

Iran faces overlooked environmental quandary: Soil erosion



Spanish translation of Leader's book 'Cell Number 14' unveiled in Colombia

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Commerce Ministry restoration essential for market regulation

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EXCLUSIVE



A funeral is held in a church in Tehran on April 28, 2023 for Assyrian Christian soldier Johnny Bet Oshana who fell in the 1980s Iraqi-imposed war against Iran. His remains returned home after 39 years.

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EXCLUSIVE

Could Lebanon benefit from Iran-KSA détente?



By Ja'afar Qannadbashi
Middle East affairs expert

EXCLUSIVE

The latest visit of the Iranian foreign minister to Lebanon, a few months after a Chinese-brokered political settlement with Saudi Arabia, has raised hopes that the benefits of the Tehran-Riyadh agreement could also reach Beirut. If this were to happen, it could help Lebanon overcome the political instability and uncertainty that it has faced in recent years. After the Iran-Saudi Arabia détente, it was expected that certain challenging issues within the Middle East would gradually be resolved. Notably, the prolonged conflict in Yemen has recently been

put on the path to settlement, and some regional Arab nations, including Bahrain and Egypt, have expressed their willingness to restore their diplomatic relations with Iran.

The recent positive developments and optimistic outlook for the future of the region are largely attributed to Riyadh's introspection regarding the policies that it sought over the past years, particularly its hostile attitudes toward Iran and its allies. However, it remains uncertain whether Riyadh's policy transformation will extend to Lebanon. Saudi Arabia's positions have had a significant impact on Lebanon's political landscape, in addition to other sources of internal and external tensions.

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Iran backs any agreement over new president in Lebanon: FM



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Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir-Abdollahian said Tehran strongly supports any agreement between the political parties in Lebanon regarding the election of a new president. Speaking at a joint press conference with his Lebanese counterpart Abdallah Bou Habib in Beirut on Thursday, Amir-Abdollahi-

an said Iran wants nothing but good for Lebanon, and called on Lebanese political parties to accelerate the political process and elect a new president. He also called on "all foreign parties to support the elections in Lebanon without interfering in the Arab country's domestic affairs."

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Major projects inaugurated in Khuzestan Province



Iranian President Ebrahim Raesi speaks during the inauguration ceremony of the Hoveizeh Refinery in southwestern province of Khuzestan on April 28, 2023.

president.ir

The Iranian government opened a series of major industrial and civil projects in the southwestern province of Khuzestan amid plans to boost business activity in the region. The projects were inaugurated with the presence of

President Ebrahim Raesi who was on a two-day visit to the energy-rich province. During the inauguration ceremony of the Hoveizeh Refinery on Friday, President Raesi referred to the daily increase of 45,000 barrels of oil to the country's production, emphasizing that the production should keep the pace. Several other projects were also inaugurated during the president's trip. President Raesi on Thursday also opened a 307 megawatt (MW) power plant in Do Kuheh area near the city of Andimeshk in Khuzestan. The gas-fired electricity station is a first phase of

a combined cycle power plant in Do Kuheh which includes an unfinished steam unit with a generation capacity of 144 MW. The government has spent some 142 million euros on the construction of the gas unit of the Do Kuheh power plant, according to a report by Raesi's website, which added that the power plant will create 100 permanent jobs in the region. The report said the F-class power plant will have an efficiency rate of 58%, one of the highest in Iran. Using a video conference link, Raesi also inaugurated dozens of other water and electricity projects across Khuzestan, a prov-

ince of more than five million people which is home to some of Iran's largest oilfields. Among the projects was a 196 MW steam unit in the West Karun power plant, a project which will boost electricity supply to oilfields near Iran's border with Iraq. The power plant unit, which had been opened in July last year, was synchronized with the national power grid in Iran on Thursday. The official IRNA news agency said a total of 33 new energy projects, with an investment of 87 trillion rials (\$174 million) were inaugurated during Raesi's visit to Khuzestan Province.



Putin hails Türkiye ties as first Turkish nuclear plant inaugurated

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Birjand displays traditional Persian architecture

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F1 to pave way for female drivers

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Heavy battles in Sudan despite truce

Fighting raged in Sudan on Friday, despite rival forces agreeing to extend a truce aimed to stem nearly two weeks of warfare that has killed hundreds and caused widespread destruction. In the war-ravaged western Darfur region, scores have been killed in days of bitter urban battles in the city of El Geneina, the United Nations said. Black clouds rose over the capital Khartoum as foreign governments scrambled to organise mass evacuations of their citizens, with Türkiye's defence ministry reporting

Friday that one of their military transport aircraft had come under fire, AFP reported. There have been multiple truce efforts since fighting broke out on April 15 between Sudan's army led by General Abdel Fattah al-Burhan and the paramilitary Rapid Support Forces (RSF) commanded by his former deputy and fellow coup leader Mohamed Hamdan Daglo. All have failed. On Thursday, the two sides agreed to extend a repeatedly broken ceasefire for three more days, with the United States, Saudi Arabia, the African Union, the UN and others hoping it would help forge a "more durable cessation of hostilities".

Navy seizes fleeing oil tanker which hit Iranian vessel

Iran's Navy has seized a Marshall Islands-flagged oil tanker in the Sea of Oman after the ship hit an Iranian vessel and tried to flee in violation of maritime regulations. According to the public relations department of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army, the foreign vessel collided with an Iranian fishing craft in the Persian Gulf late on Wednesday. A number of crew members of the



REUTERS

Iranian ship sustained injuries as a result of the impact, and two are still missing.

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