



Persepolis to lodge complaint to FIFA over Locadia's abrupt departure

Persepolis will lodge an official protest against Jurgen Locadia to the world football governing body after the Dutch striker "unilaterally terminated" his contract with the club, the Persian Gulf Pro League outfit said.

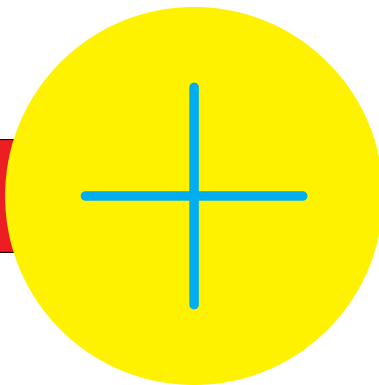
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Historical section of Yazd attractive to foreign tourists



Alejandro Staller and his wife
SADEQ DEHQAN/IRAN DAILY



A man riding a motorcycle in the old section of Yazd
SADEQ DEHQAN/IRAN DAILY

Sadeq Dehqan

Staff writer

EXCLUSIVE

The city of Yazd, the capital of the central province of Yazd, has a large old section dating back to the Qajar Era (1789-1925 CE). The adobe architecture of its houses and alleys, which has not changed significantly, attracts a large number of foreign tourists to the area every year. They look at the ancient brick structures of the section with surprise and curiosity and walk up and down the alleys.

The Fahadan and Kooshk-e No neighborhoods are located in the central part of the city's old section. When visiting the area, I found that I was surrounded by old alleys and houses. Passing through their covered and adobe passages gave me a strange feeling and took me back a hundred years. I saw the members of a foreign family who got out of a car and went into the historical section. Their appearance indicated that they came from a European country. The Slovenian couple, Matia and Kiata, along with

their children Mark and Iris, traveled to Iran by plane. They rented a car online to visit Shiraz, Isfahan and Qeshm Island, and now they were in Yazd. An electrical engineer, Matia likes to travel all over the world along with his family. He said that Yazd is one of the cities that he would never regret visiting. "This is an old city with very beautiful architecture, with kind and friendly people." The family had traveled to India before Iran. His wife, Kiata, said, "Unlike India, health issues are well respected in Iran."

A little further, I met a Spanish couple, Alejandro Staller, 27, said, "This is the first time I have come to Iran, and Yazd is one of the oldest cities I have visited. Yazd has an amazing architecture that I have never seen anywhere else." His wife, a 30-year-old woman, who had so far visited 42 countries, said, "Even though we didn't know your language, and some Iranians have very little knowledge of English, we could communicate with everyone very easily, and the people helped us a lot." She noted: "Iran's climate

is almost similar to that of southern Spain. On the other hand, not only the physical appearance of Iranians is very similar to Spaniards, but also, like the people of my country, they behave in a friendly way and respectfully." Meanwhile, if you walk in the narrow alleys of Yazd's old town, you will see a large number of Afghan immigrants who chose the area to live in. Some of them entered Iran illegally, through the Nehbandan border region, and passed the central desert area of Iran to arrive in Yazd. They have rented the old

houses of the area at a low price, while having no knowledge about their historical and cultural values. In an alley of another old neighborhood, known as Shah Abulqassem, I saw several Afghan women carrying fruit and vegetable bags with one hand, and dragging their children with the other. I talked to a man named Qassem Noorzehi, who was standing in front of a door. He said that due to the outbreak of war in Afghanistan, he left his dilapidated home in his country some 15 years ago and migrated to Iran, hoping for a

better life. With his permission, I entered the courtyard of the house. The building apparently was a large mansion that has been divided into several smaller sections. Its veranda and interior doors of the mansion were destroyed during the remodeling project. However, the increasing numbers of foreign and Iranian tourists who have visited the historical section of Yazd during the past few years have helped encourage some owners of its old structures to turn them into traditional hotels and accommodations.

Iran's popularity grows in Armenia: Researcher

IRNA – Facts and figures on the ground prove that Iran's steadfastness to call for the maintenance of international borders in the Caucasus has helped improve the popularity of the Islamic Republic in the eyes of the Armenian people, an analyst said. Zhanna Vardanyan, a top international relations researcher, said in a meeting at the Caucasus Studies Institute in Tehran that the status of Iran as a friendly country has upgraded more than ever among Armenian citizens. Evaluating Iran-Armenia political ties as very good, she noted that economic and trade exchanges have not yet expanded at the same level of their political relations, while both countries enjoy abundant capacities to develop ties in this respect. As to the establishment of an Iranian trade center in Armenia, she noted that a hub for joint information dissemination in both Persian and Armenian languages should be set up to assist merchants of both



countries. She further pointed to the hostile developments between the Azerbaijan Republic and Armenia in recent years, expressing regret that the developments in the Caucasus are being pursued via the use of force, while they should be followed up through political negotiations. The meeting on the Iran-Armenia relationship in the recent developments was held in the presence of Vardanyan and a number of Iranian researchers at the Caucasus Studies Institute in Tehran Tuesday afternoon.



Children help their adult relatives with fishing in Iran's southern open waters.
FARNAZ DAMNABI/MIZAN