

# اخبار اصفهان

علیرغم نبود تقاضا،

## چرا خودروهای داخلی آنقدر گران شدند؟

رئیس اتحادیه نمایشگاهداران و فروشندگان خودرو تهران، دو عامل خودروهای کار تکسی (ویزای) که باعث افزایش ۱۰ درصدی قیمت‌ها شده‌اند و تعطیلی مراکز شماره گذاری خودروها را دلیل افزایش قابل توجه خودروها در بازار خودرو در اولین روزهای آغاز معاملات دانست. اما طی روزهای آینده با آغاز رسمی خرید و فروش‌ها، مجدداً بازار به حالت عادی بازگشته و سبب کاهش قیمت‌ها خواهد شد...



جانشین رئیس سازمان صحت شهرستان اصفهان:

## روزانه ۵۰۰ هزار ماسک در اصفهان تولید و توزیع می‌شود

جانشین رئیس سازمان صنعت معدن تجارت شهرستان اصفهان گفت: با توجه به نیاز ماسک در اصفهان، روزانه ۵۰۰ هزار ماسک در اصفهان تولید و توزیع می‌شود.

ابراهیم جلیلی در جلسه ستاد پیشگیری، هماهنگی و فرماندهی عملیات پاسخ به بحران شهرستان اصفهان با موضوع هماهنگی و برنامه ریزی در راستای پیشگیری از شیوع کرونا اظهار کرد: سازمان صنعت، معدن و تجارت از ابتدای شیوع بیماری کرونا بنا بر رسالت خود در حوزه لجستیک مقابله با شیوع این بیماری در...



سرمقاله  
فرزانه مستاجر

## ضد و نقیض مسئولان، سر در گمی مردم!

یک ماه از سال ۹۹ گذشت و امروز بسیاری از مشاغل با وجود شرایط کرونایی بازگشایی شده و در حال کار هستند. البته این مسئله که دنیا هیچ وقت به حالت قبل از کرونا باز نخواهد گشت هنوز هم در بین جوامع هویدا است. هر چند کشور ما هم زمان با تمام جهان مشغول مبارزه با کرونا است اما این روزها تاثیر کرونا بر اقتصاد چهره شوم خود را بیش از پیش نشان داده و مردمی که تا دیروز از ترس کرونا مجبور به تعطیلی مشاغلشان بودند از امروز باز سرگیری کسب و کار هایشان، باید ترس ضرر و زیان‌های ناشی از این ویروس و منتهوس را با خود به یاد بکشند. آیا جوامع امروزی تحمل این همه تنش را دارند؟

یکی از مهم‌ترین نقش‌های یک دولت نقش حمایت‌گری از مردم کشور خود است. بحران کرونا در کل جهان باعث ایجاد انواع تنش‌های روحی، جسمی و اقتصادی شده است و...

ادامه در صفحه ۲



وضعیت اصفهان ۵۰ درصد وخیم تر از معدل کشور؛

## برای اقتصاد استان تصمیم‌گیری مستقل کنیم

استاندار: در شرایطی که کسب و کارهای مختلف تحت تاثیر این ویروس قرار گرفته‌اند و اثرات کرونا شرایط سختی برای مردم ایجاد کرده است، نیازمند تعامل و همکاری بیشتر از پیش دستگاه‌های مختلف اجرایی هستیم

گزارش

## شیوع کرونا به جایگاه‌های سوخت اصفهان ۱۰ میلیارد تومان خسارت زد

رئیس انجمن صنفی جایگاه‌داران سوخت اصفهان از خسارت بیش از ۱۰ میلیارد تومانی جایگاه‌های سوخت این استان پس از شیوع بیماری کرونا به دلیل کاهش فروش بنزین و تحمیل برخی هزینه‌ها خبر داد. پیمان کامران افزود: این خسارت‌ها، حدود ۳۰۰ جایگاه سوخت در استان را با مشکلات مالی عده‌ای از جمله برای پرداخت حقوق کارگران مشکل مواجه کرده است.

جایگاه‌های سوخت به‌عنوان دومین مرکز شیوع بیماری کرونا، بسیاری از کارگران از حضور در محل کار خودداری کردند، افزود: در روزهای سراسر تعطیل دوازدهم و سیزدهم فروردین نیز اجازه تعطیلی یا کاهش ساعت کار به این جایگاه‌ها داده نشد.

کامران تصریح کرد: از طرف دیگر با پایین آمدن فروش بنزین، میزان ماندگاری این فرآورده در مخازن افزایش یافته که این امر وی را از جمله خواسته‌های این صنف برای رفع مشکلات مذکور را افزایش علی الحساب ۴۰ درصدی نرخ کارمزد، تخصیص بسته حمایتی و محاسبه کردن میزان فروش به لیتر برابر با ماه مشابه سال ۹۸ عنوان کرد.

است، تاکید کرد: چگونه یک نفر می‌تواند برای چهار نفر هم‌زمان سوخت‌گیری کند از طرفی زمانی که کارگر به بنجره خودرو مراجعه و کارت‌های سوخت و بانکی مشتری را دریافت می‌کند، آیا در این میان ویروس منتقل نمی‌شود.

وی با بیان اینکه جایگاه‌های سوخت همچنین ملزم به تهیه دستکش و ضدعفونی کردن نازل‌ها و کارت‌خوان‌ها برای چند بار در روز شدند، گفت: جایگاه‌داران شهر اصفهان با وجود کاهش درآمدی در یک ماه گذشته حدود ۲۰۰ میلیون تومان بابت خرید دستکش یک بار مصرف، الکل و ماسک هزینه کردند و هیچ بخشی به فکر پرداخت این هزینه‌ها نیست.

به گفته وی، ابلاغ ممنوعیت دریافت وجه نقد نیز از دیگر مشکلات جایگاه‌های سوخت است و مشتریان بسیاری هستند که با وجود نصب بنرهای اطلاع‌رسانی، بعد از سوخت‌گیری اعلام می‌کنند فقط اسکنان پرداخت نقدی دارند در حالی که وزارت نفت می‌توانست اسکنان کار را از اجاره اسکنان پول بنزین را از طریق کارت بانکی پرداخت و سپس سوخت‌گیری کنند.

رئیس انجمن صنفی جایگاه‌داران استان اصفهان با اشاره به اینکه پس از معرفی

وی با بیان این که از ابتدای اسفند پاسال با شیوع بیماری کرونا و کاهش تردها حدود ۴۰ درصد از فروش بنزین در جایگاه‌های سوخت استان کاسته شد، تصریح کرد: فروش این جایگاه‌ها در فروردین امسال به کمتر از ۷۰ درصد در مقایسه با مدت مشابه سال گذشته رسید که در نتیجه کارمزد فروردین تکاپوی حقوق کارگران رانمی‌دهد.

کامران به خسارت‌هایی که تعدادی از جایگاه‌های سوخت در ناران‌های آبان سال گذشته دیدند، اشاره و خاطر نشان کرد: در ناران‌های پس از سهمیه‌بندی بنزین، ۱۷ جایگاه سوخت در این استان حدود ۴.۵ میلیارد تومان زیان دید و شرکت‌های بیمه با وجود داشتن الحاقیه بلوا و آشوب کمتر از ۲۰ درصد این خسارت‌ها را پرداخت کردند و کمکی نیز از طرف دولت پرداخت نشده.

وی به دیگر مشکلات جایگاه‌های سوخت پس از شیوع بیماری کرونا اشاره و اضافه کرد: تا اواخر اسفند سال گذشته مصوب شد که کارگران موظفند برای مشتریان اقدام به سوخت‌گیری کنند که این موضوع با مسائلی همراه است. کامران با بیان اینکه بطور معمول برای هر سکو با چهار نازل یک کارگر مشغول کار



گزارش  
ابریا

از جمله خواسته‌های این صنف برای رفع مشکلات مذکور را افزایش علی الحساب ۴۰ درصدی نرخ کارمزد، تخصیص بسته حمایتی و محاسبه کردن میزان فروش به لیتر برابر با ماه مشابه سال ۹۸ عنوان کرد

معاون تحقیقات و فناوری دانشگاه علوم پزشکی اصفهان:

## مدل فولاد مبار که در غربالگری ویروس کرونا در دنیا بی نظیر است



معاون تحقیقات و فناوری دانشگاه علوم پزشکی اصفهان، رئیس مرکز علوم تحقیقات عفونی و رئیس مرکز ارتباطات دانشگاه و صنعت این دانشگاه در جلسه‌ای با حضور معاونان نیروی انسانی و تکنولوژی فولاد مبار که دکتر نظری رئیس مرکز بهداشت حر فهای و درمان و دکتر روستایی رئیس درمان و اورژانس این شرکت، اقدامات فولاد مبار که در غربالگری ویروس کرونا و تمهیدات این شرکت برای حفظ سلامت کارکنان را مورد ارزیابی قرار دادند.

افزود: مادر دانشگاه علوم پزشکی اصفهان آمادگی داریم که در کنار برنامه‌های پایهای شرکت فولاد مبار که برای حفظ سلامت نیروی انسانی خود، هر برنامه مکمل دیگری را با کمال میل انجام دهیم. معاون تحقیقات و فناوری دانشگاه علوم پزشکی اصفهان در ادامه افزود: فولاد مبار که از ابتدای شیوع ویروس کرونا در راستای تعهد به مسئولیت‌های اجتماعی خود، به خوبی در کنار دانشگاه علوم پزشکی و آماده خدمت‌رسانی به جامعه بوده است.

وی خاطر نشان کرد: شیوع بیماری کرونا تمام جهان را با مشکل مواجه کرده، اما به یقین در دل این تهدید فرصت‌هایی هم هست، از جمله اینکه در همین نشست مشاهده کردیم عزم صنعت و دانشگاه برای خدمت‌رسانی به جامعه جزمتر شده و این دو نهاد فصل تازه‌ای از همکاری و پژوهش

در این نشست، دکتر شقایق حتجوری جوانمرد، معاون تحقیقات و فناوری دانشگاه علوم پزشکی اصفهان، در مصاحبه با خبرنگار فولاد ضمن ابراز خرسندی از دستاوردهای فولاد مبار که در این حوزه تصریح کرد: مدیریت بسیار خوب این شرکت در حوزه سلامت کارکنان و استراتژی‌های کارآمدی که برای فاصله‌گذاری به کار گرفته شده تا ضمن ادامه روند تولید، به حفظ سلامت کارکنان در بالاترین سطح توجه شود، بسیار رضایتبخش است. شنیدن این اخبار و اقدامات در چنین فضایی بسیار خوشحال کننده و امیدوار کننده است، وی با بیان اینکه مدلی که شرکت فولاد مبار برای حفظ سلامت کارکنان به کار گرفته است، در سطح جهانی ارزش ارائه و گزارش دارد و بسیار خرسندکننده است.

## آگهی مناقصه مرحله اول - نوبت اول

شهرداری ورزنه به استناد مجوز شورای محترم اسلامی شهر ورزنه در نظر دارد انجام امورات خدمات شهری و فضای سبز شهر ورزنه (استان اصفهان) را شامل: (الف) جمع آوری، حمل و دفن زباله از مبدا و باز یافت، رفت و روب و نظافت کلی شهر به صورت مستمر، انجام امورات کشتارگاه و انجام امورات مربوط به اجاریات و تخلفات ساختمانی و سایر امورات مربوطه به مدت یکسال شمسی از تاریخ ۱۳۹۹/۲/۱ لغایت ۱۴۰۰/۲/۳۱ (ب) حفظ و نگهداری کل فضای سبز، آماده سازی و ایجاد فضای سبز، کاشت گل و نهال و چمن، انجام امورات مربوط به تاسیسات شبکه آب فضای سبز به مدت یکسال شمسی از تاریخ ۱۳۹۹/۲/۱ لغایت ۱۴۰۰/۲/۳۱ که موارد به صورت کلی در اوراق مناقصه و قرارداد فی مابین ذکر خواهد شد، به صورت پیمانکاری به شرکت‌های خدماتی و پیمانکاران واجد شرایط واگذار نماید. لذا علاقمندان در صورت داشتن شرایط لازم می‌توانند جهت شرکت در مناقصه مذکور و کسب اطلاعات بیشتر در ساعات اداری و با واحد خدمات شهری و فضای سبز شهرداری مراجعه و پیشنهاد خود را حداکثر تا پایان وقت اداری روز پنج شنبه مورخ ۱۳۹۹/۲/۱۱ به دبیر خانه معرمانه شهرداری تحویل و رسید در یافت نمایند. توضیح اینکه: هزینه درج آگهی به عهده برنده مناقصه می‌باشد - کمیسیون در رد یا قبول یک یا کلیه پیشنهادات مختار است، شرکت کنندگان در مناقصه می‌توانند یکی از گزین‌های (الف و ب) را انتخاب و یا در صورت داشتن توان و شرایط لازم برای انجام امورات هر دو گزینه را انتخاب نمایند.

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شاه: ۸۲۰۲۹

آگهی فروش ملک  
ملک به شماره ثبتی ۱۲۶۶/۴۰۶ واقع در شاهین شهر به مساحت ۷۵۰ متر مربع با کاربری آموزشی به فروش می‌رسد.  
شماره تماس: ۰۹۱۳۳۰۹۸۳۶۸  
ویا به کارشناسی حقوقی و املاک آموزش و پرورش شاهین شهر مراجعه فرمایید.

قابل توجه شهروندان گرامی آیامی داند با مفقود شدن مدارک شناسایی خود ممکن است شما به عنوان مجرم شناخته شوید؟  
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## Seven ships carrying basic goods dock at Shahid Beheshti port of Chabahar

The Director General of Sistan and Baluchestan Ports and Maritime Department General Behrouz Aghaei said on Sat. that seven ships, carrying basic goods and commodities, arrived in Shahid Beheshti Port of Chabahar and unloaded their cargoes in the port simultaneously. He put the volume of cargoes discharged in the port at 340,000 tons, including wheat, rice, and barley. Considering the impact of coronavirus on world trade, he said, "these ships have been docked in Shahid Beheshti Port of Chabahar and their cargoes are being discharged at the port using most modern port equipment and machinery." The director-general pointed to the statistics on loading and unloading operation of cargo at the port and said, "the volume of loading and unloading operation of goods at the port in the current month [from March 21 to April 19] showed a 30 percent growth as compared to the same period of last year, the issue of which will have a considerable impact in economy and employment sectors of this province."

## US oil price plunges to its lowest in 21 years

Crude oil futures fell on Monday, with US futures touching levels not seen since 1999, extending weakness on the back of sliding demand and concerns that US storage facilities will soon fill to the brim amid the coronavirus pandemic. The oil market has been under pressure due to a spate of reports on weak fuel consumption and grim forecasts from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and the International Energy Agency, Reuters reported. The front-month May WTI contract CLc1 was down \$2.62, or 14%, to \$15.65 a barrel on Monday morning. At one point, the contract had fallen as much as 21% to hit a low of \$14.47 a barrel, the lowest since March 1999. That contract is expiring on Tuesday, and the June contract CLc2, which is becoming more actively traded, fell \$1.28, or 5.1%, to \$23.75 a barrel. Brent LCOc1 was also weaker, down 21 cents, or 0.8%, to \$27.87 a barrel. The plunge in crude oil prices reflects a glut at the main US storage facilities at Cushing and a big drop in demand, said Michael McCarthy, chief market strategist at CMC Markets in Sydney. "It hasn't reach capacity but the fear is that it will," he said, adding that once the maximum capacity is reached, producers will have to cut output. Production cuts from OPEC and its allies such as Russia will also kick from May. The group has agreed to reduce output by 9.7 million bpd to stem a growing supply glut after stay-at-home orders and business furloughs to curb the COVID-19 pandemic that has killed more than 164,000 people worldwide sap fuel demand. The oil industry has been swiftly reducing production in the face of an estimated 30% decline in fuel demand worldwide. Saudi Arabian officials have forecast that total global supply cuts from oil producers could amount to nearly 20 million bpd, but that includes voluntary cuts from nations like the United States and Canada, which cannot simply turn on or off production in the same way as most OPEC nations. Numerous majors have announced supply reductions, including Chevron Corp, BP plc and Total SA. But economic growth is sagging, and physical crude markets and an estimated record 160 million barrels of oil stored onboard ships suggest prices will keep falling. "There's still some concern that the 10 million barrels per day cut won't be enough to offset demand destruction so the outlook for oil prices remain subdued," McCarthy said.

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## Reviving small mines not enough, a change of approach is in order: official

Holding nearly 70 different types of minerals, Iran is ranked among the world's top 15 mineral-rich countries, however, the country's mining sector is still underdeveloped and small mines which can be considered the major drivers of the industry are lagging behind a few big companies which enjoy the government's full support.

By: Ebrahim Fallahi



Most of the government's major plans regarding the mining sector have been centered on supporting the

downstream sector, and mainly the steel chain, to prevent the exports of unprocessed minerals.

But in the past few years, considering the economic pressures of the U.S. sanctions, the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry has changed its approach and is becoming more aware of the significant role of the small-scale mines in developing the country's mining sector.

Earlier this month, the ministry announced its plans for the promotion of domestic production in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 20) which has been named the year of "Surge in Production" by the Leader of Islamic Revolution Seyed Ali Khamenei, among which five major programs were defined regarding the promotion of the mining sector.

Although these plans are a positive sign of the government's willingness for taking a more holistic approach toward this sector, a close look at the programs reveals that there is still a long way ahead.

To explore how the government and especially the Industry Ministry could offer support for this sector, Tehran Times interviewed Sadjad Ghorqi,



who is the deputy head of Iranian Association of Producers and Exporters of Mineral Products and also a board member and the deputy head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA)'s Mines and Mining Industries Committee.

Small mines and the industry According to Ghorqi, currently, more than 10,000 licenses are registered by the industry ministry for mining operations across Iran, more than 96 percent of which are for small-scale mines.

"Small mines are the heart of the industry and they are the main driver of this sector," the expert said.

Unfortunately, due to their dispersal and the difficulty in attracting capital and investment, such production units are vulnerable during the economic hardships and they are most likely to be bankrupted when faced with such situations.

In the past few years, after the imposition of the U.S. sanctions on the country, attracting foreign investment become much harder for the mining sector and access to machinery and technical services also become very limited; as a result, many of the country's

small mines were forced to reduce their operations and even completely close down. The government, however, saw the solution in focusing more on the bigger production units and supporting the downstream sector for exporting products with more value-added to offset the losses in the country's oil revenues. In September 2019, the government levied a 25-percent duty on the exports of raw minerals (especially iron ore), an act which meant the upstream sector (which is mainly comprised of small mines) were technically deprived of their right to export and generate revenue and were left with no choice but to sell their products to the big companies (which already have the government support) for much lower prices.

The time for change Asked about the effectiveness of the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry's plans for reviving the small mines, Ghorqi said: "Such project-oriented programs are by no means enough, it doesn't do any good to identify some idle mines and provide them with some facilities to reopen and then force them into a cycle of generating fewer revenues." Having products with

more added value is a good thing, but sometimes the government must compromise to keep both downstream and upstream alive and active, he explained.

A look into the global markets indicates that in the current conditions the demand for processed products like steel ingot is not as much as the demand for raw minerals and the government is somehow taking from the upstream sector and giving to the downstream.

All around the world, there is a standard ratio between the prices of raw minerals like iron ore concentrate and pellets and the ingot prices (that means the base price for raw materials is a ratio of the base price for the finished ingot product).

For instance, the global ratio for iron ore concentrate price to the steel ingot base prices is normally around 26 percent, but in Iran, this ratio is only 16 percent. As for the pellets, the global ratio is around 32 percent while in Iran the figure is only 24 percent.

"I don't agree with selling unprocessed materials, but I believe the government should set its price ratios based on global standards and give both sectors equal chances for growth."

"Small mines are the heart of the industry and they are the main driver of this sector," the expert said.

NO 466

Sudoku

Solution: NO 465

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5	8	3	4	6	2	9	1	7
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News

## Repairing damaged Iran-Turkey gas pipeline begins in Turkey

According to an official with the National Iranian Gas Company, Turkey has announced the start of repairing the gas pipeline that had suffered damages some 20 days ago. "Turkey has started repairing the pipelines importing gas from Iran on its soil and has announced that the repairs would take several weeks," Mehdi Jamshididana, director of dispatching at the company, told Shana on Sunday. He said due to the reduction of Turkey's gas imports from Iran after the cold season and given the restrictions caused by the

coronavirus outbreak, repairing operations were delayed by Turkey, which is why Iran's gas exports to Turkey are still halted. Natural gas exports from Iran to Turkey were halted early on March 31 after an explosion and fire at a pipeline just inside the Turkish border.

The explosion occurred near the Gurbulak border gate with Iran in Agri province, which is near the joint Bazargan border. Later, the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK) claimed responsibility for the attack.

## Time to Act, Iran Says, Urging IMF to Provide Loan via INSTEX, SHTA

The Governor of the Central Bank of Iran called on the International Monetary Fund to make use of the EU-Iran trading mechanism 'INSTEX' or the Swiss humanitarian channel for Iran 'SHTA' to make a \$5 billion loan that Tehran has applied for to deal with the coronavirus outbreak. "It's time to act," CBI Chief Abdolnaser Hemmati told IMF Managing Director Kristalina Georgieva in an article published on Sunday, reminding the IMF that Iran, the US and Europe have all lost many people due to the outbreak of the coronavirus.

Deploing the US' interference in the administration of the IMF, Hemmati proposed that the IMF can pay Iran the loan directly via the INSTEX - a financial mechanism that the three European parties to the 2015 nuclear deal have established for trade with Iran - or via the Swiss Humanitarian Trade Arrangement (SHTA), so that the loan could be used for purchases from pharmaceutical and food companies.

"These channels have been specially established to help buy foodstuff and medicine. These channels have appropriate security mechanisms that would allay all concerns," Hemmati added. Last week, the top Iranian banker had emphasized that the IMF loan is totally unconditional and must be given immediately.

The only guarantee that needs to be given relates to the period of repayment, Hemmati said, stressing that the loan is Iran's natural right, as the country has kept reserve assets in the IMF and has not received any loan over the past 60 years. Earlier this month, President Hassan Rouhani said it would be unacceptable for the International Monetary Fund to unfairly refuse Iran's application for the loan that it needs for the fight against the coronavirus.

### Presence of US forces in region causing insecurity: Iran

Iran's Foreign Ministry spokesman, Seyyed Abbas Mousavi stressed that the presence of US forces in the region is illegitimate and causes insecurity. Speaking at a weekly press conference, held via video conference on Monday, Seyed Abbas Mousavi mentioned the recent provocative acts of US forces in the Persian Gulf and said, "As far as I know, American forces hindered Iranian forces' legal and routine patrol and they have received the response and necessary warnings".

"The presence of US forces in the region is provocative and illegitimate. This is our region and we have to ensure its security by carrying out patrols," he added. Elsewhere in his remarks, Mousavi said, "Iranian Foreign Minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif has traveled to Damascus today to meet with Syrian officials including President Bashar al-Assad".

"The issue of developments in Afghanistan and Yemen is on the Foreign Ministry's agenda and Zarif has held conversations in this regard," he stressed.

Emphasizing that Astana Process is still the most important political process for solving the Syrian crisis, the diplomat said, "The Astana meeting which was expected to be held in Tehran has been postponed due to the coronavirus outbreak, but it does not mean that our consultations in this regard have been disrupted".

### American forces presence in region 'illegal, provocative': Foreign Ministry

Iranian Foreign Ministry reacted to the recent confrontation between IRGC and US forces in the Persian Gulf, condemning US illegal presence in the region. "We principally consider foreigners and American presence in the region as provocative and illegal. This is our region and we have to ensure its security by carrying out patrols," Foreign Ministry Spokesman Seyyed Abbas Mousavi said on Monday in his weekly presser.

"As far as we know, American forces had blocked Iranian forces' patrol and they have received the response," he added. The remarks come in response to recent claims by the US Navy that 11 Iranian ships repeatedly came close to American military vessels in "dangerous and harassing approaches" in the Persian Gulf. IRGC issued a statement on Sunday, noting that the main source of mischief and insecurity in the region is the illegal presence of US terrorist forces, reiterating the call for the full withdrawal of all American forces from the Persian Gulf and West Asia. "At the same time, the US Fifth Fleet, which is stationed in the region, offered an incorrect and purposeful

narrative of this incident in its official statement, which signifies the interest of Americans in presenting a Hollywood-style account of what happened," reads part of the statement. "We are responsible to secure the key Hormuz Strait waterway," Mousavi said, adding, "Other forces should notice warnings and we advise them to leave the region sooner so that peace and stability would return."



## How Iran could curb COVID19-despite sanctions, restrictions?

Since the first case of coronavirus was identified in Iran, the country has taken extensive measures to curb the spread of the disease, so that daily death toll has been declining over the past few days, unlike some other countries around the world which are still grappling with high casualties and infection.



By: Farnak Bakhtiari  
Until April 11, the virus mortality in the country was rising daily, however, reports indicated that death toll faced

a sharp decline over the past 8 days. The same also happened for the new cases of the virus, which are reducing from over 3,000 newly diagnosed cases daily to 1,300 day by day.

But what is the reason behind handling the spread of the disease in Iran despite sanctions and trade restrictions?

#### Volunteers play a significant role

Although in the beginning, Iranians like other people around the world, felt a binge fear rushing to pharmacies to lay their hands on face masks, medical gloves, and detergents to protect themselves, which caused the country to run out of anti-corona products, they later came to a conclusion that helping each other is a better way to survive.

So, almost all of the people reached out to volunteer in doing whatever could ever combat the disease, volunteer groups started offering services to the patients and medical staff, as well as producing face masks, scrubs, and disinfectants. Many of these volunteers were housewives who sewed face masks and gowns to distribute among the public and health workers; in addition, teams made up of Iranian youth started producing disinfectants in universities or religious places.

Many self-protective products have been distributed in deprived areas of the country



where financially struggling families are residing and cannot afford these items. Also, many students and volunteers, have been working in hospitals and helping the medical staff. They collect waste from the coronavirus patients' ward or help to feed them, and sometimes encourage the patients and medical staff by reciting poems and songs. The medical staff has become so popular in Iran these days, as photos of them are going viral in social media and are praised by many of the Iranians who call them "heroes of health."

#### Knowledge-based companies, researchers come on the scene

Besides, manufacturers multiplied their production capacity, and also Iranian researchers soon achieved the technology to produce three kinds of COVID-19 diagnostic kits that hit the market for the past two weeks.

Two types of diagnostic kits are now mass-produced by knowledge-based companies, first one is the RT-PCR tests, 8 million of which are being produced per month; while the other is serology-based tests that a total of 400,000 are being manufactured monthly and is expected to reach up to 2 million.

At present, 40 advanced ventilators are manufactured daily in the medical equipment sector.

Iranian-made innovative products in the field of diagnosis, screening and fighting coronavirus were also unveiled to combat the disease, namely, ozone generator, nano face shields, disinfection gate and molecular COVID-19 diagnostic kits.

#### People choose to break the transmission chain

To curb the disease transmission, Iran implemented the social distancing measures from March 27 in a bid to minimize the spread of coronavirus. According to the plan, intercity travels were restricted and only residents were allowed to enter their cities.

Moreover, holding any kind of meeting or congregation was banned and all parks and gyms, as well as universities and schools, remained closed. Meanwhile, rail, road, and air transport were limited.

The outbreak reached its peak concurrent with the Iranian New Year celebration, while travels decreased by 70 percent to help reduce the spread of the virus, and fever tests were performed at the entrances of cities so that suspicious cases of COVID-19 would not enter the more populous cities.

However, in Sizzdah Bedar, an Iranian festival held annually on the thirteenth day of the first month of the Iranian calendar (falling on April 1 this year), people were also asked to stay

at home and resist picnicking outdoor to break the chain of coronavirus transmission.

Moreover, the Iranian government introduced a telephone service and a website, urging people to report their physical condition so that screeners and doctors could contact and guide them if they have symptoms of the coronavirus.

According to statistics, about 70 million people out of Iran's 85 million population have participated in this national project and provided their information to the Ministry of Health.

From the very first days of coronavirus in Iran, mosques and religious places were announced closed in Iran to ensure the public health, emphasizing that maintaining the health of the Iranian people is more important than anything else.

Although it is clear that not even a nation has completely left the epidemic behind, few of them could somehow reduce the burden of the disease; so that Iranian way of tackling the pandemic, could probably help other nations to manage coronavirus, a way that requires people's togetherness, power, and insight; Iranian people once again proved that despite any restrictions, sanctions or any barrier, could stand up with a sparkle of hope in their eyes.

### NEWS

### Iran Ready for Unconditional Talks with Persian Gulf States: Spokesman

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed Tehran's readiness to hold negotiations with regional and the Persian Gulf countries without any preconditions.

In remarks at a press conference on Monday, Seyed Abbas Mousavi hailed the improvement of regional cooperation between Iran and the Persian Gulf littoral states after the outbreak of coronavirus.

Apart from the threats that the novel coronavirus poses to the entire world, it has resulted in a series of favorable events and opened up opportunities as well, he said, adding that the outbreak has brought the stances and priorities of the countries closer together to some extent.

"We are witnessing streaks of shifting priorities and orientations in our region," Mousavi stated.

"We have expressed readiness for dialogue with our friends in the region without preconditions," the spokesman said, stressing that Iran is prepared for talks and interaction with the Persian Gulf littoral states.

Mousavi also stated that Iran has already proposed a regional peace initiative, known as the Hormuz Peace Endeavor (HOPE), and is still waiting to see readiness on part of the Persian Gulf countries for cooperation.

### Iran air defense monitoring all aerial moves in region

The Second-in-Command of the Khatam al-Anbia Air Defense Base Brigadier General Ghader Rahimzadeh said that movements of trans-regional countries are monitored by Iran's integrated air defense network.

All movements of trans-regional countries, especially in Iran's west neighboring countries, are under the constant watch of the country's integrated air defense network, he said.

He made the remarks on Mon. in his visit to the Army and IRGC's defense systems based in west operational regions of the country and said, "examining the level of accuracy in implementing instructions issued by the country's air defense operations center as well as operational capability of the new and upgraded defense systems in radar, missile and intelligence fields are the main aim of the visit."

The latest status of performance and the level of preparedness of air defense systems of the country is monitored constantly and online by the Air Defense Operations Center, he added.

Given the recent movements of trans-regional forces in western neighboring countries of Islamic Iran, ensuring the capability of Iran's air defense systems in this region is very important, he emphasized.

### News

### Iran backs formation of inclusive government in Afghanistan: FM spox

Iran says it supports the formation of an "inclusive government" in Afghanistan with the hope of reaching peace and stability in the country.

"Iran wants Afghanistan to be a safe, peaceful and stable neighbor along its eastern borders," Foreign Ministry Spokesman Abbas Mousavi said during his weekly presser on Monday.

Noting that due to the post-election political rifts in Afghanistan, Tehran has decided to take action, as Kabul's longstanding friend, Mousavi said, senior Iranian officials, including Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif, have been busy holding talks with Afghan officials in this regard.

"Iran's all efforts are in line with helping establish an inclusive government in Afghanistan in a bid to bring peace and stability to the country, within the framework of respecting its nation and government's interests," the spokesman said.

"This is a fundamental step towards having a secure and peaceful Afghanistan, and our neighbors have always been our priority," he added.

On Sunday, the representative of the Iranian Foreign Ministry Mohammad Ebrahim Taherianfard met and held talks with Afghan high-ranking officials in Kabul and exchanged views on the latest political developments of the country.

Taherianfard met with Afghan President Ashraf Ghani, Mohammad Haneef Atmar Afghan's Acting Foreign Minister of Afghanistan and Hamdullah Mohib National Security Adviser of Afghanistan and discussed the political situation,



bilateral ties and method of fighting against coronavirus, COVID-19. The relations between the two countries of Iran and Afghanistan over the past two decades have been expanding in the political, cultural and economic areas.

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## Zarif to Trump: Stop interfering in my country's affairs

Iran's Foreign Minister, Mohammad Javad Zarif reacted to US President's claim about his country's readiness to assist Iran.

"Iran will be EXPORTING ventilators in a few months, Donald Trump. All you need to do is stop interfering in the affairs of other nations; mine especially. And believe me, we do not take advice from ANY American politician," Zarif wrote on his official Twitter account.

Zarif's remarks came after the US President, Donald Trump recently claimed, "I have offered to help them (Iran) if they want. If they need ventilators, which they do, I would send them ventilators. We have thousands of excess ventilators. We have a stockpile of ventilators".



### Headlines

#### Iran Ready for Unconditional Talks with Persian Gulf States: Spokesman

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#### Reviving small mines not enough, a change of approach is in order: official

#### Time to Act, Iran Says, Urging IMF to Provide Loan via INSTEX, SHTA

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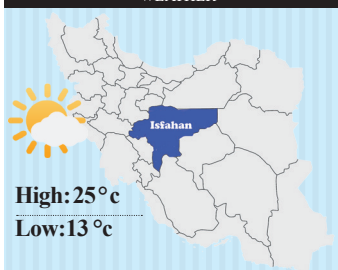
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Morning call to prayer :  
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Noon call to prayer :  
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Evening call to prayer :  
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### WEATHER



#### Iran, Iraqi Kurdistan Region discuss trade relations

Consul General of Iran Mehdi Shoushtari met and held talks with governor of Sulaymaniyah Haval Abubakir on Sunday evening on the trade relations. During the meeting, Shoushtari pointed to measures implemented by Iran in the fight against coronavirus in Iran. The governor of Sulaymaniyah expressed hope that Iran and Iraq would be able to overcome coronavirus in the near future. The two sides also discussed the ways to remove the obstacles and problems in the path of trade relations between Iran and the Iraqi Kurdistan region.



## How Iran could curb COVID19-despite sanctions, restrictions?

5

### UAE's has softened its policy toward Iran; official

The head of the Iran-UAE Joint Chamber of Commerce, Farshid Farzanegan told Sunday that relation between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Arab Emirates has improved and UAE officials have softened their stance on Iran.

The spread of the coronavirus in the Middle East has brought "more reason and logic" to Iran's relationship with the United Arab Emirates, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said last month.

Speaking to ILNA news agency, the Iranian official said "The United Arab Emirates seeks to improve its relations with neighboring countries through humanitarian action."

The UAE was one of the first countries to send humanitarian aid shipments across the Persian Gulf to help the Iranian government deal with the scale of the outbreak.

"Due to the recent friendly behavior of the United Arab Emirates, the atmosphere between Iran and the UAE has softened," he added.

Farzanegan said that the United Arab Emirates has decided to use the current

opportunity not only to improve and expand relations with Iran but also for all of its neighbors, including Qatar and Syria. "But we have to see how long this new strategy will continue and if our economic diplomacy works in the same way, this connection can be stabilized," the chairman of the Iran-UAE Joint Chamber of Commerce added.

The spread of the coronavirus in the Middle East has brought "more reason and logic" to Iran's relationship with the United Arab Emirates, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Abbas Mousavi said last month.

Ties between Iran and the U.A.E., a close ally of the U.S. and Saudi Arabia, had deteriorated significantly after President Donald Trump withdrew from the 2015 nuclear deal and the Arab country supported his decision to reimpose heavy sanctions on the Islamic Republic.

### Coronavirus Exposes 'Weaknesses' in Health Systems, Says G20

The coronavirus pandemic has exposed "systemic weaknesses" in global health systems, the G20 said Monday, but there was no mention of Washington's contentious decision to halt World Health Organization funding.

The G20 statement was silent on US President Donald Trump's decision last week to cut off Washington's bilateral funding to the World Health Organization (WHO).

The statement came after health ministers from the 20 most advanced economies held a virtual meeting on Sunday hosted by the group's current president Saudi Arabia following criticism the institution was slow to address the pandemic.

"Health Ministers recognized that the COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted systemic weaknesses in health systems," they said in a joint statement.

"It also has shown vulnerabilities in the global community's ability to prevent and respond to pandemic threats.

"Ministers addressed the need to improve the effectiveness of global health systems by sharing knowledge and closing the gap in response capabilities and readiness."

The worldwide death toll from the novel

coronavirus pandemic rose to 164,016 on Sunday, according to a tally from official sources compiled by AFP.

More than 2,363,210 declared cases have been registered in 193 countries and territories since the epidemic first emerged in China in December.

The novel coronavirus has upended the lives of billions of people as nations imposed lockdown measures to curb its spread, sending the global economy into a tailspin.

The G20 statement was silent on US President Donald Trump's decision last week to cut off Washington's bilateral funding to the World Health Organization (WHO).

Trump has accused the UN body of mishandling the coronavirus crisis.

The US contributed \$400 million to the WHO last year. United Nations chief Antonio Guterres has condemned the US suspension of funds, saying it was "not the time to reduce" the WHO's resources.

The WHO remained "absolutely critical" in the global fight against the virus, he said.

### Six contracts inked for producing COVID-19 vaccine: VP

Vice President for Science and Technology Sorena Sattari said on Sun. that six contracts were concluded with knowledge-based companies in the field of producing coronavirus vaccine in the country.

In addition, a number of 76 clinical projects are underway in the country by researchers for treating coronavirus, also known as COVID-19, he added.

Turning to the achievements of knowledge-based firms, Sattari said, "these companies have managed to produce products in various fields including hospital equipment and also equipment needed in Intensive Care Unit (ICU), etc. and there is no need to import these products into the country amid coronavirus outbreak."

Producing vaccine for the disease is one of the important projects that domestic researchers are working on it, he said, adding, "knowledge-based companies have cooperated with us in this field in



a way that four contracts have so far been inked in the field of producing coronavirus vaccine." In addition, two other contracts will be inked in current week in the field of producing COVID-19 vaccine, and it is predicted that knowledge-based companies will produce five human vaccines which will hit the market in current year, he stressed.

He further noted that more than 76 clinical projects have either been conducted or are underway by researchers in the field of treatment of coronavirus disease, he said, adding, "these projects include drug tests, treatment methods, etc."

### Iran to loan small, medium businesses to protect national production

Governor of Central Bank of Iran announced Monday that the CBI will loan two-third of 750,000 billion rials to small- and medium-sized businesses that are active in production and services areas.

The remaining of the loan will be allocated to those who receive money from the government based on the targeted subsidy plan, Abdolnasser Hemmati said through a post on Instagram.

He rejected any concerns over the misuse of that loan.

CBI is planned to guarantee the continuation of production activities in the country [as Iran is fighting against the coronavirus pandemic these days while it is under the US sanctions and has not



had access to the medical equipment due to the bans], Hemmati noted.

The deadly coronavirus radiating from Wuhan, China, in December 2019 has affected over 2,400,000 people across the world, killing more than 165,000 people; while in Iran the number of dead is over 5,100.



