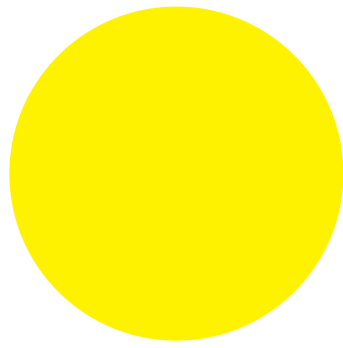


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Still time for engagement



By Behrouz Kamalvandi
Spokesman of Atomic Energy Organization of Iran

PERSPECTIVE EXCLUSIVE

In the final hours of November 21, the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) in Vienna passed an anti-Iranian resolution, sponsored by Germany, France, the UK, and the US, without absolute majority and with a relatively weak vote. The sponsors of the resolution, who had drafted the text in line with their pressure policies before the IAEA director-general's visit to Iran and publicized it on the last day of Mr. Rafael Grossi's trip, had a tough time convincing other countries to join the resolution. To this end, they had toned down or deleted parts of the original draft. Nevertheless, despite exerting all-out pressure on member states through threats and enticements, they failed to even repeat the reduced number of yes votes they had secured for their previous resolution. In fact, only 19 out of the 35 member states of the Board of Governors voted in favor of the resolution.

Notably, key countries or relatively independent nations sided with Iran. In addition to China, Russia, Burkina Faso, and Venezuela, which voted against the resolution, 12 other countries, including major players like Brazil, India, South Africa, Indonesia, Algeria, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Thailand, Armenia, Ghana, Egypt, and Colombia, defied intense pressure from European countries and the US, both in Vienna and in their capitals, and refused to vote in favor of the resolution.

This escalating pressure from the three European countries and the US comes despite their own failure to honor their commitments, whether under the JCPOA or other international obligations. There are numerous examples of their oppressive policies toward the Palestinian issue, where they have fully supported the Tel Aviv butchers and accomplices in genocide, even going so far as to threaten the International Criminal Court, which had issued arrest warrants for war criminals, and threatening to impose sanctions on the court and its members. Needless to say, this approach has not yielded the desired results so far, and in the recent case of Iran, it has led to two clear outcomes that they should have logically grasped by now.

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SCI: Annual inflation rate drops to 33.1%



Economy Desk

The annual inflation rate for households in Iran reached 33.1% in the month to November 20, registering a 0.5 percentage point decrease compared to the previous month, according to the Statistical Center of Iran. In the eighth Iranian month that ended on November 20, the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for households rose to 279.5, showing a 2.8% increase compared to the previous month and a 32.5% rise compared to the related figure for the eighth month of the previous Iranian year (which ended on March 19, 2024).

The CPI for the 12 months that ended on November 20, 2024, also registered a 33.1% increase compared to the 12 months that ended on November 20, 2023.

Point-to-Point Inflation at 32.5%

Point-to-point inflation for households in the eighth Iranian month stood at 32.5%, meaning households spent an average of 32.5% more on a fixed basket of goods and services compared to November 2022. This represents a 0.9 percentage point increase from the previous month. Point-to-point inflation measures the percentage change in the CPI compared to the same month in the previous year.

Monthly Inflation at 2.8%

The monthly inflation rate for the month to November 20 was 2.8%. Broken down by categories, inflation for "food, beverages, and tobacco" was 3.6%, while for "non-food goods and services," it was 2.5%. Monthly inflation reflects the percentage change in the CPI compared to the prior month.

Annual inflation by income

The annual inflation rate for the eighth Iranian month varied across income deciles, ranging from 30.4% for the first decile (lowest income group) to 33.6% for the ninth decile. The inflation gap between deciles narrowed to 3.2 percentage points, down from 3.6 percentage points in the previous month. The annual inflation rate measures the percentage change in the average CPI over the past year compared to the corresponding period a year earlier.

President says gov't ready to support NTBFs

Economy Desk

Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian on Thursday announced the government's readiness to support new technology-based firms (NTBFs), particularly in commercializing and marketing their products.

As part of his first provincial visit to Sistan and Baluchestan, Pezeshkian toured the province's Industrial Park in the city of Zahedan, where he made the remarks, according to president.ir. The park is home to 305 startup, tech, and creative companies, as well as 150 tech and innovation teams. These entities work across sectors such as software, hardware, artificial intelligence, IT, digital economy, electronics, creative industries, agriculture, and mining.

Also, during a meeting with ac-

ademics and elites in the province, Pezeshkian pledged to consistently monitor the development of the Makoran region and the Persian Gulf coasts.

"We will do everything within the government's authority for your province. You have unique capacities. With determination and effort, you can achieve anything, and we will work to create the necessary conditions for you."

Progress in water supply, infrastructure projects

Progress on the project to transfer water from the Sea of Oman to Zahedan. This initiative is part of broader efforts to improve water quality and supply in Sistan and Baluchestan.

"The seawater transfer project, which starts its work in Chabahar, will deliver water to targeted cities and industries, eventually reaching northern regions of the country. Progress currently stands at 32% to Zahedan and 18% to Mashhad," Aliabadi said. Visiting Taftan County as the president's representative, Aliabadi also inspected the Taftan gold mine and highlighted the province's vast economic potential.

He noted that key infrastructure projects under the Ministry of Energy involve water recycling and large-scale power generation. Various projects, such as the one expanding the 50-megawatt wind power plant in the city of Zabol, fall under this category.

"These projects are categorized into short-term and long-term



Iranian President Masoud Pezeshkian (c) is being briefed on achievements of new technology-based firms (NTBFs) during his visit to southwestern province of Sistan and Baluchestan on November 21, 2024. president.ir

plans. For instance, water recycling is a short-term goal aimed at ensuring sustainable water use across the province," the minister added.

Trade development initiatives

Meanwhile, Mohammadali Dehqan Dehnavi, the head of the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran, highlighted Sistan and Baluchestan's potential for trade development at another event at

the province's Mirjaveh border crossing.

He announced ongoing negotiations for a free trade agreement with Pakistan and called for studies on establishing additional small border markets to boost regional commerce.

"Currently, the number of these markets is limited. With proper planning, new markets can be established in Sistan and Baluchestan to enhance trade opportunities," Dehqan Dehnavi said.

Iran produced 2.6m tons of rice: Deputy minister

Economy Desk

The deputy minister for planning and economic affairs at Iran's Ministry of Agriculture announced an 800,000-ton rice deficit in the country despite the production of 2.6 million tons this year, adding that the shortfall will be compensated through imports. Talking to IRNA on Friday, Akbar Fat'hi also said with the current population and a per capita consumption of about 36 kilograms, Iran requires 3.4 million tons of rice annually as most of this demand is met through domestic production, and the remainder is imported.

The official explained that each year, from August to November, rice imports are banned to support local producers. "However, the ban was lifted late November, allowing customs clearance of rice stockpiled in silos and the resumption of new import orders."

"Our plan includes importing 800,000 tons of rice to cover the domestic deficit, maintain strategic reserves, and ensure affordable rice for low-income households," Fat'hi said. "This is crucial as many families cannot afford rice at a higher price." During the import ban, no rice was cleared or distributed from customs or silos, nor were new im-

port orders placed. The rice previously restricted during the ban and currently being cleared is part of inventories held by Iran's Government Trading Corporation and private sector entities.

Fat'hi stated that 400,000 tons of rice were imported during the first six months of the current Iranian year (March 20–September 21), but some of it remained in warehouses due to the seasonal ban. With the lifting of restrictions, an additional 400,000 tons will be imported to meet the shortfall.

He added that the imported rice primarily comes from India and Pakistan due to its alignment with

local tastes and high quality. Last Iranian calendar year, 1.15 million tons of rice were imported. However, excessive imports caused issues for domestic producers, leaving local rice unsold.

Fat'hi noted that this year, the Agricultural Products Pricing Council set prices for high-quality Iranian rice that satisfied domestic producers. The council, led by the minister of agriculture, determines prices for 24–28 key agricultural products annually.

This year, high-yield domestic rice varieties were priced at 70,000–75,000 tomans (\$1.25) per kilogram, while high-quality varieties with lower yields were set at 90,000

tomans (\$1.5) per kilogram. These prices act as a minimum guarantee for farmers, with the government stepping in for supportive purchases if farmers sell below these rates.

He emphasized that the prices are fair for both producers and consumers.

Imported rice is priced by the Market Regulation Taskforce based on the allocated exchange rate. For rice imported by the Government Trading Corporation, the price is set at 45,000 tomans per kilogram (\$0.75).

The Ministry of Agriculture aims to achieve self-sufficiency in rice production within three years, following an agree-

ment with the Executive Headquarters of Imam Khomeini's Directives. Fat'hi emphasized that the ministry's policies focus on increasing production, supporting local farmers, and moving toward a resilient economy. He added that once self-sufficiency is achieved, surplus production could be exported while continuing to import affordable rice for low-income groups.

The ministry's strategy includes improving yield per unit area through the use of high-yield rice varieties and advanced scientific methods, which could lead to increased production and self-sufficiency, the official concluded.

Still time for ...

These two outcomes are: "a decrease in the number of countries supporting the resolutions presented each time" and "an increase in the level and extent of Iran's nuclear enrichment and infrastructure development each time." Therefore, considering these two clear outcomes, it is evident that their policy of pressure is not bearing fruit, especially since this time the Western parties even squandered an ideal opportunity created by the IAEA director-general's proposal due to their irrational approach stemming from a lack of understanding of the international situation and the realities of Iran's nuclear industry.

The director-general, with the goal of de-escalating tensions and fostering a spirit of understanding and cooperation that could lead to a resolution of the remaining Safeguards issues, proposed during his visit that Iran temporarily refrain from increasing its 60% enrichment reserves for a short period, thereby creating a window of opportunity for further talks and a resolution of the outstanding Safeguards issues. This proposal was conditional on the understanding that this measure would be short-lived, lasting no more

than a month, and would pave the way for resolving the remaining Safeguards issues, without halting production and enrichment at any level, including 60%. Furthermore, it would be followed by reciprocal actions from the IAEA and European countries.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, taking these conditions into account, agreed to the proposal, and it was decided that, if the groundwork was laid after the Board of Governors meeting, Iran would take concrete actions. Additionally, Iran suggested that, despite the fact that the revocation of the previous inspectors was an absolute right based on Article 9 of the Safeguards Agreement, four new inspectors, excluding the previously revoked ones, be introduced by the IAEA for appointment to Iran.

The director-general, who was confident in the viability of his idea and initiative, left Tehran at the end of his two-day visit with a sense of optimism, feeling that he was returning to Vienna with a full hand to create a spirit of cooperation. During his visit, while touring the Natanz and Fordo enrichment facilities, advanced centrifuges of various types were shown to him, and it was explained that the industrial capacity of thousands of

installed machines in the country would be immediately activated by injecting gas if the three European countries adopted a confrontational approach.

Unlike previous trips, the director-general did not hold a press conference or an interview upon his return from Iran, which is usually different from his interviews in Tehran. While his report still repeated the accusatory issues based on the insinuations of Iran's enemies, it was significantly better than his previous reports. Moreover, Mr. Aparo, his Safeguards deputy, presented a positive technical report to the Board members. All these developments minimized the potential for Western countries to exploit the director-general's report.

Despite their best efforts, three European countries and the US tried to flex their muscles by ramping up the number of countries that would vote in favor of the resolution, but fortunately, they did not quite hit the mark for reasons already mentioned. In reality, although the director-general's report and his deputy's technical explanations could not provide the necessary legal and technical basis for tabling the resolution, they still managed to ram it through by

putting pressure on several countries. The resolution calls on Iran to cooperate on resolving the outstanding Safeguards issues, which has been hindered by a politically motivated approach, and requests the director general to submit a comprehensive report on past and present issues to the Board of Governors "at the latest" by spring 2025.

However, what is likely to play out on the ground is that over the next four to six months, with thousands of new centrifuges spinning online, Iran's enrichment capacity will surge, new infrastructure will be built, and other moves will be made that are beyond the scope of this article. As a result, the Western parties that have been trying to roll back Iran's nuclear program will be faced with a far more extensive and advanced program, both in terms of quantity and quality, which definitely will not make them happy.

Our advice to these countries is to move on from their colonial and bullying mentality and enter an era of logic and justice. Iran is not seeking anything beyond its rights, namely the lifting of draconian sanctions and the ability to benefit from a peaceful nuclear industry that contributes to the economy, health, and welfare of its people.

Our nation will not give in to such oppressive pressure. They need to get a better grasp of the peaceful nature of the Iranian people. The colonial era is over; they need to move beyond 19th-century thinking to see reality for what it is.

The final word is that it is Iran's right to develop its peaceful nuclear program, and in principle, no country can be deprived of its rights, especially when it has accepted international mechanisms such as the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty and signed the comprehensive Safeguards Agreement with the IAEA, and has placed all its nuclear activities under the agency's comprehensive supervision to ensure non-diversion. Iran only wants its rights and nothing more, and it will not back down. Therefore, our advice is for these countries to back down from their arrogant stances and allow the agency to carry out its supervisory and supportive duties as a professional international organization without pressure or threats, in accordance with its statute.

There is still time for engagement, cooperation, and abandoning the approach of pressure and threats. Iran, while preparing itself to counter threats, prefers engagement over confrontation.

Spiritual significance of blacksmithing in Kermanshah

Iranica Desk

Kermanshah, one of the most significant centers of civilization in Iran during the Iron Age, played a crucial role in the development and progress of this period. Numerous archaeological artifacts uncovered in Kermanshah from this era attest to its rich civilizational history and the vital role this region played

in the context of Iran and the wider world.

Aziz Mostafaei, an anthropologist with a PhD and an expert in intangible cultural heritage, noted that in the early days, when humans began using stone to create primitive tools, a fundamental transformation occurred in their way of life. These tools, essential for

ly tasks, not only ensured human survival but also marked significant steps toward the formation of civilization. This newfound capability enabled humans to overcome challenges from nature, acquire additional resources, and develop more complex social structures and group collaborations, ultimately leading to further advancements in their lives.



IRNA

With the onset of the Iron Age and the widespread adoption of metal, profound changes emerged in the lives of early humans. Iron, known for its high durability and diverse practical applications, became a crucial element in many aspects of life. This transformation altered lifestyles significantly while also impacting the social, economic, and military structures of societies. Iron tools enhanced agricultural productivity, thereby increasing food production, while iron weapons provided tactical advantages in warfare, chtn.ir wrote.

into advanced metal industries and ironworking in the area. The tools and metal objects discovered — including weapons, agricultural tools, and jewelry — demonstrate the high skill and technical knowledge possessed by craftsmen during the Iron Age. These achievements underscore the thriving metal industries and the key role Kermanshah played in the broader narrative of human civilization.

Due to its unique geographical position, Kermanshah has been vital for cultural, economic, and technological exchanges. This region lies along es-

skill as more than just technical artistry; it is considered a divine gift and a special selection from God. In the eyes of the locals, blacksmiths are not merely skilled craftsmen but are seen as bearers of blessings, sanctity, and a unique connection to divine forces.

These cultural beliefs suggest that blacksmithing in Kermanshah is not only an economic profession but also a vital part of the region's cultural and mythical identity, imbued with spiritual significance and prestige. This blend of history, mythology, and culture surrounding blacksmithing underscores its social and cultural importance in the community.

Blacksmiths occupy a unique position in Kermanshah's culture and arts; many are not only adept in their craft but also skilled musicians, particularly tambour players. This connection between blacksmithing and music is especially evident among ritual tambour players in Kermanshah, highlighting the deep bond between profession, art, and spirituality within this culture. Kermanshah's blacksmiths are not just craftsmen; they are also custodians of ritual and cultural traditions passed down through generations.

The relationship between blacksmithing and music reflects the commitment of these artisans to preserving and transmitting local culture and ancient beliefs. The art of tambour playing, deeply intertwined with Kurdish rituals and mysticism, has strong roots in this region, and blacksmiths play a crucial role in sustaining these traditions. Another fascinating aspect of blacksmithing in Kermanshah is the use of natural wind in the iron smelting process. In the mountainous areas around Kerend, strong winds are harnessed as a natural source for blowing into iron smelting furnaces. The historical remains of these furnaces, still found in the mountains, showcase the skill and technical knowledge of the local people. By utilizing these natural winds, they achieved the necessary temperatures for melting iron, demonstrating an advanced level of

indigenous technology in resource utilization for metallurgy.

This innovation, combined with the connection between blacksmithing and ritual art, paints a comprehensive picture of the skill, ingenuity, and cultural richness of Kermanshah's people. These characteristics have transformed blacksmithing from a mere profession into a fundamental element of the region's historical and cultural identity.

Historically, Kermanshah blacksmiths were renowned craftsmen, particular-

underwent fundamental transformations. As the government monopolized weapon production, Kermanshah blacksmiths shifted their focus to creating practical tools for daily life and agriculture. This shift led them to develop skills in crafting items such as kitchen knives, gardening tools, agricultural equipment like shovels and pickaxes, and simple hunting gear.

This adaptation not only illustrated the blacksmiths' ability to respond to new conditions but also highlighted the ongoing significance of their craft



Moreover, the expanded use of iron bolstered trade and goods exchange, laying the groundwork for the emergence of more advanced and organized societies. Hence, the Iron Age is regarded as a pivotal moment in the history of human civilization. This era allowed humanity to create new tools for warfare and defense, granting significant power to groups in the face of external and natural threats.

Kermanshah's strategic geographical location along the Silk Road, as a bridge between Eastern and Western civilizations, has made it a hub for cultural, commercial, and even military exchanges. The iron tools, decorative objects, and architectural remains found in this region reflect the technical and artistic advancements of the time.

Due to its favorable natural conditions, Kermanshah has also played a significant role in the production and use of iron, including mountains and rich mineral resources. The discovery of cemeteries, ancient mounds, and industrial sites related to iron smelting and tool-making highlights the importance of this region as one of the centers of Iron Age civilization. Evidence shows that Kermanshah has significantly influenced not only the region's history but also the evolution of human civilization, making it a treasure trove of Iran's cultural heritage. Archaeological excavations in Kermanshah have provided valuable insights

essential communication routes between East and West and served as a major stop on the Silk Road, facilitating interactions among diverse civilizations. Findings also indicate that Kermanshah was not only a pioneer in the production and use of metal tools but also significantly contributed artistically to the creation of decorative objects with cultural and ritual significance, establishing Kermanshah as one of the key centers for cultural and civilizational development in Iran and beyond.

The people of Kermanshah hold deep and specific beliefs about the profession of blacksmithing. They view this

ly recognized for their weapon-making skills. During the Safavid era and under Nader Shah, these blacksmiths gained fame for their expertise in crafting swords, shields, and spears. Historical documents indicate that Kermanshah blacksmiths played a vital role in equipping Nader Shah's army and other rulers. Local narratives also suggest that some blacksmiths were involved in creating more complex weaponry, employing techniques that remain in the collective memory of the region to this day. With the onset of the Pahlavi era and significant social and political changes in Iran, the blacksmithing profession

in meeting the everyday needs of the community. By preserving this art and passing it on to future generations, Kermanshah blacksmiths continue to be recognized as integral to the cultural and historical identity of the region. From crafting weapons in the past to producing essential tools in contemporary times, this profession has played a key role in the lives and economy of the people of Kermanshah.

The transformation of blacksmithing in Kermanshah—from weapon production to crafting tools for daily life and agriculture—exemplifies how this profession has adapted to societal needs. This evolution reflects the blacksmiths' deep understanding of social and economic developments and their ability to respond to new demands. During this period, blacksmithing became an essential part of daily life and agricultural production by providing the necessary tools for the community.

Today, metal tools remain vital in people's lives, and the craft of producing these tools continues to thrive. With advancements in technology and the emergence of sophisticated tools, modern blacksmiths blend traditional techniques with new innovations to create more precise and practical items. This continuity and evolution have established blacksmithing as a fundamental pillar of production and industry, maintaining its importance in the supply chain of human needs.



New capital, new era:

Puzzle of relocating capital, a step toward development



Navid Kamali
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OPINION
EXCLUSIVE

For decades, the idea of relocating Iran's political and economic capital from Tehran, located in the heart of the central plateau, to another region—especially the southern coasts—has been a recurring topic. This proposal stems from the ongoing crises Tehran faces, including water shortages, excessive population density, traffic congestion, and air pollution. It also reflects the broader geopolitical shifts at the regional and global levels. The plan aims to harness the untapped potential of the southern coastal regions and fundamentally restructure the country's political and economic framework.



President Masoud Pezeshkian on Wednesday touched on the launch of feasibility studies for the relocation of the Iranian capital, Tehran, a proposal he had put forward in September as the only viable solution.

In separate meetings with the members of the parliament members of Hormuzgan and Sistan and Baluchestan provinces, Pezeshkian stated that Vice-President Mohammad Reza Aref has been tasked with overseeing the examination of this plan, adding that ignoring this issue could lead the country to face environmental crises and other various problems in the future.

During a visit to an infrastructure exhibition by the Khatam-ol Anbiya Construction Headquarters in September, President Masoud Pezeshkian, along with top military officials, emphasized the necessity of uniting the country's resources to fully implement the national development plans. He acknowledged the challenges facing the country and expressed a bold vision: "Continued development under the current approach is not feasible. We cannot keep extracting resources from the south, transporting them to the center, processing them, and then exporting them back through the south. This has severely weakened our competitive edge. Our only option is to relocate the political and economic hub closer to the sea."

The president's remarks highlight his concern for Iran's future, particularly its economic and environmental sustainability. He stressed that Tehran's issues—such as water scarcity, subsidence, and air pollution—cannot be resolved under current policies. Instead, relocat-

ing the political and economic capital to the south is seen as the only viable solution. Importantly, he recognized that such a shift cannot be achieved by simply asking citizens to move; the government must lead the way, relocating first and setting an example for the nation to follow.

President Pezeshkian's analysis touches on several critical points. First, he critiques the inefficiencies of the current economic model, which involves transporting resources from the south to the center, only to export them back through the southern ports. He argues that relocating the economic hub would enhance Iran's competitiveness by bringing production closer to resources and easing exports, leading to economic growth

and greater public satisfaction. Secondly, the president made it clear that the government must spearhead this transition. His commitment to a leadership role in relocating the capital reflects a serious and practical approach to addressing the nation's major challenges. Collectively, his remarks indicate the 14th government's determination to implement structural changes in the country's political and economic landscape.

Challenges in relocating the capital

While the relocation plan offers potential benefits, it also faces significant challenges. One of the most pressing concerns is the enormous financial cost of moving government institutions and infrastructure. Social, cultural, and security

issues, as well as the impact on Iran's international relations, further complicate the project. Extensive research across multiple disciplines—economics, sociology, geography, politics, and security—is necessary to evaluate the feasibility and consequences of such a move. From an economic perspective, one of the main advantages of relocating the capital to the southern coasts is the development of these regions. The southern areas, with their access to open seas and international shipping routes, hold the potential to become economic hubs. This relocation could spur the growth of ports, transportation infrastructure, and free trade zones, contributing to Iran's overall economic and commercial progress. Politically, relocating the cap-

ital closer to the southern coasts could also strengthen Iran's strategic position. Proximity to the Persian Gulf and open waters would enhance Iran's regional influence, allowing the country to better capitalize on its geopolitical advantages.

Infrastructure and execution challenges

The southern coastlines, despite their potential, face serious challenges in terms of infrastructure. The region lacks the major investments needed in transportation, energy, and technology. Under current sanctions, building the necessary infrastructure—such as energy facilities and advanced digital networks—will not be swift or easy. Additionally, relocating govern-

ment bodies, academic institutions, and cultural centers from Tehran to the southern coasts may encounter social and cultural resistance. Cities like Tehran have deep historical roots and play a central role in Iran's cultural and political identity. Moving these institutions could disrupt people's lives and create social unrest. Furthermore, the country's outdated bureaucratic structures would require comprehensive reforms to ensure the efficient relocation of institutions and government bodies.

Security is another major consideration. The southern coasts, while strategically positioned, are vulnerable to new security threats due to their proximity to the Persian Gulf and open waters. Therefore, advanced defense infrastructure and non-military security measures must be integrated into the planning of the new capital.

Social and cultural shifts

Relocating Iran's political and economic heart would lead to profound changes in the country's social and cultural fabric. This shift, while creating new opportunities for national development, could also reduce regional disparities and promote greater national unity. Historically underdeveloped southern regions, when given more attention, could become centers of growth and prosperity, reversing the longstanding trend of centralization. Investment in these regions could unlock their human and natural resources, creating jobs and improving living standards. This could, in turn, lead to reverse migration from the overpopulated central cities back to the southern coasts. Moreover, relocating the cap-





ital could ease the population pressure in Tehran and other major cities, alleviating challenges such as air pollution, traffic congestion, and resource shortages. By distributing the population more evenly across the country, the government could manage resources more effectively and reduce environmental degradation.

Impact on political structure

This shift would also require a fundamental rethinking of Iran's political structure. More than just a geographical change, relocating the capital could prompt a decentralization of power, possibly moving

toward a more federal or regional governance system. This would promote balanced development across different regions and address internal migration issues that have plagued Iran for decades.

The relocation of government ministries and institutions to a new capital would necessitate legal and regulatory adaptations, as well as a redistribution of resources and opportunities across the country. From an international perspective, a new southern capital would bolster Iran's regional presence, potentially improving political and economic relations with neighboring Persian Gulf countries, partic-

ularly the [p]GCC members. However, this historical shift comes with significant challenges. It would require tens of billions of dollars in investments, and successful implementation would depend on detailed planning, national solidarity, and cooperation among elites and the public.

A Strategic opportunity for change

Relocating the political and economic capital is a transformative move that could enhance Iran's long-term development and strengthen its regional position. A well-thought-out roadmap and substantial political, social, and economic in-

vestments will be essential for success.

Policymakers must ensure that the move is meticulously planned to avoid new challenges, such as environmental issues, water shortages, or social tensions arising from the relocation. Without robust security infrastructure, the relocation could expose Iran to external threats.

In the end, collaboration between public and private sectors will be key to successfully implementing this historic project. If properly executed, it holds the potential to reshape Iran's role in the region and foster balanced, sustainable national growth.

Tehran's water crisis reaches critical levels

Social Desk

ANALYSIS

An analysis of the available data indicates that Tehran Province has entered a state of severe water stress. Given the stagnant water resources and the increasing population of the capital, if proper and timely management of water resources is not implemented, the demand for water will inevitably skyrocket, leading to a supercritical water crisis in the province. Conditions in Tehran Province have gone beyond the alarm or warning stage of drought and the province has entered a dry stage, and the continuation of this situation has reduced Tehran's agricultural production capacity and made life impossible in many parts of the province.

A closer look at the water industry statistics in Tehran reveals a "supercritical" water situation, largely due to the misguided policies governing water usage in agriculture and industries. According to Management and Planning Organization Of Tehran Province, the number of deep wells in the province has decreased since the 2018-2019 water year, but shallow wells have seen a 30% growth over the past 15 years. As a result, the number of shal-

low wells has increased from 26,707 in the 2007-2008 water year to 34,560 in the 2022-2023 water year. Furthermore, the statistics show that due to the decline in groundwater levels, the amount of water extracted during this period has decreased from approximately 193 million cubic meters to 160.8 million cubic meters, a 15% drop. On the other hand, with the increase in the number of wells in Tehran and the decline in groundwater levels, the role and number of qanats and springs, which were once the sole source of water supply, have also decreased. Additionally, since the 2018-2019 water year, the discharge of Tehran's groundwater resources has remained constant, meaning that these resources have reached their maximum capacity and have no excess discharge capacity. As reported by the Tehran Chamber of Commerce's Economic Research Department, the increasing pressure on underground water resources has led to a significant decline in the water level in wells, a decrease in water quality, and the drying up of some wells, springs, and qanats, necessitating the relocation of wells, which poses a dangerous risk of land subsidence. According to the Tehran Province Agricultural Jihad Organization, this province contains 1.2% of the nation's agricultural land,

yielding 7 million tons (6%) of the country's agricultural products. The province also ranks among the top four in the country in the production of 14 agricultural and livestock products.

It is worth noting that the continuation of production levels also directly depends on the preservation of land use, as landowners who own unproductive or low-quality land believe that obtaining low yields from such land is not economically viable and therefore opt to change the land use, either legally or illegally, to increase their income. As reported by the National Land Organization, in 2022, Tehran Province had the highest number of cases of unauthorized land use changes. In a province like Tehran, where the population is increasing, land use patterns are changing. With the rise of drought and the decline of vegetation cover, the area of pastures and agricultural lands is decreasing, and we will witness a change in the use of agricultural lands. In fact, climate drought and the resulting lack of recharge of groundwater aquifers lead to a decrease in the area of irrigated crops, orchards, and fallow lands, causing good pastures to deteriorate and become mediocre or poor, prompting farmers to change the land use, often illegally. Unauthorized changes in agricultural land



use, in addition to destroying agricultural lands, also pose a threat to food self-sufficiency, increase unemployment in rural communities, and lead to increased migration from rural areas to cities.

Cost of water is not genuine

One of the challenges of the water crisis in the agricultural sector is that the price of water is not realistic. This has led to an excessive demand for water in agriculture. The significant difference between the economic value of water and its current supply price has exacerbated the reckless extraction of water from wells, deepening and drilling of unauthorized wells. Water is a public and non-excludable good, and preventing people from consuming it is difficult and costly, both politically and socially. The cost of preventing water extraction by those who are not authorized to do so is usually very high. Therefore, water is considered a non-excludable good. The most common approach to limiting water extraction is to design and implement an operational water pricing system that makes water use unjustifiable for consumers with low economic efficiency. This approach aims to reflect the true value of water and encourage responsible consumption, thereby reducing waste and promoting sustainable use of this vital resource.

Illusion of water abundance

Economic water scarcity is the result of inadequate or inefficient investment in infrastructure, leading to improper water distribution among different consumer sectors. Insufficient investment in infrastructure development can result in limited access to clean and safe freshwater, even in areas where there is no physical water scarcity. Inadequate access to water can be due to instability in supplying water regularly due to inadequate infrastructure or mismanagement of water use. Water scarcity can also be the result of a societal shift, such as the prevalence of a consumerist lifestyle and excessive water consumption, and behaviors stemming from the illusion of water abundance. In large cities like Tehran, where significant investments have been made to diversify their water sources, examples of behaviors resulting from the illusion of water abundance can be observed.

Let's set aside the slogan of self-sufficiency

In many developed countries, unlike Iran, industrial water consumption accounts for 40 to 60 percent of total consumption. This means that the majority of water consumption in these countries is allocated to industry, as it has a higher added value. In the current situation, it might be better to

set aside some of the slogans of self-sufficiency in all agricultural products and determine production levels based on available water resources. Importing certain agricultural products is not a sign of dependence, but rather a means of managing water resources.

Tehran can no longer accommodate new population

Currently, Tehran Province is home to over 14 million people, who require a large volume of water for consumption. On the other hand, the establishment of a wide range of activities in the province has led to an increased demand for water resources. Given the increasing population of Tehran and the decrease in rainfall, as well as the urgent need to increase extraction from groundwater resources, it can be said that the province can no longer tolerate further population growth.

The failure to properly implement land-use planning programs has led to uncontrolled population growth in Tehran Province, particularly in the city of Tehran. In addition to the numerous problems caused by population growth, providing water for the residents of the province has become a challenge and is now in a state of emergency.

The article first appeared in the Persian language Etemad newspaper.



Yazdani set for weight class switch on return from injury

Sports Desk

Iranian wrestling sensation Hassan Yazdani is set to change his weight class when returning from a shoulder injury, his personal coach confirmed.

A winner of a national-high 10 world and Olympic medals, the freestyle wrestler had to undergo a second surgery on his injured shoulder in September and is expected to be sidelined for up to 18 months.

Yazdani, who had been out of action for eight months with the same problem before last June's Ranking Series event in Budapest, chased a second Olympic gold in Paris in August, but

had to settle for the 86kg silver after being hit with the recurring injury during a 7-1 loss to Bulgarian Magomed Ramazanov in the final showpiece.

"Hassan has gained some weight since the second surgery, which is why he has decided not to compete in the 86kg class again," Hemmat Moslemi told Varzesh3, adding: "He will surely miss the 2025 World Championships as he is not willing to rush back to wrestling."

"He will go to Paris [where he had the surgery] in three or four months to be visited by his surgeon and know about the timeframe for his full recovery," added the Iranian

coach.

Iranian fans thought the final defeat in Paris was the last episode of the 29-year-old's storied career but Yazdani was quick to reject the retirement plan on his return from the French capital as he remains eager to collect the coveted ultimate prize in the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics - one that will see him overtake taekwondo great Hadi Saei as the most-decorated Iranian in the history of the Games with double golds and silvers apiece.

Asked what will be Yazdani's future plans, Moslemi said: "As it stands, Hassan will participate in the 92kg contests in the 2026

World Championships, and will then move up to the 97kg category if he decides to compete in the Asian Games.

"His ultimate goal will be to take part in the 97kg class in the L.A. Olympics, but we should take one step at a time," Moslemi said.

Yazdani had already switched his weight class once through his senior career, moving from the 74kg category to 86kg after winning the Olympic gold in Rio 2016, though Moslemi insisted: "We should wait for him to be visited by his doctor to make a full assessment of his body and, most significantly, the shoulder injury."



khabarvarzeshi.com



Iranian Hazfi Cup: Joao off the mark in Reds shirt as Persepolis eases into last-16

Sports Desk

Angolan striker Lucas Joao bagged his long-awaited first goal in the Persepolis colors as the Tehran Reds defeated Mes Songun 3-0 at home to head into the round of 16 in the Iranian Hazfi Cup.

Having teed up fellow-striker Ali Alipour for the opener in the first half, Joao dribbled past a Mes defender before his composed effort found the bottom corner to double the Reds' lead against the second-tier club on the hour

mark - his most productive performance in 10 games across all competitions since signing from Qatari outfit Umm Salal in September.

Masoud Rigi came off the bench to seal the victory with a third goal three minutes from normal time.

Next for Spanish Juan Carlos Garrido's side is a vital away game against Qatar Stars League side Al Rayyan in the AFC Champions League Elite on Monday.

Sitting ninth in the 12-team table of the West Zone with two points,

Persepolis is yet to win a game after four rounds of matches in the continent's flagship club competition and will have to walk away with maximum points against Al Rayyan to remain in contention for a place in the knockout stage.



Persepolis striker Lucas Joao celebrates his goal during a 3-0 win against Mes Songun in the Iranian Hazfi Cup in Tehran, Iran, on Nov. 21, 2024.

● IRNA

I could not leave now, says Guardiola after new City deal

AFP - Pep Guardiola has extended his contract as manager of Premier League champions Manchester City for a further two seasons, saying Thursday "I could not leave now" with the club facing arguably the toughest period of his time at the Etihad Stadium. There had been speculation the 53-year-old's City career could be coming to an end, with the club facing an uncertain future due to an ongoing hearing over 115 breaches of the Premier League's financial regulations - charges they deny completely.

City are also currently on a four-game losing streak in all competitions - the worst of Guardiola's managerial career, excluding penalty shoot-outs - although they are second in the Premier League, five points behind leaders Liverpool.

But reports emerged on Tuesday that Guardiola, who took over at City in 2016 and has since won a total of 18 trophies across all competitions, including six Premier League titles, would stay. That was despite City's director of football Txiki Begiristain, a close

ally of Guardiola, having already confirmed his exit at the end of the campaign.

But with City, on an English record-breaking run of four successive top-flight titles, Guardiola - who led City to a Premier League, FA Cup and Champions League treble in 2023 - said he had changed his mind about this being his last season at the Etihad. "I felt I could not leave now, simple as that," the Catalan boss told the club's media channels.

"Don't ask me the reason why. Maybe the four defeats were the reason why and I felt I cannot leave. I felt the club still want me or had the fact that we were together and that's the reason why we sign."

'Turn the situation'

Guardiola added: "Every time I sign the contract, it's for the last two (years) and after I resign the contract I say okay the last two and still we are here."

"So honestly I think myself, my staff and friends, I think we deserve to be here. I am sorry to say. "I am not arrogant to say, but it's

the truth. I think we deserve after four defeats in a row to bounce back and try to turn the situation. "In that moment, in the period, I had the feeling you have to take the right decisions for the future and I want to take it."

Guardiola explained while the treble represented a "dream come true" and four Premier League titles in a row "amazing", he still felt he had a job to do to help City hit those heights again.

"But you have a past, been lessons and mistakes that we have overcome to arrive in the moment where you are more stable and more consistent," he said.

"We have to recover that because right now we don't have it and that's the target we have to do."

Guardiola, who previously enjoyed a trophy-laden career as a player and coach at Barcelona before taking charge of German giants Bayern Munich, said in an initial club statement: "Manchester City means so much to me...I have a really special feeling for this football club. That is why I am so happy to be staying for another two more seasons."

Guardiola, who thanked the club's Abu-Dhabi-based owner Khaldoon Al Mubarak, chairman Ferran Soriano, Begiristain and the fans for their support, explained: "I have said this many times before, but I have every-

thing a manager could ever wish for, and I appreciate that so much. Hopefully now we can add more trophies to the ones we have already won. That will be my focus."

City chairman Khaldoon Al

Mubarak said: "Like every City fan, I am delighted that Pep's journey with Manchester City will continue; allowing his dedication, passion and innovative thinking to continue to shape the landscape of the game."



● MANCHESTER CITY

In response to IAEA resolution

Iran activating 'advanced centrifuges'

International Desk

Iran said Friday it would activate a series of "new and advanced" centrifuges in response to a resolution adopted by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) that censured Tehran for what the agency called lack of cooperation.

The motion at the IAEA was put forward by France, Germany, the United Kingdom, and the United States at the 35-nation board of the United Nations nuclear watchdog and follows a similar one in June.

The resolution — which China, Russia, and Burkina Faso voted against — was carried with 19 votes in favor, 12 abstentions, and Venezuela not participat-

ing. The Atomic Energy Organization of Iran and Iran's Foreign Ministry condemned the passing of the resolution and said on Friday that Iran's nuclear chief Mohammad Esلمي had issued orders to "initiate the operation of a substantial number of advanced centrifuges of various models".

The measure, which is taken to safeguard Iran's national interests and address its growing need for civilian nuclear program, lies within the framework of the country's rights and obligations under the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement, they said.

The joint statement added that "technical and safeguards cooperation with

the IAEA will continue, as in the past" and within the framework of agreements signed by Iran.

The statement said that the "non-consensus" motion was approved under the "pressure and insistence" of Britain, France, Germany, and the US, despite lacking the support of approximately half of the 35-member Board of Governors.

It noted that the aforementioned states proposed a "politically motivated" resolution against the Islamic Republic, rather than fostering the constructive atmosphere established during the IAEA Director General Rafael Grossi's recent visit to Tehran.

The IAEA resolution says it is "essential and urgent"

for Iran to "act to fulfill its legal obligations".

The text also calls on Tehran to provide "technically credible explanations" for the presence of uranium particles found at two undeclared locations in Iran. In addition, Western powers are asking for a "comprehensive report" to be issued by the IAEA on Iran's nuclear efforts "at the latest" by spring 2025. The resolution came just as the IAEA's head returned from a trip to Tehran last week, where he appeared to have made headway.

In 2015, Iran proved the peaceful nature of its nuclear program to the world by signing a nuclear deal with six world powers.

However, Washington's



unilateral withdrawal in 2018 and its subsequent re-imposition of unilateral sanctions against Tehran

left the future of the deal in limbo. In 2019, Iran started to roll back the limits it

had accepted under the agreement after the other parties failed to live up to their commitments.

Bibi, Gallant wanted

World hails ICC arrest warrants

International Desk

Most countries in the world hailed a decision by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to issue arrest warrants for the Israeli prime minister and his former defense minister for "war crimes and crimes against humanity" during the regime's 13-month onslaught on the Gaza Strip, which has killed over 44,000 people. The court said on Thursday that there were "reasonable grounds" to believe Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and his former defense minister Yoav Gallant were criminally responsible for acts including murder, persecution, and starvation as a weapon of war as part of a "widespread and systematic attack against the civilian population of Gaza".

The ICC also issued an arrest warrant for Hamas military chief Mohammed Deif for alleged "crimes against humanity and war crimes". Israel said in August that Deif was killed in an air strike in southern Gaza the previous month. The decision was met with outrage in Tel Aviv, which called it shameful and absurd. Israeli Transportation Minister Miri Regev referred to the arrest warrants as "modern anti-Semitism in the guise of justice".

Global reaction

However, most countries in the world, including the regime's Western allies, welcomed the ICC decision.

EU's foreign policy chief Josep Borrell said the decision is a binding decision, and all state parties of the court, which include all members of



Yoav Gallant

Benjamin Netanyahu

the European Union, are bound to implement its decision.

"The fight against impunity wherever crimes are committed is a priority for Belgium, which fully supports the work of the [ICC], Belgium's Ministry of Foreign Affairs said on X.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister for Legal and International Affairs Kazem Gharibabadi called it a "major victory" for supporters of the Palestinian cause and people.

Hamas resistance group welcomed the decision, calling it an "important step towards justice".

"[It's] an important step towards justice and can lead to redress for the victims in general, but it remains limited and symbolic if it is not supported by all means by all countries around the world," Hamas political bureau member Basem Naim said in a statement.

The Palestinian Authority, which governs the occupied West Bank, said, "The ICC's decision represents hope and confidence in international law and its institutions."

Austria's Foreign Minister Alexander Schallenberg called the warrant

incomprehensible and ludicrous, but his office also said as a party to the Rome statutes, Austria is obliged to implement ICC arrest warrants.

"It's really important that everyone abide by international law," Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said, adding his country would abide by rulings of international courts.

France would act "in line with the ICC's statutes", said Christophe Lemoine, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. However, he declined to say whether France would arrest Netanyahu if he came to the country, saying it was "legally complex".

A government spokesperson in Germany said Berlin will "carefully examine" the ICC's arrest warrants, but will not take further steps until a visit to the country.

"The Federal Government was involved in the drafting of the ICC Statute and is one of the ICC's biggest supporters. This position is also a result of German history," the spokesperson said. "At the same time, a consequence of German history is that we have a unique relationship and

a great responsibility to Israel."

Italy's Foreign Minister Antonio Tajani said Rome would consider how to interpret the decision and act together with its allies. "We support the ICC ... the court must play a legal role and not a political role," he added.

Jordan's Foreign Minister Ayman Safadi said the ICC's decision must be respected and implemented. "Palestinians deserve justice," he said.

However, US President Joe Biden unsurprisingly said in a statement, "The ICC issuance of arrest warrants against Israeli leaders is outrageous".

Hungary's Foreign Minister Peter Szijjarto also condemned the ICC decision, calling it "shameful and absurd," presidential spokesperson Zoltan Kovacs reported on X. More than 44,000 Palestinians have been killed in the Gaza Strip as a result of Israeli military action since the beginning of its devastating war on the Palestinian territory in October 2023.

Nearly two million Palestinians have been displaced by the Israel's army and face a grave humanitarian crisis.

Leader's advisor: Negotiation on new nuclear deal possible

Ali Larijani, a senior advisor to the Leader of Iran's Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei, said the Islamic Republic is ready to negotiate a new nuclear deal with the new US administration to resolve issues concerning Iran's nuclear program. In an interview on Thursday, Larijani noted that the Americans say they ac-

cept a nuclear Iran as long as Tehran does not move toward a nuclear bomb. He said that Iran is enriching uranium to 60% purity, and it has never sought to build a nuclear bomb. The Iranian official said that if the Americans accept Iran's conditions, they can reach a new agreement with Iran. "In any case, this is a solution too."

US vetoing of Gaza cease-fire resolution 'disgraceful'

Iran's ambassador to the United Nations slammed the US vetoing of a Gaza cease-fire resolution as "disgraceful," urging the UN Security Council to put an end to the immunity of the Israeli regime. Speaking at a meeting of the 15-member UN Security Council on Thursday,

Amir Saeid Irvani blamed the "unwavering" US support and the "inaction" of the Security Council for Israel's crimes. His remarks came as the US on Wednesday vetoed a resolution calling for "an immediate, unconditional and permanent cease-fire" in Gaza.

Anti-Iran rights resolution politically motivated: Tehran

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman censured as politically motivated and unjustified the adoption of a resolution against the Islamic Republic in the Third Committee of the UN General Assembly over alleged human rights violations. The draft resolution, approved by a

vote of 77 in favor, 28 against, and 66 abstentions on Wednesday, came after the committee, providing no evidence, accused Iran of the "violation of its international obligations," and claimed that "respect for human rights" had deteriorated in the country.

Mohammad Ali Rajabi
Cartoonist

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Calling for Graphite Electrode Manufacturers and Suppliers

Arvand Jahanara Steelmaking Company (AJS) is intends to invite high quality suppliers and manufacturers to supply 1000 tons of electrodes with the mentioned specifications (the following table). AJS has located in southwestern of Iran, Khuzestan Province, Khorramshahr. Therefore, all interested company can send its request to participate in the tender. Last deadline for sending your reference list to the following address email is December 16, 2024. Email: Ebrahimian-E@ajs.co.ir Phone Number: +989359142107

Typical electrode physical properties		
Electrode diameter (in.)		
Property	Units	EAF
Bulk density	g/cm3	1.68-1.76
Real density	g/cm3	2.22-2.25
Porosity	%	21-25
Specific resistivity	10 ⁻⁵ Ohm in.	17.0-21.5
Bending strength min	Psi	1000
Bending strength max	Psi	1400
Young's modulus	Psi x 10 ⁶	1.0-1.3
Coefficient of thermal expansion	10 ⁻⁶ /°C	1.25-1.65
Ash content	%	0.1-0.6

Iranian films set record with 4m viewers in one month



Arts & Culture Desk

The Iranian cinema industry broke a post-coronavirus record, with four million viewers attending movie theaters in the month from October 22 to November 20.

According to reports, the industry sold nearly \$3 million in the one-month period, with 3,954,000 viewers attending 86,241 screenings. This represents a 37% increase in sales and a 46% increase in viewers compared to the previous month, IRNA reported.

The top-grossing film of the month was 'Pressure Cooker,' directed by Rambod Javan, which attracted 1,836,000 viewers and grossed approximately \$1 million.

The second-highest-grossing film was 'Breakfast with Giraffes,' directed by Soroush Sehat, which attracted 1,063,000 viewers and generated approximately \$864,000.

The third most successful film was the animation 'Woolina and the No Birds,' which attracted 607,000 viewers and

earned approximately \$334,700.

The Iranian motion picture industry achieved its best monthly performance since the COVID-19 pandemic in the one-month period due to the release of two popular comedies and notable films in the fields of social and children's cinema. It is expected that these records will be broken in the current Iranian month with the release of the comedy 'Seventy Thirty' on November 27, which will form a formidable triad between this film and the two comedies 'Pressure Cooker' and 'Breakfast with Giraffes'.

In addition, the cold weather will encourage audiences to make more frequent visits to cinemas, ending the current relative recession.

The month starting November 21 is usually one of the best months for Iranian cinema and leaves a strong impression on the country's annual box office. This year, there are high hopes that the number of viewers this month will exceed four million and the annual box office will surpass \$21.7 million.

Second Announcement

N.I.S.O.C
 NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
 AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-38-0040007

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
1	STEEL CEMENTING/CIRCULATING HOSE SOURGAS SERVICE (H2S TRIM) 10000 PSI W.P COLOR CODE: "GREEN"	6NO
2	JOINT SWIVELS LOOPS CIRCULATING/ CEMENT HOSE	12NO
3	LOOP ASSY. THREADED 2 IN. X 10 FT. FIG 602	18NO
4	CHIKSAN SWIVEL JOINT, THREAD CONNECTIONS HIGH PRESSURE 6000 PSI, CWP, COLOR CODE SILVER SIZE 2 IN. STYLE 40	12NO
5	SIZE 2 IN. STYLE 50 FIRST-7	12NO

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 10,752,000 EURO or 4,686,700,000 RIAL, in favor of NISOC. Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P. NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D. SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.
NOTE: Based on enactment issued by Nisoc's Tender committee, foreign companies must submit a Bid Bond Guarantee amounting to aforesaid (paragraph 1) Euro amount. Otherwise, their quotations will not be considered.

FOREIGN PURCHASING DEPARTMENT
 Bldg. No. 104, Material Procurement Management Complex,
 Kouy-e-Fadaeian Islam (New Site), Ahvaz, Iran
 Tel. No.: 061 34 12 4644
 Fax No.: 061 34 45 74 37

PUBLIC RELATIONS
www.shana.ir www.nisoc.ir <http://lets.mporg.ir> 1830025

Minister warns Iran's birth rate to plummet to all-time low

Social Desk

Iran's Health Minister Mohammad-Reza Zafarqandi issued a stark warning that the country's birth rate is expected to drop below one million for the first time in history by the end of the current Iranian year (March 20, 2025).

This alarming trend has sparked concerns about a demographic crisis, with the minister emphasizing the need for a national effort to address the issue, IRNA reported.

According to Zafarqandi, the total fertility rate (TFR) declined from 2.01 in 2016 to 1.66, and if it drops to 1.1, the country will be trapped in a demographic crisis.

He stressed that the current situation is a national crisis that requires a scientific approach and collective effort from all sectors.

The minister pointed out that many Western countries, as well as some Asian nations like South Korea and Japan, have fallen into a demographic trap, making it challenging for them to recover. He warned that if Iran falls into this trap, it will be difficult to escape.

Zafarqandi emphasized that addressing the demographic crisis requires a comprehensive approach, encompassing cultural, economic, social, and health aspects. He called for a national movement to re-



verse the declining trend, which should involve all sectors of society.

The minister's warning comes as the country grapples with a rapidly aging population and a shrinking workforce. The demographic crisis has significant implications for Iran's economic growth, social security, and overall development. In light of these concerns, Zafarqandi urged all relevant authorities to take their responsibilities seriously and work together to address the demographic crisis.

He emphasized that superficial measures will not suffice, and a fundamental shift in cultural and social attitudes is necessary to reverse the trend.

Second Announcement

N.I.S.O.C
 NATIONAL IRANIAN SOUTH OILFIELDS COMPANY
 AHVAZ-IRAN

TENDER NO.: 08-21-0340003

National Iranian South Oilfields Company (NISOC) intends to purchase the following goods

Items	Material Description	Quantity
1	CASING 7 IN., API GRADE L-80, SEAMLESS/VAM,N.VAM, THD. R-3,API 5CT/ISO11960, 29 PPF, DRIFT6.125 IN.	5,000LE

Vendors who intend to participate in aforesaid tenders are requested to send their "Intention To Participate" letter via fax to the following number along with their resume according to Qualitative Assessment Form no. 1, available at: www.nisoc.ir, not later than 14 days after the second announcement, otherwise, their requests for participation in the tender will be disregarded.

The applicants should have relevant background in supplying the required goods and capability to provide and submit a bid bond of 90,418/47 EURO or 46,958,921,866 RIAL, in favor of NISOC. Tender documents including the materials thorough technical specifications and Qualitative Assessment Forms can be accessed via: www.nisoc.ir-material-procurement-management-tab.

ONLY ACCEPTABLE DELIVERY TERM IS D.D.P. NISOC'S WAREHOUSE, AGHAJARI, IRAN PAYMENT TERM IS C.O.D. SUBSEQUENT TO NISOC'S MATERIAL APPROVAL.
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