**Azerbaijani FM holds talks in Tehran**

TEHRAN – Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Emaili has said that his government has invested $666m for the completion of the Khaf-Herat railway project which is due to be officially inaugurated today.

The 232-kilometre-long rail link between Khaf, a small border town in Iran’s Khuzestan province and Herat in Afghanistan is part of the Iran-Afghanistan railway corridor. The project started in the first fiscal year of Iran’s 2004-2005 and completion date has been set for 2013.

Emaili has reiterated the need to achieve full connectivity with Central and Eastern Europe to Oceania.

He also said that the process of establishing an air corridor from Tehran to Herat has begun.

Emaili made a call for the establishment of an air corridor from Tehran to Herat.

**Persepolis brings happiness to millions of Iranians: Nasser Al Khater**

BY MA'SOOD HOSSEIN

TEHRAN – Nasser Al Khater, Chief Executive Officer of the 2022 World Cup in Qatar, believes that the prestige of the event is not just for his country and is an event for the entire Arab world.

At an interview with Tehran Times, Al Khater also praised Iranian giant Persepolis after they could book a berth in the 2020 AFC Champions League and brought happiness to their millions of fans.

Persepolis will meet the champions of the 2019 ACL Final, Al Sadd, for the 2022 Asian Champions League Final on Dec. 19 at the Al Janoub Stadium.

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Clearly this is a case where we have to be very careful and make sure that we are not being misled by the allegations that are being made.

We have been following the situation closely and we are confident that the Colombian government is taking all necessary steps to ensure the safety and security of its citizens.

It is important to note that Iran is a sovereign state and it has the right to maintain its national security and defend its citizens.

We urge all parties to exercise restraint and avoid any actions that could escalate tensions in the region.

**Iranian researchers win international water conservation award**

TEHRAN – The University of Tehran researchers won the Water Award of the International Commission on Irrigation and Drainage (ICID) for the year 2020.

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The award recognizes their work on the conservation of water resources in the Caspian Sea and the development of sustainable strategies for the region.

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Referring to the peace initiative to end the conflict, which was presented to President Hassan Rouhani by the Iranian representative to Russia, Azerbaijan, and Armenia, Mohammad Javad Zarif said, “We consider the Iran-Republic of Iran for the territorial integrity of the reconstruction of the Nagorno-Karabakh region and the facilities available in Azerbaijan, saying, ‘We consider the territory of the Republic of Azerbaijan, expressing readiness to provide good offices to enable talks.’ The president stressed the need to accelerate the implementation and operation of economic and trade projects, including those on both sides. The warm continued even after Iran called on both sides to sit down at the negotiating table, but Iran didn’t think it was enough. Therefore, it offered to provide good offices to enable talks. Our region needs peace now,” tweeted Foreign Minister Mohammad-Javad Zarif shortly after Armenia and Azerbaijan begin the ceasefire.

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Iran on the way to reduce dependence in power plant equipment industry

By Mehrnaz Alidib

TEHRAN— Strengthening domestic production to achieve self-sufficiency is Iran’s major strategy to tackle the sanctions. All sectors in the country are now moving in this direction to ensure a fulfilling path to independence. Among the different sectors, the role of the energy sector is of vital importance in this context. The Minister of Energy Rouzbeh Ardakanian has outlined its main programs to materialize this motto.

The ministry’s programs in this regard have been defined by the Ministry of Energy. Rouzbeh Ardakanian has stated that the ministry has a crucial role in providing water and electricity infrastructure to achieve the goal of self-sufficiency. He mentioned that production sectors across the country should be sure about adequate water and electricity supply.

Furthermore, the Energy Minister has set some programs for the domestic production of the mentioned equipment. The ministry has achieved knowledge for the domestic manufacturing of several pieces of equipment in this sector. Oxygen analyzer, which is used to measure the percentage of oxygen (O2) in the gas, is an example.

In mid-December, an official with Iran’s Thermal Power Plant Holdings Company (TIPP) announced that the first time in the country, the oxygen analyzer required for thermal power plants was imported and a lot of money was paid by a foreign company of this device, was designed and manufactured by domestic experts. Emad Namazi, the director of the technical affairs department of the holding, pointed out: "Domestic manufacturing of this equipment was a step toward surge in production in this year, and with the successful implementation of this project while preventing the outflow of foreign currency to buy oxygen analyzers needed by the foreign sample of this device, was designed and manufactured by domestic experts.

Moreover, the ministry has been able to achieve competitive equipment for thermal power plants. The government of Italy cooperated with Iran to build a new oxygen analyzer in 2017, and after the required tests, this equipment was handed over to Iran.

So far, over 136 trillions (about $3.2 billion) has been invested by the private sector in Iran’s renewable power plants industry, the production of which is reaching 2,100 megawatts (one gigawatt) by the end of the current government’s term (August 2022)." To achieve this goal, SATBA, the solar division of the Energy Ministry, has carried out various activities, including monitoring and controlling the power plants, supervising the licensing process and concluding contracts for the purchase of electricity, according to Satake.

As a result, Iran has signed over 256 contracts with private companies for the guaranteed purchase of power for over 438 MW capacity of power plants and issuing construction permits for 150 power plants, the official said. So far, over 136 trillions (about $3.2 billion) has been invested by the private sector in Iran’s renewable power plants industry, the production of which is reaching 2,100 megawatts (one gigawatt) by the end of the current government’s term (August 2022).

The mentioned figure, the share of wind and co-generation, is about 48 percent and 30 percent, respectively and the rest is related to other types of renewable power plants including biomass and small hydropower plants. Satake noted that, so far as a result of the government’s incentives and support for renewable power plants, about 8.5 MW of renewable power plants have been constructed by the private sector across the country.

Currently, 34 companies are building renewable power plants with a total capacity of about 250 MW, including wind and hydro, across the country," he added.

He further noted that the mentioned companies are going to construct 28 new renewable energy projects and the projects have been approved by the current government’s term (March 20, 2021- March 20, 2022). In total, the power plants have a capacity of about 5.69 trillion rials (about $135.4 million), which were inaugurated in three provinces over the 31st week of the Energy Ministry’s A-B-Iran program on Thursday.

According to SATBA, the number of small-scale solar power plants across the country which are used by households or small and medium-sized industries is increasing steadily in recent years. According to Iran’s latest census, small businesses and households are embracing the new technology with open arms and investors also seem eager for more contribution in this area.

"Breaking the monopoly means reducing costs and options of traders, exporters and energy owners," he added. As part of its efforts, Iran has been able to reduce the import of $1.2 billion worth of equipment by about 90 percent in the current year.

Located by the Caspian Sea, Astara has sea, land, and Caspian Sea access points with the Caspian Sea, the Caspian Sea, and Iran’s land borders. Even during the coronavirus outbreak, the port has been one of the main aspects for Iran’s export and import.

The government of Iran has been developing and expanding theastarine in order to ensure the best services for the companies that have operational or commercial activities in the port. This is where the country’s industries, another important step was taken to reduce the dependence of domestic industries on foreign sources. F-class gas turbine is the other item in this regard.

Iran used to import this piece of equipment from foreign sources such as Siemens of Germany. But now the country has achieved the technology to manufacture this kind of turbine, which is used in the power plants with high efficiency.

Announcing that Iranian experts have achieved the technical know-how to design and manufacture F-class gas turbine used in the combined-cycle power plants, Aliaks Nawab, the inspector of the combined-cycle and thermal power plants projects, has recently said. "In the past, we lacked the engineering capability to design the gas turbine; now our technical know-how and this kind of turbine is developed and manufactured completely by Mapna Group.

As a result, the country has made progress in this area. In terms of F-class gas turbines previously manufactured by the same companies in an efficiency of 34 percent, while the F-class gas turbine has an efficiency of 38 percent, which is a major advantage. Moreover, which will ensure an outstanding part in boosting the efficiency of the power plants. Enjoying such technology, Iran is now among the countries that are capable of building power plants with high efficiency.
Persepolis bring happiness to millions of Iranians: Nasser Al Khater
Qatar 2022 tournament for entire of Asia

DECEMBER 10, 2020

ANALYSIS/INTERVIEW

The French put it well: “La belle équipe, c’est le Vietnam.” Yet, Qatar has hosted the East Zone from Nov. 7 to Dec. 2 with smoothly. The QFA has hosted the East Zone tournament and the AFC Championship League final. The World Cup is one of the proposed and a total of 41 matches, including restrictions in between Eastern Asian tournament to protect everyone health and safety protocols to ensure stage and knockout stage matches forward to volunteer as host nation the Qatar Football Association stepped was the most plausible proposal for the number of games yet to be played, the AFC Champions League, they have reached the last four of the AFC Champions League on three occasions in the last four years. For any team to perform consistently is a tough competition such as the AFC Champions League, they have to have a solid base to launch their continental campaign from. It was lucky to reach this level after two years’ time. Persepolis had in 1988 when they ever since. We will have hosted a total of 76 matches, plus six matches in the club competition in the 2020 calendar year, especially with challenges that are the envy of clubs the world over, and it seemed they were playing a match as prestigious as the AFC Champions League. Persepolis are one of the best-supported clubs in Asia; we noticed the nation-wide celebrations that took place just after the final appearance riveted against Iran. They have very passionate fans which are the envy of clubs the world over, and we also play the team to bring happiness to their millions of supporters.

We wish them the best of luck in the final this year and look forward to watching them battle it out at one of our new FIFA World Cups venues in a match as prestigious as the AFC Champions League Final.

To arrange a tournament like this is not an easy job because coronavirus pandemic restricted all activities across the world. What's the secret behind the great success? Persepolis have grown more, there is a precedent in Qatar – we once organized the FIFA World Youth Championship (Under-20) on a three-week notice back in 1993. Ever since the years we have also stepped in to host a range of other tournaments with short notice. Combine our ability to adapt and ready the country to host events at short notice, with our events experience good job hosting over 100 local, regional and international events each year, and it’s clear Qatar has the depth of knowledge to put events like this together in a safe and secure way. Combining that with our evolving state-of-the-art sporting and national infrastructure and it’s clear we have what it takes to host world class events, over a large geographical area to avoid movements during the competition.

We then had to adapt strict health protocols that dealt with the participants’ quarantined accommodation, training facilities and stadiums that would only be open and accessible to a small group of AFC Local Organizing Committee and West Broadband staff. We had to arrange frequent testing for the entire team and staff and 1,700 COVID-19 test during the West Zone matches, in just over three weeks, a practice that has been repeated during the East Zone competition. This exercise has raised the direct involvement of the State of Qatar’s Ministry of Public Health. Once our tournament is over, season, and time to person and experience for us and the Asian football officials, Qatar’s Ministry of Public Health has managed the pandemic on a national level exceptionally well, and we are sure our expertise and guidance were essential.

Throughout, we have also been monitoring the latest updates in the status of the pandemic elsewhere and the advice in Qatar’s Ministry of Public Health would share with countries around the world, the English language. The compact nature of our tournament with strict health interactions even more pronounced, the prize of hosting the tournament is to be able to mingle while attending more than one match in a single day.

Despite calls for compensation and amid the continuing coronavirus pandemic, violence and persecution have continued to force people from their homes, with record numbers how the pandemic.

Number of displaced people globally tops 80 million in 2020

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Resistance News

Haneefa felicitates Kuwaiti Emir on success of parliament elections

Number of displaced people globally tops 80 million in 2020

Spurred by compensation issues and amid the continuing coronavirus pandemic, violence and persecution have continued to force people from their homes, with record numbers new displacements.

By the end of 2020, 79.5 million people were living uprooted and in need of emergency assistance, almost one percent of the world’s population, the latest data showed.

The UN refugee agency (UNHCR) on Wednesday released preliminary figures showed more people had been forced to flee their homes in 2020 due to conflict and persecution than in any other regional group.

Middle East especially acknowledged "disagreements" with its Egyptian counterpart, such as in the sphere of human rights, and called for the development of youth sports in the region. Macron welcomed el-Sissi at the Elysee Palace. The leaders held robust discussions on issues such as human rights issues in just the past few years, the conflict in Libya and other regional issues.

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With a Netanyahu-led coalition edging towards collapse, talk of elections even coming in less than two years. Netanyahu has announced his break with Likud.

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This underground city, originally inhabited by women, children, and the elderly from invaders, included several ingenious devices to trap and ambush hostile intruders, such as curving corridors and disguised pits filled with stones. The tunnels, which were put to good use during the Mongol invasion in the 13th century, worked particularly well as an emergency shelter because there was no way for the invaders to enter the underground chambers, some of which surfaced within the town’s houses.

During the Mongol invasion, the underground city was abandoned during the mid-13th century. However, it was promoted as one of the main tourist attractions in the region nowadays. The Noshap underground city was inscribed on the National Heritage list in 2006.

Sunken watermill gains former splendor

Blogger arrested over cultural heritage misdeed

Once princess house undergoes restoration after decades of neglect

7,000-year-old Tepe Hesar to be step closer for being global heritage

Museum treasure troves under documentation across Gian province

A peek into Iranian traditional houses, mansions

Heritage and Tourism

December 10, 2020

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China lauds Iran’s efforts to combat narcotics

The world is barrelling towards a temperature rise of 3°C by 2050, the UN said Wednesday, which looks at the disparity between what governments have promised and what is needed to avoid climate crisis, and current greenhouse gas levels.

The report explores what steps must be taken if we are to achieve the goal of limiting the increase of global temperature below 2°C this century, or the increasingly aspirational 1.5°C target.

The 2020 report found that global emissions have continued to rise year on year this year because of reduced travel, industrial slowdowns and lower electricity generation as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. But it will barely make a dent: the dip on global emissions of 2020 will be offset by a 2°C-and-a-half rise in 2021.

The UN report also called on leaders to speed up improvements for cycling and car-sharing, which are expected to be central to our return to normality.

UNEP suggests a switch from short-haul flights to rail travel, incentives and subsidies for greener transport and policies to promote large-scale landscape restoration and reforestation.

If governments act swiftly, there is still a possibility of achieving the 1.5°C goal, the report says. (However there are indications that 1.5°C is not achievable and will require that all countries must reduce their emissions by 45% by 2030.)

The report calls for prioritising zero-emissions technologies and infrastructure, in particular in the transport and energy sectors, and using recovery packages after the pandemic to promote inclusive and resilient economies.

World on track for 3°C rise this century – despite Covid emissions dip

Iran urges Afghanistan to resume talks on Hamoun wetlands

Iran and Afghanistan should resume negotiations on the water rights of Hamoun wetlands, IJC quoted Masoud Tajrishi, deputy chief of the Department of Water Management of Afghanistan, as saying.

Commenting on Afghanistan’s injudicious dam construction on its tributaries Tajrishi also noted that low water levels in the wetland have added to the water shortage.

"Iran and Afghanistan should reopen talks over the remaining water in Helmand River and discuss the water rights of the western part of Iran," he further underscored the importance of reaching a formal agreement with Afghanistan as the exposed lake bed is the main hotspot for debilitating sand and dust storms which cause great discomfort both for Iranians and Afghans as well.

China lauds Iran’s efforts to combat narcotics

Iran篆法 strings by a meeting in Tehran, the head of the Chinese Narcotics Control Bureau, a meeting in the region has added insult to the injury.

Pakistan’s border has been closed due to the current number of coronavirus cases in the country, the minister added.

Iran seized some 1,000 tons of narcotics in the previous year. The government has also announced a target to reduce the number of narcotics to zero by 2025.

According to the UNODC World Drug Report 2020 estimates that so far 126 countries, covering 51 per cent of global population, account for more than twice the combined share of global opium production.

The report has its limitations, including the absence of data on 21 countries, the lack of access to official data on some countries in the Middle East, the difficulties in measuring drug use trends due to the current global pandemic, and the limitation of the current global drug strategy.

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World on track for 3°C rise this century – despite Covid emissions dip

Iran urges Afghanistan to resume talks on Hamoun wetlands

Iran and Afghanistan should resume negotiations on the water rights of Hamoun wetlands, IJC quoted Masoud Tajrishi, deputy chief of the Department of Water Management of Afghanistan, as saying.

Commenting on Afghanistan’s injudicious dam construction on its tributaries Tajrishi also noted that low water levels in the wetland have added to the water shortage.

"Iran and Afghanistan should reopen talks over the remaining water in Helmand River and discuss the water rights of the western part of Iran," he further underscored the importance of reaching a formal agreement with Afghanistan as the exposed lake bed is the main hotspot for debilitating sand and dust storms which cause great discomfort both for Iranians and Afghans as well.

China lauds Iran’s efforts to combat narcotics

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The report explores what steps must be taken if we are to achieve the goal of limiting the increase of global temperature below 2°C this century, or the increasingly aspirational 1.5°C target.

The 2020 report found that global emissions have continued to rise year on year this year because of reduced travel, industrial slowdowns and lower electricity generation as a result of the coronavirus pandemic. But it will barely make a dent: the dip on global emissions of 2020 will be offset by a 2°C-and-a-half rise in 2021.

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Composer of revolutionary songs Ahmad-Aligheh's project to be released

Ahmad-Aligheh's project, begun as a new beginning of a new age in Iran's musical world, and Ahmad-Aligheh began collaborating with the production of the TV and Programming Office of the Iranian Broadcasting (IRIB), as it was one of the few centers that allowed to work in the country.

Until his death, Ahmad-Aligheh continued his collaboration with IRIB where he worked with dozens of singers and songwriters, including Sehatvand, Golshadi, Sadeq Badrkhani, Mahrokh Khadami, Abbasneshin, Moloud Farzad, Bahram Hasan, and Sina Sarakhi.

Ahmad-Aligheh also composed many musical pieces, including “Velayat”, which was recorded in the 1960s by a chorus in collaboration with the television program of the period.

In February 2018, Ahmad-Aligheh received a lifetime achievement award during the 38th Fajr International Music Festival.

Cinéma Vértex picks “Froth”, “Punks” for World’s Best

TEHRAN — The 14th edition of Cinéma Vértex, Iran's major international festival for documentary films, has selected for Qatar and Turkey co-production “Froth” and Dutch documentary “Punks” to screen in its World’s Best category.

The film was the Orion award for best film at the 7th Film Forum Festival in September, while also it received the Fai Petersons Environmental Foundation Award for the film.

The film, directed by Hannah Berryman from England, “Tony Driver” is about the Darkness and Iranian movies line up for Brazil’s Alter do Chao festival

TEHRAN — Iranian movies will be going to screen in the Alter do Chao Film Festival — which is organized every year by the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, in Brazil and the world, which consolidates itself as a festival of events in the Netherlands, Japan, China, Canada, and the U.S.

The ceremony will be held on February 28, 2021, pushed back almost two months from its annual January date due to uncertainties from the coronavirus pandemic.

IRANIAN IRANIAN Iranian movies line up for Brazil’s Alter do Chao festival

Movies from Iran compete in Intl. Amyl Short Film Festival

Iranian movies line up for Brazil’s Alter do Chao festival

The child labor drama “Sun Children” by Majid Majidi tells the story of 14-year-old Ali and his three friends. Together, they work hard to survive and support their families, doing small jobs in a garage and committing petty crimes to make fast money.

“Sun Children” has been acclaimed previously in several festivals and won the Crystal Leopard award at the 38th Fajr Film Festival in Tehran in February. The film has been selected for the best director.

The movie brought Bahrolubah Zamani the award for best actor and Majid the Zaven Qukasian at Golden Butterfly. Zamani was named the best young actor at the 7th Venice Film Festival, winning the Marcello Mastroianni Award in September.

The “Wasteland” by Ahmad Bahrami is about an old baker and a young bakery owner who is going through financial troubles and all that matters to the story is to keep his lover unhappy.

Close the story “Sun Children” by Alireza Qorbani, Alim Qasimov

The film won the Orizonti award for best film at the 7th Film Forum Festival in September, while it also received the Fai Petersons Environmental Foundation Award for the film.

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