

جایگزین کردن طلا  
به جای دلار

از سال ۹۷ تا کنون با افزایش تحریم ها، سوی آمریکا، کشور ما با کم بود منابع ارزی بسیاری رو به رو شده است. برای برطرف کردن این مشکل مسئولان راه های مختلفی را امتحان کردند. یکی از این راه ها مجبور کردن بازرگانان کشور به بازگشت پول صادرات به چرخه اقتصادی کشور بوده است که متأسفانه تا کنون نتوانسته الزامی جدی برای این افراد ایجاد کند و تخطی از این قانون تا جایی پیش رفت که هفته گذشته چند صادر کننده کارتون خواب پیدا شدند. اما حالا طرح و پیشنهاد جدیدی ارائه شده که به نظر می رسد در صورت همکاری صادر کنندگان موثر واقع شود. وارد کردن طلا و نقره به جای پول صادرات پیشنهادی است که این روزها به صادر کنندگان داده شده است و می تواند پشتوانه خوبی برای پول ملی کشورمان محسوب شود. گفته شده در مسیر تسهیل بازگشت ارز به کشور احتمال آنکه واردات موقت طلا و نقره در مسیر ایفای تعهدات ارزی...

ادامه در صفحه ۲

رئیس اتحادیه طلا و جواهر اصفهان از رواج بازار بدلیجات  
به جای طلا خبر داد:

## از دواج با حلقه مسی!

رئیس اتحادیه طلا و جواهر اصفهان با اشاره به رونق بازار بدلیجات به دلیل گرانی طلا و نقره، گفت: خرید طلا توسط زوج های جوان بستگی به تمکن مالی آنها دارد، اما در مقایسه با دو سال گذشته میزان خرید و فروش طلا در بازار اصفهان به ۱۰ درصد رسیده است.

برخی زوج های جوان به دلیل تمکن مالی پایین، ممکن است حلقه مسی به جای حلقه طلا خریداری کنند.

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مدیرعامل شرکت نمایشگاه اصفهان:

اصفهان باید به شهر نمایشگاهی با استانداردهای  
جهانی تبدیل شود

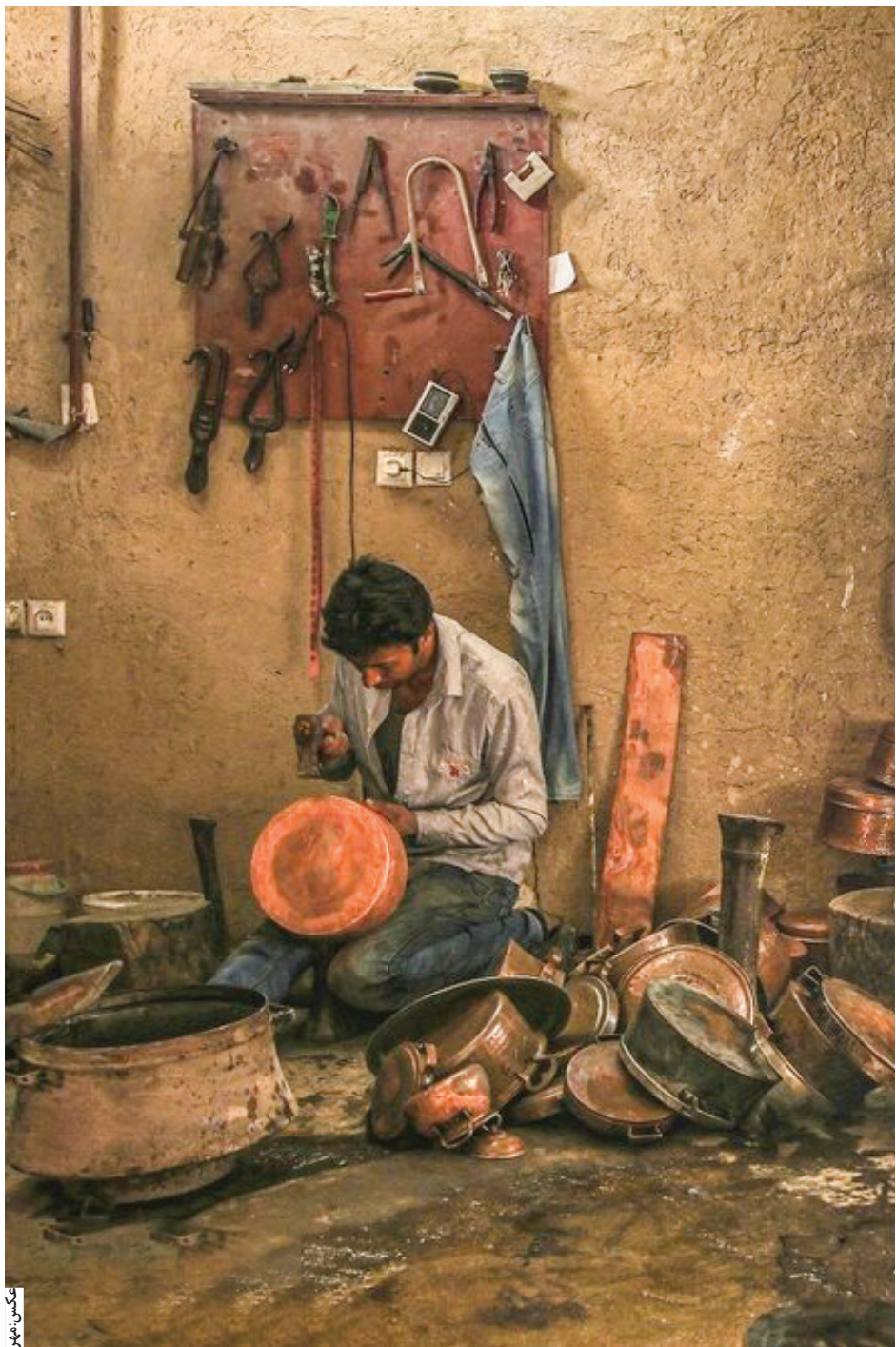
مدیرعامل شرکت نمایشگاه اصفهان از شورای شهر خواست تا توجه ویژه ای به توسعه هر چه بیشتر نمایشگاه و ایجاد زیرساخت های حمل و نقل شهری از جمله مترو برای...

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کجای می توان بیت کوین ارزان  
استخراج کرد؟

منطقه اسکاندیناوی به لطف کاهش قیمت برق یک بار دیگر به منطقه جذابی برای استخراج ارزهای رمزنگاری شده تبدیل شده است. براتی ترین آب و هوادر ۲۰ سال گذشته...

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کسب و کار

فردینون الهی پاره از خسارت ۵۰۰ میلیاردی کرونا به صنایع دستی اصفهان می گوید:

## شاهنشینی کرونا بر پایتخت صنایع دستی

بحران اقتصادی ایجاد شده ناشی از شیوع کرونا بر فعالیت این مراکز تأثیرات منفی زیادی را گذاشته است و نمی توان دسته بندی کرد که کدام نوع صنعت دستی بیشتر آسیب دیده و کدام نوع آن کمتر

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## گزارش

رئیس مرکز پژوهش های شورای اسلامی شهر اصفهان:

## شناسایی شهروند دیپلمات ها، کمک به توسعه روابط بین الملل اصفهان و بهره برداری ویژه



در حمایت و تعامل با شهروند دیپلمات ها کارازآموده و ورزیده شود تا بتواند تعامل خوبی با شهروندان و کنشگران بین المللی برقرار کند.

وی افزود: در طرح «شهروند دیپلمات» با مدیریت مطلوبی که اداره کل ارتباطات و امور بین الملل شهرداری داشته است، به خوبی توانسته است همکاری دستگاه های ذی نفع در حوزه های روابط خارجه، دستگاه های امنیتی، دانشگاهی و تجاری را جلب کند.

رئیس مرکز پژوهش های شورای اسلامی شهر اصفهان اضافه کرد: این طرح بعد از رایزنی گسترده با همه دستگاه ها و واحدها اطلاع رسانی و اجرایی شد و می توان این اقدام را مثال خوبی از مدیریت واحد شهری در اجرای یک پروژه بسیار مهم و حیاتی دانست.

روابط بین الملل شهر و بهره برداری ویژه خواهد کرد.

رئیس مرکز پژوهش های شورای اسلامی شهر اصفهان در مورد ارزیابی از توان کنشگران و کارشناسان شهر اصفهان برای مشارکت در این طرح نیز تصریح کرد: در مورد توان مردم و کارشناسان شهر اصفهان هیچ تردیدی وجود ندارد. این افراد هم اکنون نیز نماینده های خوبی برای اصفهان هستند و توسعه روابط اصفهان با سایر شهرهای دنیا را سبب ساز شده اند.

خسروی با اشاره به لزوم توجه مدیریت شهری برای برآورده ساختن خواسته ها و نیازهای شهروند دیپلمات ها در راستای نمایندگی شهر اصفهان اظهار کرد: یقیناً تیم ما نیز نیاز به ورزیدگی دارد و مدیریت شهری باید

گزارش  
پژوهش های شورای  
اسلامی شهر اصفهان گفت: طرح  
«شهروند دیپلمات» بعد از رایزنی  
گسترده با همه دستگاه ها و واحدها  
اطلاع رسانی و اجرایی شد و می توان  
این اقدام را مثال خوبی از مدیریت  
واحد شهری در اجرای یک پروژه بسیار  
مهم دانست.

به گزارش اداره ارتباطات رسانه ای شهرداری اصفهان، کوروش خسروی با اشاره به طرح «شهروند دیپلمات» که از سوی شهرداری اصفهان با هدف تقویت تعاملات و ارتباطات اصفهان با شهرهای خواهرخوانده با همکاری شهروندان کنشگر و فعال در این زمینه، اجرایی خواهد شد، اظهار کرد: هر گاه ما از توان بخش خصوصی استفاده کرده ایم موفق بودیم؛ در مدیریت شهری و کلان کشور نمونه ای وجود ندارد که از توان بخش خصوصی استفاده شده و نتیجه رضایت بخش نباشد.

وی ادامه داد: هم اکنون نیز شهروندان زیادی در شهر در حال تعامل با شهرهای دیگر جهان در معرفی شهر اصفهان به جهان هستند اما تاکنون به «شهروند دیپلمات» نامیده نشده اند و یقین دارم شناسایی شهروند دیپلمات ها در شهر اصفهان کمک بسیاری به توسعه



کشور، معرفی شرکت فولاد مبارکه در کتب درسی مقاطع مختلف تحصیلی با هدف غنی سازی مطالب علمی و آشنایی دانش آموزان آغوش گرم خانواده های خود، سرمایه گذاری ۶۰ میلیارد تومانی در پروژه احداث ایستگاه راه آهن ریز و اتصال خط ریلی فولاد سبا به شبکه ریلی راه آهن جمهوری اسلامی ایران، سرمایه گذاری ۴۰ میلیارد تومانی در تکمیل و بهره برداری رساندن ورشگاه نقش جهان اصفهان، انجام بیش از ۵۰ طرح عمرانی جاده ای در منطقه پیرامون به منظور توسعه بهینه سازی و ایمن سازی جاده های اطراف با صرف ده ها میلیارد تومان هزینه از ابتدای ساخت تاکنون، آزادسازی اراضی متعلق به شرکت جهت تکمیل احداث بزرگراه کنار گذر غرب استان اصفهان را عنوان کرد.

از جمله اقدامات فولاد مبارکه در راستای تحقیق و پژوهش، تأسیس مرکز نوآوری تحول دیجیتال گروه فولاد مبارکه (مشترک با دانشگاه تهران و معاونت علمی و فناوری ریاست جمهوری)، ارتباط با بیش از ۱۲۰ دانشگاه و مرکز تحقیقاتی از طریق قراردادهای پژوهشی بلند مدت سه ساله با هدف ایجاد پیوند میان صنعت و دانشگاه و بسترسازی برای بومی سازی صنعت فولاد کشور، مشارکت در تأسیس پژوهشکده فولاد دانشگاه صنعتی اصفهان، انعقاد قرارداد اعطای اعتبار ویژه پژوهشی (گرنٹ) شرکت فولاد مبارکه جهت حمایت از پایان نامه های دانشجویان تحصیلات تکمیلی، تأسیس مرکز نوآوری و توسعه فناوری گروه فولاد مبارکه، انجام بیش از ۱۱۰۰ پروژه تحقیقاتی با دانشگاه ها و مراکز تحقیقاتی

خوشبختانه این شرکت با هدف درمان بیماران کوید ۱۹، اکسیژن بیمارستان های تحت پوشش دانشگاه علوم پزشکی استان و برخی از بیمارستان های خارج از استان تا پایان سال جاری به ارزش بیش از ۷۲ میلیارد تومان تأمین کرد. همچنین می توان به مساعدت ۷۰ میلیارد تومانی به بیمارستان ها و شبکه های بهداشت و درمان جهت خرید تجهیزات و مواد ضد عفونی کننده حوزه بیماری کرونا اشاره کرد.

از دیگر اقدامات شرکت فولاد مبارکه در راستای مسئولیت اجتماعی در جهت محیط زیست می توان مشارکت در طرح جامع مترو اصفهان (مبارکه - مجلسی - بهارستان) با مساعدت مالی بالغ بر ۵۰ میلیارد ریال به منظور کاهش آلودگی و ایمنی حمل و نقل، ارتقای فرایندهای زیست محیطی با ایجاد نگهداری از ۱۵۰۰ هکتار فضای سبز و جنگل با برخورداری از روش های نوین آبیاری و با استفاده از پساب های تصفیه شده و استاندارد کارخانه، بیش از ۸۰۰ میلیارد تومان سرمایه گذاری (۴۵۰ میلیارد تومان داخلی و ۱۰ میلیون یورو ارزی) به منظور اجرای پروژه عظیم ایجاد شبکه و جمع آوری و هدایت پساب های ۹ شهر شهرستان های مبارکه و لنجان و ارتقاء تصفیه خانه پساب های شهرهای منطقه مجاور و شرکت با هدف پیشگیری از سرریز شدن پساب های شهری به رودخانه زاینده رود و محیط اطراف، بهبود وضعیت بهداشتی و زیست محیطی منطقه و استفاده از پساب تصفیه شده در خطوط تولید به جای برداشت آب خام با رویکرد استفاده بهینه از منابع آبی اشاره کرد.

همچنین در ادامه می توان به مشارکت در طرح های مواسسات و کمک های مؤمنانه با همکاری انجمن جمع و فرماندهان حوزه مقاومت شهرستان های همجوار و مرکز استان، احداث ساختمان پایگاه امداد و نجات بین شهری سازمان هلال احمر سه راهی مبارکه (پلیس راه اصفهان - شیراز)، اختصاص ۱۰۰ میلیارد تومان اعتبار به منظور تکمیل مصلی بزرگ امام خمینی (ره) اصفهان، برگزاری گلرزان ویژه



گروه فولاد مبارکه در کنار دستاوردها و کسب و کار کود تولید در سال جهش تولید، نسبت به مسئولیت اجتماعی بی تفاوت نبوده است. عملکرد این شرکت، علی رغم همه مشکلات موجود، از نظر کارشناسان اقتصادی و مسئولان، قابل دفاع است

معاون توسعه مدیریت و منابع دانشگاه علوم پزشکی اصفهان:

## بودجه علوم پزشکی اصفهان در لایحه بودجه ۱۴۰۰ دولت ۲.۵ برابر شد

محمدرضا ضایتمند گفت: بودجه دانشگاه علوم پزشکی اصفهان در لایحه بودجه ۱۴۰۰ رشد ۲.۵ برابر دارد که بخشی از عقب ماندگی مربوط را جبران می کند.

کویود ۱۹ خود را بیشترین نشان داد، بودجه این دیده شد. رضایتمند اضافه کرد: با توجه به گستردگی خدمات و تعداد زیادی نیروی انسانی، صرف پرداخت حقوق می شود، افزود: با وجودی که بخشی از فعالیت های دانشگاه در آمدزاست، اما این بودجه ها و درآمدها کفاف هزینه های جاری را نمی دهد.

به گفته او حتی اگر شرایط ناشی از همه گیری کویود ۱۹ پایان یابد، بازگشت این دانشگاه به حالت عادی و وضعیت درآمدی زمان بر بوده و ممکن است در آینده با مشکلات مالی عیدبه مواجه شود.

محمدرضا ضایتمند معاون توسعه مدیریت و منابع دانشگاه علوم پزشکی اصفهان افزود: بودجه دانشگاه های علوم پزشکی در لایحه بودجه ۱۴۰۰ رشد قابل توجهی داشته و نسبت به سال گذشته حدود ۲.۵ برابر شد در حالی که به عنوان مثال رشد بودجه دانشگاه علوم پزشکی اصفهان در سال ۹۹ نسبت به ۹۸ حدود ۲۳ درصد بود.

او اظهار داشت: با توجه به حیاتی بودن نقش دانشگاه های علوم پزشکی که در دوران همه گیری



محمدرضا ضایتمند معاون توسعه مدیریت و منابع دانشگاه علوم پزشکی اصفهان افزود: بودجه دانشگاه های علوم پزشکی در لایحه بودجه ۱۴۰۰ رشد قابل توجهی داشته و نسبت به سال گذشته حدود ۲.۵ برابر شد در حالی که به عنوان مثال رشد بودجه دانشگاه علوم پزشکی اصفهان در سال ۹۹ نسبت به ۹۸ حدود ۲۳ درصد بود.

او اظهار داشت: با توجه به حیاتی بودن نقش دانشگاه های علوم پزشکی که در دوران همه گیری





## Iran's export of non-oil goods from Chazabeh border underway

Governor of Dasht-e Azadegan said that process of exporting non-oil goods via Chazabeh border in Khuzestan province continues without any interruption and restriction.

Speaking in an interview with IRNA on Sun., Hamid Seylavi reiterated that export of non-oil products from Chazabeh Border, 110 km away from northwest Ahvaz, is underway and there is no problem in export trend.

Turning to this issue that Iraqi government imposes passenger transit restriction on land borders, he stated, "It is for about one year that travel of Iranian pilgrims to the holy cities of Iraq has been halted due to the outbreak of the novel coronavirus, COVID-19, so that no Iranian pilgrims traveled to the holy cities of Iraq during Arbæen ceremonies because of the spread of coronavirus."

"We are negotiating with the Iraqi side for the activation of Chazabeh trade border regularly in a way that export of goods via Chazabeh border has become more systematic since reopening the border in August."

Presently, non-oil products of the country are exported to neighboring Iraq via Chazabeh border, he added.

Fresh fruits and vegetables, dairy products, construction materials, tiles and ceramics, clinker, white cement and home appliances are most important products which are exported to Iraq via this border, governor of Dasht-e Azadegan stated.

## 43% of Houses in Iran Built Without Skeletal Structures

Ten million out of 23 million residential buildings in Iran do not have skeletal frames, which accommodate between 30-35 million people, says the head of Engineering Seismology Department at Road, Housing and Urban Development Research Center.

"This means their dwellings lack resilience needed in the face of flooding and strong earthquakes. As you see, a large number of cities are struggling with inundations after heavy rains and even agricultural plains and urban centers are wrestling with an unprecedented array of challenges," Ali Beitollahi was also quoted as saying by IRNA.

"From the perspective of flood risk management and engineering, river engineering and flood control considerations have been neglected, due to which flooding leads to wide-scale erosion of fertile soil as well as environmental, economic and social losses." Beitollahi believes that sustainable development is synonymous with development of infrastructural assets that would advance in line with social, economic and cultural development.

"They are related to each other. You can't develop cities without considering their carrying capacity [the maximum number, density, or population mass that a specific area can support sustainably.] When it comes to devising urban development initiatives as well as economic, industrial plans, you need to have a macro-sustainable-development perspective to strengthen cities' resilience to disasters such as earthquakes and floods," he said.

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## Debt Relief for Virus-Hit Businesses

The Central Bank of Iran on Saturday announced financial relief to businesses battered by months of lockdowns to curb the Covid19- pandemic.



Proposed by the National Coronavirus Headquarters "non-government businesses hit by

the virus are allowed to defer two loan repayment installments".

Debt repayments that matured in the last calendar month to Dec. 20 and those that mature by the end of the current month (January 19) will be eligible for the relief on the condition that their debt is in the 'performing loans' category.

Loans that are supposed to be reimbursed in lump sum, the relief is period is one month. As for bounced checks, the CBI has relaxed rules exempting checkbook holders with bounced checks from some rules governing bad checks.

As per the directive, those who issue checks with non-sufficient funds in their accounts and whose checks mature from Nov. 21 till Jan. 19 will be exempt



from penalties that restrict their access to banking services, such as getting new checkbooks.

It seems the waivers cover restrictions on issuing new checks to avoid further harm to already troubled businesses, and excludes other penalties such as legal prosecution.

With the third wave of coronavirus outbreak reaching a peak in recent weeks, the government announced a two-week total lockdown to contain the deadly disease. Starting Nov. 21, more than 150 cities, including Tehran, moved from partial to full lockdown.

The number of deaths and infections has declined in recent days thanks

lockdowns of the past two months to stem the spread of the deadly disease.

The deadly virus has hit a wide range of businesses in Iran since its outbreak almost a year ago. The list of businesses eligible for corona financial relief is lengthy, namely businesses responsible for preparing and selling meals, businesses active in tourism and hospitality sector, transport companies, namely air, road, rail and marine transportation, intra-city public transport companies, travel agencies, apparel manufacturers and distributors, confectionaries and shops selling nuts and dried fruits, gyms, sports and leisure centers.

In a similar decision earlier in the month, the government extended the repayment deadline for troubled loans taken out by manufacturers by the end of current fiscal (March).

Debt restructuring was proposed by the National Coronavirus Headquarters as part of measures to help manufacturers ravaged by Covid-19, said Mohammad Nahavandian, vice president for economic affairs said.

"The deadline was initially extended to the last year end (March 2020) but as many companies were unable to service their debts due to coronavirus" the timeline was extended again, Nahavandian said.

## Iran to inaugurate eight petrochemical projects by March

Iran is planning to launch eight petrochemical projects by the end of the current Iranian calendar year (March 20, 2021), a deputy oil minister said.

The CEO of the National Petrochemical Company (NPC), Behzad Mohammadi told a press conference held to mark the Petrochemical Day on Sunday that the country's petrochemical revenue generation was at a very favorable state, adding the industry, as the first industry

in Iran, is strengthening its foothold in the country's economy day by day.

So far this year, nine petrochemical projects have come online in Iran and eight others are expected to become operational by the end of the year, he said. Mohammadi, who is also the Deputy Oil Minister for Petrochemical Affairs, said 30% of the country's petrochemical output is consumed domestically, adding the number of operational 70% of the products are exported to international markets.

According to him, Iranian petrochemical companies supply 90 types of petrochemicals of which 18 are polymeric which are offered in 333 grades.

The diversity of petrochemical products supplied domestically will reach 104 types by 2026 and 124 types by 2027, he said.

Elsewhere in the press conference, Mr. Mohammadi said 30 strategic projects had been defined in the industry with \$16 billion of investment which would add 20 million tons to the country's annual production capacity.

He continued by stating that with the completion of the second-leap plans, the volume of investment in this industry will reach \$80 billion.

With the completion of the third-leap projects, this figure will reach \$92 billion and with the realization of the fourth-leap plans by 2027, it will reach \$108 billion, he said.

According to him, Iran's annual petrochemical revenue will reach 44 billion dollars per year by 2026 which will be marked as the end of the 7th development plan of the country.

Mohammadi, noting that the process of localization of technical savvy of petrochemical processes in other products is being pursued, added so far, seven processes including Methanol, Ammonia, PP, PVM, HDPE have been localized and by March 2022, this will reach 10 processes.

The CEO of the National Petrochemical Company stated that 85 types of catalysts are used in the petrochemical industry, adding that 20 types have been localized and 16 types will be localized by March 2022.

## Iran petchems revenues hit \$110b in 7 years

Secretary of the Association of Petrochemical Industry Corporation (APIC) Mr. Ahmad Mahdavi yesterday said that Iran's revenues in petrochemicals in the past seven years have surpassed \$110b, adding that customers of Iran's petrochemical products have continued to buy even in the sanctions era. Speaking in a press conference on the occasion of National Petrochemical Industry Day, Mahdavi said that since mid-March 2018 when NIMA forex system was launched, 75 percent of the forex resulted from the petrochemical products exports have been repatriated to the country and been offered at the NIMA system, and the remaining 25 percent has been spent for imports of catalysts and equipment and it has been in accordance with the government approvals. He said petrochemical industry is the driving force of development and economic progress of the country, adding that all believe that attention to the rich hydrocarbon resources can save the national economy and will stop raw material sales. Mahdavi added that Iran's petrochemical production capacity will increase to \$85m tons by the end of the year and the amount will be increased more next year. He said this year the industry has distributed 700,000 tons more of its products in the domestic market and it has happened while the GDP growth has been negative, and if the companies had exported it, they would have earned \$650m. Mahdavi noted that 10 petrochemical projects with a capacity of 17m tons will come on stream by the year end and two more projects will come on stream by the end of next year, adding that there has been no halt in production or development in this sector and the progress has been significant.

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NO 667

Sudoku

Solution: NO 666

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3	8	9	2	4	5	1	6	7
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2	1	8	4	5	9	3	7	6
7	3	5	6	2	8	4	1	9
4	9	6	3	7	1	5	2	8

News

## Water Levels Decline 30% in Urmia Lake Catchment Area

Water stored in dams around the catchment area of Lake Urmia has decreased by 30% compared to last year, managing director of West Azarbaijan Regional Water Company said.

"There are eight dams in the catchment area which now hold less than 490 million cubic meters of water, down 30% compared to a year ago when they held 700 mcm," Atabak Jafari was quoted as saying by Energy Today

website.

Since the beginning of the current water year in September, the inflow of water into dams that feed the ailing lake namely Salmas, Zola, Boukan, Agh-Chai, Shahre-Chai, Mahabad, Aras and Sarouq dams (all in West Azarbaijan Province) has been around 920 mcm - down 23% compared to the same period in 2019 when more than 1.2 billion cubic meters flowed into the dams, he added.

Boukan, Agh-Chai and Shahre-Chai dams hold 180 mcm, 150 mcm and 100 mcm of water, respectively, Jafari said.

## Rights Activists Slam Israel for Postponing Vaccination of Palestinian Prisoners

The order by the Israeli public security minister to withhold COVID-19 vaccines from Palestinian prisoners was discriminatory and contradicted the guidelines of the country's own Health Ministry, human rights groups said.

Amir Ohana told Israeli prison officials to hold off administering jabs to Palestinian inmates until further notice, and provide the vaccine only to prison staff. The prisoners will get their shots later, "in accordance with the progress of vaccinating the general public," according to the Saturday statement by the office of the minister. The order came after a high-ranking Palestinian official dealing with prisoner affairs, Qadri Abu Bakr, announced that voluntary vaccination of those held in Israeli prisons will kick off "in the coming days."

On Sunday, Physicians for Human Rights decried the move by the Israeli authorities as "politically motivated" and called for the transfer of responsibility for the wellbeing of Palestinian inmates to "a body whose first priority is health."

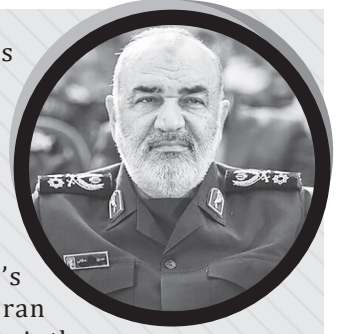
"The minister's directive contradicts the vaccination guidelines that the Health Ministry issued," the group pointed out, adding that the inmates should be given "high priority for vaccinations" due to high risk of disease transmission. Another NGO, the Palestinian Prisoners' Club, said that by postponing the vaccination "Israel is pursuing its racist policies and it has turned the pandemic into a tool of oppression and abuse against Palestinian prisoners." The Israeli Health Ministry put prisoners into the second priority group to get the jabs together with chronically ill patients and first responders, Haaretz paper reported. Overcrowding and poor conditions at Israeli prisons have led to around 140 out of some 4,400 Palestinian inmates being diagnosed with the coronavirus since the start of the pandemic, according to Palestinian Wafa news agency.

## Gen. Salami urges continuation of 'promising' COVID-19 battle

The commander of the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) described the current plans to curb the coronavirus in the country as "unique and promising", calling for collective cooperation to keep the improving trend. Speaking at a session in Tehran on Monday to address the achievements in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, Major General Salami referred to the declining number of daily infections and deaths due to respiratory disease in the past days, saying, "We have found the appropriate approaches to reduce the prevalence of the coronavirus

even before reaching the vaccine." "We have successfully applied our values and skills into the crisis management, and we should continue this promising trend till the complete elimination of the virus," he added. The IRGC chief underlined that success in this path requires not only medical efforts but also major social cooperation. "Besides the medical staff who are at the frontline of the fight against the coronavirus, people should also continue their good cooperation till the end of the pandemic." Iran has managed to control another wave of COVID-19 outbreak in recent weeks according to figures released by the Health Ministry.

According to the ministry's spokesperson Sima Lari, the daily COVID-19 cases hit 5,502 on Sunday with the overnight deaths standing at 119. Imposing restrictions, increasing testing capacities, and increasing people's awareness of the disease, Iran has managed to bend the curve in the past two weeks. However, health officials have warned that neglecting social distancing principles would lead to the start of yet another wave of the outbreak.



## Israel, Saudi in Cahoots with US in Assassination of Gen. Soleimani: Nasrallah

Hezbollah's secretary-general said Saudi Arabia is hand in gloves with the US and Israel in the assassination of Iran's top commander Lieutenant General Qassem Soleimani and his companions.



Seyed Hassan Nasrallah made the remarks in an interview with al-Mayadeen television

network on Sunday, during which he reflected on major regional and international developments as well as domestic issues of Lebanon.

"The criminal assassination of General Soleimani was not only an American crime, but I believe that Israel and Saudi Arabia were culprits in this crime as well, even if their role was just to provoke Washington to commit it," the Hezbollah leader said.

Elsewhere in his interview, Nasrallah noted that in addition to General Soleimani and his companions, other commanders of the resistance front, himself included, were on the joint hit list drawn up by the US, Israel and Saudi Arabia.

He added that according to information received from reliable sources, during his first visit to Washington, Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman had tried to goad Trump into authorizing the assassination of Hezbollah commanders and its senior officials through Israeli operations.



"We have information that Saudi Arabia has been plotting to assassinate me at least since the war on Yemen started," Hezbollah leader said, adding that the US, for its part, has approved the Saudi plan, which was to be implemented by Israel.

When asked about whether such a plan would be wise and logical by Saudi Arabia, Nasrallah emphasized that Saudi Arabia, specifically in the last few years, has been acting on the basis of grudge, not thoughtfulness. He added that the US, Israel, and Saudi Arabia are partners in the assassination of Iran's top commander, Soleimani, and deputy commander of Iraq's Popular Mobilization Units (PMU), Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis.

Asked whether he must exercise more caution during the last days of Trump in power lest he might take a serious measure against the resistance front, Nasrallah noted that all evidence points to the fact that the media hype

launched by Zionists about this issue proves that there is no reality behind this.

Nasrallah added that he has always been a target for the common axis of the US, Israel and Saudi Arabia both before and after the assassination of Lt. Gen. Soleimani, adding that efforts made in this regard become more intense before the recent US presidential election because Trump needed its impact on US polls. Lieutenant General Soleimani, the commander of the Quds Force of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC), and his Iraqi comrade Abu Mahdi al-Muhandis, the deputy head of the Popular Mobilization Units, were assassinated along with their companions in a US terror drone strike authorized by Trump near Baghdad International Airport on January 3.

Iraqi lawmakers approved a bill two days later, demanding the withdrawal of all foreign military forces led by the United States from the country.

Both commanders were admired by Muslim nations for eliminating the US-sponsored Daesh Takfiri terrorist group in the region, particularly in Iraq and Syria.

The US assassination drew a wave of condemnation from officials and movements throughout the world and triggered huge public protests across the region.

Early on January 8, the IRGC targeted the US-run Ain al-Assad airbase in Iraq's western province of Anbar after launching a wave of attacks to retaliate the assassination of Lt. Gen. Soleimani.

According to the US Defense Department, more than 100 American forces suffered "traumatic brain injuries" during the counterstrike on the base. The IRGC, however, says Washington uses the term to mask the number of the Americans who perished during the retaliation.

Iran has described the missile attack on Ain al-Assad airbase as a "first slap."

The US assassination drew a wave of condemnation from officials and movements throughout the world and triggered huge public protests across the region.

### NEWS

## JCPOA returns to path of diplomacy

The new stances of the remaining signatories to the 2015 Iran nuclear deal opens a diplomatic avenue to revive the international accord, which requires the support of all governmental bodies and the Iranian nation as well.

The victory of Joe Biden in the 2020 US presidential elections and his upcoming administration's plan to return to the nuclear deal, known as the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA), opened a window for returning to the path of diplomacy and implementing the agreement.

Foreign ministers of China, France, Russia, Britain, Germany, High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy as well as Iran's foreign minister held a meeting on December 21, discussing the revival of the JCPOA and the issue of the United States' return to the accord.

The JCPOA signatories reaffirmed their commitment to the deal, stressing the need for full and effective implementation of the international accord by all sides and dealing with the current challenges of its implementation, including the removal of anti-Iran sanctions.

The ministers highlighted the importance of the role of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) as the only independent and impartial body mandated by the United Nations Security Council (UNSC) to monitor and verify non-proliferation commitments under the JCPOA.

They further stated that the JCPOA which has been endorsed by the United Nations Security Council Resolution 2231 remains a key element in the global nuclear non-proliferation regime.

The participants of the December meeting also tried to propose maximum conditions in order to use them as a tool to get at least minimum privilege in future negotiations.

German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas warned Iran that the opportunity is the last chance to maintain the JCPOA and it should not be missed.

Dominic Raab, UK Foreign Secretary, urged Iran not to expand its nuclear program, because, as he believes, doing such an act would destroy the opportunity to revive the JCPOA.

In response to the warnings, Zarif wrote on his Twitter account that this is the last opportunity for three European countries (the UK, France and Germany) to revive the nuclear agreement.

However, the current trend shows that the December meeting of the remaining signatories to the JCPOA has paved the way for both sides to declare their stances and speed up the process of future negotiations.

The United States' return to the JCPOA and the lifting of the anti-Iran sanctions would get the agreement back on track, but it should be mentioned that Europe and the US would try to put into consideration new demands.

### News

## Iran ready to exchange views on human rights: Official

Iran's deputy foreign minister for international and legal affairs said on Monday that the Iranians welcome the exchange of views with the West and human rights organizations, but the proud nation would not accept any kind of interfering viewpoints.

Mohsen Baharvand told Iran newspaper that the Islamic Republic has differences with some human rights organizations and Western countries on the implementation of citizenship rights. According to the official, there is no fundamental difference with Western countries regarding the observance of human rights, but the mechanism of implementing the human rights and the West's political misuse of the issue are among the subjects of disagreement.

There are some judicial procedures in Iran that should be reviewed to stop Western states' exploitation, he said, condemning that the West is grappling with apparent violation of human rights within its own societies.

Baharvand pointed to the West's attempt to resort to human rights as pressure leverage on countries that they do not have friendly ties with, noting that the Western powers' critical stance toward

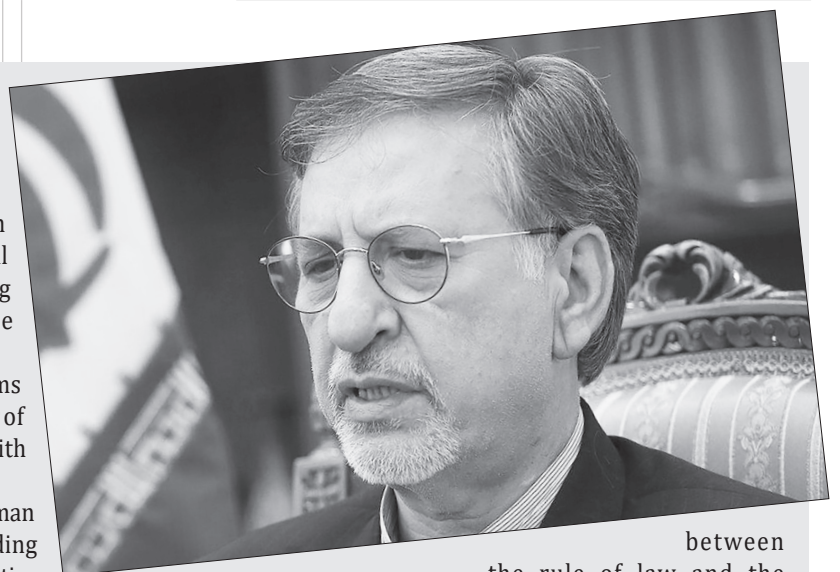
Iran comes from their political motivations.

Referring to his recent speech at the Geneva University, the deputy minister underlined that the globally accepted human rights principles need to have a mechanism, which enables the implementation and inspection of the principles at the international level; thus, targeting certain countries and ignoring others' blatant human rights violations seem to be completely discriminatory.

However, he accepted, there need to be some reforms in certain laws and procedures as well as a number of misconducts by a few people in charge of dealing with the Iranian nation.

The Islamic Republic of Iran believes in respecting human rights as the main element to strengthen trust-building between the people and the government, he stated, noting that the observation of human rights would help economic growth and security enhancement in every society.

The states, which pay great attention to human rights, are well aware that the issue affects all other aspects of life; therefore, the judiciary systems play a key role in bolstering trust and confidence in all countries, he said, reasoning that there is a direct link



between the rule of law and the

economic development.

In conclusion, Baharvand said that countries should avoid interfering in other states' internal affairs, including issues related to judiciary procedures, but they could exchange views in order to provide each other with a precise understanding of their justice systems.

# ISFAHAN NEWS

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## COVID-19 vaccine to enter human phase by Feb.: Official

Head of Scientific Committee of National Coronavirus Combat and Prevention Headquarters said that coronavirus vaccine produced by seven knowledge-based companies will enter the human phase by February. Speaking in an interview with Mehr news agency on Monday, Dr. Mostafa Ghanei said that seven companies producing COVID-19 vaccine is running under the strict supervision of Biotechnology Development Headquarters of the Vice-Presidency for Science and Technology. Of total seven knowledge-based companies, COVID-19 vaccine produced by three of them will enter the human phase, he said, adding, "It is hoped that these knowledge-based companies will receive the license." Of three companies entering the clinical phase of the vaccine, one company has made significant progress and will start clinical trials sooner than the rest companies, he added. Elsewhere in his remarks, Ghanei said that four other research groups will receive the license for conducting clinical trial from Iranian Food and Drug Administration (IFDA).

### Headlines

**Gen. Salami urges continuation of promising COVID-19 battle**

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**Iran to inaugurate eight petrochemical projects by March**

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**Iran petchems revenues hit 110\$bn in 7 years**

4

CALL TO PRAYER TIME IN ISFAHAN

**Morning call to prayer:**

05:38:22

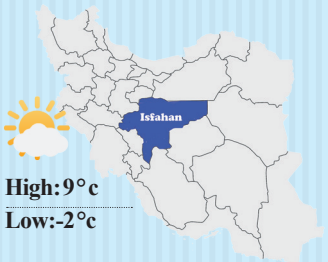
**Noon call to prayer:**

12:05:35

**Evening call to prayer:**

17:25:44

### WEATHER



**FM Spox: Iran slams attacks to diplomatic missions, residential areas**

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh said Iran slams any kind of attacks to diplomatic missions and residential units and stressed that Tehran never seeks tension but intends to simply defend its national interests with all might.

He made the remark in his Monday morning virtual press briefing where he noted that Iran has already made it clear that the responsibility of any kind of such acts will fall on the US. Khatibzadeh also referred to the recent developments in foreign policy areas and noticed that the visit of the Iraqi prime minister's advisor to Iran occurred upon Tehran's invitation to hold regular consultations over the latest developments.



## Israel, Saudi in Cahoots with US in Assassination of Gen. Soleimani: Nasrallah

5

## Trump Signs Massive Measure Funding Government, COVID Relief

US President Donald Trump signed a 900\$ billion pandemic relief package, ending days of drama over his refusal to accept the bipartisan deal that will deliver long-sought cash to businesses and individuals and avert a federal government shutdown.

The massive bill includes \$1.4 trillion to fund government agencies through September and contains other end-of-session priorities such as an increase in food stamp benefits.

The signing Sunday, at his private club in Florida came amid escalating criticism over his eleventh-hour demands for larger, \$2,000 relief checks and scaled-back spending even though the bill had already passed the House and Senate by wide margins. The bill was passed with what lawmakers had thought was Trump's blessing, and after months of negotiations with his administration. His foot-dragging resulted in a lapse in unemployment benefits for millions struggling to make ends meet and threatened a government shutdown in the midst of a pandemic. But signing the bill into law prevents another crisis of Trump's own creation and ends a standoff with his own party during the final days of his administration.

It was unclear what, if anything, Trump accomplished with his delay, beyond angering all sides and empowering Democrats to continue their push for higher relief checks, which his own party opposes.

In his statement, Trump repeated his frustrations with the COVID-19 relief bill for providing only \$600 checks to most Americans instead of the \$2,000 that his fellow Republicans already rejected. He also complained about what he considered unnecessary spending by the government at large.

"I will sign the Omnibus and Covid package with a strong message that makes clear to Congress that wasteful items need to be removed," Trump said in the statement, AP reported.

While the president insisted he would send Congress "a redlined version" with items to be removed under the rescission process, those are merely suggestions to Congress. The bill, as signed, would not necessarily be changed.

Democrats, who have the majority in the House, immediately vowed to prevent any cuts.

Democrats "will reject any rescissions" submitted by the president, said Appropriations Committee Chairwoman Nita Lowey, D-NY, in a statement.

Lawmakers now have breathing room to continue debating whether the relief checks should be as large as the president has demanded. The Democratic-led House supports the larger checks and is set to vote on the issue Monday, but it's expected to be ignored by the Republican-held Senate where spending faces opposition. For now, the administration can only begin work sending out the \$600 payments.

Republicans and Democrats swiftly welcomed Trump's decision to sign the bill into law.

"The compromise bill is not perfect, but it will do an enormous amount of good for struggling Kentuckians and Americans across the country who need help now," said Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. "I thank the President for signing this relief into law."

House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., called the signing "welcome news for the fourteen million Americans who just lost the lifeline of unemployment benefits on Christmas weekend, and for the millions more struggling to stay afloat during this historic pandemic and economic crisis." But others slammed Trump's delay in turning the bill into law. In a tweet, Rep. Gerry Connolly, D-Va., accused Trump of having "played Russian roulette with American lives. A familiar and comfortable place for him."

Senate Democratic leader Chuck Schumer, D-NY, said he would offer Trump's proposal for \$2,000 checks for a vote in Senate — putting Republicans on the spot.

"The House will pass a bill to give Americans \$2,000 checks. Then I will move to pass it in the Senate," Schumer tweeted. "No Democrats will object. Will Senate Republicans?"

Democrats are promising more aid to come once President-elect Joe Biden takes office, but Republicans are signaling a wait-and-see approach. Congress will push ahead Monday, with the House expected to vote to override Trump's veto of an annual must-pass Defense bill, confronting the president on another big issue in the final days of the session. The Senate is expected to follow on Tuesday.

## Coronavirus (COVID-19): How to Optimize Your Immune System?

### Key Takeaways

- There are things that you can do that will help improve your overall health and strengthen your immune system.
- But be wary of companies selling supplements that they claim can protect against or kill the coronavirus.



Consume adequate vitamin D from a combination of sun exposure (limited to about 15 minutes/day without sunscreen), food, and supplements; while dietary supplements are typically not necessary if you eat a balanced diet, vitamin D is the one exception because food sources are limited.

As COVID-19 continues to spread at an exponential rate in the United States and all over the world, it is a natural instinct to do anything and everything to protect ourselves and our families.

Unfortunately, some companies are capitalizing on this and making claims that specific dietary supplements can help protect against or even kill this virus. Paying attention to diet and lifestyle choices is certainly important in optimizing the immune system. But there are no known supplements that can protect the body against COVID-19.

Furthermore, dietary supplements and health claims are not regulated by the FDA, so there is no way of knowing what they actually contain or trusting what they claim to do for the body.

Still, there are many things you can do to support a properly functioning immune system: Eat a balanced diet, get enough sleep, stay physically active, and manage stress as best as you can.

### Understanding the Immune System

In addition to dietary supplement claims, there are numerous recent articles describing how to boost your immune system with specific foods.

The immune system is a web of interconnected cells, antibodies, and organs that all work together to protect the body.

### Eat Well

The first step in fortifying your immune system is maintaining a healthy, balanced diet rich in whole grains, fruits and vegetables, healthy fats, pre- and probiotics, and high-quality protein.

Consume Colorful Fruits and Vegetables

Each color group has different types of antioxidant-acting polyphenols which are important for the immune system. And that means the more the better in terms of fruits and vegetables consumed, both raw and cooked.

### Consume More Zinc

Increase food sources of zinc to prevent deficiency; zinc is responsible for activating white blood cells that are essential for our immune system. We don't store zinc in our bodies, so it needs to be consumed daily.

### Get More Vitamin D

Consume adequate vitamin D from a combination of sun exposure (limited to about 15 minutes/day without sunscreen), food, and supplements; while dietary supplements are typically not necessary if you eat a balanced diet, vitamin D is the one exception because food sources are limited.

### Sleep Well

Sleep is crucial for maintaining a healthy immune system in order to prevent susceptibility to illness and recover quickly. Don't underestimate the value and importance of sufficient, good-quality sleep for your health.

### Stay Active

Since your gym or favorite workout class is likely unavailable, take advantage of the spring weather, and get outdoors for some physical activity, such as running.

### Manage Stress

There is no denying that this is an incredibly stressful time for everyone. Finding peaceful moments in your day can help minimize the symptoms of stress and make a big impact on your overall wellness and immunity.

According to the political analyst, the Europeans like other nations are tired of unilateral policies of the Trump administration; therefore, they have welcomed his failure in the 2020 US presidential election.



