

# TEHRAN TIMES

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Opinion 

## Managerial conflicts hurt Iranian football clubs

By Masoud Hossein

TEHRAN – Esteghlal and Tractor football teams failed to keep their AFC Champions League dream alive after being defeated by Saudi Arabian teams in Round of 16. Both teams are suffering from repercussions of mismanagement over the past months.

A heavily revamped Esteghlal met Al Hilal, while the side's top scorer in the group stage Cheick Diabate and talented young playmaker Mehdi Ghaedi had left the team. Esteghlal missed more than 10 players and encountered the Saudi giants with 10 newcomers.

Esteghlal coach Farhad Majidi and the team general manager Ahmad Madadi should have found a way to bury the hatchet with each other in the past months. The quarrel, in my opinion, cost Esteghlal a failure in the prestigious competition.

Esteghlal's defeat ended their bid for a first Asian club title since 1991.

Esteghlal, as one of the greatest Iranian football teams, have not won a league title since 2013 and their numerous fans are dissatisfied with the way of their club have done during the last years.

There have been a lot of managerial changes in the club since last year and the inconsistency caused the club bidding farewell to the quarter-finals.

Tractor's situation is almost like Esteghlal. They appointed their coach just days before the important match against Al Nassr. ▶ Page 3

Report 

## Let's clean up the world: "We are the first one to be hurt"

By Farnak Bakhtiari

TEHRAN – Waste production is an integral part of urban life, which is turning into a huge problem that will first and most hurt those who produced them. So that, on World Cleanup Day, let's rid the planet of trash.

Although urbanization has affected human society and created many problems in both developed and underdeveloped countries, the developed ones have a plan for waste management and recycle a large part of it, and underdeveloped countries leave waste in nature, which will be the detriment of the environment and their health.

Per capita waste production in European countries is 300 to 350 grams, and in Iran, it is 700 grams and sometimes up to one kilogram, which unfortunately a very small part of it is separated and recycled.

With an average per capita of 700 grams to 1 kg, Iranians produce more than 50,000 tons of waste per day, which is basically twice the world standard.

This situation is worse in the capital city of Tehran so that the per capita waste production in ▶ Page 7

# Nothing Left to Lose

Report 

TEHRAN – The U.S. chaotic and disorderly withdrawal from Afghanistan has created seismic effects mostly felt by the Saudis along with other U.S. allies in the region who are now deeply concerned about being abandoned by their unreliable American friends.

Former U.S. President Donald Trump, who had initiated the process of U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan, took a jab at President Joe Biden on Friday. After inveighing against the way Biden handled the Afghan withdrawal, Trump warned of the U.S. ceasing to exist in the next few years.

In an interview with Newsmax, Trump said, "Our country has gone really downhill in the last eight months like nobody's ever seen before."

Trump went so far as to say that the U.S. existence would be at risk if Biden remained president.

"And you go to these elections coming up in '22 and '24 — we're not going to have a country left," Trump said. "The election was rigged, and we're not going to have a country left in three years, I'll tell you that."

This may seem a little bit exaggerated for the Americans, but not for the U.S. allies in the region who seem to think that the American era is over.

The U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan has sent these allies scrambling to find new security guarantors after concluding that America is no longer a reliable security partner.

A senior Persian Gulf Arab official voiced these concerns in remarks to Reuters on Monday that were widely circulated by Saudi and Emirati media, reflecting a sense of unease among Arab monarchies of the geopolitically important region.

"Afghanistan is an earthquake, a shattering, shattering earthquake and this is going to stay with us for a very, very long time," the Arab official said on condition of anonymity due to the sensitivity of the diplomacy.

"Can we really depend on an American security umbrella for the next 20 years? I think this is very problematic right now — really very problematic," he added.

Persian Gulf Arab allies of the United States find the way that U.S. foreign policy appears to oscillate with "180-degree shifts" problematic and fears that militants will gain a foothold in Afghanistan, the official said.

The statements come days after the cancellation of the visit of U.S. Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin to Riyadh, which confirms the tense relations between the United States and Saudi Arabia, according to Al-Arab, a London-based newspaper close to the United Arab Emirates. ▶ Page 3

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## Iran seriously pursuing legal act against Gen. Soleimani assassination

TEHRAN — A special committee for legal and international investigation into the assassination of Iran's top General Qassem Soleimani and his entourage was held on Tuesday at the presence of managers and representatives of relevant state and military agencies.

Iran's Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian hosted the meeting of the follow-up committee related to the martyrdom of General Soleimani at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

In the meeting, which was attended by the rep-

resentative of the esteemed family of General Soleimani and the managers and representatives of the relevant judicial, political, security, legal and military organizations, the attendees expressed their views regarding the follow-up of the case and reported on the performance of their respective agencies. They briefed others at the session on the latest developments and progress regarding the issue and its various dimensions and effects.

Amir Abdollahian noted that the memory of General Soleimani must be kept alive as a national and international anti-terrorism hero.

Interview 

## Western experience in Afghanistan was disappointing, Italian expert says

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – Italian expert Pastori Gianluca is of the view that Western experience in Afghanistan was "disappointing".

"Overall, the Western experience in Afghanistan was disappointing," Gianluca tells the Tehran Times.

"The international community faced massive human and financial costs to reach only minimal results, possibly no result at all."

He adds, "Many of the social and economic benefits gained in the past years will probably get lost in the future."

Political analysts consider the Afghanistan case as an example of the West's failure in exporting democracy and nation-building.

"The Afghan experience will probably deliver another fatal blow to the idea that it is somehow possible to export 'Western-style' ▶ Page 5

## Iran to open trade center in Sulaymaniyah

TEHRAN – Iran is going to open a trade and permanent exhibition center in Sulaymaniyah city of Iraqi Kurdistan in the near future, the director-general of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO)'s Office of Arabian and African Countries announced.

"The trade center and permanent exhibition of Iranian products and services will be opened and put into operation in the city of Sulaymaniyah in the Iraqi Kurdistan region in the near future, in line with the plans of the Trade Promotion Organization to facilitate the entry of Iranian companies and goods into the Iraqi market," ILNA quoted Farzad Piltan as saying.

"This center has been established by the Trade Promotion Organization of Iran in collaboration with the Iran National Innovation Fund (INIF)," the official added.

According to Piltan, the Iranian Trade Center in Sulaymaniyah has the possibility of allocating space to Iranian companies and businesses to establish offices and exhibit their products, as well as providing marketing and export services and consulting.

The first floor of the center is dedicated to textiles, clothing, bags, and shoes; ▶ Page 4

Interview 

## Japan provided Iran with 2.9 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines: Japanese expert

By M. A. Saki

TEHRAN – A senior research fellow at the Institute of Energy and Economics Japan says that Tokyo has collaborated with Iran in fighting COVID-19 by sending vaccines produced in Japan.

"Japan provided Iran with 2.9 million doses of COVID-19 vaccinations manufactured in Japan," Sachi Sakanashi tells the Tehran Times.

Iran-Japan ties are a deep-rooted one that dates back to 92 years ago but it consolidated when Japan started to import oil from Iran in the 1950s.

As an oil-hungry island nation, Japan's position on Iran has been fraught with inherent tensions. It has to balance relations with Iran and the United States.

"U.S. sanctions affected the oil trade greatly because the U.S. used it as a weapon to fight against Iran," Sakanashi notes.

"It was as if the U.S. took Iranian oil as a hostage and demanded foreign banks to pay a ransom if they wanted to get it back." ▶ Page 5

## Win-win cooperation between Iran, SCO and obstacles ahead

TEHRAN – The Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) summit is scheduled for September 16-17 in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

It seems that one of the important agendas of the meeting is to examine the agreement of the member states to start the process of reviewing Iran's membership in this important regional organization as a permanent member.

At the invitation of Tajik President Emomali Rakhmon and the current chairman of the SCO, Iranian President Seyyed Ebrahim Raisi scheduled to attend the summit. A political and economic delegation will accompany the president in the official visit to Tajikistan.

The Tajik Foreign Ministry said in an official statement on Tuesday that the Iranian and Tajik presidents would have a special meeting during the three-day visit to the country, which is in fact the first foreign visit by Raisi as the new Iranian president. The two sides would exchange views on a wide range of issues. The meeting will take place with the participation of other officials from the two countries.

At the end of the meeting, the two sides are expected to sign a joint statement on bilateral relations and a package of new cooperation documents, the Tajik Foreign Ministry added.

According to the plan, the president of Iran will probably meet and

consult with some of the participating presidents on the sidelines of the summit.

### Iran and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization

The SCO was established in 2001 by the leaders of China, Russia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan with the aim of balancing multilateral security, economic and cultural cooperation aiming at balancing U.S. and NATO influence in the region.

Mongolia joined the organization as an observer member in 2004 and a year later Iran, Pakistan, India and Afghanistan and Belarus joined the SCO as observers. ▶ Page 3