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The world just watching

Gaza Holocaust



Iran pushing for humanitarian aid for besieged Gaza

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has intensified his diplomatic efforts to break the cruel siege on the people of Gaza.

Amir Abdollahian underlined the need for delivering humanitarian aid to the besieged people of Gaza. This was discussed in the phone conversation between Amir Abdollahian and his Egyptian counterpart, Sameh Shoukry.

Amir Abdollahian called Shoukry to discuss and exchange views on the most important issues of interest to the two countries, especially the latest developments in Palestine and the war crimes committed by the Zionist regime against the Palestinian people in Gaza, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

Appreciating the positions of Egypt in supporting the Palestinian people, Amir Abdollahian said: What is happening in the Palestinian lands is the result of the oppression that has been imposed on the oppressed Palestinian people in recent months by the Zionist regime and the extremist and criminal administration of Netanyahu. ▶ Page 3

Iran's Cinema Organization condemns Zionist regime's crimes

TEHRAN – Iran's Cinema Organization released a statement on Wednesday, denouncing the brutal massacre of innocent individuals in Gaza and Palestine by the oppressive Zionist regime. Parts of the statement read as follows:

"Once again, we are confronted with deeply disturbing scenes of a tragic human slaughter, images that will forever leave a mark in the history and haunt the minds and conscience of free individuals.

As we, the world and the cinema, bear witness to frames that lack the weight of such bitter tragedy and darkness, we cannot help but feel a profound sense of shame. These frames have failed to serve as a guiding compass for future generations, leaving us questioning our collective responsibility.

Gaza, the oppressed and displaced, is once again engulfed in destruction, victim to the greed of opportunistic predators in modern history. In this heart-wrenching tragedy, innocent children, women, and the elderly are drowning in their own blood, while the soil reeks of bloodshed and gunpowder.

This is not a moment for indecisiveness. The awakened consciences have come forward to take action. Art and artists undoubtedly stand at the forefront of this abyss, serving as a beacon of protection, honor, and a testament to humanity's dignity. ▶ Page 8

▶ Page 5

Prate to mitigate 'irreparable defeat'

By Alireza Akbari

TEHRAN – The Al-Aqsa Storm Operation launched by the Palestinian Hamas on Saturday morning has made the confused Zionists to look for excuses to minimize their humiliation.

On Tuesday, October 10, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei asserted that those who think non-Palestinians were involved in the surprise attack on the occupied territories are fundamentally wrong.

"The supporters of the [Zionist] regime and some of those in the usurping regime have been talking nonsense the last 2 to 3 days and this is still continuing. For example, they say that Islamic Iran is behind this move. We support Palestine. We support their fight. But those who say that non-Palestinians are behind what the Palestinians have done, do not know the Palestinian nation," Ayatollah Khamenei asserted.

Appreciating the Palestinians' bravery, Ayatollah Khamenei stated that Al-Aqsa Storm Operation was designed and carried out by the Palestinians themselves. ▶ Page 3

Who is the real terrorist?

By Ali Karbalaee

TEHRAN – As Western leaders and media react to the current cycle of violence in the Gaza Strip and the Israeli settlements near Gaza, the focus has been widely pinned on the Palestinian resistance and the alleged crimes it has committed.

Some Western leaders have gone as far as rebuking countries who have declined to condemn Hamas for the latest bout of violence.

The approach appears to be aimed at implying that the oppressed is the real monster, and the oppressor is being categorized as the victim of the latest conflict.

This is most likely because the Palestinian resistance got the upper hand militarily in scenes not seen in modern history that have dealt a major blow to Israeli security and intelligence apparatus that has been boasted about by the West as being the most sophisticated of all in the region.

This psychological warfare has been aimed at derailing any attempts by anti-Israel resistance groups to bring any justice to Israel for its acts of war crimes in occupied Palestine and beyond.

Israeli death toll rises to 1,200

At least 1,200 Israelis have been killed since a surprise attack by the Palestinian group Hamas early Saturday that involved dozens of fighters who infiltrated Israeli towns, the Israeli Public Broadcasting Corporation (KAN) said early Wednesday.

Meanwhile, citing Israel's Health Ministry, the Times of Israel reported that more than 2,900 Israelis have been injured in the unprecedented assault, with over 500 still hospitalized.

The Palestinian death toll also rose to 1055, while injuries reached 4,500, according to the Palestinian Health Ministry in Gaza.

The Gaza-based Palestinian Hamas group launched Operation Al-Aqsa Storm against Israel early Saturday, firing a barrage of rockets. It said the surprise attack was in response to the storming of Al-Aqsa Mosque in occupied East Jerusalem and growing settler violence against Palestinians.

In retaliation, the Israeli army launched Operation Swords of Iron against Hamas in the Gaza Strip.

Iranian students win medals in ITE 2023

TEHRAN – Iranian students won eight medals in the Fifth International Invention and Trade Expo (ITE 2023) which was held in London.

Kingston University hosted the event from October 5 to 6.

ITE 2023 provides a business platform for inventors, manufacturers, and dealers to present their latest products and innovations and exchange information.

At ITE, excellence in innovation is highlighted through the Invention & Innovation Award, it brings recognition to the best inventions, innovations, and trade, adding to its merit is supported by many international delegates.

Delegations from 34 countries participated in the competition and Iranian students succeeded in winning eight medals, IRNA reported. ▶ Page 7



Prominent Nigerian cleric receives warm welcome in Tehran

TEHRAN – Leading Islamic scholar Sheikh Ibrahim Zakzaky was met with a cheering crowd on Wednesday as he arrived in the Iranian capital of Tehran.

Zakzaky, who is a largely venerated cleric in Nigeria as well as the neighboring countries, has gained immense popularity among Iranians in the past years for his altruistic endeavors and support for the oppressed.

"I am very happy that such a crowd supports the resistance today, and I have nothing to say but to thank you dear ones," Sheikh Zakzaky said upon arriving in Tehran. ▶ Page 2

Iran's exports to West Asia rises 6% in H1

TEHRAN – The director general of the West Asia Department of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) has said Iran's exports to West Asia exceeded \$10 billion in the first six months of the current Iranian year (March 21-September 22), registering a six percent increase, year on year.

According to Farzad Piltan, Iran's exports to the West Asian countries including Iraq, United Arab Emirates (UAE), Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Yemen, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey reached \$10.346 billion in the mentioned six months to account for 45 percent of the country's total exports, the TPO portal reported.

During the mentioned six months, the Islamic Republic exported 30.387 million tons of goods to the countries of this region, which was 6.37 million tons or 25 percent more than the figure for the same period last year. ▶ Page 4

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A new stage for resistance

In the following column, we take a look at some important contents and views in the yesterday's Iranian newspapers.

Sobh-e-No dedicated its editorial to the authority of resistance in the region. The paper said: Today we entered a new stage of resistance, which will be very decisive and can change the balance of power in the region and even at the global level. Although the counter-revolutionaries are trying to interpret this operation (the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation launched by Hamas against Israel) to the detriment of the Islamic Republic, this war not only was not detrimental to Iran, but it exposed the strength of the resistance front to the enemy. When the weak and fake army of the Zionist regime is hit by Hamas in such a humiliating way, how will it react against Hezbollah, which is much stronger and armed with more advanced weapons? Yemen, which was involved in war and hunger for years, has also found access to modern military technologies that are stunning. Therefore, with this operation, not only Iran will not be exposed to war, but its playing cards for playing a role in the region, especially in negotiations with America, will increase. This can be a trump card for our country and increase its power in future issues.

Kayhan: The West's indifference towards the Zionists' crimes

In a note, Kayhan discussed the telephone conversation between High Representative of the European Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell and Hossein Amir Abdollahian, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and said: Amir Abdollahian, in a phone call with Borrell, called the reaction of the resistance movement in Gaza a part of the response to the extreme and inhuman moves of Netanyahu and the Zionist regime against the Palestinian people in recent months. The chief of Iran's diplomatic body also criticized the indifference of the West towards the systematic crimes of the Zionist regime against the Palestinians and said that if Europe and the West had stopped Netanyahu's crimes, far from the double standard, perhaps Palestine would not have witnessed this situation. Moreover, Josep Borrell also believes that the union was also critical of Netanyahu's behavior, but now you have to think about achieving peace. However, Iran considers the resistance operation a natural and legitimate response to the extreme and criminal actions of the Zionist regime and the definite result of Netanyahu's extremism against the homeland of the Palestinian nation.

Siasat-e-Rooz: The October 15 devastating earthquake

Siasat-e-Rooz devoted its editorial to the military operations of Hamas forces. It wrote: Since October 15, the hostile media, especially

the anti-revolution Persian-language media outlets, have tried to accuse Iran of being involved in the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation. Despite the media's psychological warfare against Iran regarding the attacks by the Palestinian resistance forces against the Zionist regime, even Americans and Zionists have admitted that Iran had no role in this operation. Moreover, Western and Hebrew television channels along with Persian-language media outlets are trying to portray the criminal Zionists as the oppressed and make it appear that it is the Palestinian resistance that is massacring the people of the occupying Israeli regime and presenting this false view that the army of this regime does not harm the Palestinian people. That is why the Supreme Leader of the revolution said that this regime cannot hide its monstrous and devious face through lies and pretending to be oppressed in the attack on Gaza and the massacre of people. The Leader also described the attack on the occupation regime as an "irreparable failure" and a "devastating earthquake" and it is unlikely for the regime to repair the deep blows to its governance structures even with the help of its Western allies.

Sharh: Republican hardliners trying to drag Iran into war

In an analysis, Sharh addressed the American Republican extremists' attacks against Biden following the Oct. 15 attack by Hamas forces against Israel by claiming that Iran has financed the Hamas attacks through the oil money released from South Korean Banks. It wrote: American media, following the surprise and extensive operation "Al-Aqsa Storm" by the Palestinian resistance forces against the occupation regime, which shocked not only this regime but also the United States, in psychological-propaganda warfare, are trying to create an atmosphere to drag the Islamic Republic of Iran into this war, while the American authorities have frankly rejected this issue. Matthew Miller, the spokesperson of the U.S. State Department, declared that the agreement to return American citizens from Iran has nothing to do with the terrible attack against Israel. Republicans and opponents of Joe Biden's Democratic administration, who strongly oppose the prisoner exchange agreement between Tehran and Washington and the release of Iran's frozen funds in South Korea, use every issue to attack the Biden administration. In their latest move to create an unhealthy atmosphere and back the occupying Israeli regime and its claims, they have used the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation as a pretext against Iran but their excuses have been declared as false and misleading by the U.S. treasury.

Muslims in the region and beyond no longer seeking ties with Israel: speaker

TEHRAN – Iran's Parliament speaker on Wednesday said Muslim nations in the region and beyond have come to the realization that the dreadful state of the Israeli regime is only expected to take a larger hit with the success of Operation al-Aqsa Storm.

"Today, all Arab and Muslim nations are against any relations with the Zionist regime, and governments that have made mistakes and moved towards establishing relations with this losing horse must realize that they should not act against the will of their own people. This damage is no longer repairable," said Mohammad Bagher Ghalibaf, adding that the Palestinian attack on Israel has been extremely detrimental for the regime.

"Another irreparable damage inflicted on the Zionist regime has to do with the society living inside the occupied territories. The false sense of security that this regime had created... under an iron cover has vanished. And in fact fear will be a permanent and common feeling in the occupied territories from now on," Ghalibaf added.

He also lauded the resistance forces in Palestine for their impeccable courage and spirit against the criminal military apparatus of the Zionist regime, saying they have already reached victory as they managed to inflict an "irreparable damage" that the regime will have to grapple with in the years to come.

The "Abraham Accords," which began during the Trump administration, marked a significant milestone in the relationship between Israel and the Arab world. Several Arab states, including the United Arab Emirates, Bahrain, Sudan, and Morocco, have since normalized or publicly acknowledged their relations with Israel. However, this has been seen as a betrayal to the Palestinian cause by many in the region.

Saudi Arabia seemed to be the next Arab state to normalize ties with the Israeli regime up until Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel.

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman acknowledged normalization talks with Israel for the first time in September. "Every day we get closer," the crown prince told Fox News on September 21.

But since the beginning of the Hamas operation the normalization process has at least entered a state of limbo. Riyadh, in its statement, pointed the finger of blame at Israel, condemning the regime for years of "occupation" and "provocation". Some reports have also suggested that Saudi Arabia has dropped talks with Israel altogether.

Analysts believe what has pushed Saudi Arabia to abandon normalization plans is the recent conflict between Israel and Gaza which remains ongoing.

Iran ready to host OIC meeting on Palestine

TEHRAN – Iran has officially expressed readiness to play host to an extraordinary meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) that is expected to be held soon.

The Islamic Republic of Iran's Permanent Mission in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Jeddah sent an official letter on Tuesday to the secretariat of the organization, announcing Iran's readiness to host an emergency meeting of the foreign ministers of the organization on Palestine, the Iranian foreign ministry said.

The mission also conveyed Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian's gratitude to OIC Secretary General Hissein Ibrahim Taha for exchanging views during their constructive negotiations on the developments in Palestine.

The mission officially said the Islamic Republic of Iran is fully ready to host the extraordinary ministerial meeting of the OIC.

The following is text of the official letter by Iran's mission to the OIC:



Following the phone call on Monday, October 9, 2023, between the Honorable Foreign Minister of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Hossein Amir Abdollahian, with the Honorable Secretary General of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), Hissein Ibrahim Taha, on the beastly crimes being perpetrated by the Zionist regime against Palestinian civilians, especially in the Gaza Strip, we would like to express Mr. Amir Abdollahian's gratitude for the opportunity provided to exchange views with the honorable secretary general and his

pecially infants, kids and women. Mr. Amir Abdollahian thanked Hissein Ibrahim Taha for his timely condemnation of the regime's actions and emphasized that the apartheid and child-killing regime is responsible in this context.

He also stressed that considering the high sensitivity of the case, the OIC should swiftly deal with the important matter at the highest possible level and informed the secretary general of the Islamic Republic of Iran's full readiness to host the emergency meeting of the Council of Foreign Ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation in Tehran, in the first agreed opportunity.

It was decided that the proposal would be submitted to the secretariat in writing.

Hereby, we would be grateful if the OIC secretariat immediately starts the necessary consultations with the member states of the organization on the proposal by the Islamic Republic of Iran's government and announce the final result to the mission in order to advance the procedures.

Iranian FM contacts UN and ICRC chiefs, expresses concern over horrific condition in Gaza



TEHRAN – In continuation of his efforts to stop the Israeli brutality in the Gaza Strip, Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian holds phone calls with the UN secretary-general and the ICRC president.

Prior to the Tuesday call with UN Secretary-General António Guterres and the ICRC President Mirjana Spoljaric Egger, Amir Abdollahian held talks with high-ranking diplomats, including Russian, Egyptian, and Kuwaiti counterparts, discussing developments in the Gaza Strip.

Amir Abdollahian stated what is happening in the occupied territories is an entirely "Palestinian initiative" which is a response to the war crimes, and extremism of the Zionist regime in recent months.

The Iranian minister pointed to the complete siege of the Gaza Strip as Israel has cut off food, electricity, and water to the Gaza Strip.

The top Iranian diplomat expressed worries over the continuous crimes of the Zionists against oppressed Palestinians as well.

He stressed that the genocide, massacre, and the surging number of Palestinian women and children being killed along with the complicated conditions are all on the shoulders of the Israeli regime.

Announcing Iran's readiness to send humanitarian aid to the Gaza Strip, the Iranian official stated: "We expect the United Nations to take

immediate measures to send water, food and humanitarian aid to Gaza."

For his part, Guterres said, "Perhaps no one is more upset than us about the issues that happened in Gaza." He added hundreds of UN employees, though in very bad conditions in the city, are trying to protect the people of Gaza.

Guterres also said that many people in Gaza have been sheltered in schools belonging to the United Nations.

"We are aware of the deterioration of the situation in Gaza and we are trying to prevent the intensification of bombings and conflicts through consultation with other countries because there is a fear that the escalation of the tensions will cause a disaster in Gaza," the UN chief regretted.

In line with countering extremism, the UN chief said, "We have always opposed the extremisms of the Israeli authorities, and we believe that through the recognition of the right to self-determination and the formation of an independent Palestinian state, problems will be ended."

Guterres announced widespread consultations to prevent the spread of the war to other states.

Appreciating the readiness of Iran to send water, food and medicine to Gaza in coordination with the World Red Cross and the United Nations, Amir Abdollahian expressed his concern that due to the depletion of fuel for the power plants in Gaza, there is a high risk of disaster in Gaza.

Iran recognizes Palestinian's legitimate right to self-defense

In a letter to Guterres, the Iranian foreign minister also stressed the legitimate right of the Palestinian people to defend themselves against any occupation or aggression.

Expressing concerns about the repeated aggressions and the heinous crimes of the occupation regime against the Palestinians, Amir Ab-

dollahian also censured the continuous support of the United States in particular and the West in general to the Zionist regime.

Reminding the responsibilities of the UN secretary-general, the Iranian minister also warned against the blind revenge of the Zionist regime and the humanitarian disaster in the Gaza Strip.

Elsewhere, Amir Abdollahian asked Guterres to take necessary measures to prevent the continuation of heinous crimes, war crimes, and genocide in occupied Palestine.

Security measures prevent Gaza from receiving humanitarian aid

The Iranian foreign minister also discussed the developments in the Gaza Strip in a call with the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) Mirjana Spoljaric Egger on Tuesday.

He pointed to the continuous war crimes of the Israelis in the Gaza Strip, namely the bombardment of residential areas, hospitals, and schools.

Later in the call, he said the situation would worsen in case the occupying regime kept committing brutal acts.

Referring to the alarming number of Palestinians martyred or wounded, he said he had asked the foreign ministers of the Islamic countries to send humanitarian aid to Gaza.

Egger, for her part, confirmed the catastrophic condition in Gaza, saying ICRC monitors the condition, but due to security measures, it is not possible for the employees to move to the Gaza Strip.

Elsewhere, she asked all the governments to help so that the International Red Cross can maintain its impartial and humane role and perform its duties in full coordination.

"We are in contact with the Red Crescent of the Islamic Republic of Iran and if the condition improves, we will receive Iranian aid," Egger said in the end.

Prominent Nigerian cleric receives warm welcome in Tehran

From page 1 ▶ People surrounded the cleric at the airport, while holding placards and chanting slogans in support of the resistance. Zakzaky is accompanied by his wife, Malama Zeenah Ibrahim throughout the trip.

This is the Nigerian scholar's second trip abroad since getting released from house arrest. Zakzaky was initially arrested in 2015, when

the Nigerian army attacked his residence, which also served as a place of worship for Nigerian Muslims, killing 250 of Zakzaky's followers including his three sons. The attack happening in Zaria, Kaduna state, is now known as the Zaria Massacre

Zakzaky and his wife were acquitted from all charges after six years of house arrest on August 28, 2021.

"We are all under a great test, and it is hoped that the Islamic Revolution will bring about change in the whole world, including in the US and Europe, to set the ground for the emergence of the last Shia Imam, Imam Mahdi (PBUH)," Zakzaky said in an address at the airport.

He has founded more than 300 schools in Nigeria and other African nations and has also established

charities for health and educational support of African Muslims.

He has also been an avid advocate of Islamic values. Millions of people have reverted to Islam after getting inspired by Zakzaky's humble and fair-minded character.

Zakzaky is due to appear in a ceremony in the University of Tehran during his stay in Iran.

Azerbaijan to connect to Nakhjavan via railway in Iran

TEHRAN – The Azerbaijani president announced on Tuesday that mainland Azerbaijan will be connected to Nakhjavan via Iranian soil.

"An agreement has been reached according to which a road and railway line will be built through the Iranian territory to Nakhjavan," Ilham Aliyev said during the 27th Meeting of Foreign Ministers of the Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO).

Aliyev also proposed normalization talks with Armenia, which has been fractious for the last three decades. "Azerbaijan supports peace in the region. Azerbaijan has proposed the format of 3+3 cooperation for resolving regional issues with the direct participation of regional countries. Now, historical conditions have been created for normalizing relations between Armenia and the Republic of Azerbaijan, signing a peace agreement,

and turning the South Caucasus into a place for peace and cooperation," he stated.

This comes after Iranian Minister of Transport and Urban Development Mehرداد Bazrpash met with Aliyev and Deputy Prime Minister Shahin Mustafayev during a visit to Azerbaijan. The officials discussed plans to launch joint transport projects.

With the new announcement, it seems that Azerbaijan has decided to scrap plans of constructing a corridor inside the Armenian soil. The proposed "Zangezur" corridor would have connected mainland Azerbaijan to the breakaway Nakhjavan region while dismantling the historical borders of Iran and Armenia. Tehran voiced its opposition to the building of such corridor multiple times and warned against making any geopolitical changes in the region.

To build the Zangezur corridor, Azerbaijan would



have had to launch an offensive against Armenia and illegally capture the southern province of Syunik. Azerbaijan and Armenia fought two wars in 2020 and 2023, during which Baku managed to capture the Nagoro-Krabakh region. According to international law, the region is officially part of Azerbaijan though it has been inhabited by an Armenian population for hundreds of years. Large numbers of Armenians left the area after Baku's latest offensive.

From Page 1 ▶ "Intelligent designers, brave youth, and active, self-sacrificing Palestinians have been able to create this epic. God willing, this epic will be a big step toward the salvation of Palestine. We praise the minds and efforts of the resourceful, intelligent designers and the brave youth of Palestine. We are proud of them," the Leader pointed out.

Later Tuesday, senior Hamas political leader Ismail Haniyeh announced that the decisions and the implementation of the operation were entirely carried out by Palestinians.

Haniyeh also pointed to the massacre and the savagery of the Zionists against the Palestinian nation, saying that the enemy will pay a heavy price for its crimes and terrorism.

Israel scrambles to salvage reputation amidst humiliation

Pursuing the lost fame, the occupying regime clutches at straws to regain the lost morale.

The Zionists are unsuccessfully seeking to save face through the massive bombardment of the residential areas in the besieged Gaza and cutting food, water, fuel, and electricity to the coastal enclave that houses 2.3 million population.

Collective punishment of



Palestinians, including women and children, is considered a relief by Zionists.

In the meantime, Israelis are raising questions about the nature of the Al-Aqsa Storm Operation. They are desperately and unsuccessfully looking for excuses to claim that Iran was involved in the attack since they cannot swallow their pride that the Al, Iron Dome, and military fell short of the will of the Palestinian youth.

The number of Israeli soldiers being killed or captured, the casualties and damages on Israeli barracks, and the attacks in the occupied territories have left the Zionists to be at a loss for words.

Upon the second day of the

Hamas operation, on Sunday Israeli Army spokesman Jonathan Conricus called October 7 "by far the worst day in Israeli history," pointing to Hamas fighters' activity in one day.

Compared with the 33-day war in 2006 where the Israeli army found 121 soldiers dead and 1,244 wounded, so far the Zionist army has suffered greater defeat with some 189 soldiers dead and 100 more held captive.

Israel is the cause of dilemma in Gaza Strip

Following Israel's colossal defeat at the hands of a resistance group, the Zionists are trying to attribute the operation to Iran to both cover up their humiliation and introduce

Iran as the cause of the current turmoil.

This is while the Leader of the Islamic Revolution rejected Iran's role in the Hamas operation.

The chief of Hamas's Izz al-Din al-Qassam Brigades (IQB), Mohammed Deif, said earlier this week that the operation was the "response" to the desecration of the al-Aqsa Mosque and relentless violence against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

"We've decided to say enough is enough," Deif said as he urged all Palestinians to confront Israel.

"This is the day of the greatest battle to end the last occupation on Earth," he said.

Lebanon's Hezbollah said on Saturday that the operation was a "decisive response to Israel's continued occupation and a message to those seeking normalization with Israel."

The truth came out as the Hamas operation crushed the myth of the Israeli invincibility. The Zionists, afraid of the unity in the Islamic world backing the oppressed Palestinians, gave it a shot to introduce Iran as the problem in the region to follow up the normalization policy, which has been set aside at least for the foreseeable future.

OCTOBER 12, 2023

Straight Truth
TEHRAN TIMES

3

SPORTS

Iran unstoppable in previous editions of AFC Asian Cup

TEHRAN - With the AFC Asian Cup Qatar 2023 rapidly approaching, excitement is building for the 18th edition of the continental showpiece.

As the countdown gathers pace, the-AFC.com takes a look at several teams who were simply unstoppable in previous editions of the tournament, starting with Iran.

The 1970's were eventful in terms of football for Iran, as it saw them lift the AFC Asian Cup title twice - including their last title in the competition - as well as their first ever FIFA World Cup appearance.

Iran have remained at the forefront of Asian football since and are the second highest ranked Asian team in the latest FIFA Ranking.

Team Melli's introduction to the continental scene was a grand one, as they took Asia by storm, winning the AFC Asian Cup title on their debut on home soil in 1968.

The following decade would see the Iranians prove their triumph at home was far from a coincidence, and that they were a force to be reckoned with in the entire continent.

Four years on, and with the number of teams increased to six; Iran set out to defend their title in Thailand 1972. They were pitted against the hosts and neighbors Iraq in Group A.

Hossein Kalani bagged a hat-trick in the opening match as Team Melli dispatched the Lions of Mesopotamia 3-0 in Bangkok. Top spot in the group was sealed in style four days later. Ali Jabbari needed just eight minutes to net the fastest hat-trick in the history of the AFC Asian Cup, helping Iran come from behind to defeat Thailand 3-2.

Runners-up from Group B, Cambodia awaited in the semi-final, and goals from Safar Iranpak and Parviz Ghelichkhani were enough for head coach Mohammad Ranjbar's men to book a date in the final with Korea Republic.

In front of 15,000 fans in Bangkok, Jabbari's goal was cancelled out by Park Lee-chun, forcing extra-time. Kalani scored in the 108th minute to ensure the continental title remained in Tehran for four more years.

Back at home and under the guidance of legendary manager Heshmat Mohajerani, Team Melli still had a point to prove.

Just as four years earlier, they would start their campaign against Iraq. And just like in Thailand, Iran were victorious; goals from Nasser Nouraei and Hassan Roshan sealed a 2-0 win.

The second game saw Mohajerani's men flex their muscles in an 8-0 defeat of South Yemen.

Kuwait had topped the other group, while China PR came second, meaning Team Dragon would face the hosts in the semi-finals.

A cagey affair saw no goals in 90 minutes, but the Iranians were finally able to break the deadlock through Alireza Khorshidi at the 100-minute mark. Roshan's second of the tournament confirmed a 2-0 win and a place in the final a minute before the final whistle.

In front of a record 100,000 passionate home fans at the iconic Azadi Stadium, the Iranians would settle for nothing less than the trophy, and it was the legendary Ali Parvin who scored the only goal of the night to calm the nerves and seal Iran's third AFC Asian Cup triumph.

Iran football league cancellation is harmful

TEHRAN - Iran national football team departed for Jordan to participate at a football tournament in the west Asian country. The domestic league, once again, has been suspended for more than two weeks.

The 2023/24 Iran's Persian Gulf Pro League (PGPL) was canceled about one month for the 2022 Asian Games, where Iran U23 football team were knocked out by Hong Kong.

Team Melli will begin the Jordan's tournament with a match against Iraq on Friday, while Jordan meet Qatar in another match. The clubs cannot protest to the cancellation since the competition is being held in the FIFA International Match Calendar.

The PGPL will be suspended once again from Jan. 12 to Feb. 10, 2024 because the National

Team will have to partake at the 2023 AFC Asian Cup. Considering the domestic league's schedule, it would have been better if the league had not been canceled for each tournament.

Persepolis, Sepahan and Nassaji are three teams representing Iran at the 2023/24 AFC Champions League and to halt the domestic competition could be harmful to them.

It means the Federation doesn't pay attention to what the clubs are saying.

Anastasi shortlisted to take charge Iran volleyball

TEHRAN - Italian coach Andrea Anastasi has been reportedly linked to take charge of Iran national volleyball team.

Iran have almost missed the chance to qualify for the 2024 Olympic Games following poor results in Pool A underway in Rio de Janeiro.

Behrouz Ateei stepped down from his role and the team is leading by his assistant Alireza Toloukian at the moment.

Vital Heynen and Stephane Antiga had been reportedly nominated to lead Team Melli.

Anastasi currently leads Italian team Gas Sales Bluenergy Piacenza.

Iran into AFC Futsal Asian Cup Thailand 2024

TEHRAN - Iran will head to the AFC Futsal Asian Cup Thailand 2024 focused on winning the title after ending their Qualifiers Group C campaign with a 6-0 win over Lebanon on Wednesday.

The 12-time champions topped the group with a perfect record of three wins, scoring 34 goals and conceding only four in a statement of intent.

Iran's place in the Finals was never really in doubt, having scored two wins before facing Lebanon but they took no risks as another splendid performance was produced at the Bishkek Arena.

They took the lead in the 11th minute through Behrooz Azimihemat with Mojtaba Parsapour adding the second just a minute later, the-afc.com reported.

Captain Hossein Tayebidgolgi further widened the advantage in the 14th minute with Saied Ahmad Abbasi (16th) and Moslem Oladghobad (18th) adding to their commanding lead going into the break.

Iran took their foot off the pedal in the second half but Azimihemat still scored their sixth in the 37th minute.

Majedi elected Tehran Football Association director

TEHRAN - Mirshad Majedi has been elected as director of Tehran Football Association.

He replaced Habibollah Shirazi, who led the association for 16 years.

Majedi was elected as head of the association with 27 votes out of 44 votes.

He will work as director for the next 18-month and the election will be held after his term.

Majedi, 54, worked as caretaker president of Iran football federation until an extraordinary assembly was held in 2021.

Iran football team arrive in Jordan

TEHRAN - Iran national football team delegation arrived in Amman, Jordan Wednesday afternoon.

Team Melli have traveled to Amman to participate at the four-team tournament.

Amir Ghalenoei's Iran will meet Jordan on Friday, while Iraq face Qatar.

The winners will lock horn together three days later, while the losers face together.

Iran prepare for the 2023 AFC Asian Cup, where the team have been drawn in Group C along the UAE, Hong Kong and Palestine.

Iran pushing for humanitarian aid for besieged Gaza

From Page 1 ▶ Referring to the humanitarian blockade of Gaza and cutting off the supply of water, electricity, medicine and food to this region, he called for an immediate action by the Islamic countries to help the Palestinian people in Gaza.

The Iranian foreign minister emphasized that the Red Crescent of the Islamic Republic of Iran is ready to provide the necessary humanitarian aid, including water, food and medicine, to the Gazans with the help of Egypt and Islamic countries and with the cooperation of the Red Crescent and the International Red Cross.

He expressed hope that the Wednesday meeting of the Arab League will contain a strong message in support of the Palestinian people and condemnation of the Zionist aggression.

The top Egyptian diplomat, for his part, condemned Tel Aviv's actions in bombing Gaza and killing civilians, while expressing his assessment of the developments in the region.

Shoukry further emphasized the need for an immediate ceasefire and to stop the attacks of both sides.

He added: Regarding the sending of humanitarian aid from Islamic countries to Gaza, coordination will be done through the UN.

Also referring to the recent constructive talks in New York, the Iranian and Egyptian foreign ministers both considered the efforts of the two countries to normalize relations and eliminate misunderstandings based on the political will of both sides.

The Iranian foreign minister also had a telephone conversation with the Russian foreign minister, Sergey Lavrov.

The two ministers exchanged views on the most important issues of mutual interests, especially the developments in Palestine.

Referring to the crimes committed by the Zionist regime against the Palestinian people in recent months, Amir Abdollahian said: What is happening in the Palestinian lands is a response to Netanyahu's extremism and the injustice done to the Palestinian people.

Amir Abdollahian pointed to the barbaric and inhumane actions of the Zionist regime in cutting

off water and electricity and preventing the delivery of food and medicine to the Gazans.

The top Iranian diplomat emphasized: With these actions, the occupying regime seeks to massacre the resistant people of Gaza.

The Iranian Minister of Foreign Affairs also reviewed the latest status of agreements and documents signed between Tehran and Moscow.

For his part, Russian Foreign Minister, Sergey Lavrov, while condemning the actions of the Zionist regime, emphasized the need to stop the conflicts as soon as possible and declare a ceasefire between the two sides.

Lavrov said: In recent years, we have seen many successes in the region; including the normalization of relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia, the normalization of relations with Syria, as well as the resumption of relations between Syria and Turkey, all of which have been done without the intervention of the United States.

He stressed that the Americans are trying to bring all the issues of the region under their control despite the fact that the countries within the region hold the initiative.

The Russian Foreign Minister also pointed to the agreements made between the two countries and emphasized on accelerating the implementation process of these agreements.

The need to end the blockade of Gaza was also discussed in the phone conversation between Amir Abdollahian and his Kuwaiti counterpart, Sheikh Salem Abdullah Al-Jaber Al-Sabah.

In this telephone conversation, the Iranian foreign minister emphasized the spontaneous resistance against the occupation of the Zionist regime and the necessity of the solidarity of the Islamic countries, and stressed: "Islamic governments must react seriously to breaking the siege of Gaza and this war crime."

Amir Abdollahian also clarified the necessity of holding the meeting of foreign ministers of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation as soon as possible.

He emphasized the readiness of the Islamic

keep stoking regional tensions to gain commercial benefits.

He dismissed concerns by the European Union as baseless and motivated by self-interests, saying the developments in the region in recent months have been promising and in line with the interests of all regional countries.

He continued that diplomacy and dialogue are the best ways to step up cooperation along the lines of common interests and reinforcing the stability and security of the region.

The Foreign Ministry spokesperson highlighted Iran's role in the real fight on terror and in boosting and consolidating maritime security. He added achieving sustainable regional

security is tied to promoting bilateral and multilateral cooperation between the regional countries, without unwanted interventions by extra-regional forces.

Kanaani reiterated Iran's principled and permanent stance on the three Iranian islands of Abu Musa, the Greater Tunb and the Lesser Tunb as an "integral and eternal" part of Iranian territory, according to the Iranian foreign ministry.

The spokesperson said the contents of the statement on Iran's nuclear activities and defense capability were invalid and unacceptable and further noted that the Islamic Republic of Iran has always abided by international laws and its obligations within the

framework of rights and duties.

He added Iran would continue its constructive cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) based on the Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement (CSA).

Kanaani added that the Islamic Republic of Iran's military and defense prowess is aimed at increasing deterrence, maintaining national security and boosting regional stability.

The foreign ministry spokesperson stressed, "The Islamic Republic of Iran once again announces it is seriously adamant in achieving a stable, safe and prosperous region in cooperation with its neighbors without foreign interference."

Iran condemns joint GCC-EU statement

TEHRAN - Iran has reacted to a joint statement by the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) and the European Union, which questioned Iran's territorial integrity.

Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani dismissed and slammed certain baseless points included in the communiqué and emphasized Iran's regional strategy and fundamental policy of promoting and deepening ties with the Persian Gulf states.

Kanaani pointed to the destructive record of some European countries in interfering in the Persian Gulf over different periods and selling arms worth billions of dollars by those countries to the region in order to

Iran, Belarus stress expansion of energy ties



Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji (R) and Belarussian Minister of Industry Rogozhnik Alexander Nikolaevich

TEHRAN- During a meeting between Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji and Belarussian Minister of Industry Rogozhnik Alexander Nikolaevich at the place of Iranian Oil Ministry in Tehran on Tuesday evening, the two sides stressed the need to expand relations in the field of energy.

Nikolaevich, who visited Tehran heading a high-ranking Belarussian delegation, signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU), on cooperation in the economic fields, with Iranian Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Abbas Ali-Abadi, at the end of the 16th meeting of Iran-Belarus Joint Economic Committee on Monday.

During the meeting, which was attended by senior Iranian and Belarussian officials, the two sides discussed the ways to expand cooperation in different economic and trade fields, including export and import of agricultural products and equipment, mining machinery, public transportation, medicine and medical equipment, and petrochemicals.

Mehdi Zeyghami, the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), was also present in the meeting.

The 15th Iran-Belarus Joint Economic Committee meeting was held in late July 2022 in Minsk.

Iran and Belarus signed a comprehensive cooperation roadmap and seven memorandums of understanding in mid-March, as Belarussian President Alexander Lukashenko made a visit to Tehran.

The cooperation roadmap and MOUs include various commercial, transportation,

agricultural and cultural fields.

The roadmap was signed by the presidents of the two countries, while the MOUs were inked by senior officials from the two sides.

Speaking at a joint press conference with his Belarussian counterpart after signing the document, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi said: "Good agreements were made in the field of industry, mining, trade, agriculture, roads and various fields, and we hope that it will be a step towards the development of the two countries."

Referring to the determination of Iran and Belarus to develop relations in all fields, Raisi said: "Both countries are against unilateralism. We believe that independent countries can have good relations with each other which lead to the neutralization of sanctions."

Lukashenko, for his part, pointed to his last visit to Iran in 2006 and said that no sanctions or pressures have been able to stop the Iranian nation from progressing, and it is a fact that an independent and strong Iran is continuing its path.

Referring to the MOUs between the two countries, Lukashenko noted that if all these MOUs are implemented, the two countries can achieve \$100 million of annual trade.

"The volume of trade between the two countries tripled in 2022 compared to 2021," he noted.

The Belarussian president expressed hope that the implementation of the comprehensive cooperation roadmap will help develop the relations between the two countries even more.

Medicinal plants cultivated in 8,000 ha of lands in North Khorasan



TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, 8,000 hectares of land are under medicinal plant cultivation in North Khorasan province, in the northeast of Iran.

Safdar Safdari, the director for horticulture affairs in the province's Agriculture Department, said that 1,728 species of medicinal plants are cultivated in Iran, of which 423 species are cultivated in North Khorasan.

According to the chairman of the Union of Medicinal Plants Exporters of Iran, the country's export of medicinal plants can be increased through compliance more with the world standards.

Mohammad-Ali Rezaei Kamal-Abad stated that world standards are increasing due to the health-oriented consumption of herbal products, and failure to comply with these standards will lead to the return or destruction of these products.

"In the past years, poisons have entered the country, which are not only not used in other countries, but have also caused water and soil pollution in our country," he lamented.

Referring to the importance of agricultural product export standardization, he added: "Standardization is done in our country, but this standardization is not up-to-date. With the coordination of ministries, expenditure and updating of information can help to standardize agricultural products and develop the export of these products," he commented.

He said that having more than 11 climates out of 13 climates, Iran has 8,000 varieties of medicinal plants, which is at least twice as much as Europe.

TEDPIX up 5,800 points on Wednesday

TEHRAN - TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), rose 5,891 points (0.29 percent) to 2,019,957 on Wednesday.

TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges,

and the most important one. The other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

Iran's exports to West Asia rises 6% in H1

From page 1 ▶ Among the West Asian countries, Iraq with \$4.5 billion, the UAE with \$3.0 billion, and Turkey with \$2.4 billion were the top export destinations for Iranian commodities during the mentioned period, according to Piltan.

The official noted that Iran's import from West Asian countries during the first half of 1402 was about \$13 billion, which accounts for 43 percent of the country's total imports during the above-mentioned period.

The Islamic Republic's imports from the mentioned countries have increased by 18 percent in terms of value and 13 percent in terms of weight.

During the mentioned period, the UAE with about \$9.0 billion, Turkey with \$3.2 billion, Oman with \$498 million, and Iraq with \$236 million were the top sources of imports for Iran.

Piltan noted that TPO is following several programs



for the development of the country's non-oil trade with the countries of the region including the planning to increase the export of products with higher

added value, improving the level of services of trade centers, developing export management companies, supporting joint production, re-export, transit,

establishing communication between commercial platforms, holding exhibitions and exchanging business delegations.

Russia's Astrakhan eager for expanding ties with Iran

TEHRAN - In a meeting between Minister of Industry, Trade and Energy of Astrakhan Region Ilya Volynsky and Head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) Ali-Akbar Safaei on Tuesday, the Russian official expressed the region's readiness for expanding ties with Iran.

As the TPO portal reported, underlining the commercial capacity of Astrakhan port, Volynsky said: "Considering the ongoing development program in this port, we welcome

any economic and commercial cooperation with Iranian partners."

In this meeting, the two sides also discussed the development of port and maritime cooperation and regular shipping in the Caspian Sea, the development of transit capacity and the activation of the International North-South Transit Corridor (INSTC), and the reduction of the water level of the Caspian Sea.



Minister of Industry, Trade and Energy of Astrakhan Region Ilya Volynsky (L) and Head of Iran's Ports and Maritime Organization (PMO) Ali-Akbar Safaei meet in Tehran on Tuesday.

Cost of container shipping to Chabahar port reduced significantly



TEHRAN - The Director General of Sistan-Baluchestan Province's Ports and Maritime Department has said that the establishment of direct shipping lines has significantly reduced the cost of container shipping to Chabahar port from various origins, Iranian Maritime News Agency (MANA) reported.

Referring to the establishment of direct container shipping lines from Chabahar Port in

southeastern Iran to the ports of Nhava Sheva in India, and Taixing, Zhuhai and Qingdao in China, in collaboration with the Islamic Republic of Iran Shipping Lines (IRISL), the official noted that the prices of container shipping in the mentioned routes has been significantly reduced.

As Iran's only oceanic port on the Gulf of Oman, Chabahar Port holds great significance for the country both politically

and economically. The country has taken serious measures to develop this port in order to improve the country's maritime trade.

In May 2016, India, Iran, and Afghanistan signed a trilateral agreement for the strategically-located Chabahar port to give New Delhi access to Kabul and Central Asia.

Later, based on a separate deal with Iran, India agreed to install and operate modern loading and unloading equipment including mobile harbor cranes in Shahid Beheshti Port in Chabahar.

Under the framework of the mentioned agreement, the Indian side has been operating in Shahid Beheshti port in the form of a build-operate-transfer (BOT) contract; this is the first time that such a contract has been implemented in one of the country's ports with 100 percent foreign investment.

The first consignment of Indian equipment for the development port activities at Chabahar port worth \$8.5 million arrived in the southeastern port in January 2021.

As Iran's only oceanic port on Gulf of Oman, Chabahar holds great significance for country

The port consists of Shahid Kalantari and Shahid Beheshti terminals, each of which has five berth facilities. The port is located in Iran's Sistan-Baluchestan Province and is about 120 kilometers southwest of Pakistan's Baluchistan Province, where the China-funded Gwadar port is situated.

ICCIMA calls for implementation of PTA with India

TEHRAN - Head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Hossein Selahvarzi met with India's Ambassador to Tehran Rudra Gaurav Shresth on Wednesday during which he called for the implementation of a Preferential Trade Agreement (PTA) between the two countries as soon as possible.

He pointed to high customs tariffs and financial transfer issues as the two main obstacles for the development of trade relations between Iran and India, and emphasized the acceleration of implementing the PTA between the two countries, especially in the field of agriculture, the ICCIMA portal reported.

"In order to develop economic and trade relations between Iran and India, the two obstacles of high customs tariffs and financial transfer issues in the trade between the two countries should be resolved as soon as possible," Selahvarzi said.

In this meeting, Rudra Gaurav Shresth stated that the U.S. sanctions on Iran, despite the restrictions, have provided an opportunity to diversify the trade of the two countries.

"In addition to bilateral trade and investments, India is interested in using Iran's commercial transit capacity due to its



ICCIMA Head Hossein Selahvarzi (R), and India's Ambassador to Tehran Rudra Gaurav Shresth

geographical location," he said.

Based on the data previously released by the Indian Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the value of Iran's exports to India increased by 60 percent in 2022 as compared to the preceding year.

The Indian ministry put the worth of Iran's exports to India at \$653 million in 2022, while the figure was \$409 million in 2021.

As reported, petroleum products were the major goods imported by India from Iran in the said months.

According to the mentioned data, the value of trade between Iran and India reached \$2.5 billion in 2022, rising 48 percent from \$1.693 billion in 2021.

During January-December 2022, India's exports to Iran also increased by 44 percent to stand at \$1.847 billion, while the figure was \$1.284 billion in 2021.

Rice was India's major product exported to Iran in the said period during which the country shipped \$1.098 billion worth of rice to the Islamic Republic.

Western double standards on full display

From page 1 ▶ Israel has claimed that Hamas is operating like Daesh despite the fact that the regime is being accused of supporting Daesh against Syrian government forces.

The comparison is a massive insult to the victims of Daesh terrorism, who are within their right to ask for an apology as Daesh showed no mercy toward their captives.

An official belonging to Hamas told British media that the Israeli hostages taken by the group were being treated in a "humane way," and they would not be harmed.

History has proven that Israel has shown no mercy either when dealing with Palestinians in its violent ethnic cleansing campaign.

The Israeli army has committed 15 massacres against Palestinian families in Gaza over the last two days alone, a Palestinian official in Gaza's administration said on Monday.

Hamas did not infiltrate Israeli settlements to create a so-called "caliphate".

The operation was a response to a long list of Israeli war crimes against the Palestinians, in particular, over the past two decades.

Israeli war crimes against the Palestinians are, in fact, too long to list, stretching back to 1948 until today; along with its direct complicity in the Sabra and Shatila massacre in Beirut, where more than 3,000 Palestinian and Lebanese civilians were slaughtered in three days under the regime's watch.

Neither did Israel show any mercy toward Palestinian civilians during the al-Aqsa Intifada (the second uprising) in 2001, when Palestinian stones were met with Israeli snipers, tanks and warplanes in the occupied West Bank and then occupied Gaza Strip.

Israel has waged dozens of wars against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip since 2001, and some of them have lasted for a matter of days, whilst others have been prolonged.

One theme in common amongst them all is that women, children, and the elderly, the most vulnerable in society, have been killed or injured.

From late December 2008 to mid-January 2009, Israel waged what is widely referred to in West Asia as the Gaza massacre.

Nearly 1,500 Palestinians were slaughtered as Israel turned the Gaza Strip into rubble, among them 288 children and 103 women, and 85% of those were not combatants. Nearly 10,000 Palestinians were also wounded in direct conflict-related incidents. The majority of them were again civilians.

On January 3, Israel began a ground invasion, committing numerous war crimes. The UN agencies called on Israel to rebuild the civilian homes it reduced to rubble, but the demands fell on deaf ears.



In 2014, Israel bombarded the Gaza Strip again between July 8 and August 24.

This time, the regime killed 2,310 Palestinians, with 70% of them civilians.

Another 10,626 Palestinians were injured as a direct result of Israeli airstrikes as well as ground and naval shelling. The majority of the casualties were civilians, including 3,374 children, of whom more than 1,000 were left disabled for life.

The United Nations estimated that the damage caused to civilian infrastructure, including residential homes and hospitals, etc. would require up to \$6 billion dollars to rebuild.

More than 7,000 homes for 10,000 families were razed, together with an additional 89,000 homes damaged, of which roughly 10,000 were severely affected by the Israeli bombing campaign.

Amid the U.S. presidential primary race of 2016, Democratic hopeful Bernie Sanders condemned Israeli authorities for their treatment of Gaza, and in particular denounced Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for "overreacting" and causing unnecessary civilian deaths.

For around ten days in May 2021, Israel once again bombed Gaza indiscriminately during the holy Muslim month of Ramadan, killing 66 children and 40 women. In the bombing raids around 2,000 Palestinians were injured, among them at least 610 children, and 400 women.

In a timeframe of three days in August last year, Israel bombed Gaza, this time killing at least 49 Palestinians, including 17 children.

Amnesty International called on the International Criminal Court to open a probe into war crimes committed by Israel, in particular a drone strike that killed 5 children at a cemetery.

History will judge which side was the terrorist and which side was under oppression and had every right enshrined under international law to resist a brutal occupation.

The world just watching Gaza holocaust

By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN – With Israel's colossal intelligence defeat during the Hamas weekend attack on the occupied territories, the regime seems to be bent on giving what Netanyahu has touted as a "historic" response to the Palestinian resistance movement. Based on what's currently unfolding in the Gaza strip, this could very much mean that a potential genocide of Gazans has been put on the table by Israeli leaders.

Israel is currently bombarding Gaza with no letup. The regime, which has imprisoned Gazans in the world's largest open-air jail for the past 16 years, has tried to "clamp down on Hamas" by killing and maiming civilians, including women and children. Hospitals, mosques, residential buildings and schools have been reduced to rubble in cities that were once vibrant with crowds of impoverished, but high-spirited people. Now, citizens must scour through the ruins of what was once called home, in a bid to find their loved ones.

"A massacre was committed last night by the occupying Israeli regime against the Shaldan family in Gaza, brutally murdering 11 Palestinian civilians, with babies without heads pulled out from the rubble," a local told Palestinian media on Wednesday. So far, 1,055 Palestinians have been massacred with 250 children among the dead.

Those who manage to flee the barrage of Israeli fire coming down on them morning, evening, and night, still have to enter a race against time in order to survive. Israeli officials have ordered a complete siege of the Gaza Strip, not allowing electricity, water, food, and medicine inside the war-torn region.

If a Gazan gets lucky and manages to survive several days without food or water, he or she might still be left with life-threatening ailments caused by Israel's use of prohibited munitions. Several videos circulating online suggest Israel might be using white phosphorus bombs, whose use in civilian areas is considered a war crime, to strike civilian sites in northern Gaza.

But the collective punishment against the Palestinian population seems to presage a bigger disaster. "We are fighting with human animals and we will act accordingly," Israel's war minister Yoav Gallant told reporters on Sunday with no hint of shame or caution in his voice.

A report by the Tasnim news agency shows Israel might be preparing for not a partial massacre of Palestinians, but a full-on genocide. The regime is reportedly trying to cut off all sorts of communication in Gaza by targeting internet and telephone infrastructures before it launches a land offensive into the territory.

Despite all of the regime's actions heralding a looming humanitarian

disaster in Gaza, the self-appointed proponents of human rights have not only stayed silent on the horrifying crimes committed against Palestinians, but also helped spread misinformation about the resistance, all in Israel's favor.

CNN, a leading flag-bearer of Washington's propaganda campaigns, has been helping Israel pose as the victim in the ongoing conflict by releasing unfounded and unsupported reports of Hamas' s alleged brutality in the battleground.

"Brutality of Hamas' terror laid bare" are the first words readers laid eyes on when visiting the CNN website on Wednesday. The report focuses on the story of Israeli children who allegedly got beheaded by Hamas forces in an Israeli settlement. CNN draws a satanic picture of Hamas fighters by merely relying on quotations from Israeli soldiers. Some have drawn parallels with the babies that got removed from incubators by Saddam forces in Kuwait in the 1990s. CNN releases a report supported by no evidence while it chooses to ignore the harrowing images of the dead or wounded Palestinian children captured in Gaza almost every hour.

Another important piece of evidence CNN has decided to ignore is a female settler's interview with Israeli media. The woman, whose home was raided by Hamas forces, has recounted her encounter with the Palestinian fighters in disbelief and awe; but not because

she was assaulted. "The Hamas fighters entered my home. I said I have two children. One of them said 'don't worry we are Muslim. No one will hurt you'" the settler said, adding that one of the fighters asked for permission before he proceeded to eat a banana he took from the kitchen counter.

Western leaders have also expressed unequivocal support for Israel. Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau has even condemned demonstrators who took to the streets of Canada in support of Palestine. "The glorification of death, and violence and terror has no place anywhere especially here in Canada," said Trudeau while referring to Hamas as a terrorist organization and refusing to comment on the Palestinian lives that have so far been taken. Demonstrators in France were also attacked by security forces during their pro-Palestine rally.

Analysts believe Israel has decided to pursue a scorched-earth policy in its latest round of attacks against Gaza and the West is aiding the regime to the hilt.

A scorched-earth policy is a military strategy that involves the decimation of anything that allows the enemy to wage a war. It includes cutting water and food, exterminating humans and animals, and destroying plants and any kind of infrastructure.

Gaza might be wiped off the face of the earth through a second Holocaust and the West is helping that happen.

Israeli response to Hamas in Gaza a 'massacre': Erdogan

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said that Israel's blockade and bombing of Gaza in retaliation for Hamas's attack was a disproportionate response amounting to a "massacre".

Erdogan said even war had a "morality" but the flare-up since the weekend had "very severely" violated that.

"Preventing people meeting their most fundamental needs and bombing housing where civilians live – in short, conducting a conflict using every sort of shameful method – is not a war, it's a massacre," he said, referring to Israel cutting off electricity and water to Gaza and destroying infrastructure.

Erdogan criticized Israel's "disproportionate" attacks on Gaza as "devoid of any ethical foundation", and called on the world not to "blindly" take one side.

Netanyahu and Gantz agree to form emergency government

Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu and centrist opposition party leader Gantz have agreed to form an emergency government, a joint statement from Gantz's National Unity party said.

According to the statement, the sides agreed to form a war cabinet that will include Netanyahu, Gantz and Defence Minister Yoav Gallant, and that during the war with Hamas, it will not promote any unrelated policy or laws.

Waving Palestinian flag may be a criminal offence, Britain tells police



Waving a Palestinian flag or singing a chant advocating freedom for Arabs in the region may be a criminal offence, British Home Secretary Suella Braverman has told senior police officers.

In a letter to chief constables in England and Wales, the home secretary urged them to clamp down on any attempts to use flags, songs or swastikas to harass or intimidate members of the Jewish community.

Her words will deeply concern freedom of speech advocates and members of the Muslim community.

In the letter, Braverman said police should not restrict themselves to potential offences related to the promotion of Hamas.

"It is not just explicit pro-Hamas symbols and chants that are cause for concern. I would encourage police to consider whether chants such as: 'From the river to the sea, Palestine will be free' should be understood as an expression of a violent desire to see Israel erased from the

world, and whether its use in certain contexts may amount to a racially aggravated section 5 public order offence.

Ashkelon hospital hit in rocket attack

We have more details about the earlier rocket fire launched from Gaza towards southern Israel.

Health officials in the city of Ashkelon said a hospital had been hit but there were no casualties.

"The child development centre at the Barzilai hospital in Ashkelon suffered a direct hit by a projectile from Gaza," a spokeswoman for the healthcare facility said in a statement.

As we also reported earlier, Hamas said it had fired a rocket at Ben Gurion airport, but Israeli officials reported no hit.

South Korea wants to expand spying on the North after Hamas attack

South Korean Defense Minister Shin Won-sik wants to terminate the country's military agreement with North Korea due to a "threat" of a possible attack following the sudden outbreak of war between Israel and Palestine, Shin told reporters in Seoul on Tuesday.

"To counter [the threat of attack from the DPRK], we need to be observing [North Korean military movements] with our surveillance assets to gain prior knowledge of whether they are preparing provocations or not," Shin Won-sik said, as cited by the Associated Press.

The minister said he will insist on suspending the 2018 inter-Korean military agreement with Pyongyang to resume front-line surveillance of its neighbor.

Pro-Palestinian rally in Paris banned amid rising Israel-Gaza tensions

Earlier on Thursday, French Interior Minister Gérald Darmanin had asked the police to ban a pro-Palestinian protest in Paris this weekend over the conflict with Israel, fearing a repeat of clashes during a similar situation in 2014.

Activists had called the protest in the Barbès district of northern Paris to demonstrate against Israel's use of force in the Gaza Strip in response to the rocket fire by Hamas at the occupation regime.

"I have asked the Paris police chief to ban the protests on Saturday linked to the recent tensions in the Middle East," Darmanin wrote on Twitter.

"Serious disturbances to public order were seen in 2014," he added, urging police chiefs elsewhere in France to remain vigilant over demonstrations.

Gaza's sole power station stops working

Gaza's only power station has stopped working after the fuel needed for generating electricity ran out on Wednesday, Gaza officials said.

"Gaza is currently without power," the head of the Gaza power authority, Galal Ismail, told CNN.

The power plant's shutdown comes days after the Israeli government said it would order a "complete siege" of the Palestinian enclave.

People in Gaza still use power generators for electricity, but with a blockade on all sides of the border, the fuel needed for generators to work is running out, Ismail said.

Israeli Defense Minister Yoav Gallant on Monday ordered a "complete siege" of Gaza, saying he would halt its supply of electricity, food, water and fuel.

Archaeological dig uncovers military workshop in cave northern Iran



TEHRAN - Evidence from an ancient military workshop as early as the Sassanid era, from 224 CE to 651, has been found by archaeologists in the Sepahbod-Khorshid Cave, northern Iran.

The discovery was made by a team from the Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism in September, which yielded diverse fresh clues about Sassanid involvement in the mountainous region, ILNA reported on Wednesday.

Measuring 80 by 100 meters, the cave's rounded entrance is said to be the largest natural one in the world.

"An arms making workshop was discovered in the area, in addition to a metal melting furnace and all kinds of war tools, from arrowheads, daggers, and harpoons to swords, and even half-made swords," a local official said.

"Moreover, the archaeologists discovered arrays of metalworking artifacts, molds, and a sand casting (also known as sand molded casting) that suggest the cave was used as a factory for military tools," the official added.

Moreover, the archaeologists discovered a special clay seal that bears depictions of horse and Phenix, rabbits, and Pahlavi script, the official added.

According to Mazandaran province's deputy tourism chief, it was the first time that

Sepahbod-Khorshid underwent excavation.

Narratives say the cave was the latest Persian stronghold against the Arab conquerors.

Situated in Savadkuh highlands, the cave was reportedly used as a shelter by Khorshid ("The sun"), the last ruler of Tabarestan, then surrounded by Arab invaders for several months and seized after poisoning its drinking water supply.

Access to the cave needs climbing gear and also expertise in alpinism. On the left side of the cave, a four-story-high castle was built; made of stones and mortar, it is the masterpiece of architecture of its time. On the right side, numerous trenches and defensive buildings were built, all of which remained firm and intact after centuries.

These two parts were connected through a road made of stones and mortar. Two meters wide, this road was built 50 meters above ground level. Today, only traces of it remain. The remains of a cistern, several silos, and numerous defensive monuments are located outside the cave.

Sandwiched between the towering Alborz mountain range and the Caspian Sea, Mazandaran has a rich yet turbulent history. An early civilization flourished at the beginning of the first millennium BC in Mazandaran (Tabarestan).

ble stresses in the dies, since the thinner the material the more force necessary to make it flow into the recesses of the die's design, the depth of relief on such coins was of necessity much shallower than with earlier currency. Such techniques spread by way of Byzantium to northern Europe, where the emperor Charlemagne struck thin flan deniers (small silver coins), or pennies, which became characteristic of both his own and neighboring kingdoms.

Spain's cultural tourism bounces back to pre-pandemic highs

The latest data from the Resident Tourism Survey and the Tourist Expenditure Survey, conducted by the National Institute of Statistics (INE) for 2022, show that cultural tourism numbers in Spain are growing or surpassing pre-pandemic levels.

The comeback has been noted in travel and expenditure by both Spanish residents and international tourists, SchengenVisaInfo.com reports.

Such data has also revealed that Spanish residents took 18.6 percent of their travels for cultural activities. In comparison, 19.3 percent of international tourists came to Spain for cultural experiences, indicating that cultural interests played a role in nearly one-fifth of all trips.

Madrid, Catalonia, Andalusia, and the Valencian Community were the top-ranking Autonomous Communities for generating cultural travelers. Notably, 43 percent of Madrid residents, 41.2 percent of Cantabrians, 40.5 percent of Basques, and 39.9 percent of Rioja residents exceeded the national average of 34.6 percent regarding the percentage of their population taking trips for cultural reasons.

According to the same source, the average

duration of cultural trips by international tourists has increased from 5.8 to 6.1 days since 2019, compared to residents in Spain, who have an average period of 4.1 days, only three-tenths less than in 2019.

Further data unveils that Catalonia and Madrid spent the most on cultural trips, with €1,727 million and €1,654 million, respectively.

The top cultural tourism destinations among residents in Spain this year were Andalusia (2.7 million trips), followed by Madrid (1.2 million), Castilla y León (1.1 million), and Catalonia (1 million).

These regions also led in revenue, with Andalusia generating €930.6 million, Madrid €477.7 million, Castilla y León €363 million, and Catalonia €338.5 million.

Regarding accommodation, cultural tourists in Spain had various choices. About 10.4 million stayed in hotels, spending €6,242.4 million (an average of €600.23 per trip). Another 2.6 million chose rented homes, spending €1,335.4 million (an average of €513.61 per trip).

(Source: SchengenVisaInfo)

Xerxes the Great's rock-cut tomb under threat from climate change

TEHRAN - The rock-cut tomb of Xerxes I (l. 519-465, r. 486-465 BC), also known as Xerxes the Great, is under threat from land subsidence triggered by the climate change which is likely to speed decay, a cultural heritage expert said on Tuesday.

"Unfortunately, the rock heritage of Naqsh-e Rostam (which embraces four majestic tombs of Persian Achaemenid kings including Xerxes the Great) -- in its open natural environment -- has been eroded over the centuries," said Hamid Fadaei who previously presided over the UNESCO-designated Persepolis situated near the royal necropolis.

"In that regard, we have conducted various laboratory studies and geophysical investigations in order to understand the process of destruction of the limestone bed of the rocky site, and to discover qualitative and quantitative dimensions of the erosion," Fadaei explained.

In Western history, Xerxes is best known for his invasion of Greece in 480 BC. Son of Darius the Great, he consolidated his power by crushing revolts in Egypt and Babylon, and renewed his father's campaign to subjugate Greece and punish Athens and its allies for their interference in the Ionian Revolt.

The expert made the remarks at a bi-national Tehran conference co-organized by Iran's Research Institute of Cultural Heritage and Tourism and the Russian

Association of Restorers.

The studies on Naqsh-e Rostam have been underway from 2017 until now by a group consisting of conservation and restoration specialists, chemists, archaeologists, epigraphers, documentarians and cartographers, civil engineers, geologists, and biologists, Fadaei said.

The expert said the studies have resulted in advancements in "healing measures" aimed at preserving this very important rock heritage.

Elsewhere in his remarks, Fadaei pointed to considerable subsidence as the main threat derived from human activities and climate change. "Specialized studies conducted by Shiraz University from 2021 to 2023 have confirmed that the entire Marvdasht plain is involved with subsidence."

"It has caused very huge cracks a width of half a meter to 70 cm. Unauthorized deep-water drilling and excessive use of underground water is said to be the main cause of land subsidence," the expert said.

Last week, the Fars news agency released a collection of images that highlighted arrays of long serious cracks appearing inside the Achaemenid era (c. 550 - 330 BC) site. "We are witnessing the emergence of numerous cracks and natural subsidence of the ground in this historical site, which will cause damage to this site in the long run," Fars wrote.

One of the wonders of the ancient world, Naqsh-e Rostam, which bears arrays of scenic Sassanid bas-relief carvings, is situated near the UNESCO-designated Persepolis.

The necropolis embraces four tombs where Persian Achaemenid kings are laid to rest, believed to be those of Darius II, Artaxerxes I, Darius I, and Xerxes I (from left to right facing the cliff), although some historians are still debating this.

There are stunning bas-relief



The rock-cut tomb at Naqsh-e Rostam, north of Persepolis, copying that of Darius the Great, is usually assumed to be that of Xerxes.

carvings above the tomb chambers that are similar to those at Persepolis, with the kings standing on thrones supported by figures representing the subject nations below. There are also two similar graves situated on the premises of Persepolis, probably belonging to Artaxerxes II and Artaxerxes III.

Beneath the funerary chambers are dotted with seven Sassanid era (224-651) bas-reliefs cut into the cliff depict vivid scenes of imperial conquests and royal ceremonies; signboards below each relief give a detailed description of English.

At the foot of Naqsh-e Rostam, in the direction of the cliff face, stands a square building known as Ka'beh-ye Zardusht, meaning Kaaba of Zoroaster. The building, which is roughly 12 meters high and 7 meters square, probably was constructed in the first half of the 6th century BC, although it bears a variety of inscriptions from later periods.

Though the Ka'beh-ye Zardusht is of great linguistic interest, its original purpose is not clear. It may have been a tomb for Achaemenid royalty or some sort of altar, perhaps to the goddess Anahita, also called Anahita believed to be associated with royalty, war, and fertility.

Naqsh-e Rostam, which literary means "Picture of Rostam" is named after a mythical Iranian hero which is most celebrated in Shahnameh and Persian mythology. Back in time, natives of the region had erroneously supposed that the carvings below the tombs represented depictions of the mythical hero.

In Western history, Xerxes is best known for his invasion of Greece in 480 BC. Son of Darius the Great, he consolidated his power by crushing revolts in Egypt and Babylon, and renewed his father's campaign to subjugate Greece and punish Athens and its allies for their interference in the Ionian Revolt.

Intangible elements long practiced in Yazd province get national status

TEHRAN -Four elements long practiced in Iran's Yazd province have been added to the country's national list for intangible cultural heritage, a local official said on Wednesday.

A religious ritual observed to commemorate the martyrdom anniversary of Imam Hussein (AS), the third Shia imam, and skills of playing a local game, baking an indigenous flatbread, and candy have been added to

the prestigious list, the official said.

In July 2017, the historical core of Yazd, the provincial capital, was named a UNESCO World Heritage.

The semi-arid province is regularly referred to as a delightful place to stay, or a "don't miss" destination by almost all of its visitors. It is full of mudbrick houses that are equipped with innovative badgirs (wind catch-

ers), atmospheric alleyways, and many Islamic and Iranian monuments that shape its eye-catching city landscape.

Cultural heritage experts believe that Yazd is a living testimony to the intelligent use of limited available resources in the desert for survival. Water is brought to the city by the qanat system. Each district of the city is built on a qanat and has a communal center. Furthermore, the use of earth in

buildings includes walls and roofs through the construction of vaults and domes. Houses are built with courtyards below ground level, serving underground areas. Wind-catchers, courtyards, and thick earthen walls create a pleasant microclimate.

Moreover, Yazd is home to numerous qanats which have supplied water to agricultural and permanent settlements for thousands of years.

UNWTO gears up to host world's top tourism authorities at crucial general assembly

With one week to go until the start of its 25th General Assembly, sector leaders have joined international organizations in commending UNWTO's role in guiding tourism through crisis and into recovery and transformation.

High-level delegates and Ministers from more than 150 countries are expected in Samarkand, Uzbekistan, for the 25th session of the General Assembly (18-19 October). Held every two years, the supreme governing body of UNWTO will once again bring Member States from every global region together to debate and advance the Organization's Program of Work and address the biggest challenges facing tourism right now.

Ahead of the event, key figures from leading international organizations, including from across the United Nations, have expressed their recognition of UNWTO's role and affirmed their interest in the upcoming General Assembly.

UN Secretary-General António Guterres, says: "Tourism brings progress. As one of the biggest sectors in the global economy, it has great power to bridge cultures, generate new opportunities, and promote sustainable

development. But tourism is also impacted by interlinked global challenges. I know that we can count on the UN World Tourism Organization to carry this vision forward and together, build a better future, for people and the planet."

Rebeca Grynspan, Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), said: "The significance of tourism as a tool for economic development cannot be overstated... The Member States of UNWTO are admirably working to transform tourism and build a more resilient and sustainable sector. (UNCTAD) will continue to work closely with UNWTO around our shared goals and vision."

Juan Carlos Salazar, Secretary-General of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) says: "Thanks to new technologies and our shared commitments to innovation, collaboration, and entrepreneurship, UNWTO and ICAO will continue to leverage the full potential of global tourism growth to empower young people with high-value jobs and to lead other industry sectors by example, focused on people, planet and prosperity."

European Commission Vice-President

Margaritis Schinas, says: "Tourism in Europe and around the world has rebounded strongly from the devastating effects of COVID-19. However, amidst this discovery, we must not forget the lessons of the pandemic nor ignore the global challenges our economies and societies continue to face... there is no better place to do so than the uniquely diverse gathering of global tourism leaders across the public, private, non-profit, and academic sectors, that personify the UNWTO General Assembly."

The General Assembly will see Member States discuss debate and approve the UNWTO Program of Work. UNWTO Secretary-General Zurab Pololikashvili will also present his Report to all Members, highlighting how core priorities have been advanced over the past two years, with a special focus on tourism investments, education, and innovation.

Within the framework of the General Assembly, UNWTO will also convene several of its key statutory bodies and bring together sector leaders for thematic events focused on its main priorities for the sector.

(Source: UNWTO)

Iran ranks first in Islamic countries for most-cited researchers

TEHRAN - The Islamic Republic of Iran ranks first among Islamic countries for having the highest number of top two percent most-cited researchers, according to Ahmad Fazl-zadeh, head of the Islamic World Science Citation Database (ISC).

Turkey and Saudi Arabia are in the second and third places, respectively.

The ISC is responsible for monitoring the status of science and technology in Iran and other Islamic countries based on scientometric analyses.

It analyzes and reports the latest findings from various reliable sources and authorities to raise awareness about the scientific performance of the country and its latest developments, IRNA quoted Fazl-zadeh as saying.

"It also provides the necessary information to managers of science and technology in the country for planning and policy-making to encourage and reinforce strengths and provide solutions to overcome shortcomings and challenges," he added.

One of these reports is based on the latest findings of the joint project of Elsevier (Scopus database) and a group of Stanford University researchers known as "Stanford University Scientists Rankings".

The latest update of this database was published in October 2023.

The list analyzed the perfor-



mance of authors for their published research outputs from 1960 to 2022 in 22 specific fields and 174 sub-fields, and based on that, introduced the scientists who are among the top two percent of the most-cited researchers in the world.

Fazl-zadeh pointed out that in each edition, this database publishes two lists of highly-cited researchers in the top two percent of the world.

The difference between these two lists is the time period of the analyzed citations.

In one of the announced lists, the period of citations received is one year, and in the other list, the period of citations received is from 1996 onwards.

In the list published based on

the one-year performance of researchers, out of 210,198 international researchers, 2,140 researchers were from the Islamic Republic of Iran.

As he said, the Islamic Republic of Iran has taken the first place in terms of the number of highly cited researchers in the top two percent among Islamic countries, and Turkey and Saudi Arabia are in the second and third places, respectively.

Fazl-zadeh stated, "There are 204,643 international researchers in the published list based on career data. There are 869 researchers with organizational affiliations to the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Based on this list, the Islamic Republic of Iran ranks second among Islamic countries after Turkey, and Saudi Arabia ranks third."

Stanford University ranking 2022

On October 26, 2022, Stanford University listed 1,870 Iranian researchers among the top 2 percent of the most-cited scientists in the world, which had grown significantly compared to its previous year, 2021.

From 1996 to 2021, 715 researchers from Iran were listed, out of the total number of 195,506 international researchers.

Scopus ranking 2022

According to data released by Scopus, Iran published 78,225 scientific articles in this database in 2022. Accordingly, Iran is ranked 15th in the world in terms of publication of scientific works for the fourth consecutive year.

Scopus data in 2022 shows that Iran ranks first among countries in the region in terms of the number of scientific publications.

A review of Scopus data from 2014 to 2022 shows that Iran has always been the first among the countries in the region in terms of the number of publications and has been able to maintain this position.

In total, 3,950,305 works have been indexed in the Scopus. China, with 1,016,311 works, is the source of about 25 percent of the world's scientific publications and has the first place in this regard.

The United States, India, England, and Germany are also in the second to fifth place.

Iranian students win medals in ITE 2023

From page 1 ► The students attended the competition virtually and won three gold medals, four silver medals, and a bronze medal. Amir-Hossein Manafi was granted a specific award.

The team consisting of Javad Haqi, Mehrad Faridi, Parsa Sajadi, and Armin Tohid-Asl in the field of Mechatronics, Amir-Hossein Manafi in the field of Nanochemistry and Parham Arabzadeh in the field

of Medicine-Molecular Biology won the gold medals.

Arshia Jannat-Makan, Arad Qasemi, Amir-Hossein Azmoon, Mohammad-Reza Fazli, and Amir-Javad Pourkhosh-Sadat in the field of Technical Engineering; Hassan Kakanjeadi and Kousha Rostami in the field of Information Technology; and Mani Mosallii in the field of Bi-

ological and Medical Sciences won the silver medals.

Mohammad-Amin Aqel Khalifeh Qeshlaqi, Hami Khojasteh, Kasra Safavi, Arshiya Safavi, and Ahoura Safavi won the silver medals in Nanochemistry and Mohammad-Hossein Abedinejad won the bronze medals in the field of medicine and health.

IRCS calls ICRC for 'immediate action' to stop attacks in Gaza



TEHRAN - The president of the Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) has sent a message to the president of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), asking for immediate action to be taken to prevent the attacks on innocent people in Gaza.



"I, hereby, as the President of the Iranian Red Crescent Society, and the President of the Iranian National Committee of the IHL, request you to use all necessary measures to stop the attacks on civilians," IRCS president Pirhossein Kolivand wrote to the ICRC

president Mirjana Spoljaric Egger.

"We think that Humanitarian Diplomacy could mitigate the negative impact of the current humanitarian crises and these protracted armed conflicts," Kolivand added.

"As you know, in the last few days we have seen images and reports which are utterly horrific. Massive attacks against civilians in Gaza have led to the killing and wounding of hundreds of innocent civilians. If this situation continues to escalate, undoubtedly more civilians will severely suffer immensely."

"The Iranian Red Crescent Society, such as the ICRC, is extremely con-

cerned by the alarming intensification of armed violence in Gaza.

We believe that the ICRC, as the trustee of the Geneva Convention and IHL Rules and Principles, will make every effort to reduce the negative humanitarian impacts of this terrible situation."

"In our role as a National Society in the region, we are ready to cooperate with the ICRC and its delegations in the region to dispatch humanitarian aid and consignment for the Palestinian people. We are sure that the joint cooperation between the two organizations can save the lives of many civilians and defenseless people in Gaza."

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Iran starts five-year tobacco-free national plan

A national plan aiming to protect people from secondhand smoking in 63 cities and 63 villages over the course of five years has just piloted in the central city of Qom.

Following Article 8 of the Convention on Tobacco Control of the World Health Organization to protect people from tobacco use and reduce its side effects, Iran declared Qom city as the country's first "tobacco-free city".

This five-year program will eventually launch in 63 cities and 63 selected villages of the country, however, it is probably can cover the whole cities, Behzad Valizadeh, head of the National Secretariat of Tobacco Control said.

برنامه ۵ ساله شهر و روستای بدون دخانیات اجرایی شود

رئیس دبیرخانه کشوری کنترل دخانیات گفت: این برنامه یک برنامه پنج ساله است که از سال ۱۳۹۸ به صورت پایلوت در شهر قم کلید خورد و تا سال ۱۴۰۴ ادامه خواهد یافت و در نهایت ۶۳ شهر و ۶۳ روستای منتخب کشور عاری از دخانیات خواهند شد.

مهندس بهزاد ولی زاده با بیان این مطلب اظهار داشت: ابتکار شهر و روستای بدون دخانیات بر اساس ماده ۸ کنوانسیون کنترل دخانیات سازمان جهانی بهداشت به منظور محافظت از مردم در مواجهه با دود دست دوم دخانیات و کاهش عوارض آن از سال ۱۳۹۸ به صورت پایلوت در شهر قم کلید خورد و از مرداد سال جاری هماهنگی های لازم جهت اجرای آن در ۶۳ دانشگاه علوم پزشکی سراسر کشور انجام شده است.

Women from the Leader's point of view-40

Broken Families, Broken Lives



By Sara Atta

TEHRAN - The family in the West, as in the past decades, does not have its strong and former position, and this has even raised the concern of Western thinkers.

The crisis of family collapse in the West is rooted in a series of historical factors such as wars, social changes (emergence of the third wave of feminism, hippies, etc.), economic crises, and especially the psychological situation of society.

In a hopeful and fearless society, members bravely try to create a committed relationship (marriage), while in societies that are anxious about the future, people try to calm themselves with fleeting issues one of its most sinister effects is the emergence of an illegitimate generation in these societies.

On the other hand, the lack of will of the governments has made the West unable to deal with this crisis in a radical way. Therefore, it is forced to legalize and recognize some of these issues including same-sex marriage in various Western societies.

With the recognition of other inappropriate relationships by governments, the collapse of the family in the West will intensify.

Highlighting the importance of the family in society, Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei in a speech delivered on February 3, 2021, on the occasion of the birthday anniversary of Hazrat Fatimah Zahra (greetings be upon her) in the meeting with a number of panegyrists of the Ahlul Bayt said, "The family is declining in the west. The family is a warm and blessed center in which the strongest foundations of human education are laid. It is in the center of the family that the first and most important foundations of human spiritual and intellectual education are established. Home is the best place for the comfort of body and soul, it is the best center for relieving the fatigue of body and soul, it is the most real environment for intimacy. No intimacy is imagined or exists in any environment as much as in the family and between the mother, children, the father, and the wife in the family."

Western culture, by promoting immorality, corruption, diversity, and sexual promiscuity, weakens the foundations of the family and makes marriage difficult, divorce easy, and childbearing difficult.

"In the Western world today, the family has a very weak foundation. Families - especially wom-

en - suffer from separations and breakups. If a family, God forbid, breaks up, both the man and the woman in the family will be left wondering what to do, upset, and suffering. However, the woman will suffer the most. In the Western world today, women are suffering from this, because families easily break up and are abolished. Sometimes, women want to break up the family themselves, yet they end up suffering the most from this separation," Ayatollah Khamenei noted. (September 18, 1996)

The lack of strong families can lead to the downfall of modern society in many ways. The importance of the family in modern society is evident when examining research on topics such as crime, the economy, and social services.

Families are basically the building blocks of society. Families act as a platform for raising citizens who become the population of society.

"Now, regarding the issue of the family, if we look at the issues in the West, it is a disaster, a disaster! The West has broken up families. It has truly destroyed them. Although, when I say that they have destroyed families, I do not mean that families don't exist in the West. They do. Some families are actually good families. They truly are families. Others appear to be a family, but on the inside, they are not. I was reading in a Western, American text that in order to really see the children and be a so-called family, the husband and wife set a time to be together. So, you come from your office and your wife comes from her office at such and such time to have tea together in the afternoon, at a set time - for example from 4 to 6 p.m. The children come from school too, and they all have a cup of tea together. That is what they call a family. One person goes off and does his own thing. The other stays up late and goes out with friends. This is not a family. It is the appearance of a family," the Leader of the Islamic Revolution noted

during a meeting with hundreds of prominent Iranian women in the Imam Khomeini Hussainiyah on January 4, 2023.

The family in the West, as in the past decades, does not have its strong and former position, and this has even raised the concern of Western thinkers.

Ayatollah Khamenei in this regard said, "The West has truly broken up families with the various issues that I mentioned earlier. And this has led to the gradual collapse of families. It has even caused Western scholars to raise their voices. They themselves - many of their well-wishers, reformists - are paying attention to this and are trying to call people's attention to it. However, I think they do not have a choice anymore. In some Western countries, the downhill slope has become so steep that it can no longer be stopped. They are going downhill. That is, the families cannot be reformed anymore. This was about the issue of the family." (January 4, 2023)



Women hold flood rescue drill

Female members of the Iranian Red Crescent Society held a drill on Wednesday to assess preparedness in the event of a flood situation.



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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Like your body, your mind also gets tired. So, refresh it by wise sayings.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:51 Evening: 17:52 Dawn: 4:45 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:09 (tomorrow)

China's Peking University to commemorate Hafez

TEHRAN-On the occasion of Hafez Commemoration Day, October 12, a session will be held at the School of Foreign Languages, Peking University in China on Thursday.

The session will be held by the Persian language and literature unit of the university in collaboration with the cultural attaché of Iran in China, IRNA reported on Wednesday.

According to the program, speakers at the event include Iran ambassador to China Mohsen Bakhtiar, Iran's cultural attaché in China Nematollah Iranzadeh, head of the Department of West Asian Languages and Cultures professor Chen Ming, and the Iranian visiting professor of Persian language and literature.

Professors of Persian language and literature Yidan Wang and Liu Yingjun at the Peking University will also speak at the session.

Hafez is a great Persian poet of the 14th century. He is one of the most influential poets which had a great impact on the next generation of poets and Iranian literature. His poems, most of them being ghazals (sonnets), have been translated into European languages in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries. As his name reached the literary circles of the Western world, it opened the doors of Persian literature to the world.

Ghazal is considered a form of Arabic poetry that originates back in the 7th century. Hafez's poetry holds a combination of rich imagery and



symbolism. He is also a master of using ambiguity in his works. His poems are mostly emotional which indicates his searching soul.

Hafez's famous book is Divan (a collection of poems). The Chinese translation of Divan of Hafez was published in China last year.

Tehran's Mina Dome to host Bazi Bazaar exhibition



TEHRAN-The specialized exhibition of tabletop games entitled "Bazi Bazaar" (Games Market) will be held at Mina Dome Planetarium in Tehran on Friday, October 13.

Organized by Iran Toy Manufacturers Association, Creative Industries Innovation Center, and Danadel Recreation Complex, the exhibition will showcase the latest board games, card games, etc. produced by Iranian manufacturers. Visitors to the exhibit will also be able to purchase the featured products, Mehr reported on Tuesday.

A suitable event for people of all ages, from children to teenagers and adults, the exhibit will also provide an opportunity for the visitors to play different games and enjoy their time.

Tabletop games, as one of humanity's oldest hobbies, can be one of the most welcoming activities around. Various types of games, from abstract and dexterity games to party and Euro

games, can each appeal to a specific group.

In addition, a number of specialized sessions on the subject of games will be held at the event, where Iranian specialists in the field of games will deliver speeches.

"Games and Learning" is the title of a session chaired by Mehdi Pourmotalleb and Amir Bahadorifard. In another session titled "Games, Culture, and Civilization," Seyed Ali Tabatabaei-Lotfi will speak. Mehran Mehraban will also talk in the workshop "Health and Movement Games".

Tabletop games involve pieces and/or accessories such as dice, boards, and cards. They can be played by two or more players. Such games are considered one of the best alternatives to electronic devices, which are keeping modern-day families busy.

Tabletop games experienced a substantial growth in the 1990s, especially in European countries. After the turn of the millennium, the board game industry registered significant expansion, with companies producing a rising number of new games for a growing global audience.

In Iran, however, it is a relatively new industry that is growing gradually. There are about 100 Iranian companies involved in manufacturing tabletop games, producing a variety of card, board, and dice games for different tastes and age groups.

The exhibit is open to the public and can be visited from 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. Mina Dome Planetarium is located in Water and Fire Park, Haqani Expressway, after Jahan Koudak Crossroad.

Iran's Cinema Organization condemns Zionist regime's crimes

From Page 1 ▶ To turn a blind eye to this immense brutality is a grave crime. There is no doubt that history will etch everything into its memory, and those who had the ability to write, depict, and raise their voices in defense of innocent children and women, yet chose to remain silent within their ivory towers, will not fade into oblivion. Their inaction will be remembered.

Today, the moment has arrived for intellectuals, artists, and filmmakers from Iran and across the globe to make a conscious choice and align themselves with the righteous path of history. They must not forget the solemn oath they have taken with their pens and art, to fulfill their profound human mission. It is imperative that they refuse to let the voices of the oppressed be silenced, and that they refuse to let the cries and whispers of unarmed children and women in Gaza and Palestine fade away amidst the towering pyramids of smoke and explosions.

The time has indeed arrived for filmmakers and artists worldwide to honor their commitment and become the storytellers of the tormented souls of the oppressed children in Palestine and Gaza. They have



the power to bring these stories to life on the screens of cinema and through powerful imagery, shedding light on the plight of the innocent and giving voice to those who have been silenced for far too long."

The Hamas resistance movement launched a large-scale attack dubbed Operation al-Aqsa Storm against Israel on Saturday. The group said the offensive happened in response to Israel's repeated violence against Palestinians and the desecration of the Al-Aqsa

Mosque.

Israeli settlers accompanied by the regime's armed forces stormed the compound several times in the past year, assaulting Palestinian worshippers in a move that has been seen as a big provocation.

Israel has responded to Hamas's operation by raining missiles and bombs on mostly civilian sites in the Gaza Strip. Almost 800 Palestinians have so far been slaughtered with women and children among the dead. The

regime has targeted residential buildings, schools, hospitals, mosques and the besieged enclave's infrastructure.

That's while Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has said that the regime's ongoing attacks on Gaza "will be remembered by Hamas and Israel's other enemies for decades to come". Some analysts have raised concerns that Netanyahu might be thinking of committing a genocide of Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip.

Davood Azad to hold concert at Vahdat Hall

TEHRAN-The accomplished classical and Azeri folk singer and composer Davood Azad will perform at Tehran's Vahdat Hall next month.

The event is slated for November 10. At the concert, Azad will sing and play the tar, a long-necked waisted lute family instrument, ILNA reported on Tuesday.

At the performance, he will be accompanied by Samer Habibi on kamancheh (Iranian bowed string instrument), Amin Heidari on oud (a short-neck lute-type, pear-shaped, fretless stringed instrument), Maryam Hajmalian on rabab (a lute-like musical instrument), Nabil Yousef Sharidavi on daf (an Iranian frame drum musical instrument), and Homayoun Jahanshahi on tonbak (Iranian goblet drum).

Born in Urmia, West Azarbaijan Province, Azad, 60, is a virtuoso in Persian instruments tar, oud, daf, rabab, setar (Iranian lute-like



stringed instrument), and tanbur (a long-necked string instrument). He is also a vocalist in Iranian classical music, Azeri folk music, and Persian Sufi music, which refers to the devotional music of the Sufis, inspired by the works of Sufi poets like Jalal ad-Din Muhammad Rumi.

Recently he performed in Ahar and Maragheh cities, East Azarbaijan Province, on the occasion of the Shams Day and Rumi Day in the Iranian calendar, September 29 and 30 respectively. The celebrated thinker Shams Tabrizi is known as the spiritual instructor and mentor of the Persian poet Rumi.

Azad is admired for his unique singing style, integrating classical and modern music. He has held over 300 concerts in Iran and other counties, and performed at international festivals over the last two decades in Iran, Europe, North America, Australia and East Asia. He is the first Iranian lecturer invited to Oxford University to lecture about Iranian music and its forms.

With his contemporary vision of classic Persian music, he tries to spread the message of and belief in unity, harmony and peace among nations. His music is universal and appeals to people of all backgrounds.

Iranian troupe to stage adaptation of "Hamlet"



TEHRAN -An Iranian troupe plans to perform an adaptation of William Shakespeare's "Hamlet" at the Nazerzadeh Kermani Hall of the Iranshahr Theater Complex

in Tehran on Friday.

Elika Abdolrazzaqi is the director of the play, which has been translated into Persian by Mahmoud Etemadzadeh, also known as Beh-Azin.

Sadaf Asadollahi, Mohammad Tajik, Mehdi Hekmati, Shahriar Kanani, Ali Khayyam, Bita Rahmani, and Hamed Khorramabadi are the main cast for the play, which will remain on stage for a month.

"Hamlet" tells the story of Prince Hamlet of Denmark who is plagued by grief and anger after his father's death. His uncle, Claudius ascends the throne and marries his widowed mother, Gertrude. Hamlet's father's

ghost visits him, revealing that he was murdered by Claudius. This leads Hamlet on a quest for revenge, but he struggles with his own sanity and the morality of his actions.

As the play progresses, Hamlet's behavior becomes increasingly erratic, causing those around him to question his mental state. Hamlet is torn between his desire to avenge his father and his feelings of betrayal toward his mother. His obsession with seeking revenge ultimately leads to the tragic end of the play, resulting in the deaths of several of the main characters.

"Hamlet" is one of the most

frequently performed plays across the world. Its popularity is due to the play's universal themes such as grief, love, betrayal, and revenge. Shakespeare's work has been adapted and performed in various languages and productions have been staged across Europe, Asia, Africa, and America. The play has also been made into films, operas, and even ballets.

"Hamlet" has also been performed on stage in Iran several times. In recent years, "Hamlet" has been performed by both professional theater groups and university drama clubs, with some adaptations to fit the norms of Iranian culture.

"Black Seed" wins award at Tacoma Film Festival

TEHRAN- The Iranian short film "Black Seed" has been selected as the winner of the Best Narrative Short Film at Tacoma Film Festival in Washington, the U.S.

Directed by Amirhooman Khosravani, the movie is a 2023 production, shot in black and white, ISNA reported on Tuesday.

"On the night of her death, a grandmother gives a valuable diamond to Sam, her eight-year-old grandson with Down syndrome. The diamond does not belong to their family but her sons are determined to find it," the synopsis of the short film reads.

Homayoun Ershadi, Alireza Sanifar, Sara Valiani, Diba Zahedi, Ebrahim Azizi, and Mehdi Masayebi are in the cast.

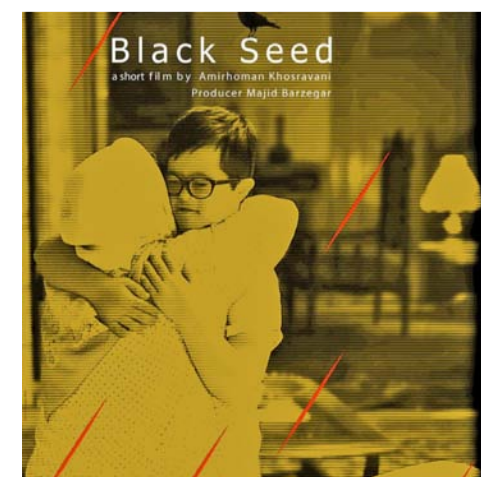
Being the first short film by Khosravani, the

15-minute drama was previously screened at the 15th International Documentary and Short Film Festival of Kerala (IDSFFK), India, in August.

The Tacoma Film Festival celebrates current independent films from around the globe. Established in 2006, the festival has developed from a small regional festival to an interactive haven for regional and international filmmakers, industry professionals, students, fans, critics, and creative entrepreneurs.

Festival guests from around the world make for a rich networking and collaborative space where new projects are born and inspiration for future work grows.

Having started on October 5, the 18th edition of the festival will conclude October



12 by awarding the winners of different categories at the closing ceremony.