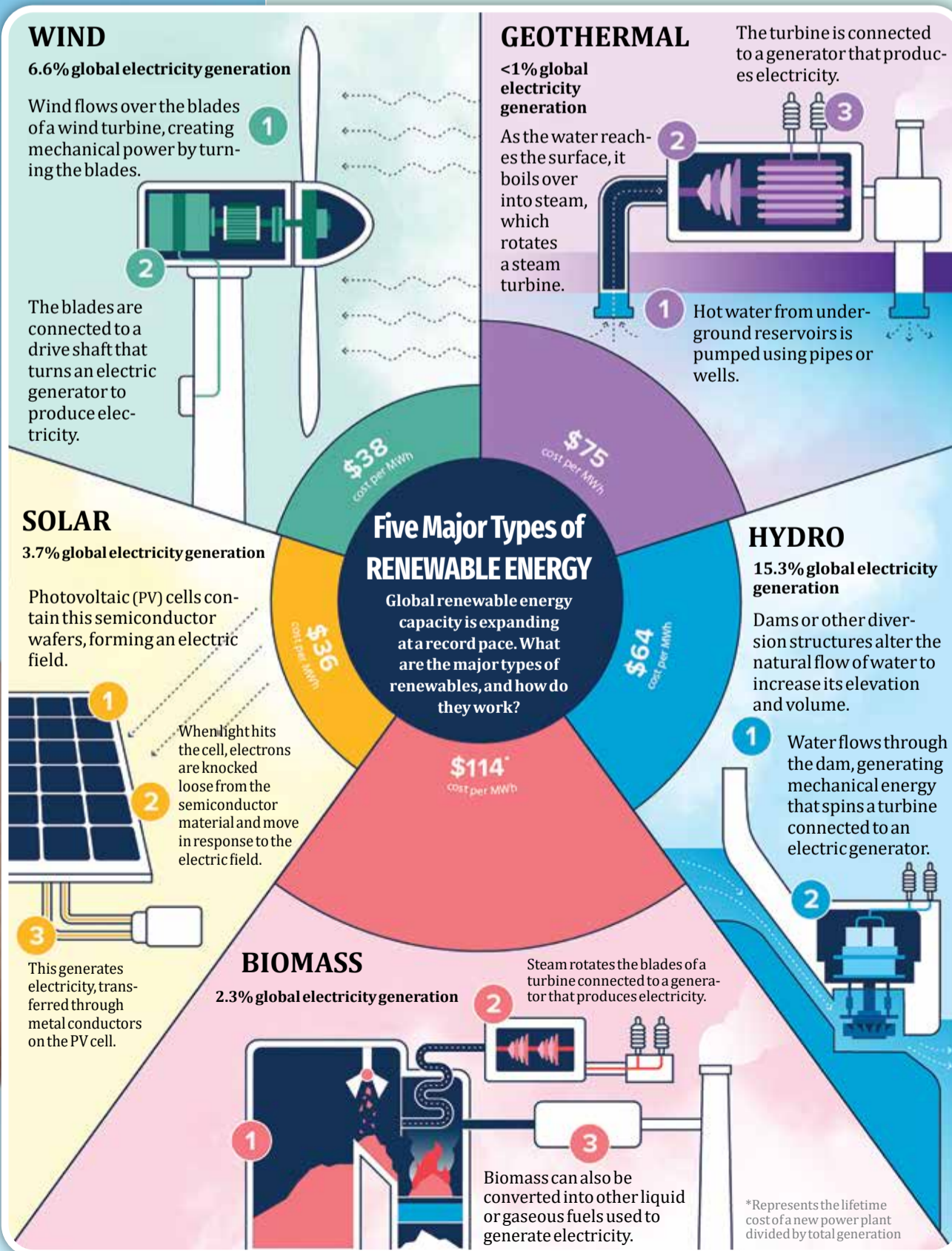
In the latest move to expand renewable-energy production, Minister of Industry, Mine and Trade, Abbas Aliabadi, said on Thursday, a 50-MW wind farm in the south-eastern Sistan and Baluchestan Province would be upgraded to the capacity of up to 500 MW in the coming years.

The Mil Nader Wind Power Station, built by the Iranian industrial giant MAPNA Group, joined the national grid earlier this year with 20 turbines of 2.5 MW capacity outside Zabol city.

Aliabadi said his ministry, in collaboration with the Ministry of Energy would further develop Mil Nader and encourage local mining companies to finance the project to help supply the electricity they need.



Today, more than 10,000 MW of renewable power plants have been installed in Turkey, while in Iran, the total of renewable and wind resources is nearly 900 megawatts.





Hangzhou  
Asian  
Games:

# Ganjzadeh claims karate gold; Iranian women grab kabaddi bronze

## Sports Desk

The penultimate day of the 19th Asian Games saw Iranian karateka Sajjad Ganjzadeh win a ninth gold for the country in Hangzhou, China. Meanwhile, the Iranian women's

quest for a second successive kabaddi gold in the Games came to an end in the semifinals as they settled for a joint bronze alongside Nepal after a 35-24 defeat against the Chinese Taipei. Iran's men's team, however, remains on course to win back-to-back golds of the event, thanks to a last-four 47-24 victory over the Chinese Taipei, and will take on India in today's showdown.

## Karate kudos

Tokyo Olympic champion Ganjzadeh came out on top against opponents from Laos, Pakistan, and Thailand for a place in the men's kumite +84kg final against Kyrgyzstan's Adilet Shadykanov, who claimed a shock semifinal win against reigning

world champion Tareg Ali Hamedi of Saudi Arabia. A nail-biting showpiece saw Ganjzadeh come out victorious with a 4-2 scoreline to capture a second gold in a row at the Asian Games – a massive improvement for the Iranian on

July's Asian Championships, where he took the bronze. In the women's draw, Atousa Golshadnejad was unlucky to finish her campaign empty-handed after a 1-0 loss to Kazakhstan's Assel Kanay in the third-place bout of the -61kg class.

## Rahman outclassed

Nicknamed 'Ruthless Rahman', Amouzad – a world champion last year and a two-time Asian gold medalist – stepped onto the mat on Friday on the back of below-par run in September's World Championships in Belgrade, where he only managed to secure a berth for next year's Paris Olympics by finishing fifth in the 65kg weight class.

The young Iranian beat wrestlers from Uzbekistan, Japan, and the host country and then showed no mercy against five-time world and Olympic medalist Bajrang Punia in the semifinals, easing past the high-profile Indian by a 8-1 triumph. However, Amouzad was a shadow of himself in the gold-medal contest against Mongolia's Tul-

ga Tumur-Ochir – whom the Iranian beat for the Asian gold in April – and was stunned inside 15 seconds after the break to suffer a 11-1 technical fall defeat. Ebrahim Khari also endured a disappointing run in the 57kg class, concluded by a last-eight setback against Indian Aman Sehrawat.

Iranian karateka Sajjad Ganjzadeh (R) is seen in action against Pakistan's Muhammad Awais in the men's kumite +84kg quarterfinals at the Asian Games in Hangzhou, China, on October 6, 2023.  
● ISNA

## Verstappen has done 'exceptional job', Hamilton says

BBC – Lewis Hamilton has praised Max Verstappen for doing "an exceptional job" as the Red Bull driver stands on the brink of a third consecutive title.

Verstappen will win the Formula 1 drivers' championship in today's sprint race in Qatar as long as team-mate Sergio Perez does not score at least six more points than him.

Hamilton said: "Max has been faultless and no-one can take that away from him."

"He has done an amazing job with the package he has."

Ahead of Verstappen's expected coronation this weekend, Hamilton added: "He and the team have been phenomenal. They've raised the bar." The winner of the sprint – a shorter race than a grand prix of about half an hour – earns eight points, with a sliding scale down to one point for eighth.

Verstappen will be champion once again if he finishes at least sixth in the sprint, no matter

what Perez does.

There is no avoiding that fact for Verstappen, but he is focused simply on winning this weekend.

The Dutchman, who has won 13 of the 16 races held so far this season, said: "We are having an amazing year and we just come into this weekend and want to win again."

"And of course I know if I win or whatever on Saturday I win the championship, but we are just very focused on the main job."

Verstappen said he had no feelings either way as to whether winning it in a sprint race would be an anti-climax.

"If it's Saturday or Sunday, I don't think it matters a lot," Verstappen said. "It's always nice to win it at the first possible opportunity."

"To win three championships in a row is never easy. You need a very good car, but I always try to be consistent and not to have too many mistakes."

"The car is in a really great window, except Singapore [last month], but all the other races it was really nice to drive. But it is still easy when driving on the limit to make mistakes and that is what I try to eliminate."

Verstappen was also lauded by a series of his rivals.

Perez, who has won just two races, said: "Max has done a tremendous job. He has driven on another level compared to anyone else."

Aston Martin's Fernando Alonso added: "An incredible season, breaking so many records, and when you win so many races – and they were not easy races, sometimes they were tricky with weather conditions we went through, June, July all the races were hit by rain – and when you make no mistakes and deliver the job every weekend, it is big respect."



● XPB IMAGES

Persian Gulf Pro League:

## Tractor routs Iralco to go top

## Sports Desk

Ex-Persepolis players Siamak Nemati and Mahdi Abdi were on target as Tractor walked away with an emphatic 4-0 victory at Iralco on Thursday to move atop the Persian Gulf Pro League table.

Nemati headed home from close range in the first half before Abdi's thumping effort from the edge of the box found the bottom corner 12 minutes from normal time.

Aref Rostami and Amirhossein Hosseinzadeh added a couple of late strikes as Tractor celebrated a fourth victory on the bounce – keeping a fourth successive clean sheet – after a disappointing start to the season, which had seen Paco Jemez's side suffer back-to-back defeats against Sepahan and Persepolis.

Elsewhere, Zob Ahan beat newly-promoted Shams Azar 2-1 to sit second in the table – one point adrift of Tractor.

Mohammad-Javad Mohammadi bagged a brace inside seven minutes in the first half for the visiting side, which went down to 10 men after center-back Nader Mohammadi received his marching orders in the 57th minute.

Substitute Issa Moradi pulled one back for the home side with 14 minutes left on the clock but Mohammad Rabiei's men held out a late scare for a third win of the campaign.

In Ahvaz, Saman Nariman-Jahan scored in the 90th minute to lead Paykan to a 1-0 away victory over Esteghlal Khuzestan.

The result left the home side second from bottom with a single point which saw head coach Sirous Pourmousavi step down from his role after the game.

## Favorites in action

Tractor could still lose the top spot today should



Tractor players celebrate a goal during a 4-0 victory over Iralco in the Persian Gulf Pro League in Arak, Iran, on October 5, 2023.  
● FARID RAHIMI/ISNA

Javad Nekounam's Esteghlal manage to leave the pitch with maximum points when playing away to Mes Rafsanjan.

Sepahan, meanwhile, will be back in action for the first time since the 2-2 draw at Iraq's Air Force Club on matchday one of the AFC Champions League group stage more than two weeks ago.

Having seen their clash against Saudi side Al Ittihad in the Asian club competition called off last Monday, Jose Morais's men will host San'at Naft Abadan, looking to continue their perfect start to the Iranian top-flight season.

The Isfahan-based club, however, is sixth in the table after being deducted four points by the Iranian football governing body due to a "budget cap violation" in the summer transfer window.

Persepolis, fresh from a massive 1-0 win at Al Duhail, will take on Golgothar Sirjan – unbeaten under new Greek manager Marinou Ouzounidis – at the Azadi Stadium on Sunday.

Nassaji, beaten 3-0 by Al Hilal on Tuesday, will visit Malavan FC.

## England manager Southgate 'not a fan' of 2030 World Cup format

REUTERS – FIFA's decision to host the 2030 World Cup across six continents could lead to issues in sporting integrity, England manager Gareth Southgate said.

In a surprise announcement a year earlier than planned, world soccer's governing body allocated the 2030 World Cup to Morocco, Spain and Portugal but also said Uruguay, Argentina and Paraguay would host three opening matches to

mark the tournament's centenary.

On Thursday, Argentine government officials and the local football federation said the country would "go for more" games, which could further increase travel for teams and fans.

"My big thing is I don't quite get the integrity of the competition," Southgate told reporters on Thursday.

"I'd need to see it all laid out but my understanding is

three matches played in South America, then those teams have to travel across the globe, change time zone again, and pick up the competition with home advantage in one part of the group and not another part."

The previous edition of the European Championships was also hosted across a number of different countries in Europe, but Southgate said the 2030 World Cup plans seemed "quite disjointed" in compari-

son to that tournament.

"From what I've seen, I'm not a fan," Southgate said.

"Argentina in Buenos Aires would not be great. Logically, you could play Argentina in Buenos Aires and have to travel back."

"There is a big difference between playing Argentina in Buenos Aires and playing them in Casablanca. That is a significant change to the competition."



● CARL RECINE/REUTERS



# Raisi: Terrorists supporters responsible for Syria's deadly attack



Syrian soldiers carry caskets during the funeral of the victims of a drone attack targeting a Syrian military academy, outside a hospital in Homs Province, Syria, on October 6, 2023. **LOUAI BESHARA/AFP**

**National Desk**  
Iran says foreign supporters of the terrorists in Syria, including the occupiers of the Arab country, are responsible for a terrorist attack in Syria which claimed the lives of scores of people. In one of the bloodiest single attacks on the Syrian

Army since the start of the foreign-backed war in the country in 2011, nearly 90 people, including women and children, were killed after explosive-laden drones targeted a graduation ceremony in the west-city of Homs. Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi in a message to his Syrian counterpart Bashar

al-Assad said the continuation of terrorist attacks in Syria in recent months is rooted at the logistic, security and intelligence support of terrorists, with the aim of hindering efforts to establish stability and security in the country. Giving a breathing space to the Daesh terrorist

group, in which they will be able to survive and continue their terrorist attacks in Syria, is aligned with and complementary to the Israeli regime's aggressions against Syria's national sovereignty, Raisi said. The Iranian president added that Thursday's criminal act showed that

the opponents of security, stability and development in the region continue their terrorist and brutal approach in the country. Several other Iranian officials also sent condolence messages to their Syrian counterparts. Syria began burying its dead on Friday, when state media said that 89 had died, including 31 women and five children, with 277 others wounded. The government has declared three days of mourning starting Friday, with flags flying at half-mast. No group has claimed responsibility for the assault, but the Syrian Army has accused "armed terrorist organizations" of the attack with "explosive-laden drones", vowing to "respond with full force". Homs Province was a key opposition stronghold in the early days of Syria's conflict. The government regained control over the province in 2018. Swathes of Idlib Province and areas bordering the provinces of Aleppo, Hama and Latakia are controlled by Hayat Tahrir al-Sham, led by Al-Qaeda's former Syria branch.

## Putin voices Russia's will to boost Iran ties

Russian President Vladimir Putin lauded relations with Iran as "very good," voicing Moscow's determination to further develop ties with Tehran. "We have very good relations with Iran. And we will enhance them in every possible way... That is why we do our utmost in order to develop relations with Iran, and will keep this up in the future," TASS news agency quoted Putin as saying. Putin made the comment on Wednesday night in the resort city of Sochi while addressing winners and

finalists of a competition to choose the best teacher in Russia. Pointing to the establishment of educational institutions in Iran, as part of a broader goal to forge closer ties, Putin added that Moscow should "see interest" from countries "in order to establish educational institutions there." "However, the idea is a good one, since it implies soft power in the kindest and best sense of this word, the promotion of our culture and our education systems. We will

mull this over as well," the president emphasized. Iran and Russia, as two close and strategic allies, have over the past years deepened their relations in various fields, including military and defense, despite being under heavy Western sanctions. Heading a high-ranking military delegation, Russian Defense Minister Sergei Shoigu traveled to Tehran last month upon an official invitation by Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Major General Mohammad Baqeri. In a meeting with the

Russian defense chief on September 20, Baqeri said Tehran and Moscow are working to draw up a long-term military cooperation agreement in the near future as the world moves towards an increasingly multipolar order. The top Iranian general stressed the need for enhancement of ties between the two countries. Shoigu's visit came a month after a visit to Moscow by a delegation, led by Brigadier General Kioumars Heydari, the commander of the Iranian Army's Ground Force.

Russian President Vladimir Putin addresses the final stage of the 3rd International Olympiad on Financial Security at the Sirius Park of Science and Art, Krasnodar region, Russia, on October 4, 2023. **GRIGORY SYSOYEV/POOL/AFP**



**Mohammad Ali Rajabi**  
Cartoonist



## Tehran, Riyadh calls for expediting cooperation in various fields

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian and his Saudi counterpart have underlined the need to accelerate the development of bilateral cooperation in various fields, including economy and tourism. During a telephone conversation on Thursday night, Amir-Abdollahian and Prince Faisal bin Farhan Al Saud exchanged viewpoints on multiple areas of common interest, highlighting that relations between the two countries are improving in all areas, Press TV reported.

They emphasized the need to speed up joint cooperation in various fields, including economy, commerce, investment and tourism. Amir-Abdollahian and his Saudi counterpart also noted the significance of bilateral cultural and sports cooperation in order to improve the atmosphere of friendship between the two nations. The two foreign ministers agreed to advise their respective sports institutions to resolve the dispute over the recent cancellation of the AFC Champions League

2023/24 Group C match between Saudi professional football club Al Ittihad and Iran's Sepahan through mutual respect, dialogue, and understanding. They underscored the importance of continued football matches between the two countries in order to strengthen all-out cooperation. Slated to be held on Monday in Isfahan's Naghsh-e-Jahan Stadium, the match was called off after the Saudi squad refused to take the field over unspecified reasons. The team left Iran hours later.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Belarus eager to use Iran experience on sanctions



**IRNA** - Belarus' Deputy Foreign Minister Evgeny Shestakov said his country is interested in using Iran's experience in dealing with sanctions. He made the remarks in a meeting with his Iranian counterpart Ali Bagheri Kani in Minsk on Friday. He also expressed hope that Belarus would become a member of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization and BRICS in the future to use the organizations' capacity to deal with the West's unilateralism.

#### Nothing could justify death of a child due to US sanctions



**PRESS TV** - Iran's deputy UN envoy vehemently denounced the US' unilateral sanctions against Iran and their role in preventing access to medicine by Iranian patients, including children, who face life-threatening diseases. "Nothing could ever justify such horrific measures against people," Zahra Ershadi said before the United Nations General Assembly on Thursday. "Nothing could justify the death of a child who could simply not have a medical product due to UCMS (Unilateral Coercive Measures)," she added.

#### Iran: West better to address own woes

**PRESS TV** - Tehran called on Western countries to be worried about a wave of strikes affecting their health sectors instead of making interventionist statements about Iran and voicing "insincere concern" about Iran's women. In an X post on Thursday, Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman Nasser Kanaani said the United States, Britain and Germany had better be concerned about industrial actions by their medical staff. "Instead of interventionist & biased remarks & expressing insincere concern over Iranian women & girls, you'd better be concerned about US, German and UK healthcare personnel, patients & tackle their situation," he wrote.



## Pope calls for change in Westerners' 'irresponsible lifestyle'



AP

Pope Francis shamed and challenged world leaders on Wednesday to commit to binding targets to slow climate change before it's too late, warning that God's increasingly warming creation is fast reaching a "point of no return." In an unusually bleak update to his landmark 2015 encyclical on the environment, Francis heightened the alarm about the "irreversible" harm to people and planet already under way and lamented that once again, the world's poor and most vulnerable are paying the highest price, according to Associated Press.

"We are now unable to halt the enormous damage we have caused. We barely have time to prevent even more tragic damage," Francis warned. He took square aim at the United States, noting that per-capita emissions in the U.S. are twice as high as China and seven times greater than the average in poor countries. While individual, household efforts are helping, "we can state that a broad change in the irresponsible lifestyle connected with the Western model would have a significant long-term impact," he said.

The document, "Praise God," was released on the feast of St. Francis of Assisi, the pontiff's nature-loving namesake, and was aimed at spurring negotiators to commit to binding climate targets at the next round of UN talks in Dubai.

Francis weighed in on a key and contentious point of negotiations - whether countries should agree to a phase out of coal, oil and natural gas, the fossil fuels that are causing climate change.

Using precise scientific data, sharp diplomatic arguments and a sprinkling of theological reasoning, Francis delivered a moral imperative for the world to transition away from fossil fuels to clean energy with measures that that are "efficient, obligatory and readily monitored."

"What is being asked of us is nothing other than a certain responsibility for the legacy we will leave behind, once we pass from this world," he said. U.S. climate scientist Carlos Martinez, a committed Catholic who heads a multi-faith committee for the American Meteorological Society, said it reads like a report card for Earth and its people and "it appears from the language that he would give students a D, like a D-. Because there has been some progress, but it's not where it needs to be."

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Address: #22, Hosseini-Rad Alley, South of Shahid Mottahari St., Vali-e Asr Ave., Tehran, Iran  
● Editorial Dept. Tel: +98 21 88913453  
● Editorial Dept. Fax: +98 21 88930684  
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Iran Cultural & Press Institute



# First green children's hospital opens in Tehran

Social Desk

Hakim Children's Hospital recently opened its doors with a grand inauguration ceremony attended by President Ebrahim Raisi.

The educational, research, and treatment facility spans around 30,000 square meters, and is located in Yaftabad, in southwest-ern Tehran. The hospital aims to



enhance the quality and quantity of medical services for children in District 18 of the capital.

The hospital stands as a remarkable testament to the collaboration and empathy between government and social institutions, having been constructed over three years through the combined efforts of a

benevolent family and the Tehran University of Medical Sciences.

With state-of-the-art equipment, Hakim Children's Hospital offers an extensive range of services. Its 19 specialized clinics, Emergency Room with triage, CPR, monitoring zones, serum therapy zone, outpatient operating room, as well as its magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) department with CT scan, and cardiographs, cater to diverse medical needs. The surgery department has eight operating rooms and a central sterile section, while the four inpatient departments include a dialysis unit.

Moreover, the hospital features special care departments with a total of 63 beds for NCCU, NICU, and BICU, along with a dedicated surgical department housing three operating rooms, a hybrid operating room, and an angiography

suite.

Notably, the design of the hospital prioritizes the physical and mental well-being of children. The internal architecture incorporates recreational areas and artistic elements to alleviate the stress often associated with hospital environments. The presence of green spaces, ample natural light, convenient vertical and horizontal access, and a wide range of welfare and treatment services for both children and their companions are among the key design features.

Furthermore, the hospital sets a milestone as the first green hospital in the country, thanks to its implementation of a biological treatment plant. This eco-friendly initiative further emphasizes the institution's commitment to sustainability and responsibility for the environment.



With state-of-the-art equipment, Hakim Children's Hospital offers an extensive range of services.  
● dolat.ir

## OBITUARY



### Atila Pesyani (1957-2023)

ISNA

Arts & Culture Desk

Iranian veteran actor Atila Pesyani passed away on October 6 at the age of 66, after enduring a period of illness.

"It is with deep sadness that we inform you of the passing of Atila Pesyani, a highly esteemed and irreplaceable artist in the realms of Iranian cinema, theater, and television," reads the Actors Association of the Iranian House of Cinema statement regarding the matter, ISNA reported.

According to the state-

ment, Pesyani has passed away in France, "after a prolonged and arduous battle with illness."

Born in 1957, Pesyani was the son of Jamileh Sheikhi, a renowned Iranian actress. Throughout his illustrious five-decade career, Pesyani made significant contributions as both actor and director, leaving behind a lasting legacy. He collaborated with numerous acclaimed filmmakers of Iranian cinema, including Bahram Beyzai, Ebrahim Hatamikia, and Rasoul Mollagholipour, to name

a few.

Among his notable performances are the roles he played in the movies, 'The Passengers', 'The Angelica', and 'Green Ash'. Recently diagnosed with cancer in Iran, Pesyani was on a personal visit to France, where he was hospitalized due to complications arising from his illness.

Arrangements are currently being made to repatriate Pesyani's body to Iran, and the details regarding his funeral will be announced at a later time.

## Iran's speaker presents two medicines to UAE president



MEHR

Social Desk

During a meeting between Iran's Speaker of Parliament Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf and the President of the United Arab Emirates Mohammed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, two types of Iranian medicines were presented as a symbol of Iran's advancements in medical science.

One of these medications is the cellular drug RecallerCell, developed by Iranian scientists, for treating the incurable disease Vitiligo. Iran ranks as the twelfth

country globally in producing this cell-based medicine, according to IRNA.

The second drug presented was the seasonal influenza vaccine, which was introduced in Iran in 2020 through the efforts of Iranian scientists using recombinant technology. This high-tech vaccine represents the scientific prowess of the nation and is considered a strategic health commodity. Iran stands as the second-largest producer of this four-season influenza vaccine, following the United States.

Following the presentation of these medicines, which received a positive reception from the UAE president, he expressed his country's intention to conduct the necessary investigations to invest in the production of these Iranian drugs in Abu Dhabi.

Given the nature of these knowledge-based medications, it is expected that their introduction to the UAE government will pave the way for joint investments in the production of these Iranian products within the region.