

#3 (Women's Advances in Modern Iran)

A. From: Samimi, Mehrnaz. "Women Make Slow but Steady Progress in Iran." *Atlantic Council*. 20 July, 2017. Web. 29 Oct. 2018.

On Aug. 5, Hassan Rouhani will officially start the second term of his presidency...Three women have been asked to join the new cabinet.

Rouhani's list of recommended cabinet members will be handed to the parliament (Majles) on inauguration day and the members are expected to take about two weeks to confirm the nominees. Amiri added that while Rouhani has always strongly believed in women's abilities and their presence in his cabinet, the selection of women is also due to "public demand." According to Amiri, several women have been nominated as gubernatorial candidates in different provinces as well....

The Rouhani administration's first appointment of a woman happened before his swearing-in, albeit not for the cabinet. On July 11, the first female CEO of Iran Air, the country's major national airline, was appointed, succeeding Farhad Parvaresh, who was in that position for eight years. The woman who officially replaced him is Farzaneh Sharafbafi, a 44-year-old Iran Air manager, who holds a doctorate in Aerospace Sciences from Sharif University of Technology. Though she has been named as interim CEO, she is expected to be formally named CEO soon.

Analysts say that more women will be appointed to important leadership positions such as this one, which is highly significant. Since Iran Air's inception in 1961, this is the first time that the company has ever had a woman overseeing its extensive operations. Considering the volume and value of Iran Air's commercial deals, which is reportedly roughly equal to half of Iran's oil revenue, the appointment of a woman at its helm seems especially significant.

B. From: "Sahraei, Fariba. "Iran University Bans on Women Causes Consternation." *BBC News*. 22 Sept. 2012. Web. 29 Oct. 2018.

Iran was one of the first countries in the Middle East to allow women to study at university and since the Islamic Revolution in 1979 it has made big efforts to encourage more girls to enroll in higher education.

The gap between the numbers of male and female students has gradually narrowed. In 2001 women outnumbered men for the first time and they now make up more than 60% of the overall student body.

Year-on-year more Iranian women than men are applying for university places, motivated some say by the chance to live a more independent life, to have a career and to escape the pressure from parents to stay at home and to get married.

Women are well-represented across a wide range of professions and there are many female engineers, scientists and doctors.