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Iran-Syria Ties Under Spotlight Amid UAE Diplomatic Outreach

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Interview **T**

Ex-Iran midfielder Dinmohammadi satisfied with Skocic's Iran

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - Former Iran national football team midfielder Siruos Dinmohammadi says that Dragan Skocic's Iran deserve the 2022 World Cup spot after a mesmerizing afternoon at the Saida Stadium on Thursday, which ended with the Persian's victory.

Iran claimed a dramatic 2-1 win over Lebanon as added time goals from Sardar Azmoun and Ahmad Nourollahi maintained their unbeaten run and kept Skocic's side top of their World Cup qualifying group.

That means Iran (13 points) and South Korea (11 points) have drawn eight and six points clear of third-placed Lebanon in the six-team Group A, halfway through qualifying - the top two go straight to Qatar.

"Iran started well against Lebanon, and from the first minute, they dominated the game with an attacking tactic. We could have scored the first goal soon, but the players were in a hurry to score and were a little bit careless in front of the goal," Dinmohammadi told Tehran Times.

"The Lebanese scored their goal with the help of wind. It was achieved entirely by chance, and of course, our players made mistakes in that situation.

"The goal helped the Lebanon team play with more confidence, and they believed to have earned an unlikely win over one of the best Asian football teams. They also had the chance to score their second goal by individual errors of our players," the former Esteghlal said.

"Fortunately, we could find back of the net in the stoppage time and earn the three points. Iran deserved to win this game without any doubt. Moreover, our national team deserve to qualify for the 2022 Qatar World Cup because we are the best team in Group A, better than South Korea and all the other teams in the group," he added. ► Page 3

Sanctions should be lifted in accordance with JCPOA: Iran's chief negotiator

Iran requires a commitment that the U.S. will not again leave the nuclear deal signed with world powers in 2015, the country's new chief negotiator and deputy foreign minister has told the Guardian.

Ali Bagheri Kani also said that talks in Vienna between Iran and other signatories had failed to reach agreement on a means of verifying that U.S. sanctions had both been lifted and had a practical impact on trade with Iran.

"We need verification, and this remains unresolved. It is one of the issues that remains not finalized. It is not enough for the ink to be put on the agreement," he said. Bagheri Kani did not rule out an independent body being responsible for verification.

The Vienna talks are due to recommence at the end of the month after being suspended by Iran, after the June election of a new president, Ebrahim Raisi. Bagheri Kani is touring European capitals to set out the Iranian negotiating position.

Iran has said it will not take its own steps back into full compliance with the deal until verification of U.S. actions ► Page 2

Marching towards victory in Marib



TEHRAN — As the Yemeni armed forces close in on the strategic city of Marib, Saudis are about to lose everything, and here is why.

Sources told Al-Mayadeen that the Yemeni forces began securing the Hodeidah Airport

roundabout along with dozens of sites.

The multiple forces of the Saudi coalition withdrew from large parts in Al-Saleh City, Kilo 16, the Thabet Brothers Complex, east of Al-Hodeidah City, Al-Manzar in the vicinity

of the Hodeidah Airport, and areas of Al-Nakhilah, Al-Shujaira, Qudbah, Al-Juraibah, Al-Taif and other areas in Al-Durayhimi district, south of the coastal governorate on the Red Sea, west of Yemen. ► Page 2

UAE, Turkey launch land transit corridor crossing Iran

TEHRAN - A United Arab Emirate (UAE)-Turkey transit corridor which passes through Iran was officially launched with the first shipment from the UAE port of Sharjah heading for the Turkish port of Mersin docking at the Iranian Shahid Rajaei port.

The shipment, then, was transported to Bazargan crossing at the border with Turkey in northwest Iran and arrived at its destination in eight days, IRIB reported.

As reported, prior to the inauguration of

the new transit route passing Iran, the exports of goods from Sharjah port to Mersin Port in Turkey took at least 20 days.

The previous route had to cross the Bab al-Mandeb strait, the Red Sea, and the Suez Canal, and all the way to Turkey which used to take over 20 days.

Iran is one of the countries that has a special status in trade and transit relations due to its strategic location and special geography, as the country is the passage of several

important international corridors.

In the south of Iran is the Persian Gulf, which is home to the world's major oil-producing countries. This region is considered as the energy bottleneck of the world.

In the north of Iran is the Caspian Sea, which is the best bridge between Iran, Russia, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan and can play an important role in trade between these countries. ► Page 4

COVIRAN vaccine to begin clinical trial on children aged 12-18

TEHRAN - COVIRAN BAREKAT vaccine received a license to start a clinical trial on children aged 12 to 18 by the next week, Minoos Mohraz, a member of the National Scientific Committee of COVID-19, has said.

Made by researchers at the Headquarters for Executing the Order of the Imam, COVIRAN Barekat was unveiled on December 29, 2020, and received the license for public use on June 14.

Referring to 60 volunteers in the first phase of the clinical trial, she noted that children between the ages of 12 and 18 will enter the study, and if the result is successful, children between the ages of 6 and 12 will also attend the study.

"We will start clinical trials on children based on the existing routine in the world and observing international standards," she added.

Pastu Covac, developed jointly by the Pasteur Institute of Iran and Cuba's Finlay Vaccine Institute, is the only homegrown vaccine that includes use in children aged under 18. ► Page 7



President visits Kahrizak rehabilitation center

TEHRAN — On Friday morning, President Ebrahim Raisi visited the Kahrizak rehabilitation center, talking to the clients and managers of the center. He also sat down for a conversation and was informed about their problems. He then said that the government simultaneously plans to improve the economic situation and prevent social harms.

Susa: a gateway to must-see destinations

TEHRAN - In southwest Iran is situated Susa, a captivating UNESCO-listed archaeological site occupying the whole southern flank of modern Shush.

Originally similar in scale to the UNESCO-designated Persepolis, the city saw countless invasions and sackings during its history which spans almost 6000 years.

Furthermore, Susa was once the winter

residence of Persian kings after having been captured by Cyrus the Great. Susa became part of the Persian Empire under Cyrus II, the Great in 538 or 539 BC.

Various archaeological seasons in Susa have yielded ample relics including pottery, arms, ornamental objects, metalwork, bronze articles, as well as clay tablets. Susa is also a gateway to several worthy destinations such

as the UNESCO-tagged ziggurat of Tchogha Zanbil, the ruins of Achaemenid Apadana Castle, Shush Castle (Akropol), Prophet Daniel Shrine, Museum of Susa, the archaeological mount of Haft Tapeh.

Situated in the lower Zagros mountain range, Susa is identified as Shushan in the Book of Esther and other Biblical books. ► Page 6

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Interview **T**

Saudis have realized they need modus vivendi with Iran: professor

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN - A professor of government at Georgetown University in Qatar says that the Saudis have found out that they need to work with Iran within a modus vivendi.

"Indications say that the Saudis no longer see Persian Gulf security as a zero-sum game and they have realized that they need to work out some sort of agreement and modus vivendi with Iran," Mehran Kamrava tells the Tehran Times.

Iran and Saudi Arabia have started several rounds of talks to restore the diplomatic ties that were cut in 2016 after students attacked the Saudi embassy in Tehran.

The attack on the Saudi embassy by a number of Iranian students came in response to Saudi extremist policies, especially its execution of Shia cleric Sheikh Nimr al-Nimr and number of other pro-democracy activists.

But the Saudis' failure to achieve their goals in the war on Yemen changed the game as Riyadh is going to realize that unilateral policies are doomed to failure.

"In recent months, following successive defeats in Yemen and after the election of Biden, it appears that the Saudis are pursuing a more realistic foreign policy," Kamrava argues.

"Whether or not they are willing to acknowledge Iran's weight in the region, it remains to be seen," the professor adds. ► Page 5

An Israeli war on Iran will lead to 'destruction of Zionist regime': IRGC general

TEHRAN - A senior IRGC official has downplayed the Israel occasional threats of war against Iran, saying the Tel Aviv regime is well aware that starting a military confrontation with Iran will only bring its annihilation forward.

Brigadier General Amir-Ali Hajizadeh made the remarks on the sidelines of a ceremony commemorating the martyrdom anniversary of Hassan Tehrani Moghaddam, known as the father of Iran's defensive missile program.

Israel fully knows it that it can only be the initiator of any military action against Iran, "but we will be the one who decides the ending," Ali Hajizadeh stressed.

A war against Iran will lead to the "destruction of the Zionist regime," and if they dare do something against it, "they will not see beyond the current period, and, historically speaking, the time of their destruction will be certainly brought closer." ► Page 2

An Israeli war on Iran will lead to 'destruction of Zionist regime': IRGC general

From page 1 ▶ The top Iranian commander said the Israeli regime is the only entity in the world that is talking about its existence and survival, with meetings and summits held regularly on the issue.

Israeli military chief Aviv Kohavi warned on Tuesday that the regime's military was ramping up its preparations for a possible attack on Iranian nuclear facilities.

The army "is accelerating operational planning and preparedness to deal with Iran and the military nuclear threat," Kohavi told a Knesset committee.

He also said there is "no existential threat" facing Israel.

Hajizadeh said Israel, as a regime that constantly talks about its existence, is doomed to bring its own destruction



forward if it gives Iran "any pretext" by waging war.

"Such a regime cannot talk about another country, and the threats it makes are to a great extent for domestic purposes," he added, according to Press TV.

Iran, Pakistan examine strengthening border, maritime cooperation



TEHRAN — In a virtual meeting, Iran's Border Guard Commander and the director-general of the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency have reviewed the latest developments related to bilateral cooperation in maritime and border management as well as conducting operations and patrols, IRNA reported on Friday.

The virtual meeting was held at the presence of the delegations of the Border Guards Command of Iran's Police and the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency.

The on Iranian side the meeting was attended by Brigadier General Ahmad Ali Goodarzi, commander of Iran's Border Guards; senior officials from the security, legal and naval departments of the Iran's police; as well as Colonel Mostafa Ghanbarpour, Iran's military attaché in Pakistan. The Pakistani side was composed of Admiral Mohammad Shoaib, director-general of country's Maritime Security Agency, along with representatives from Pakistan's foreign and defense ministries.

The two sides discussed ways for mutual cooperation and different ideas for improving security, protecting fishermen, conducting operations and joint patrols.

General Goodarzi and Admiral Shoaib also agreed to expand joint cooperation and future assistance in various fields.

In the virtual meeting, the relevant officers from the Border Guards Command of the Iranian police and the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency discussed in detail the agreements reached in various areas.

Russia says U.S. must revise Iran sanctions policy

TEHRAN - Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Sergei Ryabkov said on Thursday that the United States needs to revise its policy of draconian sanctions against Iran in violation of the 2015 nuclear agreement, officially called the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action (JCPOA)

"The utmost must be done so that the negotiations ensure the restoration of what's known as the 'factory settings' of the JCPOA," Ryabkov said, according to TASS.

"Political will is now required. From the U.S. side, it is important to prove and demonstrate in practice that the sanctions policy, which has been carried out over the recent years is being reviewed and the Iranian side is given the opportunity to reap those economic advantages that are included in the package of agreements that lies at the heart of the JCPOA," the Russian diplomat said.

The JCPOA was inked by Iran and six world powers in 2015, under which Tehran agreed to put limits on certain aspects of its nuclear activities in exchange for the lifting of international sanctions imposed against the country.

In 2018, however, the U.S. exited the nuclear pact and began to unilaterally implement what it called the maximum pressure campaign against the Islamic

Republic, effectively depriving Iran of the deal's benefits by forcing third parties to stop trade with Iran.

Iran remained patient for an entire year, after which it began to take incremental steps away from its nuclear obligations due to the other parties' proven failure to secure its contractual interests.

Iran's move was based on paragraph 36 of the JCPOA which "provided a mechanism to resolve disputes and allows one side, under certain circumstances, to stop complying with the deal if the other side is out of compliance."

On Wednesday, Amir Abdollahian's deputy, Ali Baqeri-Kani, who is Iran's lead negotiator at the talks, made it clear that the nuclear issue is already resolved, emphasizing that the focus would be on the lifting of all of Washington's illegal sanctions.

Iran has repeatedly reassured the other JCPOA signatories that it will resume full compliance with its nuclear obligations under the deal after the U.S., as the instigator of the current crisis, removes all of its sanctions and gives Iran a guarantee that it will not leave the deal again.

On Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh once again spelled out what the U.S. must do to regain its JCPOA membership and restore the deal.

Minority MP says Raisi's motivation is admirable

TEHRAN - Ara Shavardian, the representative of the Armenian Christians of Northern Iran in the parliament, has lauded President Ebrahim Raisi's motivation and agility to serve the people, saying such a spirit will also create motivation by the ministers to serve the people.

In an interview with the Fars news agency on Friday, Ara Shavardian said although it is not possible to make a judgment regarding the measures that can be taken in 90 working days by the new administration, "Mr. Raisi's motivation and agility to serve the people are admirable."

He added: "In addition, Mr. Raisi will

transfer his motivation and agility to the cabinet ministers in order to provide more and better services to the people."

For example, the MP said: "Last week we saw that Mr. Raisi went to Andika to observe the problems of the earthquake-hit people and these visits make the president closely witness how much the reports of the relevant agencies to serve the people and solve problems correspond with reality and if they do not correspond, issues an immediate order to solve the people's problems and follow up on the issue."

Shavardian cited another example, saying: "In another case, regarding the problem in the fuel system, we

saw that, firstly, people were able to refuel quickly and in the very first hours, and secondly, with the launch of the fuel quota system, the rumors about rising gasoline prices were neutralized and the ill-wishers of the country and the system could not achieve their goals, either by hacking the fuel quota system or by spreading rumors about the increase in gasoline prices, the most

important of which was to create chaos in the society."

In the cyber attack on gas stations in Iran on October 27, the drivers could not fuel their cars with a gasoline priced at 1500 tomans.

Sanctions should be lifted in accordance with JCPOA: Iran's chief negotiator

From page 1 ▶ has been secured. Iran has been increasing its uranium stockpile and use of advanced centrifuges beyond the limits set in the deal. It has limited the access of the UN nuclear inspectorate.

Defending his demand that the U.S. give a guarantee that it will comply with the agreement, Bagheri Kani said: "This is about an agreement not a policy. If there is a peace agreement between two states, it has the effect of a treaty. This is international law. It is not intended that domestic laws of the U.S. can prevail over an international agreement. That is against international law."

He added he wanted European powers to give their own guarantees that they will trade with Iran, regardless of the U.S. position, possibly by using a blocking statute nullifying the effect of U.S. sanctions on European firms that trade with Iran.

Bagheri Kani denied that



Iran had been stalling on the talks' resumption in an effort to develop its own nuclear program, saying it was natural for a new government to take time to prepare its negotiating position and to hold bilateral talks with the other parties.

The deputy minister repeated

capabilities or our security."

He added: "Iran's relations with other countries did not need a guardian."

He denied his negotiating stance was so tough that it would be impossible to reach an agreement in Vienna. "We are just saying that in accordance with the JCPOA the sanctions should be lifted. We did a deal, and our view is that it should be implemented."

Asked if he was requiring the Vienna talks to go back to the start, he said: "What is important is not from where we started, but what is important is that we achieve a deal that has practical results for the parties. Our main objective is to remove the illegal sanctions that they have imposed on the Iranian nation in breach of UN resolutions. Any sanctions in breach of the JCPOA imposed by President Obama and President Trump have to be lifted. That is the agreement set out the JCPOA."

calls for all U.S. sanctions linked to the nuclear deal to be lifted.

He also ruled out discussions on Iran's missile and security program being included in the agreement. He said: "the JCPOA has a clear framework and other issues are not relevant. We are not going to negotiate on our defense

Marching towards victory in Marib

page 1 ▶ The same sources told Al-Mayadeen that the withdrawal of the multiple forces of the Saudi coalition from the Kilo 16 region will soon reopen the international road linking Sana'a and the city of Hodeidah.

Al-Mayadeen also quoted local sources that the withdrawal of the Salafist Brigades and Tariq Saleh forces of the Saudi-led coalition may be intended to strengthen Mansour Hadi, the deposed president of Yemen and the collapsed Islah party on the fronts of the city of Marib in northeastern Yemen, by sending those forces to Shabwa governorate, adjacent to Marib from the eastern side.

Until now, the multiple forces of the Saudi coalition have not explained the reason for their sudden withdrawal from the front lines of the southern and eastern fronts of the city of Hodeidah, after about 3 years of controlling those fronts.

In Marib governorate, the bloody hit-and-run battles continue between the Yemeni armed forces and the forces of the deposed President Hadi and the Islah party backed by the Saudi-coalition air power. The battles are

underway in the areas separating the districts of Juba and Wadi Ubaidah, south of the city of Marib.

Also, military sources revealed that the Ansarallah forces and their allies have had advancements towards important areas south and east of the Wadi Obaida district.

The sources added that the forces are now stationed at the outskirts of the southern neighborhoods of Marib city, after the humiliating retreat of large numbers of Saudi mercenaries to the city center.

The Yemeni forces launched a large operation called Operation Rabi Al Nasr. It was launched in two phases.

During the second phase, the armed forces liberated a total area of 1100 km2, according to Yahya Saree, spokesman for the Yemeni forces.

During a series of tweets posted on November 2, he said that Al-Juba and Jabal Murad districts in Marib governorate were liberated in the second phase of the Rabi Al Nasr Operation.

Saree also unraveled the details of the second phase the operation, in which a reported 159 airstrikes were carried out.

"Most of these raids targeted Juba, Rahba and Harib districts. Our air defense succeeded in carrying out 86 confrontation operations," he added.

In the tweets, he outlined the results of the operation, saying that at least 200 coalition troops were killed in the second phase of the operation, while reportedly 550 others were injured. Large quantities of medium and light weapons were also purportedly seized.

Several local tribes in Marib province have agreed to surrender and allow the liberation of the oil-rich province, which is considered the last base of the Saudi-led coalition.

A strategic city rich with oil and gas, the liberation of Marib is a key point in advantage of the Ansarallah movement.

The liberation of the last base of the Saudis clearly shows that Ansarallah not only has not been weakened after seven years, but also it has gained more power.

WHO ARE EVANGELISTS?

CORE BELIEFS

- The Bible is the highest authority
- Belief in Jesus is the only path to salvation
- People must go through a conversion experience to be saved
- Evangelicals share these beliefs with others

MAIN BASES

Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, Colorado, Michigan, Texas

ETHNIC DIVERSITY

Three quarter are white
Latinos evangelicals are among fastest growing demographics

FAMOUS EVANGELICAL DEMOCRATS:

Jimmy Carter
Lisa Sharon Harper

INFLUENTIAL LOBBY GROUPS

CUFI (Christians United for Israel), NAE (National Association of Evangelicals), Faith and Freedom Coalition

POLITICS

Over half of the evangelicals call themselves conservative.
Small government on economic policy
Ban on abortion and gay marriage

Iran-Syria ties under spotlight amid UAE diplomatic outreach

TEHRAN – After long years of antagonism, some Arab states are trying out a new approach toward Syria in a bid to revive what came to be known as the Arab role in the war-torn country.

The United Arab Emirates and Jordan are leading the new Arab approach in tandem with others who, for now, prefer to wait and see if the UAE-led efforts would bear fruit.

Last week on Tuesday, UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed landed in the Syrian capital Damascus to meet Syrian President Bashar Assad, the most senior Emirati visit to the war-scarred country in a decade.

The latest developments in the West Asia region and Syria, in addition to a number of regional and international issues of common interest featured high during the meeting, according to a statement by the UAE foreign ministry. "The two sides also reviewed the prospects of enhancing bilateral relations between the two sisterly nations," the statement said, adding, "The Syrian president reciprocated the greetings and underlined the strong bonds between the two fraternal nations. He also commended the objective positions adopted by the UAE."

After Damascus, the top Emirati diplomat immediately traveled to Jordan, where he met with Jordanian King Abdullah II, an indication that regional issues were on the agenda of Emirati-Jordanian talks.

The Emirati foreign ministry's statement on this meeting didn't point to any regional issues being discussed by the two sides. It put the meeting



in the broader context of the two countries' bilateral relations.

But Sheikh Abdullah did discuss regional issues with his Jordanian counterpart Ayman Safadi. "The two ministers talked about several regional issues of mutual concern and highlighted the importance of continuing their related coordination and cooperation to overcome common challenges and achieve security and stability in the Arab region," a separate UAE foreign ministry statement said.

Although Sheikh Abdullah did not point to any regional implications for his Syria visit, Saudi and Emirati media and commentators widely highlighted the visit as a counterbalance effort aimed at curtailing Iran's influence in Syria while rehabilitating the Syrian government.

The crux of their argument is that the UAE should return Syria to the Arab fold given the impossibility of regime change in Damascus. And such a return should come at the expense of Iran's interests.

Sheikh Abdullah is in Damascus to achieve a number of "lofty goals," Abdulkhaleq Abdullah, an influential

Emirati academic who is believed to be close to Abu Dhabi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Zayed, said on Twitter. Contributing to the return of 10 million Syrian refugees, reducing the Iranian presence in Syria, working to end the Turkish occupation, organizing the Arab house, and increasing the Arab presence in Syria are among these goals, according to the Emirati academic.

Furthermore, the Saudi-owned Asharq Al-Awsat claimed that it has seen a Jordanian-drafted document outlining a quid pro quo process under which Arab states would normalize ties with Syria in exchange for concessions from the war-torn country.

The Arab Normalization Document lays out a step-by-step process that would begin with "reducing Iran's influence in certain parts of Syria," according to the Saudi newspaper.

Again, the normalization of ties between Syria and other Arab states is being seen through the prism of countering Iran.

This is while Iran has already supported the so-called process

of returning Syria to the Arab fold. Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has recently spoken over the phone with Sheikh Abdullah and Safadi as well as Algerian Foreign Minister Ramtane Lamamra.

In his conversation with Lamamra, which took place after Sheikh Abdullah's visit to Damascus, Amir Abdollahian expressed hope that the upcoming meeting of the Arab League will have important benefits for the Islamic ummah, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

The next summit of the Arab League in Algeria is widely expected to usher in Syria's return to the organization which suspended Syria's membership during the Syrian civil war. Therefore, Abdollahian apparently hoped that the Algeria meeting would approve of Syria's return to the Arab League.

In addition, Iran has welcomed the improvement of relations between Damascus and other Arab capitals. But this Iranian openness seems to have fallen on deaf ears in Abu Dhabi.

Iran's influence in Syria has never been directed against the UAE and its Arab allies. So, it's difficult to see why the Emiratis make efforts to undermine Tehran's interests in Syria.

The UAE push could backfire against it as the Syrian government is unlikely to turn its back on those who helped it during times of crisis. At the end of the day, the UAE was part of the group of countries that worked over the last decade to topple the Syrian government. That they failed to achieve a regime change in Damascus doesn't mean that they became allies of Syria overnight.

SPORTS

Ex-Iran midfielder Dinmohammadi satisfied with Skocic's Iran

From Page 1 ▶ Speaking about the Iran team's players, the former player of Mainz 05 said: "The players of the national team are great and there is not much difference between the quality of the players at the international level," Dinmohammadi added.

"Sardar Azmoun acted very cleverly on the first goal, and on the second goal Vahid Amiri explosively ran into the opponent's box and broke their defensive wall.

"Skocic made calculated decisions in terms of the substituting. We kept pressure until the last seconds of the game and finally reached our desired result," concluded Dinmohammadi.

Iran come sixth at FIBA Women's Asia Cup Division B

TEHRAN – Iran lost to Syria 63-58 to finish the 2021 FIBA Women's Asia Cup Division B in sixth place.

Randi Keonsha Brown scored 20 points for the Syrian team and Sheida Shojai led the Iranian team with 16 points.

Iran had already lost to Syria 78-71 in the preliminary round.

Iran also lost to Lebanon and Indonesia in the campaign.

A total of six nations compete in this Division B tournament and the eventual winners will move up and replace the recently relegated India at the next edition of the FIBA Women's Asia Cup in 2023.

Iran earn dramatic win over Lebanon in 2022 World Cup qualifier

TEHRAN – Two late goals from Sardar Azmoun and Ahmad Nourollahi kept Iran on top of Group A of the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification.

In the match held at the Saida Municipal Stadium in Sidon on Thursday, Soony Saad gave the hosts a lead in the 37th minute but Azmoun levelled the score just after the regular time. In the dying moments of the match, Nourollahi scored the winner with a shot outside the area.

Iran are scheduled to play Syria on Tuesday in Amman, Jordan.

The 'Persian Leopards' remain top of group with 13 points.

South Korea are second with 11 points and Lebanon sit third with five points.

Only the top two teams in the group are guaranteed to qualify for the FIFA World Cup Qatar 2022, with the third placed finisher entering into a series of playoffs.

Sardar Azmoun accuses Lebanon of time wasting

TEHRAN – Iran national football team forward Sardar Azmoun furiously hit out at Lebanon football team for time wasting.

Iran came back from a goal down to beat Lebanon 2-1 in the stoppage time on Thursday in Group A of the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

Azmoun levelled the score just a minute after the regular time and Ahmad Nourollahi scored the winner just before the final whistle.

"To play against the teams such as Lebanon is very difficult since they want to stop you by wasting the time. The Lebanese players pretended they were injured in each collision," Azmoun said.

"Lebanon are not capable of qualifying for the World Cup even though they emerged victorious over us. This tactic doesn't work well," the Zenit star added.

"In the 2018 FIFA World Cup, we were a defensive-minded team but we never wasted the time. I would like congratulate to the Iranian people for winning the match," Azmoun stated.

Iran's fixture in CAFA U15 Championship revealed

TEHRAN – Iran will begin the 2021 CAFA U15 Boys Championship with a match against Uzbekistan.

The match will be held on Nov. 19.

Iran are scheduled to meet Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan on Nov. 21 and 23, respectively.

The tournament will be held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan from November 19 to 23 in a round-robin format.

Iran won the 2nd edition in 2018 which was held in Tashkent, Uzbekistan.

Captain Jahanbakhsh lauds Iran's performance in qualifier

TEHRAN – Iran national football team captain Alireza Jahanbakhsh says that they worked hard to defeat Lebanon.

Iran earned a late 2-1 win over Lebanon in Group A of the 2022 FIFA World Cup.

"The first goal they scored out of nowhere, (but) we deserved to win," said the PSV Eindhoven winger. "We worked hard, we just kept going and didn't give up, this is the result we get.

"Now (we have taken) one very big step for us forward to the qualification. We knew before the game it was going to be a tough match, but we didn't think it was going to go this way with the conditions and the wind, not the best quality pitch and everything," said Jahanbakhsh.

"We knew it before but kept going, we created chances. In the first half we could've finished the game but the chances didn't go in. But thank God the last two goals makes it a win for us and a massive step on the qualification towards the World Cup," the Iran captain said.

The result leaves Iran on 13 points from five games.

Shahrdari Sirjan on verge of winning AFC Women's Club C'ship

TEHRAN – Shahrdari Sirjan of Iran are top of the 2021 AFC Women's Club Championship standings with a perfect record and only need a draw to win the title.

Shahrdari Sirjan will meet Amman Club of Jordan at the Aqaba Development Corporate Stadium on Saturday.

Amman started their AFC Women's Club Championship campaign on the front foot when they produced a sparkling second half fightback to defeat Gokulam Kerala 2-1 on Matchday One but were held to a draw against Bunyodkor in their second match.

Shahrdari Sirjan made an impressive start to their campaign on Matchday One when they defeated Bunyodkor 2-1. Roghaye Jalalnasab and Zahra Alizadeh put Shahrdari Sirjan ahead, before Dildora Nozimova reduced the deficit from the penalty spot.

The match against Gokulam Kerala saw both teams battle through a goalless first half. Despite losing Zahra Alizadeh to injury, Shahrdari Sirjan stunned the Indian side with a superb second half free-kick from Afsaneh Chatrenoor to seal the win.

Shahrdari Sirjan head coach Maryam Nejati said her players are focused on winning the title and will put in their best performance against Amman Club.

Iran FM holds phone conversation with Emirati, Algerian counterparts

'Tehran-UAE ties are of special importance for both countries,' says Amir Abdollahian

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has spoken over the phone with the foreign ministers of the United Arab Emirates and Algeria.

The conversations came on the heels of a historic visit by UAE Foreign Minister Sheikh Abdullah bin Zayed to Syria after a decade of diplomatic isolation.

During their conversation on Thursday evening, the Iranian and Emirati foreign ministers discussed the pursuit of a growing trend in bilateral relations as well as regional and international developments, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

The Iranian foreign minister described relations between Iran and the UAE as traditional and positive, saying: Tehran-UAE ties are of special importance for both countries and we are confident that a good trend in improving relations will lead to the full development of bilateral ties.

Amir Abdollahian said resolving some executive problems between the two countries will facilitate and help develop trade ties, and expressed hope that with the cooperation between the two governments, the problems that currently exist in the financial exchanges will be overcome based on mutual relations and international law.

Referring to the forthcoming talks in Vienna intended to lift sanction against Iran, the top Iranian diplomat said, "We are ready to reach a good agreement and believe that the other parties must return to their commitments."

The UAE foreign minister also asked Amir Abdollahian about his health and wished his Iranian counterpart excellent health and full recovery.

Referring to the problems in trade exchanges between the two countries, the UAE foreign minister said that the existing problems are being studied by experts from the two countries and efforts are being made to resolve them.

Referring to environmental crises, the UAE's top diplomat called for global and regional cooperation to solve environmental problems, adding that the UAE is ready to cooperate with regional countries in this regard.

Amir Abdollahian called the UAE foreign minister's visit to the region, including Damascus, a positive step.

The Emirati foreign minister invited his Iranian counterpart to visit the UAE. Amir Abdollahian, for his part, invited the top Emirati diplomat to visit the Islamic Republic.

The foreign ministers of Iran and the UAE referred to the fact that the new Iranian administration prioritizes relations with neighbors, saying that increasing dialogue and cooperation among regional countries is important and stressed the need to strengthen this process.

The Emirati foreign ministry issued a brief statement on the two ministers' conversation. "During the conversation, they discussed bilateral relations and cooperation and ways to enhance them in the best interest of the two countries. Sheikh Abdullah said that the UAE looks forward to working jointly with Iran in the field of environmental protection and facing the challenges of climate change," the statement said.

The Iranian foreign minister also spoke with his Algerian counterpart Ramtane Lamamra whose country is expected to play a host to an Arab League

summit that would possibly discuss Syria's return to the pan-Arab organization. The Iranian foreign ministry said Amir Abdollahian and Lamamra focused on the trend of bilateral ties and issues of mutual interest regionally and internationally.

Referring to the good political relations between Iran and Algeria, the Iranian foreign minister expressed hope that the bilateral ties would further develop in all fields.

Amir Abdollahian described the recent meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the two countries as a fruitful step and said holding this meeting will create a good opportunity to improve the level of trade relations between the two countries.

He also spoke of Algeria's negative vote for the Zionist regime's membership in the African Union. The Iranian foreign minister praised Algeria's move and said the country has acted wisely and logically. Amir Abdollahian also said the move and also Algeria's rational stance on Syria's return to the Arab League are valuable.

He expressed hope that the upcoming meeting of the Arab League will have important benefits for the Islamic ummah.

The Algerian foreign minister also wished Amir Abdollahian health and full recovery from the Covid-19 and expressed hope that the world will soon hear good news regarding the end of the pandemic and also about the successful end of sanctions on Iran.

Lamamra referred to the meeting of the Iran-Algeria Chamber of Commerce. He said holding the meeting is positive for developing trade relations and boosting exchanges between the two countries.

Iran's role in UNSCEAR undeniable, nuclear official says

TEHRAN – Regarding Iran's permanent membership in the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation (UNSCEAR), the Vice President of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) on Thursday the level and quality of Iran's participation in the committee as a member surprised everyone and completely was approved by the scientists of the committee.

"Following constant follow-ups by the Iran Nuclear Regulatory Authority (INRA) at the Atomic Energy Organization and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in 2017, Iran's application for membership in the committee was accepted along with three countries of Norway, the United Arab Emirates and

Algeria," Mohammad Reza Kardan said while explaining the process of Iran's membership in the scientific committee and its promotion from an observer to a permanent member.

The official added: "According to UN General Assembly Resolution 72/76, the applicant countries were asked to nominate a relevant scientist as an observer for a period of 4 years, in order to decide on their permanent membership after the 4-year period, based on the executive method of membership in the committee and based on the useful and effective presence of member countries in the activities."

The AEOI deputy chief stated that by taking advantage of national capacities and Iranian scientists in

the technical working groups, Iran had had an active and effective participation in committee, adding that the level and quality of the participation of Iran in the programs of the committee were such that it astonished the members of the committee to the extent that everyone agrees that Iran's presence in the committee can significantly increase the quality of activities.

"In the sixty-eighth meeting of the committee in 2021, and after 4 years of the presence of observer members, the consideration of permanent membership of four observer countries, including Iran, was on the agenda of the committee. In this meeting, which was held virtually, a report on the

activities carried out by Iran in the past four years was presented and at the end, the proposal for Iran's permanent membership in the UNSCEAR was agreed upon by consensus," Kardan stated.

Recalling that permanent membership in the UNSCEAR should be approved by the UN General Assembly, he underlined that intensive diplomatic consultation by the Foreign Ministry as well as effective, scientific, research and brilliant record provided by Iran coupled with full support by the committee's scientists, fortunately Iran's membership in the UN General Assembly was approved and Iran's position in this international body was upgraded from an observer to a permanent member.

North Pars field to add 100 mcm to Iran's natural gas output

TEHRAN – Head of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) said on Thursday that developing the country's North Pars gas field is going to add 100 million cubic meters (mcm) to Iran's natural gas output, the portal of the Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) reported.

Speaking in a meeting with the members of the Parliament's Energy Committee, Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr stated that descriptive studies on the field have been started by POGC with the approval of the board of directors of the National Iranian Oil Company, adding: "The development of the North Pars field can help raise the level of employment, and we are looking to conduct a spatial planning project under the framework of this \$4-billion project."

According to Khojasteh-Mehr, NIOC needs over four billion dollars of investment to develop North Pars gas fields.

The official further noted that since the beginning of the development of South Pars, 81 billion dollars have been invested and to continue benefiting from the results of this development more investment is still required.

He also pointed to the need for maintaining the current level of production at the South Pars gas field and noted: "for a sustained



production and extraction of these reserves, we must invest in all areas."

Noting that several projects have been defined in line with the new missions of the National Iranian Oil Company, the official said: "The country's increasing need for natural gas and the exports of the product requires us to access new underground resources."

North Pars gas field is one of the biggest independent gas fields in the world. This field which was discovered in 1967 is located some 120 kilometers southeast of Bushehr province in the Persian Gulf.

In 1963, exploration activities started in this field with carrying out seismic tests and the first exploration well was completed in 1967. The total volume of the gas in place of this field is about 1.69 billion cubic meters.

Establishment permits issued for 167 industrial units in Bushehr in H1

TEHRAN – As announced by a provincial official, during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), 167 permits have been issued for establishing new industrial units in Bushehr province, in the southwest of Iran.

Hossein Hosseini, the head of the province's Industry, Mining and Trade Department, announced that 49.283 trillion rials (about \$1.173 billion) of investment is predicted for the establishment of the mentioned units.

The number of issued permits shows 49 percent rise, the volume of investment indicates 436 percent growth, and employment by these units shows 27 percent increase as compared to the first half of the previous year, he noted.

The official further announced that 17 important and strategic industrial projects in Bushehr province in the fields of lime, calcium carbonate, glycol, propane, butane, methanol, rubber powder, etc. with various physical progress are being completed.

According to the data released by Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry, during the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year, 18,000 permits have been issued for establishing new industrial units in the country, while 485 licenses have also been issued for mining exploration units.

The estimated investment made for the

In first half of current year, 18,000 permits have been issued for establishing new industrial units in country

establishment of the mentioned units was more than 5.76 quadrillion rials (about \$137.142 billion).

The units are predicted to create jobs for 438,895 persons.

Based on the Industry Ministry data, the number of issued licenses during the said period has declined three percent compared to the figure for the previous year's same six months, while the volume of investment made in the units has increased by 155 percent and the number of jobs expected to be created has also increased by 6.1 percent.

The number of issued licenses for mining exploration operations during the first half of the current fiscal year increased by 2.1 percent.

It is estimated that the mentioned exploitation licenses would create jobs for 76,527 people, which shows a growth of 19.9 percent compared to the previous year's same time span.

As announced by Deputy Industry, Mining, and Trade Minister Mehdi Sadeqi Niaraki, the issuance of establishment licenses for industrial units in the country increased 40 percent in the past Iranian calendar year (ended on March 20).

"The number of establishment licenses increased to more than 36,000 last year, which shows that people are encouraged to invest in the productive sectors", the official has stated.

of this is due to sanctions and barriers in the way of exports, and part is due to changes in domestic laws and regulations. These issues have ultimately led to less investment in this sector."

According to the official, the mining sector's priority for attracting investment should be the exploration area, and any country should have a clear view of the amount of its mineral reserves for a period of at least 20 years to be able to plan in this area.

"In this regard, we need a national program," he said.

The second priority for attracting investments should be the supply of modern equipment and the modernization of the

UAE, Turkey launch land transit corridor crossing Iran

Page 1 ▶ The country, on the other hand, borders Iraq, Turkey, Pakistan and Afghanistan to the west and east.

In other words, it can be said that Iran communicates with 15 countries through land and water borders, and at the same time it can act as a bridge between these countries (with each other and other parts of the world).

These countries have a large population and high income which can be effective as a factor in the development of transit and trade in the region.

The connection of Central Asian countries with the Persian Gulf, as well as the establishment of trade relations between East Asia and European



countries through Iran, is very cost-effective, so that many of these countries seek to establish such relations through Iran.

This status has provided the country with many opportunities that making optimal use of them through the expansion

of the transportation network and reliable and efficient communication, Iran can achieve foreign currency earnings and economic growth, and make transit revenue a suitable alternative to oil export, while improving its strategic position in the region.

Considering its geographical location, Iran can play a significant role in the transit of goods in the region and benefit a lot from its status in this due. To take full advantage of its location for transit, the country has many plans underway and, on the agenda, to boost its transit capacity.

Some of these plans include developing Shahid Rajaei Port, Iran's largest and most-equipped container port in the south, and also Chabahar Port in the southeast of the country, connecting the ports to the railway network, development of transit via railway, and also some customs measures such as improving transit procedures in the customs offices.

Iran planning to invest \$11b to develop offshore gas fields

TEHRAN – Head of the National Iranian Oil Company (NIOC) has said his company is planning to increase the country's natural gas output by 240 million cubic meters (mcm) which requires \$11 billion of investment, the portal of the Pars Oil and Gas Company (POGC) reported.

"We will invest about \$11 billion in offshore fields to add about 240 million cubic meters to the country's gas production capacity," Mohsen Khojasteh-Mehr said on Thursday, on the sidelines of a visit to Phase 14 of the South Pars gas field in southern Iran.

According to Khojasteh-Mehr, NIOC's programs include the development of North Pars gas field as the country's new gas hub.

Mentioning his company's plans for increasing the country's gas production



capacity to compensate for the shortage of gas for domestic consumption and exports, the official said: "We have put development plans on the agenda to supply the gas needed by the country, including the development of North Pars gas field which is equivalent to four phases of South Pars."

He further pointed to the development

of the first phase of the Kish gas field as another priority of the NIOC, saying: "Accelerating the completion of phase 11 of South Pars and using the capacities of the country's onshore fields will also be part of plans to increase gas production."

Holding nearly 18 percent of the global gas reserves, Iran is one of the most hydrocarbon-rich areas in the world, and the country's giant South Pars gas field (which Iran shares with Qatar in the Persian Gulf) is by far the world's largest natural gas field.

South Pars covers an area of 9,700 square kilometers, 3,700 square kilometers of which are in Iran's territorial waters and the remaining 6,000 square kilometers, called North Dome, are situated in the Arab country's territorial waters.

Agricultural, fishery, livestock, foodstuff exports at 4.6m tons in 7 months

TEHRAN- Iran exported 4.64 million tons of agricultural, fishery and livestock products as well as foodstuff during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), the spokesman of the Islamic Republic of Iran (IRICA) announced.

Ruhollah Latifi said that agricultural products and foodstuff accounted for 10.3 percent of the value and six percent of the weight of Iran's non-oil export during the seven-month period.

Last week, Agriculture Minister Javad Sadati Nejad said his ministry in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is pursuing

to develop interactions with neighboring countries to boost exports of agricultural products and realize the country's goal for becoming an agriculture hub in the region.

"Given the capacities of neighboring countries and with the cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in the field of economic diplomacy, we can increase the export of agricultural products and interaction with neighbors and become a commercial agricultural hub in the region," Sadati Nejad said in meeting with his deputies.

As reported by Mehr News Agency, in the said meeting, the

official called on his deputies to prepare a list including the export, import and technological needs of the agricultural sector in order to provide to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, so that this ministry can refer the needs and capacities of the agricultural sector to embassies.

In the meeting, Mehdi Safari, deputy of economic diplomacy at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, emphasized the expansion of Iran's agricultural cooperation with neighboring countries and called for introducing Iran's export potential and import needs in the agricultural sector to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

Safari underlined the need for the introduction and transfer of technologies needed by the agricultural sector to the country with the help of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and suggested holding specialized meetings with the presence of deputies of the Agriculture Ministry and heads of specialized organizations.

Despite the economic sanctions, the coronavirus pandemic and the current drought, the exports of Iran's agricultural products have been increasing in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21) compared to the previous year.

TSE's main index rise 4% in a week

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 58,000 points (4.1 percent) to 1.456 million in the past Iranian calendar week (ended on Friday).

During the past week, the indices of Isfahan Refining Company, National Iranian Copper Industries Company, Mobarakeh Steel Company, Social Security Investment Company, Bandar Abbas Refining Company, Iran Khodro Group, and Saipa Company were the most widely followed ones.

Capital market analyst, Soheil Kolahchi, believes the stock market is going to be able to compete with other parallel markets for bringing

positive returns to investors in the second half of the current Iranian calendar year (September 22, 2021-March 20, 2022), IRNA reported.

Stating that the stock market can be one of the suitable markets for investment in the second half of the year, Kolahchi said: "The capital market can provide an acceptable return to shareholders and experience good growth compared to other parallel markets by the end of the year."

"The stock market can grow by the end of the year as the prevailing environment for investing in other parallel markets (including the forex, gold, and housing markets) is calm

and nothing special is going to happen in any of them," he explained.

Emphasizing the sharp decline in the number of deals in the housing market in recent months, Kolahchi noted: "The foreign currency exchange market is also experiencing slight fluctuations."

The capital market expert continued: "Due to the existence of such conditions, the capital market takes the same path as other markets and takes a slow path to ascend. This market will be accompanied by many ups and downs in its path but eventually, it moves upward."

Mining sector needs up to \$70b of investment

TEHRAN – The deputy head of Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA)'s Mines and Mining Industries Committee has said the country's mining sector requires \$50 billion-\$70 billion of investment to reach a proper development level.

"Returning of the mining sector to normal conditions in various sectors of exploration, extraction, and machinery and compensation of arrears in these areas, requires an investment of 50 to 75 billion dollars," Mehrdad Akbarian told IRNA on Thursday.

In recent years, the mining sector has not been able to gain the necessary trust of investors, Akbarian said, adding: "Part

of this is due to sanctions and barriers in the way of exports, and part is due to changes in domestic laws and regulations. These issues have ultimately led to less investment in this sector."

According to the official, the mining sector's priority for attracting investment should be the exploration area, and any country should have a clear view of the amount of its mineral reserves for a period of at least 20 years to be able to plan in this area.

"In this regard, we need a national program," he said.

The second priority for attracting investments should be the supply of modern equipment and the modernization of the



worn-out and depreciated machinery, he stressed, saying: "In this regard, it is necessary for the government to encourage large companies to do the work."

"In the current situation, the only solution is to persuade large companies to form consortia with small and medium-sized

enterprises, so that the accumulation of their capital would ensure large companies to supply raw materials and will also benefit small units," he explained.

The government must work with organizations and the private sector to design the right models in this regard, he noted.

Having 68 different types of minerals, Iran is one of the top 10 mineral-rich countries across the globe. In this regard, the Iranian government has been seriously pursuing several programs for promoting the mining sector as a major contributor to the

country's economic growth.

Iran's proven iron ore reserves are 2.7 billion tons, while the country's copper reserves are 2.6 billion tons. The country also has 11 million tons of zinc reserves.

Having 68 different types of minerals, Iran is one of top 10 mineral-rich countries across world

The total proven reserves of Iran's mines are estimated at about 60 billion tons, which is expected to reach more than 100 billion tons with the implementation of the Industry, Mining, and Trade Ministry's exploration programs over 500,000 square kilometers of new mineral zones.

Saudis have realized they need modus vivendi with Iran: professor

From page 1 ▶ Following is the text of interview with Kamrava:

Some American politicians are talking about power sharing between Iran and Saudi Arabia in the Middle East, an idea that was suggested by the Obama administration. Do you think The Saudi side is ready to acknowledge Iran's weight and influence in the region?

In the past the Saudis have acknowledged Iran's influence in the Persian Gulf and in the Middle East (West Asia). The Saudi Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman followed a very different policy at least under the Trump administration. But in recent months, following successive defeats in Yemen and after the election of Biden, it appears that the Saudis are pursuing a more realistic foreign policy. Whether or not they are willing to acknowledge Iran's weight in the region, it remains to be seen, but at least indications say that the Saudis no longer see Persian Gulf security as a zero-sum game and they have realized that need to work out some sort of agreement and modus vivendi with Iran.

The Saudi authorities tried to introduce a new face of the kingdom after Biden took office. This is represented in the restoration of ties with Qatar. Do you think Saudi foreign policy has changed fundamentally or that was only a superficial move?

The Saudis have realized they don't have unconditional support from the U.S. any more with the departure of Trump from office. They need to pick and choose those areas in which they disagree with the Americans; so they decided to improve relations with Qatar but at the expense of continuing the war on Yemen.

It doesn't seem that Saudi foreign policy has fundamentally changed, but it appears that they have been slightly modified and moderated at



least since Biden's election.

How do you see the fate of talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia, especially as some political observers are not optimistic about Riyadh's approach under MBS?

Well, I think Mohammad bin Salman is the new Saddam Hussein of the Middle East (West Asia) and as a new Saddam Hussein somehow he needs to realize that Iran has interests and security concerns and Iran also needs

to look for ways of dealing with the Saudis and working with them and so the two sides need to figure out how to work with another. In terms of the fate of talks between Iran and Saudi Arabia, I don't know how they are going to continue. Obviously, there are a lot of differences; on one hand storming embassies is a case of violating international laws and on the other hand the Saudis

need to acknowledge Iran's interests and security concerns. The two sides need to realize that the other side has legitimate concerns.

How do you see the future of the kingdom after King Salman? Do you think the international community and even Saudi princes accept MBS as a king?

They have no choice but to accept him as king unless some sort of major development occurs or somehow MBS be eliminated

physically. Everybody has to deal with reality that he will be the next king of Saudi Arabia and given that he is young and given that Saudi kings tend to rule for decades he is likely to be a permanent feature in the political landscape of Saudi Arabia and the Persian Gulf as well as the Middle East (West Asia) for the next several decades and everybody has to accept him.

One thing that Mohammad bin Salman has done very effectively is to dismantle the Saudi deep state that was occupied by different members of the ruling family and so he has removed any potential opposition and he has installed only his loyal close relatives.

Given the fallouts of the Yemen war, do you think Riyadh is eligible to play a leadership role in the GCC?

After 2017 the GCC became even more of a sham so Riyadh will want to continue to play a leading role in the Gulf Cooperation Council but I am of the opinion that Qatar doesn't trust the Saudis and United Arab Emirates is in a marriage of convenience with the Saudis because of its animosity towards Iran and because of the Yemen war.

So I don't think the GCC has a meaningful role to play as a multilateral organization in the security architecture of the region. It will be a form for coordinating some policies but that is nothing else.

"MBS is the new Saddam Hussein of the Middle East (West Asia)."

"Europe is in danger," Borrell wants an army

TEHRAN - In another sign of Europe distancing itself from reliance on the United States for security, EU leaders are focusing on how to achieve that goal independently. The European Union's foreign policy chief has issued a warning to the bloc that the time has now come to agree on an ambitious foreign military policy as the pillar for united military operations among the 27 members.

With America's economy collapsing alongside recent military defeats setting the stage for Washington's status as a super power on the decline, the European idea (not the first time it has been proposed) is now being seriously considered.

One of the most important aspects of what Borrell wants is a rapid EU deployable crisis force.

Speaking to reporters, Josep Borrell says he will present the first draft of the "Strategic Compass" to EU members (the closest the EU will have to a military doctrine that sets out the alliance's goals) stressing it was crucial to the bloc's security.

In the foreword of a document containing the full strategy that has been sent to the EU's 27 states for debate, Borrell says "Europe is in danger... we need to have rapid deployment capabilities."

Borrell's proposal for the "rapid EU crisis force" will be comprised of some 5,000 military personnel.

On Monday, both EU foreign and defense ministers are set to consider the idea with the goal of agreeing on a political document by March.

European countries are said to have highly-trained troops and



cyber, naval and air power, but resources are believed to be similar across 27 militaries and EU train-and-assist missions are reportedly modest in numbers. The member states also lack the logistics and command and control capabilities to make the force highly effective and reports indicate it cannot match intelligence-gathering like other super powers.

The intention is to develop EU battle groups into powerful crisis reaction forces that could be deployed at short notice. The UK's withdrawal from the EU has depriving the bloc of a military power; but also allowed others to step up to the plate, such as France and a Germany to push ambitions for a bigger EU military role.

Borrell added, the EU with the world's largest trade bloc (the single market) has "a strategic responsibility. Citizens want to be protected. Soft power is not enough."

Since late 2017, some progress has already been made on building a common defense budget to develop weapons together. Despite this, the EU has yet to operate any

joint battalion-sized battle group.

There are some obstacles that stand in the way. These include issues such as the lack of a common defense culture and vision among the various EU members and differences over which nations should be given priority for deployment.

In the foreword to the draft document, Borrell said "all the threats we face are intensifying and the capacity of individual member states to cope is insufficient and declining."

So where do these threats arise from?

Earlier this year NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg acknowledged that the European Union "cannot defend" the continent alone.

At the same time Stoltenberg highlighted problems within the North Atlantic Alliance saying "More than 90 percent of the people in the European Union, they live in a NATO country. But only 20 percent of NATO's defense spending comes from NATO EU members"

This matter was something repeatedly raised by former U.S. President Donald Trump. It led to

strained relations with NATO's European members and some analysts believe this is where EU leaders began to speed up plans of self reliance for security. President Joe Biden's nuclear submarine deal with Australia behind France's back didn't exactly help either.

Other analysts have raised questions as to where exactly this security threat that Borrell speaks about is coming from. Critics say Stoltenberg has played a role in raising fears and saber-rattling among EU members by repeatedly citing alleged threats from Russia. Moscow flatly rejects this arguing it is just an excuse to amass NATO forces along Russia's borders near Ukraine in a wide scale effort to lesson Moscow's growing powers.

What really set alarm bells ringing was Afghanistan, and while Afghanistan's invasion and occupation was led by the United States it wasn't just America's 20-year war. U.S. allies also played a role in the deadly crisis.

Borrell noted that EU governments must push ahead with a rapid reaction force to be better prepared for future crises after what happened in Afghanistan.

In a previous interview with Italian media, he highlighted the mess in Afghanistan led by U.S. troops when the security situation seriously worsened showed the EU needed to accelerate efforts to build a common defense policy.

"This has been above all a catastrophe for the Afghan people.

Yemeni forces, allies make major progress in southern Ma'rib

Yemeni army forces, backed by allied fighters from Popular Committees, have made more significant gains in the country's oil-producing central province of Ma'rib, seizing control over a strategic region south of the provincial capital.

Yemen News Portal website, citing informed sources requesting anonymity, reported on Thursday that the Yemeni troops and their allies engaged in fierce clashes with Saudi-sponsored militants loyal to Yemen's former president Abd Rabbuh Mansur Hadi, and could take control of Falaj region in the Wadi Obaida district.

Yemen Shabab TV channel, affiliated to the Salafist and so-called al-Islah political party, later broadcast the funeral of dozens of Saudi mercenaries and militants who had been killed within past hours by the Yemeni army troops and Popular Committees forces.

Military sources said the Yemeni army forces and their allies have advanced towards important areas south and east of the Wadi Obaida district.

They added that the forces are now positioned on the outskirts of the southern neighborhoods of Ma'rib city, after humil-

iating retreat of large numbers of Saudi mercenaries to the city center.

Saudi forces withdraw from various Hudaydah areas

Elsewhere in Yemen's western coastal province of Hudaydah, Saudi-led coalition forces and their allied Takfiri militants completely withdrew from ten areas in the southern and eastern districts of the province.

Local sources told Lebanon's al-Mayadeen television news network that the forces have left the areas for the Mocha district in neighboring Ta'izz province.

Saudi Arabia, backed by the US and regional allies, launched the war on Yemen in March 2015, with the goal of bringing the Hadi government back to power and crushing popular Ansarullah. The war has left hundreds of thousands of Yemenis dead, and displaced millions more. It has also destroyed Yemen's infrastructure and spread famine and infectious diseases.

Yemeni armed forces and the Popular Committees have grown steadily in strength against the Saudi-led invaders and left Riyadh and its allies bogged down in the country.

(Source: Press TV)



It's a failure of the Western world and it's a game changer for international relations."

Essentially, European countries did not have the capacity or the ability to stay in Afghanistan after the U.S. withdrew.

Privately, diplomats are reported to have complained that they weren't fully consulted about America's withdrawal plans, or raised doubts about the U.S. exit. However, once Washington made the decision to withdraw, that decision was also automatically made for approximately 7,000 non-American NATO forces on the ground.

Jana Puglierin is a senior policy fellow and head of the Berlin office at the European Council on Foreign Relations, he says for American allies like Germany "It showed, basically, how dependent we really are. Because then it was immediately clear that we needed to follow the American withdrawal, and withdrawal, as well."

As the security situation started deteriorating and the Taliban's accelerated push through the country led to the collapse of the former Afghan army, it left European governments rushing to get their own nationals out.

The EU ambassador to the United States from 2014 to 2019 David O'Sullivan says "the immediate feeling around this whole situation is that perhaps there should have been more consultation and more joint planning about how to man-

age the exit strategy."

"The feeling is that this all kind of descended into something of a scramble," he continued, "which is very difficult to manage, which put the European countries in a lot of difficulty — not only to get their own nationals out, but also to get out all the Afghans who are working closely with them, and were clearly at risk."

Governments such as Germany and United Kingdom faced strong criticism for their failures to prepare and evacuate their citizens.

Borrell said "we need to draw lessons from this experience... as Europeans we have not been able to send 6,000 soldiers around the Kabul airport to secure the area. The U.S. has been, we haven't. We need to be able to act quickly."

At the time he said "I regret greatly the way in which things have gone, but no-one asked for the opinion of the Europeans."

"Some countries are going to have to ask themselves questions about an American ally which, as Joe Biden said, doesn't want to fight other people's wars for them."

"The Europeans don't have a choice. We must organize ourselves to deal with the world as it is and not the world that we dream of."

If anything, Afghanistan highlighted two important issues. One is that Europe is not militarily capable to deal with crises and secondly, as countries around the globe are slowly beginning to realize, you can't depend on Washington. The former Afghanistan government and U.S. trained army (of 20 years) had to learn that lesson the hard way.

What Borrell wants is a rapid EU deployable crisis force.

Centuries-old shipwreck found off Caspian Sea coast

TEHRAN – A centuries-old shipwreck has recently been discovered off Iran's coast in the Caspian Sea.

"The remnants of a ship, which based on initial estimations date back to a time between the late Safavid era and early Qajar era, has been discovered off the coast of the Caspian Sea in Gilan province," the deputy provincial tourism chief Vali Jahani said on Wednesday.

"Measuring 48 meters in length, the shipwreck was found 300 meters off the coast of Astaneh-ye Ashrafiyeh."

"Evidence indicates the ship had probably left Russia for Iran and then it was docked in this area. However, the vessel was no longer used due to unknown reasons."

"Most of the ship is currently buried under the sand... and more expert studies are needed to obtain accurate detail."

"The ship may date from a time between the late Safavid era and early Qajar era based on comparisons being made with other vessels [so far been] discovered off the Caspian Sea coast."

The official expressed hope that a large extent of laboratory studies and detailed archaeological digs would shed new light on the mystery of the ship.

According to Encyclopedia Iranica, exploitations of the Caspian sea developed only slowly and gradually after the Islamic conquest of Persia. During almost two centuries the mountainous barrier of the southern Caspian sheltered important pockets of indigenous resistance and several independent Zoroastrian principalities, which blocked the predominant Persian Islamic civilization of the plateau from access to the sea.



Commercial relations between the Muslim successors to the Sasanians and the inhabitants of the northern steppes were at first conducted via the established stages of the land route to the west of the Caspian. This orientation did not favor maritime activity or even a quest for detailed knowledge of the sea.

Bounded by the Caspian Sea and the Republic of Azerbaijan to the north, Gilan, in the far past, was within the sphere of influence of the successive Achaemenid, Seleucid, Parthian, and Sassanid empires that ruled Iran until the 7th century CE.

Sophisticated Rasht, capital of Gilan province, has long been a weekend escape for residents of Tehran who are looking to sample the famous local cuisine and hoping for some pluvial action – it's the largest, and wettest town in the northern region. Gilan is divided into a coastal plain including the large delta of Sefid Rud and adjacent parts of the Alborz mountain range.

Most of the ship is currently buried under the sand and more expert studies are needed to obtain accurate detail.

Foreign Ministry spokesman visits National Museum of Iran



TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman Saeed Khatibzadeh on Wednesday visited special exhibitions of Iranian and German studies on ancient mining and relevant objects, which is currently underway at the National Museum of Iran.

Jebrael Nokandeh who presides over the museum, and his deputy Fereidoun Biglari accompanied Khatibzadeh during his visit to "Human Search for Resources, Highlights of Ancient Mining from the German Mining Museum Bochum" and "Death in Salt, Archaeological Research at the Chehrabad Mine in Zanjan".

During the visit, the foreign ministry official emphasized the importance of holding such international exhibitions in cultural diplomacy, a museum official told Tehran Times on Thursday.

He added the Ministry of Foreign Affairs is ready to facilitate these cultural contacts.

The exhibits put the spotlight on the appropriation of humans to mineral resources and the development of the history of human experiences

and achievements in mining, which led to the development of technologies, the formation of professions, trade, and specialization of industries.

The Iranian exhibit showcases arrays of personal objects, tools, and corpses once belonging to the famed Iranian salt mummies discovered in the Chehrabad Salt Mine of Zanjan province.

According to Nokandeh, the museum and the German Mining Museum in Bochum have made considerable cooperation in line with an agreement they signed in 2017, based on which the two institutions are set to hold exhibitions of each other's historical and cultural artifacts related to the subject of ancient mining.

It is worth mentioning that similar loan exhibitions featuring ancient mining and relevant documents were already staged in Iran and Germany.

Last year, a team of experts from the two countries started a project for purifying, cleansing, and restoring garments and personal belongings of the mummies which were first found in the salt mine in 1993.

What was a catastrophe for the ancient miners has become a sensation for science. Sporting a long white beard, iron knives, and a single gold earring, the first salt mummy was discovered in 1993. He is estimated to be trapped in the mine in ca. 300 CE. In 2004 another mummy was discovered only 50 feet away, followed by another in 2005 and a "teenage" boy mummy later that year.

Newly-found human skeletons are 'natural mummies'

TEHRAN – Experts believe that the two-centuries-old skeletons recently found near the Iranian city of Ardestan are "natural mummies", Ardestan's tourism chief has announced.

"Furthermore, they have estimated the site of discovery dates several million years," Mehdi Mashhadi said on Wednesday.

Mineworkers found the human remains, which were entombed within canals about 30 meters below the surface at Lapalang Mine.

"Part of the site and its canals have been destroyed due to the modern operation of machines and extractions in the mine," he noted.

The official, however, did not provide more detail about the 'natural mummies'.

The Discovery of exotic mummies is not unpre-



cedented in the country. The highlights of the findings in the historical mines in Iran are the famed salt mummies, the first of which was discovered in 1993 in Zanjan Province.

Susa: a gateway to must-see destinations

Page 1 ▶ To the left of the entrance ramp, follow the self-guided signage past date palms into the excavation site of the 521 BC Palace of Darius, the mighty Achaemenid king.

To the east lies the Royal City, an area of deep excavations through 15 strata; south of the castle is an eroded earthen watchtower overlooking teenagers riding dirt bikes.

Dominating the landscape on the right is the fortress-like Chateau de Morgan (Shush Castle), built on the bones of an Elamite acropolis by the French in the early 20th century to protect their loot from marauding tribesmen. It is not open to the public, but there are fine views from the path around the base, including a view of the Tomb of Daniel from the southern side.

In the Bible, Susa is known primarily from the story of Esther in which Haman the Agagite planned to defeat the Jews of Persia. According to the story, Esther outwitted him by persuading her husband, King Ahasuerus of Persia, to sabotage Haman's plan. The episode is commemorated every year in the Jewish Purim festival which is marked with costumed parties and other celebrations, according to Ancient Origins.

Susa is also mentioned in Nehemiah and Daniel, both of whom lived in

the city during the 6th century BC in the period known as the Babylonian captivity when several Jews were held captive following the siege of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar. A tomb known as Shush-Daniel is believed to be that of Daniel himself. It is capped by an unusual white cone which some believe was formerly a stone 'Star of David'.

Archaeological evidence suggests that Susa has been continuously inhabited since 4,200 BC placing it among the oldest continuously inhabited cities in the world. In addition, there are traces at Susa of a village inhabited around 7,000 BC and painted pottery dating from ca. 5,000 BC at the site.

Artifacts discovered at the site include carved cylinder seals, jewelry, clay balls, and clay tablets with cuneiform inscriptions recording business transactions, political history, and mathematical calculations.

It is said that Alexander of Macedonia captured Susa in 330 BC and plundered the city, seizing some 40,000 talents of gold and silver from the treasury. Alexander the Great initiated Shushan's decline



by favoring Babylon and shortly after, following a revolt, the city was burnt to the ground. Subsequently rebuilt by Sapor II (309-379 CE), it was renamed Iran-shahr Shapur and later helped in the resistance against the Arab invasion of 645.

After the fall of the Achaemenid Empire and the reign of Alexander the Great, who married in Susa, the city became part of the Seleucid empire. It was now called Seleucia on the Eulaeus. A palace in Greek style was erected, next to Darius' palace. The administrative center, however, was in the southern part of the city,

where nearly all Greek and Parthian inscriptions were discovered. In the Parthian age, the city minted coins.

During the Sasanian age, the city had a large Christian community. It was sacked by the Sasanian king Shapur II, who transferred the population to Iwan-e Karkheh, but Susa was sufficiently recovered in the early seventh century to fight against the Arabs, who nevertheless captured until the city remained important until the thirteenth century CE.

According to UNESCO, "the excavated architectural monuments include administrative, residential, and palatial structures" and the site contains several layers of urban settlement dating from the 5th millennium BC through the 13th century CE.

Susa is identified as Shushan in the Book of Esther and other Biblical books.

Ancient relics discovered accidentally in Kordestan

TEHRAN – A total of 13 historical objects have recently been unearthed accidentally near the western Iranian village of Divandarreh while villagers were plowing agricultural land, a senior police official in charge of protecting cultural heritage said on Thursday.

The locals soon informed authorities in charge of protecting the cultural heritage and the objects were handed over to Kordestan province's Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Department for further studies, Rasul Moradi announced, CHTN reported.

The objects that include some earthenware jugs and stone and metal tools are estimated to date back to the Mannaean period (850 BC–616 BC) and the Median era (around 678 BC–around 549 BC), the official added.

According to the Encyclopedia Britannica, the Mannaeans are first recorded in the annals of the Assyrian king Sargon II (reigned 722–705 BC) and are last mentioned in Urartu by Rusa II (reigned 685–645 BC) and in Assyria by Esarhad-



don (reigned 680–669 BC).

Mannai, also spelled Manna, was an ancient country surrounded by three major powers of the time namely Assyria, Urartu, and Media. With the intrusion of the Scythians and the rise of the Medes in the 7th century, the Mannaeans lost their identity and were subsumed under the term Medes.

The Medes were ancient Iranian people who

spoke the Median language and lived in an area known as Media in the north and west of Iran. Around the 11th century BC, they occupied the mountains of northwestern Iran and the north-eastern and eastern areas of Mesopotamia located in Hamadan (Ecbatana).

It is believed that they emerged in Iran during the 8th century BC. All of western Iran and some other territories were under Median rule in the 7th century BC, but their exact geographic extent is unknown.

The name Kordestan refers to the region's principal inhabitants. After the Turkish invasion of Iran in the 11th century CE (Seljuq period), that name was given to the region comprising the northwestern Zagros Mountains.

It was during the reign of Abbas I the Great of Iran's Safavid dynasty (1501–1736) that the Kurds rose to prominence, having been enlisted by Abbas I to help stem the attacks of the marauding Uzbeks from the east in the early 17th century.

Uramanat mosques to be listed as national heritage

TEHRAN – A selection of mosques located in the UNESCO-tagged Cultural Landscape of Uramanat in western Iran is planned to be registered on the national heritage list, the director of the World Heritage site has announced.

The mosques of the Uramanat have significant characteristics influenced by climate, topography, materials, structure, and plan, Pouya Talebnia said on Friday.

"Uramanat is known as the land of mysticism. Its residents have always been committed Muslims, and the number of mosques in all the villages in this region demonstrates the existence of this heartfelt belief," he noted.

These mosques are regularly repaired and restored, the official added.

Stretched on the slopes of Sarvabad county, and

shared between the provinces of Kordestan and Kermanshah, the rural area of Uramanat embraces dense and step-like rows of houses in a way that the roof of each house forms the yard of the upper one, a feature that adds to its charm and attractiveness.

As the cultural landscape covers 300 villages and in terms of architecture and landscape, it is one of the most beautiful and presentable heritages in the world.

Uramanat, also called Uraman, is considered a cradle of Kurdish art and culture from the days of yore. Pirshalyar, which is named after a legendary local figure, is amongst time-honored celebrations and rituals that are practiced annually across the region.



Coronavirus causes \$16m damage to Kermanshah tourism

TEHRAN – The tourism industry of Kermanshah has taken some 670 billion rials (about \$16 million at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) hit from the coronavirus outbreak so far, the provincial tourism chief has announced.

Some 1,130 tourism workers across the western province have also lost their jobs, Jabbar Gohari said on Friday.

A significant part of the tourism industry was damaged by the coronavirus restrictions, which reduced the activity of various sectors to five percent of what it was before the pandemic, the official explained.

Many hotels and eco-lodges were forced to close, and many laid off their staff, he noted.

He expressed hope, however, that the broad public vaccination and normalized conditions would result in a boom in tourism and job creation.

Back in July, ISNA reported that Iran's tourism industry has suffered a loss of some 320 trillion rials (\$7.6



billion at the official exchange rate of 42,000 rials per dollar) since the outbreak of the coronavirus pandemic.

The pandemic has also ruined more than 44,000 jobs in the once budding travel sector of the country, the report added.

As a result of the outbreak of the

coronavirus in Iran and the subsequent unemployment and financial losses, accommodation centers suffered the most. These statistics cover the period between February 2020 and the spring of 2021.

Kermanshah embraces a variety of awe-inspiring historical sites, of

which Bisotun and Taq-e Bostan are both on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Inscribed into the base of a towering cliff, Taq-e Bostan comprises extraordinary Sassanian bas-reliefs of ancient victorious kings divide opinions. Late afternoon is the best time to visit, as the cliff turns a brilliant orange in the setting sun, which then dies poetically on the far side of the duck pond.

Bisotun is a patchwork of immense yet impressive life-size carvings depicting King Darius I and several other figures. UNESCO has it that Bisotun bears outstanding testimony to the important interchange of human values on the development of monumental art and writing, reflecting ancient traditions in monumental bas-reliefs.

UNDP supports Iran's environmental protection measures

TEHRAN – The United Nations Development Program (UNDP) strongly supports the environmental and development programs of Iran, considering the country's previous brilliant actions, Achim Steiner, Administrator of the UNDP, has said.

He made the remarks in a meeting with Iran's Department of Environment chief Ali Salajegheh on the sidelines of the 26th UN Climate Change Conference which is held in Glasgow, Scotland.

"We are fully aware of the environmental issues raised in Iran. Given the country's brilliant track records in dealing with environmental issues, UNDP certainly will support to help make a cleaner world," he stated.

Regarding the lifting of sanctions, Steiner added that "We will do our best to solve the problems that have arisen in the international arena caused by U.S. sanctions in order to pace up the development and progress of the environmental projects."

Pointing to the sand and dust storms phenomena, he said that this is a problem that all countries need to think about and must work together to address it.

Salajegheh for his part expressed hope that cooperation will develop, especially in cases where we have not been able to use international facilities in the field of the environment due to sanctions.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has not been able to provide us with significant facilities, so we expect the United Nations Development Program to assist in this area, he further noted.

It is expected that more environmental projects will be entrusted to Iran, considering the potential capacities, he added.



Due to the special climatic conditions of Iran, drought, sand, and dust storms have created major problems, which are mainly caused by dam construction in external hotspots, he explained, adding, one of the programs on the agenda is the use of clean energy.

During the COP26, Salajegheh said that Iran is committed to obligations of the Paris Agreement if all sanctions against the country are lifted.

"We are obliged to reduce greenhouse gas emission by four percent only if all sanctions against the country are lifted."

As the second-largest country of the Eastern Mediterranean Region, Iran is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change as it is geographically located in an arid and semi-arid region having faced temperature increases, a decline in precipitation, drought,

desertification, soil erosion, and loss of biodiversity over the recent years.

Unfair and unilateral sanctions imposed by the United States have hindered the Global Environment Facility (GEF) to finance environmental projects in Iran.

Climate change impact

Increasing consumption of fossil fuels by humans, especially after the Industrial Revolution, has led to an increase in greenhouse gas emissions and ultimately climate change, and now tackling this phenomenon has become one of the most important concerns worldwide.

Climate change is one of the most important problems in Iran that can exacerbate drought and water stress, so it is necessary to make serious plans at the national level to address the phenomena.

Based on research and assess-

ments conducted by Action for Climate Empowerment (ACE) adopted by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and using scenarios proposed by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), if the concentration of carbon dioxide doubles by 2100, Iran's average temperature will increase by 1.5 to 4.5 degrees Celsius.

Temperature change, sea-level rise, coastal degradation, destruction of agricultural and food products, deforestation, depletion of freshwater resources, regional climate change in the high and northern hemispheres, changes in rainfall and wind direction, rising natural disasters such as tornadoes and floods, intensifying droughts and developing desert areas, increasing air pollution due to rising hot winds and the potential impact on the spread of diseases such as malaria are some of the known consequences of climate change.

According to scientists, global warming due to climate change is one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century.

As the second-largest country of the Eastern Mediterranean Region, Iran is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Air pollution costs healthcare system over \$4b

TEHRAN – Expenses related to deaths attributed to air pollution are estimated at \$4.3 billion over the past Iranian calendar year (March 2020-March 2021), Abbas Shahsavani, head of the air and climate change department of the Ministry of Health, has said.

About 10 percent of deaths are caused by air pollution nationwide. Various diseases such as heart and respiratory diseases, cancers, including lung cancer, are all associated with air pollution, he lamented.

Air pollution has been exacerbated compared to previous years, and it is predicted that the air quality index even gets worse next year due to drought and its consequences, he said.

Referring to mobile sources of pollution, he said that cars are highly polluting and are not compatible with global standards. Fixed sources and factories, whether small or large, do not have proper air purification systems, which worsen air pollution every year.

The fastest measures to solve the air pollution crisis are listed in the Clean Air Law and its regulations and must be implemented, he further suggested.

The Clean Air Law, enacted in July 2017, was supposed to be a solution to ease air pollution across the country, but now, a few years after the adoption, different agencies neglect their legal duties to implement the law.

Comprising 34 articles, the law on clean air was adopted by Majlis [the Iranian parliament] after 6

years of continuous revisions.

Various executive agencies in the country, including the Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Petroleum, the Ministry of Energy, the police, the municipality, the National TV, etc., have been obliged to implement measures to control air pollution. Three years after the law was enacted, many agencies have not only refused to take action to eliminate air pollution but have also taken steps against the Clean Air Law.

Emitters

Air pollution is responsible for around 40,000 premature deaths in Iran annually, Mohammad-Sadeq Hassanvand, head of the air pollution research center at Tehran University of Medical Sciences, said.

There are two main types of air pollution sources, mobile sources including cars, buses, planes, trucks, and trains, and stationary sources such as oil refineries, industrial facilities, and factories.

Some 40 percent of the emission is produced by stationary sources, while 60 percent of the pollution is generated from mobile sources.

However, due to severe air pollution in recent days in some metropolises of the country, including Tehran, Isfahan, Arak, Tabriz, etc., many experts have emphasized the share of stationary sources in air pollution in these areas because there are signs of non-standard fuel consumption such as Sulfur gasoline or mazut (a heavy, low quality fuel oil, used in power plants and similar applications).

Even mazut consumption has been approved in some power plants across the country.

Meanwhile, sulfur gasoline or mazut are still used in Iran, according to Article 18 of the Clean Air Law, the Ministry of Petroleum is obliged to produce fuel, including gasoline, gas oil, fuel oil, and kerosene in accordance with approved national standards (Euro 4).

Also, the share of motorcycles in the production of gaseous pollutants is about 21 percent and in the production of suspended particles is 10 percent.

In addition, every 10 carbureted motorcycles emit as much particulate matter like an old diesel bus per kilometer, which is a major cause of air pollution.

In addition to clunker motorcycles, old cars are also important factors in air pollution during fall and winter.

The number of old cars in the country is so high that Issa Kalantari, former head of the Department of Environment (DOE), had previously stated that "we have become a country of clunker vehicles because now 87 percent of the country's minibuses, 81 percent of motorcycles, 73 percent of buses, and 61 percent of trucks should be scrapped."

Air pollution kills an estimated seven million people worldwide every year. WHO data shows that 9 out of 10 people breathe the air that exceeds WHO guideline limits containing high levels of pollutants, with low- and middle-income countries suffering from the highest exposures.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Air pollution has no effect on coronavirus prevalence: expert

Air pollution has no special effect on the incidence of the disease, and our studies showed that there is no connection between these two issues, Ali Maher, deputy chief of Tehran special working group for coronavirus control said.

Pointing to the coronavirus outbreak in winter, he noted that the prevalence of coronavirus in winter depends on the people, if they observe health protocols, the infection will reduce.

Because there has been no evidence that temperature affects the prevalence, therefore the only way to control the virus is the observance of health protocols by the people, he highlighted, ILNA reported.

آلودگی هوا تأثیری بر روی میزان ابتلا به ویروس کرونا ندارد

علی ماهر معاون ستاد مقابله با ویروس کرونای استان تهران در گفت‌وگو با ایلتنا گفت: آلودگی هوا هیچ تأثیر خاصی بر روی این بیماری ندارد و بررسی‌های ما هم حاکی از عدم ارتباط بین این دو موضوع است.

وی با اشاره به وضعیت شیوع کرونا در زمستان ادامه داد: وضعیت میزان ابتلا به ویروس کرونا در زمستان بستگی به رفتارهای مردم دارد و اگر رفتارهایی که برای پیشگیری از شیوع ویروس در نظر گرفته شده را به درستی انجام دهیم، میزان شیوع کاهش پیدا خواهد کرد، چون شواهدی بر اینکندما در میزان همه‌گیری تأثیرگذار باشد را پیدا نکردیم و بنابراین تنها رعایت مردم مسئله اصلی برای کنترل این ویروس است.

COVIRAN vaccine to begin clinical trial on children aged 12-18

From page 1 ► Eleven countries from Asia and South America, and a European country have asked for importing COVIRAN vaccine, Hassan Jalili, the vaccine's production manager, said in June.

According to the Food and Drug Administration, 14 vaccines are being domestically developed in the country which are in different study phases.

The second Iranian-made vaccine developed by the Razi Vaccine and Serum Research Institute (Razi Cov Pars) started the clinical trial on February 27.

Fakhra vaccine, the third domestically-developed COVID-19 vaccine, was unveiled and started the clinical trial on March 16.

Lately, the Food and Drug Administration issued an emergency use license for two other domestic vaccines of Razi Cov Pars and Fakhra.

Iran is one of the few countries that has all vaccine production platforms, Mohammad Reza Shanehsaz, former head of the Iranian Food and



Drug Administration, said in June.

Meanwhile, World Health Organization (WHO) representative to Iran Jaffar Hussain said in September that the Organization was collecting the necessary information for the registration and certification of Iranian-made coronavirus vaccines.

Australia shown to have highest greenhouse gas emissions from coal in world on per capita basis

Australia has the highest greenhouse gas emissions from coal power in the world on a per capita basis, nearly doubling those in China, according to a new analysis released at the Cop26 climate summit in Glasgow.

As the talks headed towards a fraught final day, there was disagreement over whether a closing declaration would commit countries to return with stronger short-term emissions reduction targets next year, and explicitly support an accelerated phaseout of coal.

The British climate and energy thinktank Ember released an analysis that suggested the world's wealthiest countries remained among the worst emitters from coal power once population was factored in.

Australia topped the list, with annual per person emissions five times greater than the global average and 40% higher than any other major coal power user. Examining the period since the landmark Paris agreement was signed in 2015, the analysis found Australia emitted 5.34 tonnes of carbon dioxide per person each year, placing it ahead of South Korea (3.81), South Africa (3.19), the US (3.08) and the world's biggest outright emitter, China (2.71).

Ember cited the International Energy Agency to argue OECD countries including Australia should end coal power by 2030 if they were to play their part in attempting to keep global heating to 1.5C above pre-industrial levels – a goal of the Paris agreement – within reach.

The Morrison government has rejected this and did not join a group of countries that pledged to phase out burning coal for electricity.

Dave Jones, Ember's global program lead, said Cop26 had seen a divergence between developing Asian countries and major OECD coal users over the need to close coal generation. Vietnam had pledged to stop building coal plants and to stop using it in the 2040s, and Indonesia, the Philippines and India had shown signs they were changing previously held positions.

He said by comparison arguments put forward

by Australia, Japan and South Korea were "embarrassing" and "simply untenable".

"They will undoubtedly be forced to change their position in the coming months," Jones said.

Ban Ki-moon, a former UN secretary general and deputy chair of The Elders, an international non-governmental organisation of senior statespeople, said the potential of renewable energy was growing exponentially and OECD countries needed to align with the target of phasing out coal entirely by the end of the decade. "This will be a true demonstration of global leadership," he said.

About 60% of Australia's electricity over the past year came from burning coal. That proportion is gradually diminishing and the country's coal fleet is ageing, but under current closure schedules it would continue to use coal power until the late 2040s.

The Morrison government has been heavily criticised in Glasgow for its ongoing support of fossil fuels. Greenpeace International head Jennifer Morgan grouped it with Saudi Arabia as a "wrecker" opposed to the action needed to cut emissions and provide the finance needed to help developing countries respond.

Australia was one of only four countries, along with Indonesia, Mexico and Singapore, that chose to just resubmit the same 2030 emissions target at Cop26. Australia's has committed to only a 26-28% cut compared with 2005 levels, though government projections suggest it could make a cut of up to 35%, in part due to state government policies. Scientists have advised global emissions need to be cut by 45% by the end of the decade.

Mary Robinson, a former president of Ireland and chair of The Elders, said leaders of developing countries were "in crisis mode" at the talks but some leaders who could do the most to address the problem were not. She bracketed Australia with Saudi Arabia, Brazil, China and Russia.

"Australia, a wealthy country, is still in fossil fuel mode, not in crisis mode," she told the UK's Sky News.

COVID-19 UPDATES ON NOVEMBER 12

New cases	7,322
New deaths	109
Total cases	6,027,269
Total deaths	127,918
New hospitalized patients	1,158
Patients in critical condition	3,564
Total recovered patients	5,670,656
Diagnostic tests conducted	36,829,133
Doses of vaccine injected	97,560,246



NOVEMBER 13, 2021

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

If you cannot get things as much as you desire than be contented with what you have.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon: 11:49 Evening: 17:48 Dawn: 5:12 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:39 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries



Painting

* Art Center Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Hiro Sheikholeslami.

The exhibit named "Song of Zarvan" will continue until November 23 at the gallery located at 145 North Salimi St. off Andarzgu Blvd.

* Javad Alimohammadi is showcasing his latest collection of paintings in an exhibition at Artibition Gallery.

Entitled "Earth", the exhibit runs until November 21 at the gallery located at Qandi Alley, Sasanipur St., Golnabi St., off Shariati Ave.



* An exhibition of paintings by Ailar Mohammadi is currently underway at A Gallery 2.

The exhibit named "Amusement Part" will run until November 22 at the gallery that can be found at 7 Arshad Alley, Azodi St. off Karim Khan St.

* Omid Moshksar is hanging his latest collection of paintings in an exhibition at O Gallery 1.

In addition, an exhibition of paintings by Razieh Sediqian is underway at O Gallery 2.

The exhibitions will run until November 29 at the galleries located at 18 Shahin St., Sanai St.



* Shokuh Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Parastu Hassani.

The exhibit named "Life's Path" will continue until November 22 at the gallery located at 19 Amir Nuri Alley, North Salimi St. off Andarzgu Blvd.

* Paintings by Sina Chupani are currently on view in an exhibition at Dastan Basement Gallery.

The exhibit will be running until November 26 at the gallery located at 6 Bidar St., off Fereshteh St.



Sculpture

* An exhibition of sculptures by Najmeh Pashai is currently underway at Homa Gallery.

The exhibit entitled "Concrete Is My Marble" will run until November 23 at the gallery located at No. 8, Fourth Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.

* Shalman Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of sculptures by Hamid Moayyedi Khosroshahi.

The showcase entitled "Memories of Mind" will run until November 17 at the gallery located at 27 Kavusi Alley, West Rudbar St., off Mirdamad Blvd.



* A Gallery 1 is showcasing a collection of sculptures by Faranak Yusefi in an exhibition named ""

The exhibit named "Penetralia" will run until November 22 at the gallery that can be found at 7 Arshad Alley, Azodi St. off Karim Khan St.

Multimedia

* Ehsan Gallery is playing host to an exhibition of artworks in various media by Sina Vahabzadeh, Negin Nasr, Mina Salehi, Boshra Sharifi, Katayun Sarshar, Bitra Azadbakht and several other artists.

The exhibit entitled "Contemporary Man" will run until November 16 at the gallery located at No. 22, East 14th St. in the Ajudanieh neighborhood.



* Artworks in various media by Negar Honarpisheh, Niaz Azadikhah, Arezu Zargar, Dorna Abyak, MOjgan Mollahosseini and Haleh Chinikar are on view in an exhibition at Soo Gallery.

Entitled "Under the Snail's Circuit", the exhibit runs until November 29 at the gallery located at 30 Purmusa St. off Somayeh St.

Berlin museum holds review of Iranian cinema

TEHRAN – Pergamon Museum in Berlin is hosting a review of Iranian cinema in a program that opened on Friday.

The program entitled "Iran through Different Lenses" features a lineup of short, feature, documentary, experimental and animated films at the James-Simon-Gallery of the museum for three days.

Film experts Golineh Atai, Ghasideh Golmakani, Katayun Amirpur, Ayat Najafi, Sarah Maske, Afsaneh Chehregosha and Maryam Tafakkory have been invited to attend discussions scheduled for after each screening.

"Iran through Different Lenses" is being organized in collaboration with Visions of Iran, Cologne Iranian Film Festival and the Heinrich Boll Foundation Berlin.

It is part of the exhibition "Iran. Art and Culture from Five Millennia" underway at the James Simon Gallery and will run until March 20, 2022. It is also supported by the



A scene from the documentary "Karoon" by Mohammad Ehsani.

Friends of the Museum of Islamic Art in the Pergamon Museum E.V.

"Karoon", a documentary by Mohammad Ehsani about the environment and water, is a highlight of the program.

Ehsani has long documented the threats to Iran's limited water

resources. His latest film portrays the rich cultural landscape that Iran's once water-rich Karoon River passes through on its way. And he shows the devastating effects of improper water management on fish stocks, on unique biotopes and on the locally resident ethnic groups.

Tehran-based Afghan director Navid Mahmudi's acclaimed drama "Drowning in Holy Water" on Afghan migrants in Iran has also been selected to be reviewed.

The film is about Rona and Hamed, two young Afghans who are in love with each other. Searching for a better life, they have decided to immigrate to Europe but they have to make a big decision to make it happen, a decision that relates to their religion and beliefs.

The documentary film "The Iranian Pet Club" by Hadi Afarideh and the drama "At the End of Evin" by Mohammad Torabbeigi and Mehdi Torabbeigi are also among the films picked for the program.

In addition, the program also features 16 short films by Iranian women filmmakers, including "The American Bull" by Fatemeh Tusi, "Origami" by Marjan Hashemi, "It Was My City" by Tina Pakravan and "Violet" by Ghasideh Golmakani.

"A Hero" wins Farhadi APSA best director award

TEHRAN – Iranian director Asghar Farhadi has been picked as best director at the 14th Asia Pacific Screen Awards (APSA).

In its statement the international jury has called the drama "an intimate epic," and added, "Asghar Farhadi continues to perfect the fine art of making cinema that is hyper local yet also globally understood and universally loved."

As Iran's submission to the Academy Awards 2022, "A Hero" tells the story of Rahim, who is in prison because he was unable to pay a debt. During a two-day leave of absence from prison, he attempts to have his creditor withdraw his complaint over part of the sum owed. But things don't go as planned.

Winners in the APSA were announced on Thursday on Australia's Gold Coast by honoring Japanese drama "Drive My Car" as best film.

Co-written by director Ryusuke Hamaguchi and Ryusuke Hamaguchi and Oe Takamasa, the film also won the award for best screenplay.

The film produced by Teruhisa Yamamoto, tells the story of Nishijima Hidetoshi, a stage actor and director who is happily married to his playwright

wife. Then one day she disappears.

"In his potent drama of secrets and trauma, Ryusuke Hamaguchi x-rays his damaged characters, each haunted by their past, as he incisively explores ideas of love, desire, infidelity, guilt and atonement. The result is an indelible film of immense power," the jury said.

A jury grand prize was awarded to Abdullah Mohammad Saad, director of "Rehana", a co-production from Bangladesh, Singapore and Qatar.

The film also brought Azmeri Haque Badhon the award for best actress.

Another jury grand prize went to the Australian director Leah Purcell for her debut feature "The Drover's Wife", also known as "The Legend of Molly Johnson".

The award for best cinematography was given to Nguyen Vinh Phuc for "Taste" by Vietnamese director Le Bao, who won the Young Cinema Award in partnership with NETPAC and GFS.

Merab Ninidze from Georgia won the best actor award for his role in the Russian drama "House Arrest" by Alexey German Jr.



Director Asghar Farhadi in an undated photo.

"Moving On" by Korean director Yoon Dambi won the Best Youth Feature Film, while the best animated feature film award went to "The Nose or the Conspiracy of Mavericks" by Russian director Andrey Khrzhanovsky.

"Sabaya" by Swedish filmmaker Hogir Hirori was selected as best documentary feature film.

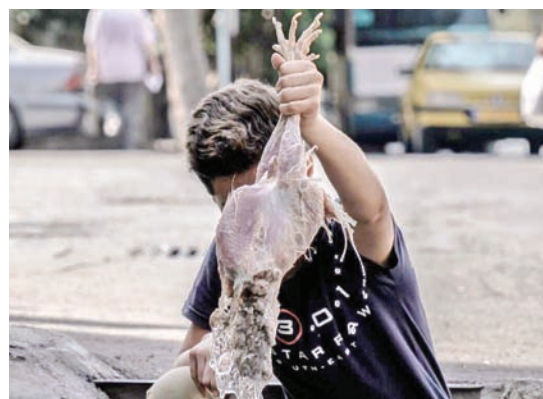
Iranian director Rakhshan Bani-Etemad was also among four recipients of MPA APSA Academy Film Fund grants. She received the funding for her project "Red Mist Descending".

Hessam Hamidi named best director at Rio short festival

TEHRAN – Iranian director Hessam Hamidi has been selected as best director by the Rio de Janeiro International Short Film Festival.

He won the award for his drama "Daily Massacre in Tehran", which is about Fuad, a 12-year-old boy who has come to the capital city from one of the surrounding cities to support his mother's living expenses in addition to those associated with her illness.

He is ready and willing to take on any paying job and engage in any business, including slaughtering roosters, sifting through garbage and carrying loads. He encounters problems and difficulties when engaging in each job. "Daily Massacre in Tehran" portrays pieces and layers from the life and problems of a young, small-town



"Daily Massacre in Tehran" by Hessam Hamidi.

boy in the capital city.

Winners in the Rio de Janeiro festival were announced on Wednesday.

The grand prize of the international competition was

awarded to "Trumpets in the Sky", a cooperative effort by Lebanon, France, Belgium and Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Directed by Rakan Mayasi, the film tells the story of Boushra, a

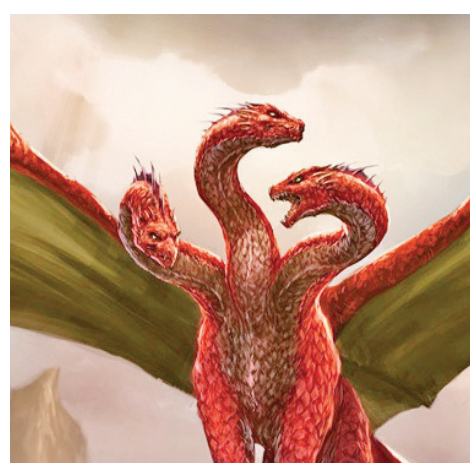
14-year-old Syrian girl who has fled to Lebanon from the war. She works along with some other Syrian girls in a potato field. One day, she returns from a long day of work in the field only to learn that today her childhood will come to an end.

"The Star", a co-production between the U.S. and Israel by Nadav Lapid, won the special jury award.

The Canal Brazil Award was given to "Sideral", a co-production between Brazil and France directed by Carlos Segundo.

The story of the film is set in Natal, on the Brazilian north coast, where the country is preparing to launch its first manned space rocket into space. A couple lives with their two children near the space center, she is a cleaner and he is a mechanic, but she dreams of other horizons.

Iran: Myths and legends



An image of Azhi Dahaka, a dragon in Persian mythology.

Part 3

Thus Yima is seen as the ideal king, and Persepolis became known as Takht-e Jamshid, the throne of Jamshid. A second theme is the story of the terrible winter (caused by the evil Malkus) which threatened all living creatures.

Yima constructed a Vara or enclosure, in which the seeds of the best of people, cattle, and trees were kept. It is said in Dadestan i Menog

i xrad (hereafter DMx) to be in Eranwez and below the earth.

In the Bundahishn the winter is an eschatological assault of evil in its death throes. A third theme is Yima's sin of lying, which results in him losing the divine glory; as it flew away three times in the shape of a bird of prey, it was seized successively by Mithra, Thraetaona, and Keresasp.

His sin is alluded to in the Gathas in Y. (although the translation is much debated. No reference is made to this sin in the Vendidad, even though it is the longest passage on Yima.

In the Pahlavi literature, his sin was his claim to be the creator. DD 39.16-17 states he was deceived by the fiend into wanting supreme sovereignty instead of serving Ohrmazd. Yt. 19.46 refers to Azhi Dahaka cutting Yima to pieces. The fragmentary picture yields no clear 'story line'.

Myths and legends of monsters and fiends

Hero myths and legends are a major dimension of any culture, inspiring followers to emulate the good and oppose—and fear—the evil.

They abound in Iran also. The story of Thraetaona/Fereidun is a good example. Generally Zoroastrian literature describes beneficial forces in more detail than it does evil powers.

But one demonic monster is graphically depicted, although the myth is somewhat

fragmentary. It is another example of the difficulty of distinguishing between myth and legend.

Azhi Dahaka is described as a dragon "who had three mouths, three heads, six eyes, a thousand skills, the very mighty, devilish Falsehood, evil for the world, the deceitful one".

The same Yasht relates the story of Azhi Dahaka in conflict with the Fire of Ahura Mazda for the possession of the swarrah. The dragon was said to have a thousand powers, and to be "of mighty strength ... whom the evil spirit Angra Mainyu made as the most mighty Drug who threatened the corporeal world, Iranian settlements, and the homes of Asha".

Azhi Dahaka succeeded Yima when the glory left him, and he was jointly responsible for sawing the fallen king in half. He took Yima's daughters as his wives. The dragon's evil reign lasted for a thousand years.

Dahaka is said to have had his mansion in Babylon (a symbol of the hated Assyrian empire). He is said to have been one of the last to rule all seven regions; his desire was to rid them of people, but Anahita rejected his plea, as did Vayu. His reign was brought to an end by the heroic Fereidun beating him with his club.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

To be continued