Straight Truth

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TEHRAN TIMES

8 Pages | Price 100,000 Rials | 1.00 EURO | 4.00 AED | 45th year | No. 14613 | Wednesday | October 18, 2023 | Mehr 26, 1402 | Rabi' Al-thani 2, 1445

Unprecedented revenge

By Batool Al-Subeiti

The scenes we are witnessing across occupied Palestine today are the complete reverse of the 1967 war, when the Wrong State emerged victorious after its high morale soldiers defeated the large armies of Egypt, Syria and Jordan, despite being a new entity. Today, the Palestinian nation stands tall as it has humiliated the Wrong State and dealt a huge blow to its intelligence, military and field apparatus at every level, that is still unaware of the extent of the Palestinian's military capabilities.

The Wrong State has turned from the invincible army to the bewildered army, from a once confident state to a lost state. The image of superiority that the entity has been portraying has disappeared, and the social fragility of the entity has turned into a security and military fragility. ▸ **Page 5**

Gaza "running out of body bags"

By Ali Karbalaei

TEHRAN- In recent days, Gaza has continued to feel the effects of Israel's tighter blockade and is already on the verge of running out of water, electricity and medication.

Now, a UN official has said it is "even running out of body bags".

"Gaza is being strangled and it seems that the world right now has lost its humanity," said United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) commissioner-general Philippe Lazzarini.

"There is not one drop of water, not one grain of wheat, not a liter of fuel that has been allowed into the Gaza Strip for the last eight days." ▸ **Page 5**

Why an attack on Iran will not happen

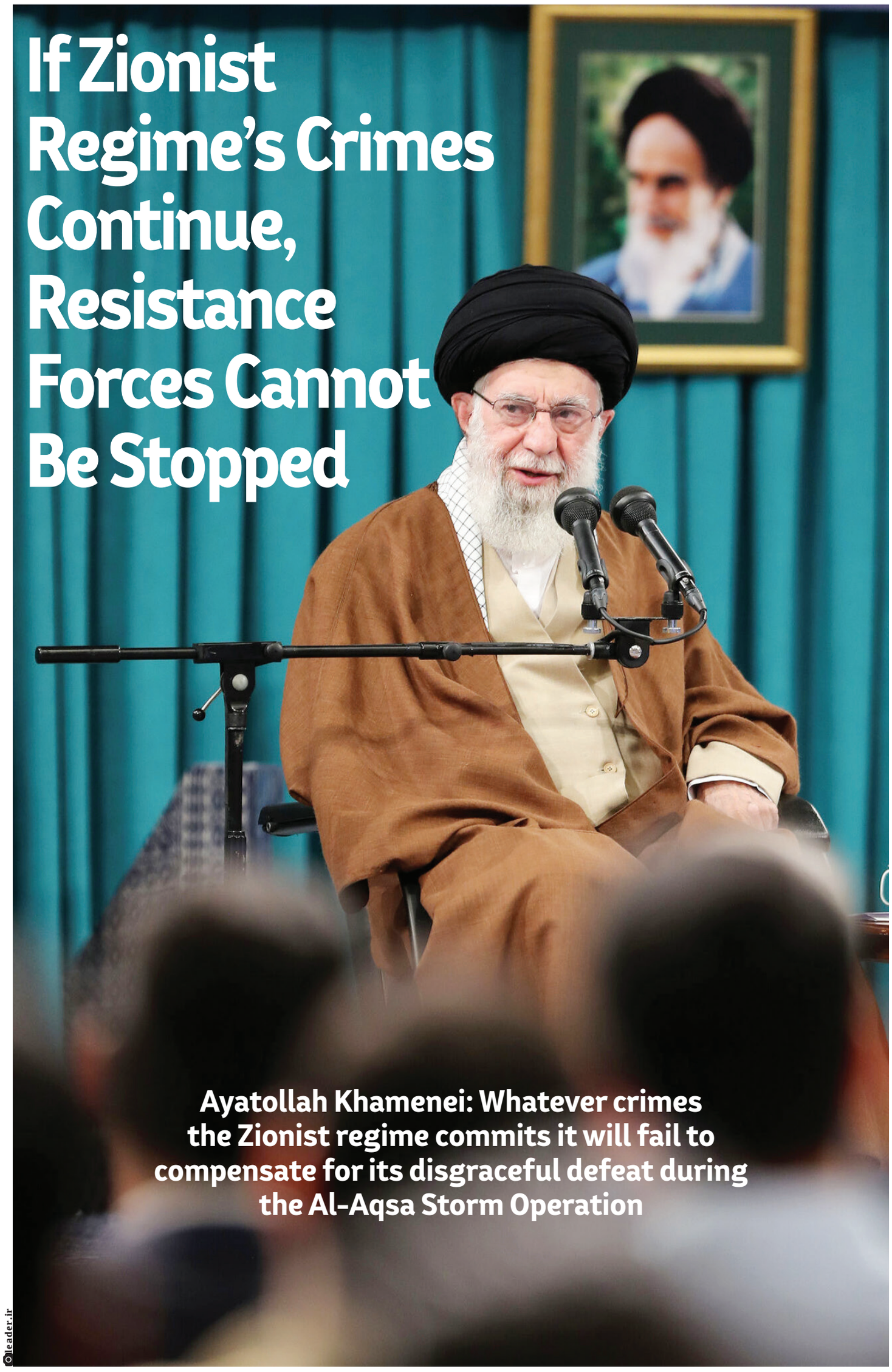
By Mona Hojat Ansari

TEHRAN - As hawkish Republicans in the United States exert all their efforts to persuade the Biden administration to attack Iran, it appears unlikely that such an attack will occur, at least in the foreseeable future.

Various U.S. officials have been attempting to dismiss Iran's involvement in Hamas's October 7th attack on Israel.

Contrary to popular belief, the Biden administration is not as naive and foolish as many portray it to be. The United States is currently preoccupied with the Ukraine conflict and has made significant miscalculations in provoking Russia's attack on Ukraine.

Washington credulously believed that heavy economic sanctions would bring Moscow to its knees. ▸ **Page 3**



Iran FM says resistance forces might take 'preemptive measures'

TEHRAN- Iran's foreign minister has warned that the door will be open to every possibility, including preventative actions by the resistance front if the atrocities committed by the Israeli regime in the Gaza Strip persist and no political solution is found.

Hossein Amir Abdollahian made the statements in a televised interview on Monday night, after returning from a regional trip that included stops in Iraq, Lebanon, Syria, and Qatar.

"During my regional trip and meetings that I had with leaders of the resistance front, they believed that political solutions should be taken into consideration in order to end Israel's brutal strikes against the fully blockaded Gaza Strip," he added.

The foreign minister also noted, "However, in the event that the Israeli regime's war crimes against civilians continue, any possibility is likely."

In reaction to Operation al-Aqsa Storm, the Israeli forces have called up 300,000 reservists and declared a long and devastating assault on Gaza. The Gaza-based Hamas resistance movement started the operation last Saturday in reaction to the Israeli regime's decades-long campaign of genocide, land theft, and siege against Palestinians.

The regime's heinous attacks against the besieged Gaza strip have so far killed more than 2,800 Palestinians and injured at least 11,00 others. ▸ **Page 2**

Iran says Hamas is ready to release "civilian" hostages

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani said on Monday that Hamas has signaled readiness to release the "civilian" hostages if Israel stops airstrikes on the Gaza Strip.

The Hamas officials "said they were ready to take the necessary steps to free citizens and civilians held by the resistance groups, but their view was that such steps required preparations that were not possible in the face of the daily bombardment of various areas of Gaza by the Zionists," Kanaani stated.

According to Sky News, a Hamas official has also demanded 6,000 Palestinian men and women detained in Israel's jails be released in exchange for hostages in Gaza.

The Israeli military said on Monday that 199 captives were being held in the besieged territory - a higher figure than previously estimated.

Khaled Meshaal, head of Hamas' diaspora office, said the hostages include high-ranking officers from the Israeli Forces' Gaza Division, which is responsible for patrolling around the Gaza Strip.

Dr. Basem Naim, Hamas's head of political and international relations, told Sky News: "I have no idea because it is impossible under this heavy bombardment - the communications are totally cut." ▸ **Page 2**

©IRNA/ Hasan Shirvani

Photo exhibition displays Palestinians' resistance against Israel

By Mohamadreza Seyedagha

TEHRAN-The photo exhibition "With Al-Aqsa Flood Until the Last Day" was launched at the Iran Photographers Gallery No. 1 in Tehran on Monday, showcasing photos of various media photographers operating in occupied Palestine from the Operation Al-Aqsa Flood.

Organized by the House of Iranian Photographers and curated by Hamid Vakili, the exhibit includes 42 large photos taken by international photographers who have taken photos for news agencies such as Reuters, AP, Al-Jazeera, etc. ▸ **Page 8**

Report

Decent work, social protection needed for eradication of poverty

By Mehdi Garshasbi

TEHRAN - The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, celebrated annually on October 17th, aims to promote understanding and dialogue between people living in poverty and the wider society.

This year's theme calls for universal access to decent work and social protection as a means to uphold human dignity for all people, and to emphasize that decent work must empower people, provide fair wages and safe working conditions, and fundamentally recognize the inherent value and humanity of all workers. ▸ **Page 7**

Car manufacturing rises 23% in H1

TEHRAN- Car manufacturing in Iran rose 23 percent in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), as compared to the same six months in the previous year.

According to the data released by the Iranian Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry, Iranian carmakers managed to manufacture over 642,930 vehicles in the mentioned six months, while the country's car output stood at 524,256 in the first half of the previous Iranian year, IRNA reported.

Based on the Industry Ministry data, Iranian automakers managed to produce 89,054 vehicles in the sixth Iranian month of Shahrivar (ended on September 22), registering a three-percent rise compared to the same month last year.

During the mentioned six months the country's automakers produced 545,180 passenger cars, ▸ Page **4**

TEHRAN PAPERS

The link between diplomacy and field

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

In a commentary, the Iran newspaper discussed the foreign minister's visit to four countries of Iraq, Syria, Lebanon and Qatar and said: Following the movements caused by the Al-Aqsa Storm, regional and multifaceted diplomacy of Iran was formulated to protect the Palestinian people through visits by Hossein Amir Abdollahian. The activation of Iran's regional diplomacy for the benefit of the Palestinian nation, which started with the visit of the foreign minister, brought the atmosphere of the region with it, and the public opinion of the region was affected by the bloody bombardments in Gaza and the crimes of the Zionist regime. Also, with the holding of the meeting of the OIC foreign ministers on Wednesday in Jeddah, which was initiated by the diplomatic follow-up of Iran, the process of Iran's active diplomacy found an opportunity to emerge and will continue until the end of the Zionist regime's crimes against the people of Gaza. This initiative showed that by timely link of diplomacy with the field, the capacity of both can be used in the best way to achieve results.

Shargh: Gaza war and its effects on the region and Iran

Shargh devoted its editorial to the recent events in the region and wrote: Since the beginning of the current crisis in the Gaza Strip, the name of Iran has been mentioned continuously, and half of the attention of the relevant governments and the media has been directed towards Iran and the role that Iran has played so far. Israel and Western governments have assumed that Iran supports Hamas. On the other hand, the policy of Israel and the United States was determined from the beginning to prevent the regionalization of the war; because a war on several fronts is much more difficult for Israel and a regional war will seriously damage the American policy in the region as well as the internal policy of the Biden government. Therefore, the U.S. secretary of state, some European officials and even the spokesman of the Israeli army quickly denied the existence of evidence of Iran's intervention in this operation. Also, some have claimed that the current developments will cause fundamental changes in the regional equations and the quality of relations between Iran and the United States; but as long as the end of the war in Gaza is unclear and the land invasion of Israel into Gaza and its fate are not still clear, it is difficult to talk about the long-term effects of this war.

Hamshahri: We should not fail Iran like North Korea

In an article, Hamshahri addressed remarks by Rafael Grossi, the Director General of the International Atomic Energy Agency, who has said Iran should not become another North Korea. It wrote: Grossi, by comparing Iran to North Korea when Pyongyang expelled international inspectors from the country just before conducting a nuclear test, said the world should be careful to ensure that the deadlock with Iran regarding the country's nuclear program does not become the same as North Korea. He also claimed that Tehran's response to the agency's questions about some nuclear sites in the country did not fulfill the expectations of the agency. Earlier, Mohammad Eslami, the head of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran, pointed out that no one has been expelled. "We have removed from the list the inspectors who are citizens of three European countries who regularly behave harshly against the Islamic Republic. Our activities are according to the rules and under the supervision of the agency. No part of our activities is beyond the agency's reach and knowledge. Whenever sanctions become canceled, it is natural that Iran implements all the provisions of the JCPOA."

Farhikhtegan: Worries about falling

In a note, Farhikhtegan addressed the West's concern about the Al-Aqsa Storm and wrote: As it is clear, Biden's main agenda is to reduce the level of tensions. He has explicitly opposed the Zionist regime's invasion of Gaza, saying it would be "a big mistake". Farhikhtegan has obtained information that shows that the U.S. government has given a written message to Amir Saeed Irvani, Iran's permanent representative to the United Nations. The message is in four paragraphs, three of which are tangible requests to manage the level of tension and try to reduce it. However, in the fourth paragraph, the American side announced that if Iran enters the war, America will also enter the war. According to Hossein Amir Abdollahian, the foreign minister, the first front that will be activated after the ground entry of the Zionists into Gaza is the northern front which will be activated by the Lebanese Hezbollah. Of course, this conflict will probably activate other fronts and even spread to Yemen. A possible opening of these fronts has prompted the U.S. to explicitly warn the Zionist regime about the continuation of its crimes.

Iran says Hamas is ready to release "civilian" hostages

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Khaled Meshaal, head of Hamas' diaspora office, said the hostages include high-ranking officers from the Israeli Forces' Gaza Division, which is responsible for patrolling around the Gaza Strip.

Dr. Basem Naim, Hamas's head of political and international relations, told Sky News: "I have no idea because it is impossible under this heavy bombardment - the communications are totally cut."

He also said Hamas was ready to release civilian hostages when "aggression against our people is stopped".

"At the time the aggression stops, we are ready to release the civilian hostages," he said.

"I hope that we will have hostages alive at the time the aggression ends because al Qassam Brigade [Hamas's armed wing] announced yesterday that nine of the hostages were killed under Israeli bombardment. "And three days ago 13 others were killed - including four foreigners."

"No problem with continuing the resistance"

The Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesman also said, "We heard from the Resistance that they have no problem with continuing the resistance."

The spokesman went on to add, "They said they have the military capacity to continue resistance on the ground for a long time."

He continued, "If such inhumane policy persists, all options are possible. The resistance front in the region will not close its eyes to the Zionists' crimes. The continuation of these conditions can endanger regional peace. It is everyone's responsibility worldwide to confront the actions of the Zionists."

Kanaani also argued that the Gaza-based Palestinian resistance movements' Operation al-Aqsa Storm was purely indigenous, dismissing baseless claims by American media about Iran's possible involvement as part of efforts to prevent the world public opinion from challenging Washington's unconditional support for Israel's atrocities against Palestinians.

"The dispatch of the U.S. naval fleet to the region can be best explained as support for injustice. Any party which supports the Zionist regime bears the same level of responsibility, and has to be held accountable before the Palestinian nation," the Iranian diplomat said.

Iran FM says resistance forces might take 'preemptive measures'

From page 1 ▸ Iran's top diplomat said that the resistance groups, notably the Lebanese Hezbollah movement, are open to all possibilities. He added resistance forces are taking all factors into account in their rigorous calculations.

"The resistance leaders will not allow the Zionist regime to do whatever it wants in the region," Iran's foreign minister said, warning, "Every preemptive measure is conceivable in the coming hours."

"If we do not defend Gaza today, we would have to defend our own cities," the top diplomat said, citing Hezbollah leader Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah as saying that if the movement did not resort to preemptive action against Israel, "tomorrow, we would have to fight off the Zionist forces in Beirut."

"What's important here is that what unfolded in the occupied territories resembles an earthquake that rattled the entirety of the Zionist regime," Amir Abdollahian said, referring to Operation al-Aqsa Storm, which has left some 1,200 Israeli forces and illegal settlers dead. At least 200 Israelis have reportedly also been taken captive as well.

The Iranian foreign minister then referred to previous conversations he has had with several of his Muslim counterparts.

"We have reached the conclusion that if limited and narrow possibilities available to the United Nations are not taken advantage of, the possibility of opening new fronts against the Israeli regime is inevitable," Amir Abdollahian said.

He added that an extensive war against Israel by the resistance front "will change the geographical map of the al-Quds occupying regime."

Hypocritical messages

Iran's top diplomat also censured the United States for urging self-restraint in the ongoing war on Gaza, while supporting the Israeli regime at the same time.

"We have clearly said this to the American sides and I once again announce here that they cannot call on all parties to show self-restraint, but offer their full support to the Israeli criminals," Amir Abdollahian said.

He went on to add, "Washington can no longer send such hypocritical messages." He said, "I warn you to stop the bloodshed of women and children in Gaza instead of sending hypocritical messages."

"U.S. culpable for escalating attacks in Gaza"

In a telephone conversation on Tuesday with the European Union High Representative for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy Josep Borrell, Amir Abdollahian also slammed the U.S. for its destructive policies and for inciting the Zionist regime to step up its airstrikes on the residents of Gaza.

He criticized the American backing of the Israeli regime as a major contributor to the persistence and expansion of the conflict.

The foreign minister said that despite widespread condemnation of Israel's onslaught of Palestinian women and children in Gaza, the U.S. is supporting Zionist atrocities.

Amir Abdollahian pointed out that 300 to 700 civilians are getting killed in Gaza every day and that the regime's brutal blockade on the region is preventing the delivery of food and medication through a humanitarian corridor.

For his part, Borrell urged all parties to exercise patience to refrain from escalating tensions and making the situation more complex.

"EU position is clear on condemning terrorism. And on the protection of civilians at all times," Borrell wrote in a post on his X account.

He added, "It is in everyone's interest to prevent a regional spillover. Urged Iran to use its influence to avoid regional escalation."

The EU chief diplomat also emphasized the necessity to build a humanitarian corridor so that supplies could be sent to the residents of the Gaza Strip while noting that the European Union is working to put an end to the conflict.

The EU foreign policy chief also emphasized the importance of Iran in reducing regional tensions.

Iran warns war could spread to more regions

In another phone call with Micheál Martin, the Foreign Minister of Ireland, on Monday, the Iranian foreign minister warned that the Gaza battle could potentially escalate.

He also denounced the atrocities committed by the Zionist regime in Gaza, which has imposed a blockade to prevent the admission of humanitarian supplies.

"The possible expansion of the war to other fronts is nearing an inevitable stage. It is necessary to establish suitable corridors as soon as possible to send water and food, as well as pharmaceutical and medical items to the people of Gaza," he added.

Martin, for his part, expressed worries about tensions spreading to the occupied areas and emphasized the importance of upholding international human rights standards while the conflict is still ongoing.

To lower rising tensions in the region, he emphasized the importance of providing humanitarian corridors to transport supplies and necessities to Gaza.

The Irish foreign minister added that he hoped the Islamic Republic could fulfill its special role in the region and put out a proposal to resolve the conflict.

Iran, Pakistan decry forced displacement of Gazans

The Zionist regime's effort to forcibly evict residents of the Gaza Strip was denounced as a war crime by the foreign ministers of Pakistan and Iran.

In a phone call on Monday, Pakistani Foreign Minister Jalil Abbas Jilani and Amir Abdollahian discussed recent developments in Palestine and the stepped-up Israeli attacks against civilians in Gaza.

Amir Abdollahian commended the Pakistani diplomat for his position on the current developments in Palestine, particularly Gaza, and asserted that the Israeli regime, which kills children, has moved to massacring children and civilians as a last resort since it is unable to quell the resistance.

The foreign minister of Pakistan stated that he was willing to attend the Executive Council meeting of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

He suggested that the OIC's member states work together to create the conditions for an immediate cessation of hostilities and the opening of communication lines to Gaza.

Jilani continued, calling the forced relocation of Palestinians from Gaza›s northern regions to its southern regions a war crime and an act of genocide against the Palestinian people.

Amir Abdollahian also held phone calls with his Tunisian counterpart Nabil Ammar, his South African counterpart, Naledi Pandor, his Malaysian counterpart Zambry Abdul Kadir, and his Japanese counterpart Yoko Kamikawa over the ongoing situation in Palestine.

Ground assault on Gaza will "open gates of hell," Iran warns

TEHRAN- Mohammad Baqer Qalibaf, the speaker of the Iranian parliament, has given a severe warning on the situation in the Gaza Strip, saying that an Israeli ground invasion of the beleaguered territory will "open the gates of hell" for the Zionists and plunge the entire region into chaos.

Qalibaf made the statements while speaking at an extraordinary session of the Parliamentary Union of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) on Monday broadcast live by webinar.

The Iranian Parliament speaker emphasized that if Israel's atrocities in Gaza continue, the situation will quickly spiral out of control.

Qalibaf criticized the complete blockade on Gaza, which has prevented the coastal enclave from receiving necessities, including water, power, food, and medication.

"The blockade of Gaza and cutting off the supply of water, electricity, medicine and food to this area is a clear example of genocide," he added.

The speaker also highlighted, "In addition, the use of non-conventional military weapons, such as banned phosphorus bombs, in these attacks violates international conventions on the prohibition of chemical weapons."

The Israeli regime, the Parliament speaker said, is at "a political and social impasse" and is prepared to ignite the entire region to maintain its hold on power.

Qalibaf cautioned that another battle in the region could change the course of history "within a matter of hours" given the high level of tension in East Asia caused by U.S. militarism and the impact of the Ukraine war on the world's political landscape.

By continuing to give military support to the Israeli occupying regime, the United States is "deeply complicit" in Israel's abuses of Palestinians' human rights, the top lawmaker emphasized.

"The parliaments of Islamic countries should ask America to change its policy on Gaza and demand an end to the siege," he said.

Qalibaf also asked Islamic countries to take multinational firms who aid the Israeli regime accountable for their participation in abusing Palestinian rights in Gaza.

Given the critical needs of Palestinians in Gaza, Qalibaf emphasized that Islamic parliaments must promptly campaign for the reopening of borders into the blockaded enclave to assist humanitarian relief delivery.

Over 600,000 have evacuated their homes in anticipation of an Israeli ground assault on Gaza.

Since October 7, the Israeli regime has been pounding Gaza from air, sea, and land, creating a human tragedy and also targeting infrastructure used by civilians.

Additionally, it has placed a total siege on the enclave, depriving its 2.3 million inhabitants of even the most basic essentials. Israeli airstrikes on Gaza have left thousands dead and injured.

The attacks started immediately after the multi-pronged surprise attack on the Israeli regime by the Palestinian Hamas resistance movement. The October 7 attack by Hamas resistance fighters was the heaviest blow to Israel since it came into existence in 1948. The attack showed that the rights of Palestinians cannot be ignored and that Israel cannot go unpunished for its relentless violent attacks on the Palestinians and land grabs in the West Bank.

During a weekly news briefing on Monday, Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Nasser Kanaani said that the Gaza-based resistance groups are battling the Tel Aviv regime on behalf of the entire Palestinian people.

He once again issued a warning against the negative effects of the Israeli regime's treatment of Palestinians, particularly in light of its horrific military campaign against the beleaguered Gaza Strip.

The Iranian parliament speaker cautions that another battle in the region could change the course of history "within a matter of hours".

The spokesman also condemned the false portrayal of what is occurring to the helpless Gazans by Western mainstream media, noting that it aims to absolve the oppressors and replace them with the oppressed.

The top diplomat also referred to Israel's conduct in Gaza as a "war crime", citing both its decision to shut off supplies of water, food, and medication to the enclave as well as its serial use of weapons that are prohibited by international law against civilians.

"The world public opinion has awakened. We are witnessing that various nations are significantly throwing their support behind the Palestinian nation. Iran has repeatedly emphasized that the prolongation of the status quo could agitate the atmosphere in the region," Kanaani stressed.

If Zionist regime's crimes continue, resistance forces cannot be stopped: Leader

TEHRAN - In a meeting with a group of academic elites and outstanding scientific talents, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution described the current events in Palestine a clear crime of the Zionist regime and an open genocide that is taking place in front of the world.

Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei said, "The officials of some countries have voiced their protest in their conversations with our officials as to why the Palestinians have been killing civilians. This statement is not true because the residents of the settlements are not civilians. They are armed, but even assuming that they are civilians, how many of them were killed compared to the number of Palestinian civilians that were martyred in recent days?"

The Leader of the Islamic Revolution added that "The usurping regime has killed a hundred times that number in these few days. They've killed several thousands of women, children, old and young civilians. By bombing populated centers and buildings that it knows are civilian

residences, it is committing crimes before the entire world."

While emphasizing that the usurping Zionist regime must certainly be prosecuted for these crimes, Ayatollah Khamenei held the U.S. government responsible for the policies of the usurping regime, and said: "Based on various [sources of] information, the Americans are the policy makers and regulators of the current policies of the Zionist regime. The United States is responsible in this matter and must accept its responsibility."

Underlining that the bombing of the Gaza Strip should be stopped immediately, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution cited the gatherings of Muslim nations in Islamic countries and even non-Muslims in the U.S. and Europe as a sign of the serious fury of nations at the crimes taking place at the hands of the Zionist regime.

On the same note, Ayatollah Khamenei stated, «If these crimes continue, Muslims and the Resistance forces will lose their patience and no one will be able to stop them. They should know this and they should not expect others to stop certain groups from doing certain things.»

"Whatever crimes the Zionist regime commits will fail to compensate for its disgraceful defeat during the Al-Aqsa Storm operation," the leader added.

In another part of his speech, he regarded the several million young Iranian graduates and students as a great and valuable fortune. "Many of these motivated, determined young people have valuable suggestions for solving problems."

Ayatollah Khamenei outlined that scientific activities have been taking place in some countries in the region after observing Iran's scientific progress. "Our previous progress should not make us proud and hold us back from the current scientific competition in the world. Despite all our progress, we are still behind in terms of knowledge and science," he stressed.

Why an attack on Iran will not happen

Frome Page 1 ▸ Additionally, Ukrainian soldiers have proven to be highly ineffective in utilizing the weapons provided by the West. With upcoming elections across Europe and the United States, global support for Ukraine is expected to diminish. Given that China is viewed as the biggest threat by the United States, Washington would much rather gear its remaining military and intelligence might towards competing with Beijing, rather than launch another endless and futile war in West Asia.

Even for Netanyahu, who has consistently claimed that reining in Iran's influence is his top priority, a full-scale war with Iran is not desirable at the moment. The Hamas attack on the occupied territories followed 38 weeks of continuous protests against Netanyahu's government. The current Israeli cabinet, arguably the weakest in the history of the Zionist regime and filled with right-winged extremists, seems to be pointing the finger of blame at Iran mostly to save face and avoid further humiliation.

For Netanyahu, a wider and significantly larger conflict with Tehran could potentially bring the end of his political career, though it is already expected that he won't be able to escape the same fate that followed Golda Meir after the Yom Kippur War. Meir was not remotely as detested as Netanyahu by the Israeli public. He was even considered to be one of the establishers of the Zionist regime.

Aside from the potential future implications a war with Iran may have for Israel, it is evident that the Israeli army is facing significant challenges in effectively facing Hamas. The current state of the Israeli military appears disorganized, lacking proper coordination, and plagued by a sense of demotivation. Israeli soldiers find themselves starring down the barrel of a disaster that they were told would never occur.

One of Israel's fundamental priorities has always been to prevent war from spilling over into the occupied territories. Throughout history, Israel's conflicts have primarily involved offensives into the neighboring Arab countries, and the occupied territories have remained largely impervious to infiltration by resistance groups or other Arab fighters. However, with the dismantling of the barrier between Gaza and the occupied territories, Israel has suffered its most substantial intelligence defeat in the past seven decades. Some reports suggest Hamas forces practiced the October 7 offensive at least four times, in 2020, 2021, 2022 and 2023, inside the besieged Gaza Strip. Yet the Israeli regime' intelligence forces, which have been touted as the world's most robust spy apparatus, failed to put the pieces together and pick up on Hamas's plan. Not only Mossad and Shabak, but even CIA and MI6 who have a large presence in West Asia and are known as the most powerful intelligence services of the planet could not see the attack is coming.

This turn of events has shattered the notion

of a "safe land for Jews" that Israel had strived to establish. Imagine being an Israeli soldier who now has to face the "biggest threat": Iran. It seems impossible for forces struggling to stand up to Hamas to now muster up the courage to go against Iranian forces, who have won every battle they've entered in the past 4 decades.

Even if Israeli politicians decide to make another blunder and incentivize a war against Iran, the U.S. would much rather focus on resolving the Ukraine war and countering China's influence, than repeat the woefully vain sagas of Iraq and Afghanistan. In fact, much to Israel's chagrin, the U.S. has already begun a gradual pullout of its troops from West Asia and has been trying to abandon the role of the regime's god father by promoting the two state-solution.

Overall, it seems that the proponents of attacking Iran are expressing their unfulfilled wishes while posing as analysts and wise politicians.

VP Mokhber meets Lukashenko in Belarus

TEHRAN – Iran's First-Vice President, Mohammad Mokhber, visited Minsk, Belarus, on Tuesday morning at the invitation of Belarusian Prime Minister Roman Golovchenko.

In Minsk, Mokhber met with Belarusian President Aleksandr Lukashenko. In this meeting, President Lukashenko said the United States of America is directing the spearhead of the Middle East conflict against Iran, according to a BelTA report.

"The situation in the world is heating up. The Middle East crisis contributes to the fact that countries unfriendly to us - the United States of America and the West - are constantly directing the spearhead of this conflict against Iran. You know it better. Our answer is: we should work more closely with each other, cooperate to counter these attacks," Lukashenko stressed.

The Belarusian president pointed out that Belarus and Iran should cooperate more closely with each other to counter the attacks of the West.

"I hope you will not be disappointed with your visit. We have a lot of issues to discuss. I hope our conversation will yield good practical results," he told Mokhber, adding, "You know the situation in Belarus. It is about the same as your country. The pressure exerted on our states is unprecedented, but you have already learned to resist it to some extent, and your experience is valuable for us. What I am constantly surprised by is that during these large-scale actions, Iran has not decreased the level of its development, but, on the contrary, has significantly increased it."

Lukashenko added, "Based on the experience of relations with Iran, on many years of cooperation with Iran, I can conclude that your and our government bodies need to learn to work faster. If we have agreed on something, it must be implemented on time. The most important thing for us is time, not sanctions and pressure. We should not lose time because of red tape."

According to the Belarusian leader, the situation in the world is aggravating, and with the crisis in the Middle East, unfriendly Western countries, led by the United States, are constantly directing the spearhead of this conflict against Iran. "You can feel it better. Our answer is as follows: we must cooperate more closely with each other to be able to counter these attacks," the president said.

Mohammad Jamshidi, a political aide to the Iranian president, praised the visit by Mokhber to Belarus. "The bilateral meetings of the presidents on the sidelines of regional and international summits, as well as Mr. Lukashenko's trip to Tehran in March of last year, indicate the readiness for comprehensive development of economic relations, which can lead to important agreements for the two countries in the upcoming trip," Jamshidi said, according to IRNA.

"The sanctions policy of Western countries against independent countries requires that more commonality and more bilateral solutions be established to overcome the oppressive sanctions of Western countries. This important issue is seriously on the agenda of Iranian statesmen during this trip," he continued.

President Lukashenko paid a visit to Iran in March and met his Iranian counterpart Ebrahim Raisi.

Iranian defense official pushes for stronger ties with Oman

TEHRAN – Esmail Ahmadi Moqaddam, the head of Iran's National Defense University, has underlined the need for strengthening relations between Iran and Oman.

Moqaddam made the remarks during a trip to neighboring Oman at the head of a high-level military delegation. In the Arab country, he met with Major General Hamid Ahmed Said Sakroun, the head of Oman's Strategic and Defense Studies Academy.

Moqaddam highlighted the historical, religious and cultural commonalities between the two nations and expressed his readiness to expand these relations in the fields of science, research and the exchange of professors and students between the two countries.

The university chancellor also visited the Faculty of National Defense, the Faculty of Command and Headquarters, and the Oman Military Museum.

Also, Moqaddam met with Ali Najafi, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Oman, at the embassy and discussed ways to strengthen and develop relations between Tehran and Muscat.

Ambassador Najafi emphasized the need to expand the scope of cooperation in various fields with the friendly and brotherly country of Oman, according to IRNA.

SPORTS

Iran delegation to depart for 2023 Asian Para Games on Wednesday

TEHRAN – Iran's sport delegation will depart Tehran for Hangzhou, China on Wednesday to participate at the fourth edition of the Asian Para Games.

Iran's National Paralympic Committee (NPC) will send 210 athletes to the Games, Kamal Javanmard, Iran›s Chef de Mission for the Hangzhou, said.

"A total of 128 male athletes will represent Iran in 16 events and 82 female athletes will compete in 11 events.

Iran finished in third place in the 2018 Asian Para Games but Team Iran has a difficult task ahead in the fourth edition," he said.

Para shooter Sareh Javanmardi will carry Iran's flag at the opening ceremony.

Javanmardi has won three gold medals in the 2016 and 2020 Paralympic Games as well as a bronze medal in the 2012 Paralympics.

Javanmardi is the first-ever female gold medalist from Iran to win in the shooting category of the Paralympics Games.

Iran's slogan in the 2022 Asian Para Games is "Faith, Iran, Honor" and the name of the delegation is "Children of Iran".

Hangzhou 2022 will take place from Oct. 22 to 28. An estimated 3,000 athletes will compete across 22 sports.

The Games will feature 566 gold medal events in 22 sports (in 24 disciplines) which were split into multiple events, including Taekwondo, Canoeing and Go which are included for the first time in the Games› program. Absent from the previous edition, Blind Football and Rowing which were not featured in the 2018 edition will return.

India will send its biggest-ever contingent to the Asian Para Games, a total of 309 athletes including 196 male and 113 female will be competing in the event.

Iran edge Uzbekistan at 2023 CAFA U14 Girls Championship

TEHRAN – Iran defeated Uzbekistan at the 2023 Central Asian Football Association (CAFA) U14 Girls Championship on Tuesday.

Dina Ghorbani scored Iran's solitary goal at the Dushanbe Central Stadium in Tajikistan.

Iran are scheduled to play Tajikistan on Thursday, while Uzbekistan meet Kyrgyzstan.

The Persians had been held by Kyrgyzstan 1-1 in their opening match.

The Central Asian Football Association (CAFA) is one of five regional bodies of governance in association football in Asia. It governs association football, futsal, and beach football in Central Asia.

CAFA consists of six national association members, namely Iran, Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan and Turkmenistan.

Iran basketball look to defend title at Asian Para Games

TEHRAN - Defending champions Iran's men's wheelchair basketball team are ready to reign supreme when the Hangzhou 2022 Asian Para Games gets underway on Oct. 22.

Sixteen teams (10 men's and six women's teams) will fight it out for the top honors over all eight days at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Gymnasium, iwbf.org reported.

Iran's men and China's women will head into the Games with a lot of confidence following their impressive shows at the recent IWBF World Wheelchair Basketball Championships in Dubai.

Iran's men produced a historic show after clinching their first-ever World Championships medal – a bronze medal after they pulled off a 72-54 win over the Netherlands. Iran were led by Morteza Abedi's double-double (19 points, 18 rebounds) and star player Omid Hadiazhar (11 points) in Dubai.

Indonesia 2018 medalists Japan and the Republic of Korea will be also eager to make some noise in Hangzhou.

The men's line-up will also include Afghanistan and Philippines for the first time and both will be looking to make a mark on their debuts. The line-up also includes Kuwait, Malaysia, Philippines, Thailand, Chinese Taipei as well as the hosts nation.

Meanwhile, China's women will be eager to continue their incredible run from the World Championships where they took the silver medal. The Chinese women's team returned to international competition after nearly two years away at the Dubai 2022 World Championships, but they hardly showed any rustiness in their game.

They are expected to rule the courts at the Hangzhou Olympic Sports Centre Gymnasium in front of their home fans, while Japan and Iran women are expected to put up a strong challenge.

Cambodia and Thailand are the other teams competing in women's event which will also have Laos for the first time.

Wheelchair Basketball, one of the most spectacular Paralympic sports, has been contested at the Summer Paralympics since the 1960 Rome Games. The sport was introduced in the Asian Para Games at the 2010 Guangzhou Games.

Inter, if Taremi jumps there's already plan B

TEHRAN - It isn't a mystery that Inter have chosen Mehdi Taremi to reinforce the attack: the Iranian bomber, a step away from AC Milan in the summer, is Beppe Marotta's favorite, who has a 10 million euro offer ready to convince Porto to sell him in January.

Should things not work out, Inter already has a plan B: Armando Broja, an Albanian from Chelsea. The competition at the English club is so much and the youngster wants to play continuously, which is why he might decide to make a change and move to Milan.

The Albanian striker started in the youth ranks of Tottenham and then moved to Chelsea in 2009. After loans to Vitesse and Southampton, Armando Broja has returned to Chelsea to play his cards. In December 2022, while in AC Milan's sights, he is ruptured the cruciate ligament in his knee and is returned available in September.

However, if Inter decide to act immediately to give away to Simone Inzaghi a new striker for the second part of the season, then here's the Broja track again, the boy of Albanian origins from Chelsea who after the torments of the knee injury is marching towards optimal shape.

The London club are willing to loan him to give him the opportunity to gain important experience, even if for the moment the Iranian remains the first name on the list of Piero Ausilio.

Japan ease past Tunisia in friendly

TEHRAN - Kyogo Furuhashi scored at his old hunting ground and Junya Ito joined him on the scoresheet as Japan beat Tunisia 2-0 on Tuesday for their sixth straight win in international friendlies.

Celtic forward Furuhashi, back at Noevir Stadium -- home to his former club Vissel Kobe -- showed good composure burying the 43rd-minute opener before Ito doubled the lead in the 69th in Japan›s final match ahead of the Asian second-round qualifying for the 2026 World Cup starting in November.

On a five-match winning run and scoring a whopping 22 goals, Japan kept their first clean sheet in five games after they scored four in each of their last four matches while also conceding, including an emphatic 4-1 victory away to Germany in September.

Petchem output rises 7% in 6 months yr/yr

TEHRAN – Iran's petrochemical production in the first six months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22) has risen seven percent compared to the same period of time in the past year, according to an official in the National Petrochemical Company (NPC).

Bijan Chegeni, the NPC's director for production control, put the six-month petrochemical output at 38.5 million tons, noting that the country's petrochemical output is planned to reach 77 million tons by the end of the year (late March 2024), IRNA reported.

According to the official, the country's petrochemical production also increased by seven percent in the previous Iranian year to reach 69.6 million tons.

The official noted that 27.6 million tons of petrochemical products were exported in the past year, registering a four percent growth compared to the preceding year, in terms of weight.

Pointing out that overhaul operations were carried out in 21 petrochemical complexes in 1401, he added: "Basic repairs are very necessary for petrochemical units, and if it is not paid attention to, the possibility of damaging the facilities and increasing costs increases."

The petrochemical industry plays a crucial role in Iran's non-oil economy, as petrochemical export is the second-largest source of revenue for the country after crude oil. Petrochemical exports already constitute nearly 33 percent of the country's non-oil exports.

According to NPC Head Morteza Shah-Mirzaei, the company plans to increase its annual petrochemical production capacity to 200 million tons over the next 10 years.

In this regard, Iranian Oil Minister Javad Oji said that more than 100 petrochemical projects with a total investment of about $70 billion have been defined and will be implemented across the country.

Oji noted that the country will also be completely self-sufficient in producing the catalysts used in the petrochemical industry by the end of the current government administration's incumbency (August 2025).

Housing price decrease 0.6% in Tehran city

TEHRAN- Average housing price declined 0.6 percent in the capital Tehran during the sixth Iranian calendar month Shahrivar (ended on September 22), compared to the previous month, according to a report by the country's Transport and Urban Development Ministry.

Based on the ministry data, the biggest decrease in housing prices was related to regions 22, 18 and 13, in which the prices decreased by 11.8 percent, 9.7 percent and 9.4 percent, respectively, Fars News Agency reported.

Experts believe that housing market has entered a long-term stagnation and the prices are not expected to change drastically anytime soon.

TEDPIX climbs 13,000 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 13,089 points (0.65 percent) to 2,031,240 on Tuesday.

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).

Head of Iran's Securitas and Exchange Organization (SEO) Majid Eshqi has said that using the capacities of the country's private sector in the stock market has been one of the main strategies of the organization over the past year.

Car manufacturing rises 23% in H1

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registering a 19 percent rise compared to the same period of the last year.

The production of various types of trucks also increased by 44 percent year on year, the data showed.

In the first six months of this year, the production of minibuses and middle buses also increased by three percent compared to the same period last year.

Car manufacturing in Iran increased by 39 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20), as the Iranian carmakers manufactured 1,347,394 vehicles in the mentioned year.

In the past year, 1,182,078 passenger cars were manufactured in the country, registering a 35-percent rise year on year.

Vans accounted for the lion's share of the production in the past year, as 125,507 vans were manufactured, with a 56-percent growth.

In the past year, 34,136 trucks were manufactured, with a 150 percent rise.

The manufacturing of buses stood at 1,391, and minibuses, and middle buses at 1,118, registering a growth of 88 percent and 11 percent, respectively.

Also, about 450,000 motorcycles were manufactured in the previous year, with a 61.2 percent rise year on year.

Meanwhile, the International Organization of Motor Vehicle Manufacturers (known as OICA) ranked Iran sixth in the world in terms of car manufacturing growth in 2022.

According to the OICA data, car manufacturing in Iran increased by 19 percent in 2022, as the country manufactured 1.064 million vehicles in the mentioned year, while the figure was 894,000 in 2021.

The international organization in its annual report released in mid-March had ranked Iran as the world's 16th largest automaker in 2022.

Tehran to host exclusive EAEU exhibition in early-Dec.

TEHRAN - The second exclusive exhibition of the Eurasian Economic Union (EAEU), which is a platform to showcase the capabilities of the EAEU members and their Iranian counterparts, is scheduled to be held in Tehran during December 4-7, the head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) announced.

"This exhibition will be held from December 4 to 7, with the presence of officials from the member countries of the Eurasian Economic Union and some member countries of Shanghai Cooperation Organization and the Persian Gulf Cooperation Council at Tehran Permanent International Fairgrounds," Mehdi Zeyghami said on Monday.

He noted that the exhibition is going to cover a variety of areas including industry, mining, and agriculture, and several specialized conferences are also scheduled to be held on the sidelines of the exhibition.

Iran and EAEU reached a preferential trade agreement in 2018 based on which about 862 commodity items are currently subject to preferential tariffs.

The agreement came into effect on October 27, 2019.

Back in July, the minister in charge of trade of the Eurasian Economic Commission (EEC) said that the EAEU's cooperation with Iran is actively expanding in various fields, and trade between the two sides has doubled over the past four years.

Andrey Slepnev also said that trade between the union and the Islamic Republic of Iran rose 22 percent in 2022.

Tehran, Minsk target $1b of annual trade

TEHRAN – The Tehran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (TCCIMA) hosted an Iran-Belarus business forum on Monday in which the two sides stressed the need to take necessary measures for reaching an annual trade of $1.0 billion, the TCCIMA portal reported.

During the forum, which was attended by a delegation from the Minsk Department of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry and representatives of several Iranian companies, the two sides signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) to expand cooperation between the two chambers in order to achieve the above-mentioned trade target.

At the beginning of this meeting, Hessameddin Hallaj, the TCCIMA deputy head for International Affairs, noted that the two sides need to increase the level of interactions and exchange more delegations.

According to the official, the signed MOU is a positive step to accelerate the implementation of the previously reached agreements.

Iran and Belarus signed a comprehensive cooperation roadmap and seven memorandums of understanding in mid-March, as Belarusian 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 Belarusian 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."

Bank Melli Iran Leadership in Paying Marriage Loans among Banking Networks in the Country

According to the central bank's report, Bank Melli Iran has been the leader in paying marriage loans in the banking network of the country, in the first half of this year.

According to BMI public relations, based on the latest statistics of all banks' paid loans, from the beginning of the current year until the end of Shahriver, BMI paid 79,832 marriage loans a total value gets more than 761,568,285,000 Rials.

Considering the president's emphasis on easing the marriage loan, supporting young people to marry, and promoting this holy great tradition, these loans get paid in all branches around the country nonstop.

This bank plays a pivotal role and major share in paying free-interest marriage and baby loans to youths and qualified applicants in the banking network and always emphasizes the priority of paying free-interest loans and speeding and easing the payments.

The Memorandum of Agreement Is Signed by Bank Melli Iran and the Real Estates Registration Organization of the Country to Ease and Accelerate the Affairs

A mutual memorandum of agreement is signed by Bank Melli Iran and the Real Estates Registration Organization of the country to extend interactions improve bank services and increase cooperation.

According to BMI public relations, this memorandum of agreement was signed by Dr. Abolfazl Najarzadeh the CEO of BMI, Hassan Babaei, the Deputy of Judiciary, the chairman of the Real Estates Registration Organization of the country, and with the attendance of the board of directors, executives and other senior managers of the bank and some of the managers of Real Estates, along with extending interactions, improving the level of bank services, increasing bilateral cooperation and providing bank services, makes it possible to develop and increase services to people.

Hassan Babaei, the Deputy of Judiciary and the chairman of the Real Estates Registration Organization of the country called BMI a great well-known bank in the country and noted: As a great well-known bank, BMI provides distinctive worthy services to the members of society.

He continued his speech by presenting reports of the organization's activities and status and suggested his expectations and needs to BMI's CEO to develop Real Estates Registration Organization's activities and services.

Following this ceremony, Dr. Najarzadeh the CEO of BMI pointed out the existing capacities and capabilities of Bank Melli Iran in the Rial and currency field, announced its readiness

for any action in line with developing Real Estates Registration Organization services, and explained: We are interested in providing a comprehensive and complete various basket of financial products and services to develop this organization's plans.

Pointing out that this memorandum will increase the effectiveness of mutual relations and the origin of good and blessings, he said: Both organizations provide services to members of the society in different fields, and signing this memorandum is a new chapter in providing distinctive unique services by both organizations.

The CEO of Bank Melli Iran emphasized that this bank's vision of providing financial services is only a value creation approach, he noted: We have a supportive approach to this memorandum for the development of the plans of the Real Estate Registration Organization of the country and undoubtedly by planning and designing a financial ecosystem, we will try to provide desirable, productive, and worthy services to this organization.

He called this memorandum of agreement, effective and added: One of the BMI's commitments is to support the country in the development path and we make all our efforts to provide the best services, especially in the technology section and the wallet service in the shortest time.

Following the ceremony, Dr. Najarzadeh explained that BMI is progressive and a pioneer in providing financial services among all banks, added: By directing and providing suitable services, we will witness the role of BMI in providing optimal services of this organization to the members of the society.

It should be noted that at the end of this ceremony, senior directors and deputies of BMI and the Real Estates Registration Organization who attended this meeting, suggested their plans to improve and extend cooperation level.

The CEO of Bank Melli Iran: The Development of New Marketing Tools and Methods Help Bank's Function Improve.

The CEO of Bank Melli Iran, in the conference of the bank's 6-month function, pointed out that special attention to different dimensions of marketing is one of the important factors in improving the bank's function, said: Designing and producing new tools and products, we should go towards the intelligent targeted marketing to witness bank gets significantly successful.

According to BMI public relations, in this conference held by the presence of the members of the board, executives, deputies, managers, and other senior members of the bank, Dr. Abolfazl Najarzadeh pointed out the growth and improvement marketing in the bank: Connection and communication with clients and dealing with marketing in branches should be an agenda for managers to attract more resources and improve liquidity status.

Appreciating the suitable and effective cooperation and overlapping of all units that played roles in approaching the bank's targets during the first 6 months of this year and pointing out existing limitations and problems, he explained the most important targets and priorities of BMI until the end of the year.

Following, Najarzadeh in addition to emphasizing increasing authority delegation to branches' managers in line with invention and creativity to achieve the bank's great goals, noted that promotions and appointments of colleagues are done based on competency indicators and standards and performance reports and using these standards are essential in all sections of the bank.

In another part of this conference, he considered human resources the most important asset and investment of the bank and added: Succession, meritocracy, and training of colleagues across the country are important because these dear people will take different executive responsibilities in the bank soon, so they must be able to cope well with the responsibility they have accepted.

Dr. Najarzadeh said that efforts towards colleagues' satisfaction should get more speed and added that the issue of colleagues' life status, well-being, and health improvement is important in the bank more than any other issue.

The CEO of the bank considered comprehensive banking extension necessary and reminded: Considering the competitive situation and banking network movement toward specialization, BMI must also quickly take steps in the field of comprehensive banking more than before.

In the following, he noted the consensus, cooperation, convergence, and help and support of all colleagues in the growth and extension of comprehensive banking and added: The condition of success in comprehensive banking must be provided by a suitable mechanism and supplying fundamental infrastructures such as the production of unique goods in every region and province, new services, developing new technology, processes, and methods, identifying and absorbing experts, developing a suitable agenda, etc.

In this conference, Dr. Najarzadeh considered creating transformation in the technology field and providing online services in the bank, important and reminded: All sections, members, and subsidiaries of the bank must move toward achieving success and new achievements in the field of technology with all the power and facilities, this year.

Following this, he announced holding a general assembly for every province and added: To achieve transformation and gain new achievements, The bank needs to review some fields and develop a 5-year comprehensive plan.

Explaining this issue that the bank's life is upon providing new optimal services to customers, he noted: by professional treatment, relying on teamwork, collective wisdom, considered plans, and coordination, we decided to gain more market share in the second 6 months of the year.

Following this conference, a working group was held with an attendance of BMI's board of directors in which the bank's senior managers, extensively explained and discussed the issues related to banking and headquarters, and along with answering the attendees' questions, they proposed the necessary solutions.

It was emphasized being more present in the capital market, reducing claims, managing and absorbing resources, increasing market share, strengthening planning, and support, extending the suggestion system, collecting claims, providing accrual tools, and the need to have superior products, in this work group.

Also, developing technology infrastructure, authority delegation, dealing with immigrant issues, helping to develop the national housing movement, meritocracy, importance to financial flows, organizing data, resolving conflicts, helping the colleagues' living, correcting the deficit of branch staff, strengthening succession, transparency in affairs, improving marketing and helping the profitability of the bank was among the most important tasks of this workgroup.

It should be noted that at the end of this conference, the bank's 95th-anniversary special stamp was unveiled and the top ranks of the departments of affairs of the provincial, independent, and the top branches of the level 2 to 5 in the performance of 6 months of this year were selected and introduced.

Gaza "running out of body bags"

UN official warns "our operations are on verge of collapse"

From page 1 ▶ The number of people seeking shelter in UNRWA facilities is also rising, with Lazzarini saying, "We do not have any more capacity to deal with them".

"Every story coming out of Gaza is about survival, despair and loss.? Thousands of people have been killed, including children and women. Gaza is now even running out of body bags."

He described one situation where hundreds of people are sharing a single toilet.

"Old people, children, pregnant women, people with disabilities are just being deprived of their basic human dignity, and this is a total disgrace," he said,

Most of the organisation›s 13,000 staff have been displaced, and 14 employees have been killed.

"An unprecedented humanitarian catastrophe is unfolding under our eyes," Lazzarini added.

"Unless we bring now supplies into Gaza, UNRWA and aid workers will not be able to continue humanitarian operations. ?

"The UNRWA operations is the largest United Nations footprint in the Gaza Strip and we are on the verge of collapse."

Hamas has refuted Israeli claims that the regime has restarted water supplies to southern Gaza.

Israel›s minister of energy and water, Israel Katz, said in a statement that water had been restored at one "specific point" in Gaza, while a spokesman said the location was outside Khan Younis.

But this is not the case, according to officials in the Gaza Strip, including its interior ministry.

"The residents drink unhealthy water, posing a serious health crisis threatens the lives of the citizens," it said.

Water has run out at UN shelters across Gaza and aid workers said they had not yet seen any evidence that Israel has switched the taps back on.

The water shortage is part of a snowballing humanitarian crisis, with UN food, water, medical supplies and fuel all waiting on Gaza›s borders.

Taking into account the humanitarian crisis, UN Secretary-General Antonio Guterres described the Middle East as being "on the verge of the abyss".

The charity group ActionAid has repeated its call for the international community to come together to demand the reversal of Israeli evacuation orders for hospitals in Gaza. One of its youth volunteers has described conditions at Shifa hospital saying:

"Surprisingly we are still alive. Before becoming a shelter, this was one of the most important and largest hospitals in the Gaza Strip. The conditions here are miserable. We are without water, without food, without hygiene. People are sleeping and lying in the streets, in the corridors and everywhere inside the hospital."

An estimated 35,000 people are sheltering in al Shifa, Gaza›s biggest hospital.

And while Israeli military forces have ordered the evacuation of 22 hospitals across northern Gaza,

charities are warning they are the only safe place for many Palestinians.

ActionAid has said that the forcible evacuation of hospitals is a breach of international law that places the lives of patients and medical professionals at risk.

William Schomburg, the head of the sub-delegation for the International Committee of the Red Cross in Gaza, has said civilians in the territory lack the food, electricity and water needed to meet their most basic needs.

Martin Griffiths, the UN undersecretary-general for humanitarian affairs and emergency relief coordinator, has said "the spectre of death" is hanging over Gaza.

> The UN's Martin Griffiths says "the specter of death" is hanging over Gaza.

In a social media post, he wrote, "The specter of death is hanging over Gaza. With no water, no power, no food and no medicine, thousands will die. Plain and simple."

The UN health agency has said life-saving assistance for 300,000 Palestinian patients is sitting just on the other side of the Rafah border crossing but the regime is refusing to allow any humanitarian supplies to enter.

Hundreds of metric tons of fuel, water and other aid is stuck at the Rafah border crossing, but Israel waged air strikes on the crossing from Gaza into Egypt to prevent the aid from reaching desperate Palestinians.

On Monday, Israel bombed the Palestinian side of the crossing.

Reports say the attack is the fourth by the regime since last Saturday, showing there is no willingness on the Israeli side for the crossing to be kept safe.

Rafah crossing had been expected to open at 9am local time on Monday for aid to enter Gaza in exchange for some foreign nationals and Palestinians with duel citizenship to leave.

The Israeli military declared that it would not cease fire and it became very clear that without that, nothing would go in or out of Gaza.

Thousands of sick and vulnerable Palestinians had gathered there in recent days amid hopes that they would be allowed to leave.

Egypt said it was Israel that was not allowing aid into Gaza as the Egyptian health minister was touring hospitals on the Egyptian side with the expectation of receiving people leaving the Gaza Strip.

Earlier, authorities in Cairo said that the Israelis were not even cooperating with the delivery of aid into Gaza and the evacuations of some people, despite the United States and Egypt saying an agreement had been reached on the matter.

"There is an urgent need to alleviate the suffering of Palestinian civilians in Gaza," Egypt›s Foreign Minister Sameh Shoukry told reporters.

"Until now the Israeli government has not taken a position on opening the Rafah crossing from the Gaza side to allow the entrance of assistance and exit of citizens of third countries."

More than 2 million Gazans have been under a tighter siege since Israel launched an intense bombardment and blockade on October 7.

Rafah is Gaza›s only gateway to the rest of the world that›s not directly controlled by Israel. It is under the control of Egypt as part of an agreement with the Israeli regime and the European Union.

The World Health Organization which said medical facilities are already being deemed as "overflowing", has warned they are now on the verge of collapse.

Four in northern Gaza have ceased functioning and 21 others have received Israeli orders to evacuate.

"We are concerned about disease outbreaks due to mass displacement and poor water and sanitation," the World Health Organization said.

"Water is needed to ensure sanitary conditions on inpatient wards, in operation rooms, and emergency departments.

"It is essential for the prevention of hospital-associated infections and for the prevention of outbreaks in hospitals."

The regime claimed water had been restored at one "specific point" in Khan Younis, southern Gaza, but aid workers in Gaza say they have not seen any evidence to back this up.

A spokesman for the Israeli army has said the regime cannot provide the people of Gaza with aid.

Peter Lerner claimed that Palestinians have enough food to last for several weeks - as well as shelter, in stark contrast to UN assessments and reports.

In remarks, the prime minister of the Palestinian Authority in the occupied territory of the West Bank, Mohammad Shtayyeh, also said, "We are people of a civilization, we are not animals like they are painting us and our people will not surrender."

Speaking from Ramallah, he said, "Our people will not migrate and will not leave their land."

The Palestinian prime minister called for immediate international help, saying people in Gaza are living without food, water, electricity and medication.

"They are targeting civilians and hospitals, we are calling on the world community to help immediately," he added.

In an attempt to expand its censorship of war crimes before the eyes of the world, Israel has killed almost a dozen journalists working in the Gaza Strip with airstrikes.

The Palestinian Journalists Syndicate has said that since October 7, eleven reporters have been killed by the Israeli attacks.

The news comes after Lebanon›s foreign ministry said it would submit a formal complaint to the UN Security Council over what it called "Israel›s deliberate killing" of a Reuters video journalist on Friday on Lebanese territory.

Israel launched a missile that hit a civilian car belonging to a media group, the Lebanese high command said.

In the northern Gaza Strip, people have told Reuters that Israeli warplanes bombed areas around al-Quds hospital on Monday. Houses were damaged, forcing hundreds of people to take shelter in the Red Crescent-run hospital.

Health officials said Israeli warplanes also bombed three offices of the civil emergency and ambulance service in Gaza City, killing five people and paralyzing the rescue services.

With at least one thousand people still trapped in collapsed buildings, rescuers and residents are frantically tearing away rubble with their hands, sometimes pulling out barely breathing children.

> "With no water, no power, no food and no medicine, thousands will die. Plain and simple," Griffiths laments.

One of the areas being hammered by Israeli airstrikes is the Jabalia refugee camp in northern Gaza.

An unknown number of people have been killed in the attacks over the past 48 hours, and an unknown number of bodies remain under the rubble.

Footage shows the camp has been turned into a scene of devastation, with buildings flattened and nearby houses destroyed.

Men carrying bloodied victims on their backs and bodies lying among the debris have been photographed.

These are scenes that you would expect to see after a devastating natural disaster.

Except this is not a natural disaster. This is man-made.

Gaza is a cemetery of alive people

Videos on social media show desperate people in the rubble searching for their families.

The continuous attacks on the 11th day of war hit areas in Rafah where Israel urged civilians to leave the south of Gaza and thousands of Gazans gathered in Rafah, hoping they would be allowed to cross into Egypt.

Videos show the scenes after the Israeli bombardment of the Al-Nuseirat and Al-Bureij refugee camps in the southern Gaza Strip.

Rafah and Khan Younis in the southern Gaza Strip are densely populated areas. The Rafah crossing has been closed for much of the past week.

Israel launched the war on Gaza on October 7 after the Palestinian Hamas resistance group waged a surprise attack, dubbed Operation Al-Aqsa Storm, against the occupying entity.

At least, 2,870 Palestinians have been killed and 12,500 wounded in Israeli airstrikes on the Gaza Strip, half of them women and children, the Gaza Health Ministry announced in its latest announcement.

Another 1,200 people across Gaza are believed buried under the rubble, alive or dead, health authorities said.

The number of arrests by Israeli forces in the occupied West Bank has also tripled since the start of the latest war. More than 700 Palestinians have been arrested since October 7.

About 1,200 people, including 500 minors, trapped under Gaza rubble

Some 1,200 people, among them about 500 minors, are believed to be trapped under the rubble in Gaza, according to health authorities. They based their estimates on distress calls they received.

"So many times, medics say they hear victims scream, but they cannot do anything about it," Mohammed Abu Selmia, general director of Shifa Hospital, told AP.

Ali Ahad, a 37-year-old resident of Gaza City, said rescuers never came when Israeli air raids leveled the residential building next door.

"You have people like us using our hands and we have zero experience doing such things," he told AP. "There is no infrastructure. There is no capacity."

King Abdullah says Jordan won't take Palestinian refugees

Jordan's King Abdullah says his country is not ready to receive Palestinian refugees.

"There will be no refugees in Jordan, and no refugees in Egypt," he said during a press conference with German Chancellor Olaf Scholz in Berlin.

"That is a red line because I think that is the plan by certain of the usual suspects to try and create de facto issues on the ground. The humanitarian situation in Gaza should be dealt with inside Gaza."

World's biggest book fair hit by war

Publishing groups from several predominantly Muslim-majority countries have withdrawn from the world's biggest book fair in Frankfurt, Germany, in a sign of protest at organizers' support for Israel in its horrific war on Gaza.

Those who pulled out were angered by the organizers' decision to allow Israeli voices to feature prominently and to postpone an award ceremony for a Palestinian author.

Among them was the Indonesian Publishers Association, which said organizers' decision to "take sides and give Israel a platform has undermined the ideals of dialogue and efforts to build mutual understanding.

"Siding with Israel while forgetting the suffering of the Palestinian people is like reading only one book to feel like you understand the whole world."

The education ministry in Malaysia said it was pulling out, citing organizers "pro-Israel stance".

The Sharjah Book Authority, in the United Arab Emirates, and the Emirates Publishers Association have also withdrawn, while the UAE-based National newspaper reported the Arab Publishers' Association in Egypt had pulled out.

Asked about the withdrawals, fair director Juergen Boos told a news conference he was "very disappointed" some participants had chosen not to come "because of geopolitics".

"That's a complete for disaster for us, for myself. I want people to be here, to have a (frank) discourse, to have discussions even if it might be controversial."

Hamas: Number of Israeli captives is 200-250 22; killed in bombardments

Al-Qassam Brigades spokesman Abu Obeida indicated late on Monday that the number of Israeli captives in Gaza is between 200 and 250.

In a press conference, Abu Obeida affirmed that 22 Israeli captives had been killed due to the continuous Israeli bombardment of the Gaza Strip.

"The latest casualties from the occupation bombardment include an Israeli artist."

"We have a group of detainees of various nationalities, and we consider them as our guests. We will release them when the field conditions allow us to do so."

"We confirm to the whole world and to anyone who wishes to intervene in the prisoners' issue, and to our prisoners and their families, that we are determined to bring joy, God willing, to every Palestinian home. This is a promise we made to ourselves."

Abu Obeida also said the Israeli ground invasion of Gaza would provide a chance for the Palestinian resistance to avenge the casualties of the ongoing genocide in the Strip.

"Since the first day of this battle, the enemy has resorted to brutal and savage aggression against our people instead of confronting the fighters on the battlefield." ?

The Israeli enemy did not anticipate that a besieged Arab power in Gaza would deliver the heaviest blow in its history, Abu Obeida pointed out.

Unprecedented revenge

From page 1 ▶ It did not occur for a split second that the Palestinians could carry out such a magnitude of attack, that was successful as a result of the security and intelligence failure of the Wrong State.

Below are five points of strength demonstrated in the Al-Aqsa Flood battle:

1) The initiative to launch an unprecedented attack. Since the establishment of the Wrong State, never has the confrontation moved into the 1948 borders, whilst the resistance has gone from being defensive to offensive, employing the doctrine of surprise and not reacting based on partial issues, rather its title is the liberation of occupied lands. Gaza itself has gone from once being occupied to sweeping the South of the occupied territories.

2) The timing. The Al-Aqsa Flood battle was announced during a festival celebration for the Zionists and on a Saturday, some days after the resistance in Gaza maneuvered using the same means used in this operation.

3) Palestinian military capabilities. The Zionist intelligence had no knowledge of this level of advancement in the military capabilities, such as the number of missiles possessed, that would enable carrying out an operation of this size that can go on for a long time. The Wrong State still does not know what hidden cards are in their enemy's possession and how far they are willing to go in this battle towards liberation.

4) Support for the Palestinian nation. The Zionist intelligence does not know the extent of the sources and methods of logistical support provided. The

Wrong State is apprehensive about the unity of the axis, whereby the fronts come together to strengthen each other. Intervention occurs from the closest and most effective front, depending on the favorable political atmosphere in the event of a decline or suffocation in the arena facing direct confrontation. The practical meaning of unity of the fronts is that no arena will be allowed to break or is left on its own, joining the active front in the event of widespread progress and intervening before any front collapses. For example, if the West Bank is besieged and begins to suffocate as a result of enemy raids, Gaza intervenes. However, if Gaza is singled out, it will maneuver and the Lebanese front may intervene, and further onto Syria, Yemen, Iraq, and even Iran. This battle has made it clear to the Wrong State that every arena is moving to accumulate power and enhance capabilities, showing off their presence so their enemies will know the extent of their commitment and seriousness.

5) Creativity and execution of the Palestinians. Consider the speed with which they are reaching their goals, the capacity to reach those goals and the extent of the destruction caused by the Al-Aqsa Flood battle, in terms of the number of the land seizures and killing of soldiers. The seizures are of a strategic nature, from military bases to headquarters and settlements, occurring with great professionalism. The logistical facilitation in transporting prisoners, spoils and what follows on from the seizure and replacement of forces in the captured settlements has dealt a blow for the Wrong State, whilst the continuation of controlling seized sites and prolonging the confrontation depends on the developments and course of the battle.

Archaeologist elaborates on Sassanid temple discovered in northeast Iran

TEHRAN – Iranian archaeologist Meysam Labbaf-Khaniki has recently elaborated on a series of excavations that led to the discovery of an ancient fire temple estimated to date from the Sassanid era.

Discovered in Bazeh Hur, which is situated some 70 km from Mashhad, the capital of Khorasan Razavi province, the sanctuary is reminiscent of pure Sassanid architecture in northeast Iran.

In addition to numerous pieces of pottery and glass, pieces of plaster bearing Middle Persian script have provided valuable information about the nature of this fire temple and its founders, ILNA quoted Labbaf-Khaniki as saying on Monday.

He said the interior spaces are decorated with exquisite stucco and its central core was built using high-quality bricks and plaster materials."

"In addition to numerous pieces of pottery and glass, pieces of plaster bearing Middle Persian script have provided valuable information about the nature of this fire temple and its founders."

The findings of the last season indicate that scenes of high-ranking officials, feasts, hunting, and performing ritual ceremonies were displayed on the walls of this fire temple using plaster, the archaeologist said.

"Unfortunately, most of them have been suffered by natural events and human interventions over time."

Based on the significant size of this religious collection, the quality of the materials used, the style and theme of the architectural decorations, the geographical location, and the way of using the architectural spaces, this fire temple is considered the most important place of worship in northeastern Iran during the Sassanid period, and the research on identifying the exact nature It is still going on.

As mentioned by the archaeologist, the temple is in the form of Chahar-Taq, which is an ancient square-shaped brick room surmounted by a domed roof.

Many experts believe it is an exemplar of fine architecture in the time of the Sassanids. "Chahar-Taq (Chahartaq) is a clear example of architectural knowledge and construction technology in the Sassanid period, tourism official Ahmad Danaeinia said earlier this month.

According to sources, Bazeh Hur had been studied by architect/archaeologist Ernst Hertzfeld (1879–1948) and art historian/archaeologist Andre Godard (1881–1965) who wrote articles about the monument.

The Sassanid era (224 CE–651) is of very high importance in the history of Iran. Under Sassanids, Persian art and architecture experienced a general renaissance. Architecture often took grandiose proportions, such as palaces at Ctesiphon, Firuzabad, and Sarvestan, which are amongst the highlights of the ensemble.

Crafts such as metalwork and gem engraving grew highly sophisticated, yet scholarship was encouraged by the state. In those years, works from both the East and West were translated into Pahlavi, the language of the Sassanians.

The Sassanid archaeological landscape also represents a highly efficient system of land use and strategic utilization of natural topography in the creation of the earliest cultural centers of the Sassanid civilization.

In 2018, UNESCO added an ensemble of Sassanian historical cities in southern Iran — titled "Sassanid Archaeological Landscape of Fars Region"-- to its World Heritage list. The ensemble comprises eight archaeological sites situated in three geographical parts of Firuzabad, Bishapur, and Sarvestan. It reflects the optimized utilization of natural topography and bears witness to the influence of Achaemenid and Parthian cultural traditions and Roman art that later made a significant impact on the architecture and artistic styles of the Islamic era.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites

The Architectural Work of Le Corbusier, an Outstanding Contribution to the Modern Movement

Chosen from the work of architect Le Corbusier that survives in eleven countries on four continents, the sites in seven countries on three continents, implemented over half a century, for the first time in the history of architecture attest to the internationalization of architectural practice across the entire planet.

Situated in Argentina, Belgium, France, Germany, India, Japan, and Switzerland, the seventeen sites together represent an outstanding response to some of the fundamental issues of architecture and society in the 20th century.

According to UNESCO, they all were innovative in the way they reflected new concepts, all had a significant influence over wide geographical areas, and together they disseminated ideas of the Modern Movement throughout the world.

Despite its diversity, the Modern Movement was a major and essential socio-cultural and historical entity of the 20th century, which has to a large degree remained the basis of the architectural culture of the 21st century. From the 1910s to the 1960s, the Modern Movement, in meeting the challenges of contemporary society, aimed to instigate a unique forum of ideas at a world level, invent a new architectural language, modernize architectural techniques, and meet the social and human needs of modern man. The series provides an outstanding response to all these challenges.

Some of the component sites immediately assumed an iconic status and had worldwide influence. These include the Villa Savoye, as an icon for the Modern Movement; Unité d'habitation in Marseille as a major prototype of a new housing model based on a balance between the individual and the collective; Chapelle Notre-Dame-du-Haut for its revolutionary approach to religious architecture; the Cabanon de Le Corbusier as an archetypal minimum cell based on ergonomic and functionalist approaches; and the Maisons de la Weissenhof-Siedlung that became known worldwide, as part of the Werkbund exhibition.

Chinese, Omani arrivals in Iran on rise under visa waiver agreements

TEHRAN – Iran's tourist arrivals from China and Oman have been on the rise over the past couple of years, since the Islamic Republic abolished visa requirements for their nationals.

"Statistical studies show the numbers of Chinese and Omani nationals traveling to Iran have increased after the country implemented one-way visa cancellation treaties in [the Iranian calendar year] 1398 (started on March 2017)," ISNA quoted a tourism official as saying on Tuesday.

Iran's spring tourist arrivals from China show a 57 percent increase compared to the same three-month period in 2017, Moslem Shojai said.

In addition, data provided by some travel platforms, such as Tuniu Corporation, a Chinese online travel agency, suggest Iran and several other countries in West Asia and Africa have become the new favorite "unexpected names" on Chinese travelers' list of summer vacation destinations this year.

Talking to ISNA, the official said the visa waiver program for Oman nationals reflected an instant impact. "The number of Omani nationals visiting Iran jumped 97 percent during the first month after the visa abolishment compared to the same period a year earlier," the official noted.

Oman, for its part, simplified in 2021 its travel rules for Iranian nationals who want to stay in the sultanate for up to 14 days.

To foster tourism, the Islamic Republic is considering a border-easing policy based on which it may unilaterally drop visa requirements for passport holders of 60 states, according to Ali-Asghar Shalbafian who is the deputy tourism minister.

The proposal to waive visa requirements with 60 countries is made by the Ministry of Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts and is currently under consideration by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and relevant authorities.

Before the COVID pandemic, Iran's tourism had constantly been growing, reaching more than eight million visitors in the Iranian calendar year 1398 (started March 21, 2019). That surge, however, helped prejudices to become thick and thin. Iran's tourism, however, was already grappling with some challenges, on top of those Western "media propaganda" aimed at scaring potential travelers away from the Islamic Republic. Some say Iran is still somehow "unknown" for many potential travelers due to such a "media war."

Based on the latest United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) World Tourism Barometer, foreign tourist arrivals in Iran reached some 2.93 million between January and July 2023.

Although the country's performance as a tourism destination is still far below that of 2019, which was before the start of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is improving slightly compared to last year's statistics.

The average statistics of Iran's tourism from January to August 2023 is 50% lower than the same period in 2019 based on the barometer that tracks the sector's post-pandemic recovery throughout 2023 up to the end of July.

Another statistic compiled by Iran's tourism ministry indicates the country saw 3.35 million tourist arrivals in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21), which soars 38 percent year on year.

The Islamic Republic expects to reap a bonanza from its numerous tourist spots such as bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, mausoleums, churches, towers, and mansions, of which 27 are inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage list.

Persian handicrafts showcased at Japan fair

TEHRAN – A selection of Iranian handicrafts have been put on show at the AGEO World Fair, recently held in the Japanese city of Saitama.

A range of handcrafted works such as ones created with techniques of miniature, metalwork, enamel, mosaic, inlay, marquetry, and traditional dolls were showcased in the exhibit organized by the Municipality of Saitama Prefecture, Tasnim reported on Monday.

Representatives of 25 countries, including Iran, and several cultural industries attended the fair held at the venue of the International Exhibitions of the Municipality of Saitama Prefecture in Japan, the report said.

The pavilion of the Islamic Republic of Iran was highly welcomed by those admiring the Iranian culture especially students of the Persian language and literature.

Iran's Cultural Attaché to Japan Ali Sa'adatazar attended the fair and visited the Iranian handicrafts and cultural products

showcased at the exhibition, Tasnim said.

Among the highlights of the Iran pavilion were handmade dolls representing fictional characters, Iranian cartoons, and traditional clothing.

"The fair is a good platform for introducing the cultural achievements of the country to the Japanese people," Sa'adatazar said.

As mentioned by the Cultural Heritage, Tourism, and Handicrafts, the value of Iran's handicraft exports stood at $400 million during the first ten months of the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (Mar. 21, 2022—Jan. 20, 2023). "Compared to the same period a year earlier, the figure represents some 30 percent growth."

At present, a total of 13 cities and three villages in Iran have been registered by the World Council of Handicrafts as "world cities of handicrafts". The World Crafts Council is a non-profit, non-governmental organization that was founded in 1964 to promote fellowship, foster economic development through income-generating craft-related activities, and organize exchange programs, workshops, conferences, and exhibitions.

Sacred Defense: Iran to promote war tourist destinations

TEHRAN – Iran's tourism ministry is set to facilitate visits to former war zones in the west and southwest of the country.

"We are trying to promote and facilitate visits to [museums and former war zones and] sites that are associated with the Sacred Defense," IRNA quoted the deputy tourism minister as saying on Tuesday.

"An approach is to offer integrated tours to visitors of historical, cultural, and ancient places in the west and southwest of the country," Ali-Asghar Shalbafian said.

The 1980-1988 Iran-Iraq, locally marked as Sacred Defense, was launched by the order of former Iraqi President Saddam Hussein nearly 19 months after the victory of the Islamic Revolution.

For those interested in visiting an epitome of the frontline elsewhere from the former battlefields, Tehran embraces several destinations; the Sacred Defense Museum, Tehran Peace Museum, and Behesht-e Zahra—a graveyard where many of the martyrs are buried. The epic-scale Sacred Defense Museum does bargain something different in modern Iranian history where you can delve into wreckages of rockets, tanks, rifles, vessels, mortars, radars, air defense systems, grounded jets, military supplies, and artillery pieces amongst others.

The museum is equipped with a state-of-the-art visual system, including projections and video walls, while audio recordings relevant to each period contribute to its charm. The recreation of the liberation of the city of Khorramshahr using virtual exhibits and video projections is among the main features of the museum, where a replica of the Khorramshahr mosque is adorned with creamy and turquoise patterned tiles.

Amongst various border cities directly involved in the war, Khorramshahr is highly honored as a symbol of resistance during the war against Iraqi invaders. The port city is high on the 'will go' index of adventure travelers interested in such niche tourism.

When it comes to civilians, war destinations formerly were objects of interest for many photojournalists appearing solely on pages of crime, but now they can be traced within certain travel books and websites.

Experts say former war zones and museums are sometimes triggered to make guesses about the stories of people who lost their lives, displaced, wounded, captured, or lost their loved ones in those bitter moments of mankind.

The Iran-Iraq War was the second-longest war of the 20th century after the Vietnam War.

Archaeology student has uncovered a rare cache of 17th-century coins hidden under a fireplace

A University of Glasgow archaeology student on her first dig in August discovered a trove of ancient coins under a fireplace in Glen Coe, Scotland. Believed to have once belonged to a highland chief, the 36 coins, dating back to the late 1600s, were found at what was believed to have been a hunting lodge or feasting hall.

"As a first experience of a dig, Glencoe was amazing," said Lucy Ankers, the student who came upon the ancient coins. "I wasn't expecting such an exciting find as one of my firsts. I don't think I will ever beat the feeling of seeing the coins peeking out of the dirt in the pot."

As first reported by the Guardian, the collection includes international currency from the reigns of some of history's most iconic monarchs, including Elizabeth I, James VI, and Charles II. Other discoveries included pottery from England, Germany, and the Netherlands as well as musket and fowling shot, a gun flint, and powder measure.

The coins are believed to have been the property of clan chief Alasdair Ruadh "Maclain" MacDonald, who was the victim of a massacre of those who had attempted to restore the Catholic James II of England and Ireland and VII of Scotland after his deposition by his Anglican daughter Mary and her husband, William of Orange.

(Source: Artnet)

Decent work, social protection needed for eradication of poverty

From page 1 ▸ It draws on first-hand testimonials showing that those trapped in extreme poverty often work long, grueling hours in dangerous, unregulated conditions but still cannot earn enough income to adequately support themselves and their families.

Similarly, universal social protection is urgently needed to guarantee income security for everyone, prioritizing society's most vulnerable members.

The theme is also a call to political leaders and policymakers to use human dignity as the guiding compass in all decision-making processes, to ensure the advancement of fundamental human rights and social justice over the pursuit of corporate profits.

Strong global partnerships between governments, businesses, and civil society organizations are vital to achieving equitable development and ensuring no one is excluded or left behind.

Therefore, this year's observance is a chance to stand in solidarity with people living in poverty, truly listen to their daily struggles, and renew commitments to create a just economy focused on protecting human and environmental wellbeing over maximizing financial gains. The ultimate goal is to eliminate poverty entirely by creating the conditions for everyone to live with dignity.

In a world characterized by an unprecedented level of economic development, technological means, and financial resources, millions of persons are living in extreme poverty is a moral outrage.

Poverty is not solely an economic issue, but rather a multidimensional phenomenon that encompasses a lack of both income and the basic capabilities to live in dignity.

Persons living in poverty experience many interrelated and mutually reinforcing deprivations that prevent them from realizing their rights and perpetuate their poverty, including dangerous work conditions, unsafe housing, lack of nutritious food, unequal access to justice, lack of political power, and limited access to health care.

National document on removing poverty

A comprehensive document on the eradication of poverty is being drafted, Mohammad-Mehdi Zahedi-Vafa, an official with the Planning and Budget Organization, has said.

"A center for monitoring poverty will be set up by integrating data bases from around the country," he added, IRNA reported.

Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei has tasked heads of the three branches of the government to take serious measures toward poverty eradication, Zahedi-Vafa stressed.

In April 2022, Ayatollah Khamenei outlined policies for materializing goals of social security in line with the objectives of the Constitution.

The policies aim to improve social welfare, remove poverty, and support vulnerable strata of society, mainly the elderly, the disabled, and people without caretakers.

Reaching the goals entails an efficient, justice-based, and comprehensive administrative system consistent with Islamic-Iranian patterns and powered by public participation that will expand services to underprivileged people living in urban and rural areas.

President Ebrahim Raisi has also said no one should be denied the opportunity for education due to poverty.

The occurrence of fourth earthquake in Herat and future possible scenarios

BY Mehdi Zare

TEHRAN – In Herat, Afghanistan, since October 15 , when the first event with a magnitude of 6.2 was recorded, the fourth strong earthquake shook the region on the morning of October 23 at 8:06 a.m. local time with a magnitude of 6.4.

The focal depth of the 15 October earthquake was reported to be 10 km. More than 2400 people have been killed in this area in the northwest of Herat from 7 to 15 October. The epicenter of the earthquake is located 30 km from Herat (with a population of 300,000 people).

In Herat region, Afghanistan, people live in vulnerable buildings. No major damage was reported to the buildings in Herat city, and there were only reports of damage to some brick buildings from inside the city.

Many aftershocks have occurred in the sequence of strong earthquakes that continue. On October 11 and 15, two more earthquakes with a magnitude greater than 6 occurred, which, like the October 7 earthquakes, had a mainly compressive mechanism.

Structurally, Afghanistan is located in the vast and complex collision zone between the Arabian, Indian, and Eurasian plates.

North and central Afghanistan is separated by the Harirud (Herat) fault system, whose displacement is known based on geomorphic features, and rupture It is a dextral strike-slip extension and compressional displacement. This fault system is less seismically active than the Chaman fault that passes through the east of the country.

Earthquakes of 849 AD with a magnitude of 5.6, 1102 AD with a magnitude of 5.6, 1364 AD with a magnitude of 5.9, and the earthquake of September 24, 1950, with a magnitude of 5.7, all with an estimated magnitude of less than 6 have been reported in the historical history of Herat earthquakes.

On October 7, 2023, the first event with magnitude 6.3 occurred at 11:11 local time, an aftershock of magnitude 5.5 eight minutes later, and another event of magnitude 6.3 at 11:42, followed by an aftershock of magnitude 5.9.

On October 11, the third 6.3 earthquake shook the region with a compression mechanism and shallow depth and east-west direction. The epicenter of these earthquakes is located between the Siakhoblouk fault in the north and the Herat fault in the south.

According to Sentinel-1A satellite data, an area measuring 30 km by 15 km and extending east to west around the location of these earthquakes has risen by about 30 cm.

The deformation of the ground is scattered and it is inferred that the earthquakes were probably not associated with a specific surface rupture. Based on the characteristics of the Herat fault zone, it seems that the rupture plane towards the south is the cause of the biggest events in the earthquakes that have

occurred so far.

On the other hand, according to the earthquakes that have occurred so far, three scenarios can be expected for the continuation of earthquakes in the Herat region to reach a new stress stage in the fault zone.

First, moderate earthquakes may continue as clusters of numerous small to medium events for a long time.

The second scenario is the possibility of several earthquakes with a magnitude between 6 and 6.5. And the third scenario is the possibility of an earthquake with a magnitude of more than 6.5 in the same area so that the earthquakes that have happened so far will all be pre-earthquakes of that main earthquake.

UNICEF to strengthen emergency response capacities in Iran

TEHRAN – The United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the Iranian Drug Control Headquarters have cooperated to develop an emergency protocol for staff working with at-risk adolescents to enhance their capacity for addressing youth needs during emergencies.

They also held two workshops in August and September, the UNICEF website reported.

Thanks to these programs, social workers, experts, counselors, volunteers, and peers will be able to provide much more effective services in case of any emergencies to vulnerable youth, adolescents and their families.

The aim of these workshops was to expand the technical needs of those working with vulnerable and at-risk girls to provide more efficient services to them in case of emergencies.

During the first workshop, in addition to capacity building on crisis management and specialized interventions, a protocol for UNICEF-supported Adolescent Wellbeing Centers in Mashhad and Kermanshah was developed to strengthen their emergency response capacity, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on October 15.

In the second workshop, the participants reviewed the emergency protocol and action plan for emergencies and finalized it, the report said.

Being a disaster-prone country, Iran is highly susceptible to earthquakes, and floods, the natural hazards that have had a strong effect on people including adolescents with unique needs and challenges.

These incidents interfere with their lives leaving a life-long influence on their physical, emotional, and psychological well-being.

So prioritizing adolescents' needs during emergency response and recovery efforts is essential.

Providing safe spaces, psychosocial support, access to education, wellbeing services, and opportunities for recreation and skill-building are essential for their well-being and resilience, the report added.

Recent programs supported by UNICEF

UNICEF held a skill-building workshop from September 9 to 11 in cooperation with the Ministry of Sports and Youth.

Enhanced Mental Health, and Psychosocial Support Services (MHPSS) aimed to facilitate young people's employability.

This workshop was funded by the Netherlands and aimed to expand the Adolescent and Youth Empowerment and Wellbeing Program.

It empowers the youth and facilitates their access to decent job opportunities

The main goal of the workshop was to increase the capacity of NGOs to effectively implement the Adolescent and Youth Empowerment and Employability Program.

This initiative builds upon the success of pilot programs in Kermanshah and Isfahan in 2021.

In addition to granting adolescents and youth access to technical and vocational training and

UNICEF held a workshop in January for girls who are at risk of social harm.

innovative skills-building, it connects these young individuals with entrepreneurship programs in the private sector, facilitating a seamless transition from learning to earning, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on September 21.

In September, UNICEF installed some fabricated classrooms and distributed hygiene and baby kits among people in the earthquake-affected city of Khoy in collaboration with the ministries of education and health.

Also, according to a report released by the UNICEF website on September 7, four schools in Khoy, affected by the earthquake, were equipped with new educational spaces. Three of these schools are located in inaccessible villages and the fourth one is in Khoy.

UNICEF, in cooperation with the Ministry of Education, facilitated the process of purchasing, delivering, installing, and equipping these prefabricated classrooms to ensure the access of earthquake-affected children to quality education.

In the next step, UNICEF plans to rehabilitate 12 schools in earthquake-affected, hard-to-reach villages in Khoy County to enhance the learning environment and opportunities for children, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on September 5.

Meanwhile, families received health packages in 15 earthquake-affected villages of Khoy. UNICEF prepared and presented these packages in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and Medical Education to ensure children and families access the vital support to be healthy.

In August, UNICEF held a training workshop named "Wash Bottleneck Analysis Tool" (WASHBAT) in Tehran aimed to enhance Iranian children's access to safe and sanitary water throughout the country.

The three-day event was held from August 14 -16 in cooperation with the Ministry of Energy.

WASHBAT, a tool developed by UNICEF and global partner organizations, serves as a valuable approach for assessing and analyzing the Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) situation in a country. It helps in identifying challenges, suggesting solutions, prioritizing interventions, and developing an action plan to address these challenges, the UNICEF website announced in a press release on August 24.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Iranian researchers produce nano-mask with 99.9% lethality to coronavirus

Researchers at the Institute of Materials and Energy affiliated with the Ministry of Science, produced nano face masks that can kill coronavirus by 99.9 percent.

According to ISNA, Abuzar Masoudi, a faculty member of the Materials and Energy Research Institute, said that since the fibers of the fabric are hydrophilic. Therefore, the behavior of the virus is different, so different masks have been offered, including the FFP1 mask, which prevents up to 95 percent of the virus and up to 80 percent of the bacteria. While the N95 mask resists the virus up to 95 percent, and up to 100 percent of the bacteria.

محققان ایرانی ماسک نانو با قدرت کشندگی ۹۹.۹ درصد ویروس کرونا تولید کردند

محققان پژوهشگاه مواد و انرژی زیر نظر وزارت علوم، تحقیقات و فناوری ایران با استفاده از لایه نشانی نانو ذرات به پارچه به الیافی دست یافتند که قادر به تخریب ۹۹.۹ درصدی ویروس کرونا هستند.
به گزارش ایسنا، ابوذر مسعودی عضو هیات علمی پژوهشگاه مواد و انرژی گفت از آنجایی که الیاف پارچه آب دوست هستند؛ از این رو رفتار ویروس متفاوت است و بر این اساس ماسک‌های مختلفی عرضه شده است که از آن جمله می‌توان به ماسک FFP1 اشاره کرد که تا ۹۵ درصد از ورود ویروس و تا ۸۰ درصد از ورود باکتری جلوگیری می‌کند. این میزان برای ماسک N95 تا ۹۵ درصد ویروس و تا ۱۰۰ درصد باکتری می‌شود.

IRCS intends to establish field hospital near Gaza

TEHRAN - The Iranian Red Crescent Society (IRCS) is trying to set up a field hospital close to the Gaza border in Egypt to treat the wounded Palestinians.

"Unfortunately, it is not possible to provide relief consignments or even send basic needs to the Palestinian people," Pirhossein Kolivand, head of the IRCS, said on Monday, ISNA reported.

He continued, "We are consulting to establish a field hospital for the treatment of people through Egypt and in an area next to the Gaza border."

Health Ministry negotiating to help

Following the humanitarian crisis caused by the Zionist regime's attacks on Palestinians in Gaza, the Health Ministry is negotiating with international bodies and organizations to provide assistance to people.

Hossein Farshidi, the deputy health minister, has announced that the Ministry is ready to provide any kind of aid to the oppressed people of Gaza, IRNA reported.

Mohammad-Hossein Niknam, another health official, in separate calls with Mohammad Abdel-Ahad, the representative of the United Nations Population Fund in Iran, as well as the representative of the United Nations Children's Fund in the country, highlighted the mission of international organizations in humanitarian affairs and human rights and emphasized the need to provide international aid.

Also, in a letter to the head of the World Health Organization, the Medical Council of the Islamic Republic of Iran condemned the attack on hospitals and medical staff in Gaza and warned about the critical health and medical conditions in the region.

On Saturday, Kolivand sent a message to Mohammed Al-hadid, his Jordan counterpart.

Referring to the large number of civilians, particularly women and children, who were killed and injured in armed conflicts in Gaza, Kolivand announced readiness to send humanitarian relief consignments as well as dispatch medical teams to Jordan to treat injured Palestinians.

TEHRAN TIMES

www.tehrantimes.com

Managing Director: **Mohammad Mahdi Rahmati**

Editor-in-Chief: **Mohammad Sarfi**

Editorial Dept.: Fax: (+98 21) 88808214 — 88808895
Email: info@tehrantimes.com
Switchboard Operator: Tel: (+98 21) 43051000
Advertisements Dept.: Telefax: (+98 21) 43051430
Public Relations Office: Tel: (+98 21) 88805807
Subscription & Distribution Dept.: Tel: (+98 21) 43051603
Printed at: Jame Jam Bartar Borna - 44197737

Tehrantimes79

No. 18, Moghadasi Alley, Nejatollahi St., Tehran, Iran **P.o. Box:** 14155-4843 **Zip Code:** 1599814713

OCTOBER 18, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Lying would negatively influence your livelihood.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:50 Evening: 17:44 Dawn: 4:50 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:14 (tomorrow)

Photo exhibition displays Palestinians' resistance against Israel

From Page 1 ▶ Palestinian Resistance fighters launched Operation Al-Aqsa Flood against the positions of the Israeli regime in the occupied territories October 7, from the Gaza Strip, which shocked the regime, because such an inclusive and unprecedented operation occurred for the first time in 75 years of the Israeli occupation of Palestine.

With Israel's colossal intelligence defeat during the Hamas 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. 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.

Over 2,800 people, including more than 800 children, have been killed in Israel's bombing campaign in Gaza.

Th photo exhibition is a visual narration of the events happening in the occupied territories. It narrates pride and resistance of the Palestinians in such conditions.

"With the Al-Aqsa Flood Until the Last Day" exhibition is the first exhibition that has an opening date but no certain end date. We hope that it ends by the victory of the Palestinian people," Seyed Ehsan Bagheri, director of Iran Photographers House, said at the opening ceremony.

Israel occupied Gaza in 1967 and in 2005 they dismantled their settlement. However, since 2007, Israel has placed Gaza under a land, sea, and air blockade making it the largest open-air prison. Plenty of evidence emerged of Palestinian children being killed, injured, and pulled out of rubble.

"The photos displayed in this exhibition are updated and changed every week. The older photos are added in a smaller form on one of the walls of the gallery. We hope to witness the victory of the great Palestinian nation as soon as possible," he added.

Speaking about the selection of the photos, Bagheri said: "We did our best to communicate with the photographers and news agencies operating in Palestine to get the available photos and we try to continue the same trend so that we can have more up-to-date photos with more variety on display."

The exhibition is underway from Saturdays to Wednesdays, 10:00 am to 7:00 pm, at the Iran Photographers Gallery No. 1 based in Art Bureau, located on Somayeh Street, between Qarani and Hafez streets.

Cultural transformation plays vital role in fight against Israel, Iranian writer says

TEHRAN – A cultural transformation could hold the key to ending Israel's oppressive regime, Iranian writer and cultural expert Kurosh Aliani has said.

Solely relying on military actions and missile fire will not bring about significant change, ISNA quoted the writer of the book "Metastasis of Israel" as saying on Tuesday.

Instead, he emphasizes the importance of challenging the very foundations of Israel's ideology of apartheid.

As long as the idea of segregation persists and global powers find benefit in supporting it, Israel will continue to exist and perpetrate its crimes, he explained.

By discrediting the culture of apartheid on a global scale, the international community can create an environment where Israel's actions are no longer tolerated or accepted, he noted.

Widespread condemnation and rejection of apartheid can pave the way towards dismantling Israel's oppressive practices, he added.

Referring to the recent events in Palestine and Gaza, the writer emphasized the importance for journalists and media activists to educate themselves about the complexities of the Israel-Palestine conflict.

Rather than conducting investigations, a simple act of reading and researching is sufficient to gain a basic understanding of the topic, he noted.

The abundance of written sources available on Israel and Palestine, making it easily accessible for those who are interested in learning, he added.

With a simple search, one can uncover a wealth of content that contributes to a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter, he explained.

Furthermore, the writer recommends the translation and reading of texts, books, and articles written by Israeli writers.

These sources provide a unique perspective, as Israeli writers openly discuss their own country's historical massacres with utmost candor, he said.

There are some books authored by Israeli founders and prime ministers that shed light on their own historical atrocities committed in Palestine that needed to be translated, he stated.

Tehran Short Film Festival sees surge of intl. entries, official says

TEHRAN – The 40th edition of the Tehran International Short Film Festival (TISFF) has experienced a significant increase in international entries this year, the secretary of the festival has said.

The festival secretariat received a total of 8,997 short films during the submission period for both national and international sections, Mehdi Azarpendar announced on Sunday.

Out of this figure, 1,781 entries were from the national section, while 7,216 were from the international section, he added.

The figure shows a remarkable growth of 44 percent in international submissions, whereas there was an 11 percent decrease in national entries compared to the previous year's edition, he explained.

He also highlighted that this upsurge in international submissions indicates an escalating interest among foreign filmmakers to partake in this year's festival.

Although the total number of accepted films may be lower than in previous editions, the organizers have emphasized the importance of quality, he noted.

As a result of the festival's global renown, the selection process has been strict, with films scrutinized closely for their quality.

Furthermore, he shared that Tehran Short Film Festival is known to be one of the most competitive festivals on the international circuit. "In fact, out of 1000 entries, only eight make it to the festival stage."

For the first time, 55 percent of the accepted films are from provinces outside of Tehran, indicating significant growth in this area over previous years, he mentioned.

The festival's main objective is to exhibit the diverse and exceptional works of filmmakers hailing from various parts of Iran, he stated.

He also said that side events include film screenings, workshops, and talks by renowned film directors, alongside a special segment focusing on books and cinema, and a section dedicated to emerging talent.

This year's festival brings attention to the works of Dariush Yari, a leading figure in the short film industry, he added.

The festival also honors the memories of Morteza Pour-Samadi and Mehdi Emami, who recently passed away, he concluded.

Back in August, the festival organizers announced that this edition of the festival received over 7,000 submissions from 131 countries.

Spain stands first with 913 submissions, and next comes India with 553 films, and then France with 494.

The countries of the U.S., China, Italy, Brazil, Russia, Britain, Turkey, Germany, South Korea, Mexico, Canada, Poland and Argentina stand next respectively.

The Tehran International Short Film Festival has been held for 40 consecutive years in Iran, by the Iranian Youth Cinema Society – one of the most renowned schools of cinema and short film production in Iran and throughout the world. With more than 80 branches across the country and a family of 250 thousand graduates, the Iranian Youth Cinema Society has gone through excellent educational and effective filmmaking courses, producing hundreds of short films every year and winning hundreds of awards from prestigious and prominent international film festivals in the past four decades.

TISFF is approved by the Academy Awards® (Oscars) and the winner of the Grand Prize becomes eligible for the Oscars.

The 40th edition of the Tehran International Short Film Festival will be inaugurated on Thursday and will run until October 24.

Cartoon of Day

Genocide in Gaza

Cartoonist: Nedal Ali Deep from Syria

Israel-Hamas tensions hit Frankfurt Book Fair

The Israel-Hamas war is set to overshadow the Frankfurt Book Fair this week after the postponement of a Palestinian author's award ceremony sparked condemnation from top writers and the withdrawal of several Arab groups.

The world's biggest publishing trade event begins Wednesday just over a week since Hamas launched the shocking attack in Israel, unprecedented in its history, prompting Israel to respond with a relentless bombing campaign of the Gaza Strip, AFP reported Tuesday.

Organizers swiftly denounced the Palestinian militants' assault and rushed to reorganize the schedule, pledging Israeli voices would feature prominently.

The fair "stands with complete solidarity on the side of Israel," director Juergen Boos said in a statement.

But the run-up to the five-day event has been overshadowed by a furious backlash after an award ceremony for Palestinian author Adania Shibli was postponed.

She was due to receive the LiBeraturpreis, a German award, for her book "A Minor Detail," based on the real events of a 1949 rape and murder by Israeli soldiers.

The novel was nominated for a National Book Award for Translated Literature in 2020 in the U.S. and was longlisted for the International Booker Prize in 2021 as well.

It is organized by Litprom, which gives out the honor each year at the fair, but the group said they had decided not to go ahead with the ceremony "due to the war started by Hamas".

It said in a statement that it was looking for a "suitable format and setting for the event at a later point," while insisting that: "Awarding the prize to Adania Shibli was never in question."

However, in an open letter released Monday, over 600 signatories including high-profile authors, publishers and literary agents, condemned the move.

Postponing the award amounted to "closing out the space for a Palestinian voice," said the letter, whose signatories included Abdulrazak Gurnah and Olga Tokarczuk, both winners of the Nobel Prize for Literature.

"The Frankfurt Book Fair has a responsibility, as a major international book fair, to be creating spaces for Palestinian writers to share their thoughts, feelings, reflections on literature through these terrible, cruel times, not shutting them down," it added.

Other writers who signed included Pankaj Mishra, William Dalrymple, Colm Toibin and Naomi Klein.

Arab publishers pulling out of fair

Moreover, some Arab publishing industry groups announced at the weekend they were pulling out of the fair.

These included the Sharjah Book Authority, in the United Arab Emirates, which said in a statement: "We champion the role of culture and books to encourage dialogue and understanding between people. We believe that this role is more important than ever."

The Emirates Publishers Association released a similar statement, while the UAE-based National newspaper reported the Arab Publishers' Association in Egypt had also pulled out.

While declining to comment on the decisions of individual exhibitors, Boos insisted the fair was "open to authors, publishers, translators and literature fans from all over the world." It is a "platform for both Israeli and Palestinian voices," he said.

The Frankfurt Book Fair, in its 75th edition this year, runs from October 18 to 22.