

TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 50,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 43rd year | No. 14181 | Monday | March 14, 2022 | Esfand 23, 1400 | Sha'aban 11, 1443

Report **T**

Iran halts negotiations with Saudi Arabia

TEHRAN — Nour News, a website close to the Supreme National Security Council, reported on Sunday that the Iranian government has temporarily suspended talks with its regional rival Saudi Arabia.

The outlet did not reveal the source of the information or the reason for the sudden suspension the talks.

The move comes three days before the two sides were set to meet in the Iraqi capital Baghdad for a fifth round of negotiations. Talks have been taking place since April 2020 with the aim of ending tensions between Riyadh and Tehran.

The Saudi government has yet to issue a statement on the suspension of negotiations. Baghdad, which was expected to host the talks on Wednesday, March 16, has also not commented on the matter.

Coincidentally, the decision by Iran to suspend the talks comes a day after Saudi Arabia executed 81 men over what it called "allegiance to foreign terrorist organizations and holding deviant beliefs." Some human rights activists have said that about half of the men who were executed were members of the Shia community.

In one of the largest mass executions in Saudi Arabia since 1980, a total of 81 people were killed on charges of alleged terrorism-related activities.

The Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported that the executions took place on March 12, and included seven Yemenis and one Syrian.

Forty of those executed are reported to have come from Qatif, a region populated by the kingdom's Shia minority. ▶ Page 2

Report **T**

War on Yemen "escalates" with more child casualties

The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) has said that dozens of children have been "killed or maimed" in the war on Yemen just two months since the start of the year as the war "continues to escalate".

In a statement, Philippe Duamelle, UNICEF's Representative in Yemen said that "over the first two months of 2022, 47 children were reportedly killed or maimed in several locations across the country."

"Since the conflict escalated in Yemen nearly seven years ago, the UN has verified that more than 10,200 children have been killed or injured. The actual number is likely much higher"

The Saudi-led American-backed coalition waged war on Yemen in March 2015 and experts say tens of thousands of children have been killed.

Duamelle has called on all parties to take all possible measures to protect civilians, saying that "It is high time that a sustainable political solution is reached for people and their children to finally live in the peace they so well deserve."

He added that "violence, misery, and grief have been commonplace in Yemen with severe consequences for millions of children and families."

The latest remarks come on the backdrop of UNICEF's annual report, which highlights the scale of the humanitarian crisis in the country and the devastating impact this has had on children.

The shocking details published two weeks ago reported "nine attacks on schools and five attacks on hospitals were verified" in 2021, as well as six incidents of military use of education or health facilities. 386 children were killed or maimed "by various parties to the conflict," has raised questions.

As the U.S. and Europe impose one of the harshest sanctions regime on Russia and Russians from all walks of life for Moscow's military operation in Ukraine, there has been a wide debate about the double standards practiced by Washington. ▶ Page 5

Israeli Center Hit with Iranian Ballistic Missiles

▶ Page 3



Monthly non-oil trade up 52% yr/yr

TEHRAN – The value of Iran's non-oil trade rose 52 percent in the eleventh month of the current Iranian calendar year (January 21-February 19), from the same month of the past year, the spokesman of Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

Ruhollah Latifi said that 15.799 million tons of non-oil commodities worth \$9.858 billion were traded in the eleventh month of this year, also rising 45 percent in terms of weight

as compared to the same month of the previous year.

The official also announced that the non-oil trade in the eleventh month shows 21 percent and 41 percent growth in terms of value and weight, respectively, as compared to the tenth month.

The IRICA spokesman further put the non-oil export at 12.233 million tons worth \$4.754 billion in the eleventh month, with 64 percent and 45 percent rise in terms of value and

weight, as compared to the same month of the past year, and 31 percent and 51 percent growth in value and weight, as compared to the tenth month of the present year.

China, Turkey, Iraq, United Arab Emirates (UAE), and Afghanistan were the major export destinations of Iranian products in the eleventh month, he said.

Latifi then put the non-oil import at 3.566 million tons worth \$5.104 billion in the eleventh month, with 42 percent ▶ Page 4

5th Mustafa Prize slated for October 2023

TEHRAN – The 5th Mustafa Prize Award Ceremony will be held in October 2023, announcing laureates from the Islamic World.

The Mustafa Prize is awarded in the four categories of Information and Communication Science and Technology, Life and Medical Science and Technology, Nanoscience and Nanotechnology, and Basic and Engineering Sciences.

In this edition of the event, a prize is also awarded to scientists residing in the Islamic countries regardless of their religion with the aim of developing science and technology in these countries.

The nominees can only be nominated by renowned scientists and one of the scientific institutions like universities and research centers, Science and technology associations and centers of excellence, academies of sciences, and science and technology parks.

The prize includes the Mustafa Medal, the Prize Certificate, ▶ Page 7



Rescue operations drill conducted in Tehran

On Sunday, an aerial drill was held in Tehran aiming to boost preparedness for rescue and relief operations in time of natural disasters.

Armed and law enforcement forces in cooperation with the Emergency Medical Organization, the Red Crescent Society, The Fire Department, and the Municipality took part in the drill.

World Heritage sites getting ready to host new year vacationers

TEHRAN – As the new year is just on the corner, a number of Iranian World Heritage sites are being prepared to welcome visitors during the Noruz holidays.

For instance, cleaning projects have been commenced on Bam citadel in the southern province of Kerman, Takht-e Soleyman in the northwestern West Azarbaijan province, and Persepolis in the southern province of Fars

before Iranian new year (starts on March 21), CHTN reported on Sunday.

The cleaning works are being carried out in collaboration with the locals, cultural heritage aficionados, and environmental activists as well as some non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the report added.

Bam citadel

The origins of Bam citadel ("Arg-e Bam")

can be traced back to the Achaemenid period (6th to 4th centuries BC) and even beyond. The heyday of the mudbrick fortress was from the 7th to 11th centuries, being at the crossroads of important trade routes and known for the production of silk and cotton garments.

According to UNESCO, Arg-e Bam is the most representative example of ▶ Page 6

From Inside **T**

- Iran: Break in Vienna talks was made at EU request **P2**
- Raisi urges intelligence apparatus to fight injustice, counter corruptors and profiteers **P2**
- Iran, Qatar FMs discuss Vienna talks **P3**
- German firm inks MOU with MERDCI to co-produce solar panels **P4**
- Ban on auto imports to be lifted as of late May **P4**
- Gas supplied to 291 deprived villages in less than 6 months **P4**
- JCOA can help Iran diversify economic ties: American expert **P5**
- Half a million pilgrims visit Imam Reza shrine per day **P6**
- Archaeologists carve special drainage to shield royal bas-relief in Persepolis **P6**
- Iranian delegation to attend UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs **P7**
- Precipitation 15.5% less than normal in Iran **P7**
- Tehran museum uncovers treasure trove of Iranian artworks on Nezami Ganjavi **P8**
- Art Dubai hangs works from Iranian galleries **P8**
- "Tonight's Homework" brings Kiarostami to life at Ljubljana festival **P8**

Interview **T**

Ukraine war is the 'post-post-Cold War' world: professor

By Mohammad Mazhari

TEHRAN – A scholar of international relations and global governance believes that the world has entered the "post-post-Cold War" phase after the Ukraine war.

Pointing to Russia's ambition to restore its great-power status, Thomas G. Weiss tells the Tehran Times that "this is the post-post-Cold War world."

Russia's military operations in Ukraine and the inability of the West to confront it directly have raised questions about the future of the world order.

Some political observers believe that it was a turning point in which Moscow has changed the course of the post-Cold War history. America is no longer the great power that ruled the world without any significant competitor; Russia and China are challenging traditional global hegemony.

However, Western scholars aspire that the Ukraine war awakens Western powers and reunite them against the Eastern threats.

"I am hoping that the sleepy and lazy and un-military Europe joins an awakened West (not just the U.S. but Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and Japan) to recognize that Russia aspires to restore its great-power status," Weiss emphasizes.

Following is the text of the interview:

What are the implications of the Ukraine crisis for the world? The Security Council can't issue a resolution and Western powers don't dare to be engaged in a direct conflict with Russia.

I am hoping that the sleepy and lazy and un-military Europe joins an ▶ Page 5

Interview **T**

Iran still motivated against S. Korea and Lebanon: Estili

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN – Iran national football team director, Hamid Estili, says that the National Team are ready to finish their journey in the 2022 FIFA World Cup qualification in the best possible manner.

Iran football team became the 14th team to book their place in the 2022 FIFA World Cup. Moreover, the 'Persian Leopards' are the first Asian team to book their place at the year-end tournament in Qatar following a 1-0 victory over Iraq in January.

Dragan Skocic's team, who are assured of a top-two finish in Group A following the triumph, can now look forward to a third consecutive World Cup appearance.

However, Estili says that the national team's early qualification for the World Cup will not affect the motivation of players and team members for the remaining games against the Korea Republic and Lebanon. ▶ Page 3

Precipitation 15.5% less than normal in Iran

TEHRAN – Since the beginning of the current water year (September 23, 2021), the country has received rainfall 15.5 percent below normal.

According to the latest report of the National Center for Drought Warning and Monitoring Center, the total rainfall of the whole country has reached 112.8 mm, which has decreased by 13.5 mm compared to the long-term period of 130.4 mm, from the beginning of the current water year to February 17.

The precipitation rate during autumn (September 23–December 21, 2021) was not very favorable, as the Meteorological Organization has considered this autumn one of the driest seasons in the past 50 years.

However, from the beginning of winter (December 22, 2021) to February 17, the amount of rainfall was accompanied by a growth of over 6.1 percent compared to the long-term average.

But overall, the rainfall rate during the current water year is not yet favorable, as it is 15.5 percent lower than normal averages.

According to the World Meteorological Organization's multi-annual forecast, in the next five years, Iran's average rainfall will decline by 75 percent, and the temperature rises by 50–75 percent compared to the long-term average.



Climate change and extreme weather events

Climate change is a fact that cannot be run over, whether the temperature rises over 2 or 6°C, natural incidents such as flooding, droughts, and severe storms are among the main consequences of climate change.

Moreover, water and food shortages, water-borne illnesses, cold or heat-related deaths will come up as the results of

temperature variations. In tropical areas also the risk of floods will rise.

Heavy rain and other extreme weather events will become more frequent, which can lead to floods along with decreasing water quality, but also decreasing availability of water resources in some regions.

Climate change will also bring extreme wet and dry seasons, which mainly causes rainfall

fluctuations and water scarcity. While there have been prolonged droughts nationwide in past recent years leaving people scrambling for water.

So, nations must take steps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in the future, preventing the emissions peak, otherwise, they might not be able to breathe on the planet in the future, or migrate to other places if found.

The study may also come efficient when it comes to making the people aware of climate change impact in their own city, within their lifetime, to avoid experiencing an entirely new climate that is beyond human experience.

Iran's average rainfall will decline by 75 percent in the next five years.

Iranian delegation to attend UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs

TEHRAN – An Iranian delegation headed by Eskandar Momeni, the director of anti-narcotics police headquarters, will attend the 65th session of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs.

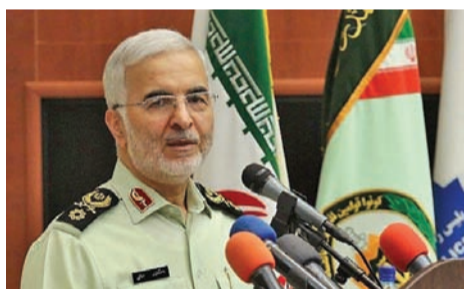
The event will take place on March 14–18 in Vienna, Austria.

The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), World Health Organization (WHO), and International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) – come together to hold a Joint Call to Action on Scaling Up the Implementation of International Drug Policy Commitments on Improving Availability of and Access to Controlled Substances for Medical and Scientific Purposes.

The Joint Call to Action raises awareness for the importance of improving the availability of and access to controlled substances for medical and scientific purposes, underscoring the critical need for sustainable funding in this area.

While delivering a speech at the meeting of the Narcotics Commission, Momeni will meet Ghada Wali, Director-General of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and sign a joint cooperation agreement.

They will also have multilateral meetings and visits with relevant UN officials and relevant Austrian officials.



Iran holds world record for narcotics confiscation

Iran holds the record for narcotics confiscation in the world, Momeni said in December 2021.

However, great achievements in the field of countermeasures have been gained, and the United Nations has officially announced that 90 percent of opium, 70 percent of morphine, and 20 percent of world heroin have been discovered by Iran.

Last year, about 1,200 tons of drugs were discovered, which was the highest rate of discovery in the world," he explained.

According to figures released by the United Nations in 2000, Afghanistan produced about 200 tons of narcotics, but in 2018, it has grown to 9,500 tons.

In other words, the production of narcotics has increased fifty times, which has doubled the need for prevention efforts, he highlighted.

Despite the conditions caused by the coronavirus outbreak and the imposition of harsh sanctions against the country, fortunately, with the efforts of anti-narcotics police in 2020, drug detection increased by 41 percent.

After the Islamic Revolution (in 1979), 3,800 were martyred, 12,000 were wounded and disabled in the fight against drug trafficking.

The UNODC has praised Iran's efforts to fight against narcotics trafficking on the occasion of International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.

The organization also officially announced that the world's first place in the discovery of opium, heroin, and morphine belongs to Iran.

According to UNODC, Iran remains one of the major transit routes for drug trafficking from Afghanistan to European countries and has had a leading role at the global level in drug-control campaigns.

UNODC World Drug Report 2020 estimates that in 2018, 91 percent of world opium, 48 percent of the world morphine, and 26 percent of the world heroin were seized by Iran.

5th Mustafa Prize slated for October 2023

From page 1 ► and a special cash gift that is provided from the endowment of science and technology, and so far more than 400 benefactors from different countries as members of the Khadem Al-Mustafa community have supported this scientific-cultural movement.

The deadline for nominations is August 31.

During the 2021 Mustafa Prize award ceremony, five Muslim scientists were awarded cash prizes amounting to \$1 million, as the laureates of the 4th edition of the event.

The Mustafa Science and Tech-

nology Foundation has provided the opportunity for the development of scientific and technological cooperation by establishing a network of nearly 6,500 science and technology experts from 50 countries and interacting with 910 prestigious international centers.



ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran starts smart screening program to contain coronavirus

The second phase of the social distancing plan in Iran started on Tuesday within the framework of a screening program to curb the spread of coronavirus.

"Under the program, we will conduct tests on the asymptomatic people who are transmitting the virus to the community without awareness," Health Minister Saeed Namaki said explained, IRNA reported.

"With the help of knowledge-based companies, we are moving to centers that have no symptoms, and for this we need an extensive diagnosis," he added.

آغاز طرح فاصله گذاری هوشمند در ایران برای مقابله با کرونا

اجرای گام دوم طرح غربالگری و مقابله با کرونا در کشور روز سه شنبه آغاز شد.

به گزارش ایرنا، سعید نمکی، وزیر بهداشت، در تشریح این طرح گفت: در این مرحله سراغ افراد بدون علامت که منشأ عفونت هستند می‌رویم و برای این اقدام به آزمایش‌های گسترده نیاز داریم.

او افزود: با کمک شرکت‌های دانش بنیان، سراغ کانون‌هایی می‌رویم که علامت ندارند، اما ویروس را در سطح جامعه جابه‌جا می‌کنند.

KARUN, the only navigable waterway in Iran

KARUN RIVER (Rud-e Karun) is the largest river and the only navigable waterway in Iran. It flows out of the central Zagros range, traverses the Khuzestan plain, and joins the Shatt al-Arab before the latter discharges into the Persian Gulf.

i. Geography and Hydrology

The river Karun has its rise in the Bakhtiari Zagros mountains west of Isfahan and follows a meandering course to the Persian Gulf. A straight line between the source and the mouth measures only about 250 km, while the river actually travels between 860 and 890 km.

The loops are sizeable in the mountains and much more frequent on the plain. The river's course can be divided into three natural sections: (1) the upper, mountainous course from its source to Gotvand, where it leaves the mountains, about 400 km downstream; (2) the middle course, from Gotvand, through Shushtar, to its junction with the Ab-e Dez, then all the way south to the rapids of Ahvaz; and (3) from Ahvaz across the rest of the Khuzestan alluvial plain, where the river flows gently towards the Shatt al-Arab.

The upper course. The source of the Karun is the western spurs of Kuhrang in the heart of Bakhtiari land, about 75 km west of Isfahan. It is called Sarcheshme-ye Kuhrang, not far from the source of the Zayandarud, which flows eastwards onto the Isfahan plain.

Diverting dam-and-tunnel systems between the sources of the two rivers have been constructed to redirect the headwaters of the Karun into the Zayandarud.

The upstream section of the Karun can be characterized as a steep, powerful stream, descending through a series of mountainous anticlinal ridges and synclinal valleys, and for long stretches the river flows rapidly between lofty cliffs. As the river flows downward, its volume increases almost constantly, as it is nourished by springs and snowmelt channeled into the tributaries that successively join the Karun.

Approximately two-hundred streams comprise the upper Karun. Up to its confluence with the Beheshtabad river, at a point 120 km downstream from the Karun's source, the river is often called by the name of its source, Kuhrang.

In spite of its significantly meandering course, the river runs mostly in a southerly to southeasterly direction until the powerful tributary Vanak diverts the Karun's course in a southwesterly direction, which is generally maintained even when the Bazoft, one of its main tributaries, merges in.

Another major orientation change occurs at the next chief tributary, the Khersan, which actually takes the Karun into its own northwesterly direction, a direction which the Karun follows for much of the rest of its upper course.

However, a full, convex, southward curve begins at the confluence with the Ab-e Shalla, countered by a remarkable concave bend at the Sabzab, and lastly another huge curvature between Ab-e Kia and Gotvand village, where the Karun exits the mountains. It continues the rest of its course in an average southward direction.

The middle course. The Karun departs the mountains at a 5-km long defile known as Tang-e Qal'a Dokhtaran and meets the village of Gotvand on its right bank. Here it flows around the fertile plain of Aqili in a curve before it passes through a hilly stretch. A few kilometers down, the Karun swings westward, and just before it reaches the old Shushtar, 30 km downstream from Gotvand, it bifurcates into two navigable arms.

The left/west arm makes the Karun proper, also known as Ab-e Shotayt "little river" and, farther downstream, as Ab-e bozorg-e Shushtar "great stream of shushtar."

The right/east arm, Ab-e Gargar, is artificial in origin. The two arms are also called Chahardangeh and Dodangeh. The island between the two temporary arms, Mianab or Miandab, embraces the town of Shushtar and stretches southward some 45 km to the village of Band-e Qir, which stands at the southern apex of the island.

Here, not only do the two arms of the Karun reunite, but also the Ab-e Dez, flowing in a southeastward direction, unites with the Karun from the right/west. Significantly enlarged by the Dez, the Karun now flows 250–300 meters wide for some 20 km straight southwards, up to the village Veys.

From Veys southwest to Ahvaz the river winds in three sharp meanders for 45 km—over twice the straight-line distance. From the junction at Bande Qir to Ahvaz the Karun flows some 74 km.

Just before reaching Ahvaz, and after the small island of Omm-al-Nakhl, the Karun breaks through the sandstone hills known as the spurs of the Jabal Hamrin. This gives rise to the 3-km long rapids of Ahvaz.

Except for these rapids, the middle and lower courses of the river are navigable, although below Ahvaz the riverbed is not always deep enough for navigation.

The lower course and the delta. After bisecting modern Ahvaz, the river continues in a general southerly direction, within a series of bends and convolutions, and then flows straight southwest towards its mouth at the Shatt al-Arab (in Persian: Arvand Rud).

The river's lower course runs gently through the alluvial plain formed by the Karun itself.

Its average slope here is 8 cm in a km; this is 0.008 percent, compared with a slope average of more than 3 percent for the entire course of the Karun.

The Karun delta begins some 5 km above Khorramshahr; where the river bifurcates into two major branches, either of which may be regarded as the river's natural mouth. (1) The shorter branch, still called Karun, flows a few kilometers westward, until it meets the Shatt al-Arab, already an affluent of the Euphrates and Tigris.

Now expanded by the Karun, the Shatt al-Arab runs southeast for about 200 km before joining the Persian Gulf. (2) The Bahmanshir branches off the left bank of the Karun and flows 70–80 km in a channel 500–800 meters wide, parallel with the Shatt al-Arab, with which it forms the island of Abadan; it flows into an estuary called Khor-e Bahmanshir before entering the sea.

Two other distributaries, into which the Karun historically changed course alternately, branch off left of the Karun's delta and run southeast toward their estuaries at the Persian Gulf. (1) The Shatt al-A'ma, traverses the marshlands until it spreads into the Khor-e Sili. (2) The Qadimi the old stream, so called on account of it being considered an old bed of the Karun, finally broadens out into the Khor-e Musa.

The basin and discharge. The Karun drains an area of around 60,000 km², two-thirds of which is mountainous and a third of which is piedmonts and plains; a third of this catchment basin belongs to the Dez, the main tributary of the Karun. The main source of the Karun in the central Zagros is covered with snow for up to five months a year and receives annual precipitation rates of up to 600 mm.

Source: Encyclopedia Iranica

COVID-19 UPDATES ON MARCH 13

New cases	3,330
New deaths	118
Total cases	7,123,093
Total deaths	138,949
New hospitalized patients	610
Patients in critical condition	2,832
Total recovered patients	6,779,494
Diagnostic tests conducted	48,250,947
Doses of vaccine injected	144,800,754

