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Why Does Axis of Resistance See U.S as its Opponent in the Gaza War?

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Iran FM talks to Russian, British and Brazilian counterparts on Gaza

TEHRAN- Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian has held separate phone calls with foreign ministers of Russia, Britain, and Brazil on the humanitarian disaster in the Gaza Strip and the spread of war beyond Gaza.

In a conversation with his Russian counterpart Sergei Lavrov Friday, they discussed the latest developments in Gaza, expressing concern over the spillover of the Israeli war to other parts of the region.

The international community was encouraged by Amir Abdollahian to step up its efforts to stop Israel's "crimes and genocide" against the Palestinian people in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Lavrov stated that Russia and Iran share a common perspective on the serious situation in Palestine, notably in Gaza, which has been subjected to Israeli airstrikes since October 7.

The senior Russian official stated that his country is fearful that the war's spread may spiral out of control.

Earlier on Friday, Amir Abdollahian held separate phone talks with Syrian Minister of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates Faisal Mekdad and Qatari Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammed bin Abdulrahman bin Jassim Al Thani. ▸ **Page 2**

Iran accounts for 35% of Afghanistan's import market

TEHRAN – The economic adviser of the Iranian president's special envoy in Afghanistan affairs said Iran has a 35 percent share in Afghanistan's import market, which is a considerable figure in bilateral trade ties.

Speaking in an interview with IRNA, Mohammad-Mehdi Javanmard-Ghassab stated that Tehran and Kabul enjoy high capacities to expand bilateral trade relations, especially in the fields of technical engineering services, transportation, and transit.

The economies of Iran and Afghanistan can complement each other, he said, adding that the two countries need a long-term strategic plan to take advantage of these conditions optimally.

Turning to Iran's 35 percent share in Afghanistan's market, Javanmard-Ghasab stressed that the country is seeking to export technology, technical know-how as well as technical and engineering services to Afghanistan.

Increasing the production of Iranian products in Afghanistan is also on the agenda, he emphasized.

According to Mohammad Ghanadzadeh, the deputy head of Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), the trade between Iran and Afghanistan has increased by 20 percent in the current Iranian calendar year (started on March 21). ▸ **Page 4**

Opinion: Blinken's empty proposals

By Mohammad Sarfi
Editor-in-Chief

TEHRAN- Anthony Blinken, the US Secretary of State, has made his second trip to the occupied territories since the beginning of the regime's attacks on Gaza.

According to media reports, Blinken has raised the issue of 'humanitarian pauses' during his meetings with Israeli officials. At the same time, another American official has stated that the temporary ceasefire should be in exchange for the release of Israeli captives. Benjamin Netanyahu has also stated that he does not agree with Blinken's proposal and will continue the bombing and killing of the people of Gaza.

In fact, it must be said that the Israeli army in Gaza is facing challenges beyond its expectations. An army that claims to be the fourth most powerful and technological army in the world has been stuck in less than ten kilometers of progress and consolidation in the depth of Gaza after a week of

Israeli army losing heavily in Gaza

By Ali Karbalaei

TEHRAN- Al-Qassam has staged three major attacks on the Israeli regime's army beyond the separation wall that divides the besieged Gaza Strip from the Israeli-occupied Palestinian territories.

On October, 7 (the first day of Operation al-Aqsa storm), the freedom fighters attacked the Erez crossing point and its military base inflicting heavy casualties on the Israelis.

Although entering a well-equipped military center and killing and capturing almost everyone present in it is very surprising, the operation can be justified.

After the Zionists gradually emerged from the surprise attack, preparations for ground operations hastily began.

One of the most important aspects of this was the unprecedented gathering of forces near Gaza. Hundreds of thousands of Israeli troops are currently stationed around the coastal enclave, with a significant number concentrated in the same area of Erez.

Israel bombardment intensifies; 9500 Palestinians killed in Gaza

At least 231 people were killed in Israeli attacks in the last 24 hours alone in Gaza, bringing the overall death toll since October 7 to 9,488 Palestinians, including 3,900 children and 2,500 women, the Gaza Health Ministry said on Saturday.

24,000 have also been wounded, the ministry said.

In the latest Israeli attacks on Gaza, the ministry spokesperson Ashraf al-Qudra said at least 20 people were killed and another 54 were wounded in the Israeli bombing of al-Fakhoora School.

Also, 2 people were killed in an Israeli airstrike at the gate of Al-Aqsa hospital.

Israeli occupation forces launched a strike on Al-Fakhoura School north of the coastal strip, which houses dozens of refugees. The ministry announced that 105 medical facilities were 'deliberately targeted' by Israeli forces. Also, 150 paramedics have been killed since October 7.

27 ambulance vehicles have been totally destroyed, including two carrying the convoy of victims headed for Rafah on Friday.

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Report

Green tourism: new frontier for sustainable travel in Iran

By Afshin Majlesi

TEHRAN – As Iran looks to fully recover from the impact of the pandemic on its travel industry, new investments can provide a path toward sustainable tourism.

Available evidence suggests the genre is emerging as a new frontier for Iran's tourism when the world becomes more environmentally conscious and the concept of "green tourism" becomes increasingly important.

Home to diverse natural landscapes and cultural heritage gems, Iran has already taken steps to promote green tourism that focuses on minimizing the negative impact of conventional tourism on the environment in a sustainable approach. ▸ **Page 6**

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Iranians shout against Israel as they mark Aban 13

TEHRAN- On Saturday morning, Iranians from all walks of life, especially pupils, flocked to the streets to mark Aban 13, the day students seized the U.S. embassy in Tehran on November 4, 1979.

The day is known as National Day of Students or National Day of Fight against Global Arrogance.

This year Aban 13 (November 4) turned into a scene of protests against Israel, which has been committing indescribable crimes against Palestinians in the Gaza Strip since October 7.

The rallies kicked off in the capital, Tehran, and hundreds of cities and towns across the country at 9:00 a.m. local time (0530 GMT).

The marchers wearing Palestinian keffiyeh chanted slogans such as "Down with the U.S." and "Down with Israel".

Report

From Agreement to Action: rebuilding biodiversity

TEHRAN – 'From Agreement to Action: rebuilding biodiversity' is the theme chosen in 2023 to celebrate World Biodiversity Day.

The aim is to stimulate in particular practical reflection on possible future scenarios by leveraging the concept of "reconstruction".

It is not enough to protect the natural heritage of ecosystems. We must also engage in the regeneration of damaged or threatened environments.

In this regard, November 3rd has been designated as the "International Day for Biosphere Reserves". ▸ **Page 7**

TEHRAN PAPERS

Approval of new U.S. plan against Iran in House of Representatives

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

In an article, Hamshahri discussed the approval of another ineffective plan against the sale of Iranian oil by the United States House of Representatives. It wrote: American lawmakers approved the plan "to stop the berthing of ships carrying Iranian oil". It is unclear how effective this plan will be even if it passes the Senate, is signed by Biden, and becomes a law. The approval of this plan takes place while despite the U.S. sanctions on Iran's oil, the country's crude oil exports are increasing, and some analysts describe the approval of this legislation as a tokenism without specific practical effects. Analysts say that while sanctions against Iran, including oil sanctions, have become a foreign policy tool of Western governments led by the United States, the increase in Iran's oil exports is a result of Tehran's success in bypassing American sanctions. Now, despite the extensive and ineffective sanctions that have been applied against Iran's energy sector, how can this plan reduce Iran's oil sales?

Iran: Tehran looking for peace and America for tension

In a note, the Iran newspaper addressed the Islamic Republic's diplomacy on the Gaza issue and wrote: Iranian resistance diplomacy continues in contrast to Tel Aviv's deadly and bloody war against the Gaza strip, and Tehran pursues the "ceasefire" approach as the most urgent goal in the current situation. Hossein Amir Abdollahian, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, during his recent intensive diplomatic trips to Qatar and Turkey, tried to find a solution to the organized effort of the West to create a deadlock in diplomatic efforts to stop the war on the Gaza Strip. This diplomacy is the opposite of the approach that the United States has taken in the form of a one-sided policy regardless of the current tense events.

Shargh: Changing the phase of diplomacy?

In an analysis, Shargh addressed Iran's nuclear negotiations after the Al-Aqsa Storm operation and said: Iran has repeatedly stated that armed groups in the region act independently; however, the United States of America, while warning about the necessary response and reaction to such attacks by these groups, has tried to introduce Tehran as the main instigator behind the attacks. The Foreign Affairs magazine emphasized in an article that a broader regional crisis may create a confused situation in the world in a way that the West would be distracted from Iran's nuclear decisions or devote resources to stop it. Iran does not hide its strong support for Hamas and has publicly praised the attack. According to analysts, the escalation of the war can create both an opportunity and a strong rationale for Iran to cross the nuclear threshold. A wider regional crisis could create such international turmoil that other powers would not be able to pay attention to Iran's nuclear decisions or devote resources to stopping it.

Etemad: The West's wrong address about the axis of evil

In a commentary, Etemad addressed Netanyahu's ridiculous claim after the Al-Aqsa Storm and said: In his speech with General Benny Gantz and General Yoav Gallant, Netanyahu said: "Iran and Hamas are the axis of evil." George Bush Junior also classified Iran, Iraq, and North Korea as the evil axis. The duality of good and evil, light and dark, civilization and savagery, and according to another narrative, the West and the East, has become more popular in the political literature of the last three decades through the Christian Zionists. Netanyahu says that we are light and Iran and Hamas are dark; we are civilized and Iran and Hamas are savages; we are democrats, and Iran and Hamas are terrorists! These narratives are meaningful in the extreme Zionist ideological view. Christian Zionism, especially in its American form, when it stands next to Israel, actually participates in the war room and the command of the destruction of Gaza and the destruction of the Palestinians, with weapons, money, politics, propaganda, and the presence of military commanders and special forces. Now we are witnessing the unity of Zionism and Christian Zionism. What is being sacrificed here is the truth of Judaism and the truth of Christianity.

They were defeated by Palestine, but like to blame Iran!

Abdol Rahim Ansari

On October 7, 2023, the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas managed to infiltrate the occupied territories from the Gaza Strip in a calculated and surprising move, inflicting heavy casualties on Israel while the regime's security and intelligence forces seemed to have fallen asleep at the wheel.

The fact that a group of fighters living in a cloistered and deprived area were able to fully plan and execute the offensive against a heavily armed military that labels itself as the fourth most powerful army in the world, and the mightiest in the region, makes the attack unprecedented in its kind. The arrogance of the Israeli military vanished as Hamas fighters were able to expose the regime's true colors.

While the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei credited Hamas for planning and executing the offensive and ruled out Iran's direct involvement in the attack, various politicians in Israel and the West have been trying to point the finger of blame at Iran in a bid to cover up Israel's major defeat from Palestinians. Western powers try to reduce Hamas and other resistance groups in the region to mere proxies of Iran that would only take action upon receiving orders from Tehran.

The same statement was reiterated by Sayyed Hassan Nasrallah, the Secretary-General of Hezbollah, in his first speech after the successful Al-Aqsa Storm operation, emphasizing the Palestinian nature of all aspects of the operation, from design to execution.

It is needless to say that both the Leader of the Islamic Revolution and the Secretary-General of Hezbollah have never denied their support for the Palestinian resistance throughout the years and have always been proactive in helping them in all fields. However, they consider this particular incident as solely Palestinian. Nasrallah even clarified that he, like everyone else in the world, was informed about the October 7 offensive the day it happened.

Nevertheless, it seems to be extremely difficult for the West to admit that Israel has been defeated by a small group in the impoverished Gaza Strip, rather than a powerful and influential rival like Iran. The Western media has been trying to highlight Iran's role by promoting narratives they have no evidence for. They pour all their efforts into justifying Israel's colossal and humiliating defeat by trying to tell their audience that Iran had a vested interest in carrying out the October 7 attack!

For instance, on November 2, 2023, Alex Vatanka wrote an article in the Foreign Policy magazine titled «Iran Can't Afford a Regional War» in which the writer said: "As the Israel-Hamas war rages on, Iran's role will continue to be a pivotal question. While Tehran no doubt feels vindicated in its model of armed campaign against Israel, it will likely not seek escalation by confronting Israel and the United States militarily. Instead, Iranian officials seem to consider the war as a moment to elevate Tehran's image in the Islamic world—and in the global south generally".

The author adds that the Islamic Republic "took a major hit" in the Islamic world in the past decade by supporting the government of Bashar al-Assad (Iran spearheaded the fight against Daesh terror forces in Syria and Iraq in the 2010s). He called the armed rebels in Syria who later got drafted into Daesh part of a "popular uprising" that enjoyed the support of Arab world, adding that Iran who is mostly responsible for the vanquishment of these terrorists now wants to restore its position among Muslims by supporting the Palestinian cause.

In response to the false claims made by the Foreign Policy, it is necessary to mention a few points:

1- Palestine is under occupation, and Palestinians have the natural right to resist the occupier at any time and place; they do not need to be incited by the Islamic Republic.

2- Iran has never regretted its support for the Syrian government and its sovereignty. Iran has openly supported Syria and continues to do so to this day.

3- Those who took up arms against Bashar al-Assad were not ordinary Syrian people, but terrorist groups like Daesh which, as confessed by Hilary Clinton, were first founded by the United States. The aim was to exploit popular demand in order to bring the destruction of Syria.

4- The Islamic Republic›s support for the Palestinian cause is not something that started on October 7th for political purposes. Iran has been supporting Palestine for 44 years and has paid a high price for it. Therefore, the claim of Iran benefiting from the Al-Aqsa Storm is either rooted in ignorance or hostility!

Furthermore, the media outlet makes another ridiculous claim and writes: "The reason why Iran is far less certain to act kinetically is not only to do with its military preparedness to confront Israel and the United States. It is also because the concept of the Axis of Resistance is resented by the Iranian public".

The author has, in fact, made a pathetic attempt to make readers think that the Islamic Republic's armed forces are weak and that their ardent support for the Palestinian cause within the framework of the Axis of Resistance does not enjoy popular support.

This is while Iran's military power is in its best shape in the country's modern history. As many analysts have pointed out in the U.S., Iran can lay waste to Israeli and American targets in the shortest time possible and massively change the dynamics of the region.

Additionally, more than 6 million Iranians have declared their readiness to fight against Israel in an online campaign, which indicates the exceptional readiness of a nation under its own sovereignty to fight an illegitimate entity. Iran does not fundamentally see Israel as a threat to itself, but it stands by Palestine and will not leave this nation alone; if Tehran has a role anywhere, it will take responsibility for it and will not be afraid to express it. However, the important operation of the Al-Aqsa Storm, from planning to execution, is the result of the efforts of the Palestinian fighters, and the West, whether it likes it or not, should eventually come to terms with Israel's defeat and accept that their beloved ally, which has been creating a fake image for itself through massive propaganda, has lost to a small group of Palestinians who managed to crush the Israeli regime's patina of invincibility despite years of sanctions and brutal siege.

Iran FM talks to Russian, British and Brazilian counterparts on Gaza

'Palestine crisis is rooted in Israeli occupation'

From page 1 ▸ The readiness of Palestinian resistance groups and other resistance groups in the region to counter the Tel Aviv regime formed the cornerstone of Amir Abdollahian's talks with the Syrian and Qatari foreign ministers.

The top Iranian diplomat censured the occupying Israeli regime for its "barbaric war crimes", including the killing of women, children, civilians, and the extensive destruction of vital infrastructure in the Gaza Strip.

He also said the Zionist regime and the U.S. are "responsible" for the consequences of war crimes in the Gaza Strip.

"Palestinians have rights to oppose Israeli occupation"

In the phone call with his British counterpart James Cleverly on Friday, Amir Abdollahian urged the UK to take a realistic stance toward the events taking place in the West Asia area, noting that the Israeli regime's occupation of Palestine is the primary cause of the conflict.

"I advise that the British government adopt a realistic approach to the region's developments," he said, adding, "In whatever approach, one should know that Palestine's crisis is rooted in occupation by the Israeli regime."

"From the perspective of international law, the people of the occupied country enjoy a right to legitimate defense," the top Iranian diplomat said, noting that the Islamic Republic recognizes confrontation against occupation as a right.

Amir Abdollahian also said it is essential to send humanitarian aid to the stranded Palestinians in Gaza and end the Israeli regime's ongoing war against the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, Iran's foreign minister said the principle of proportion in all wars, stating that the slaughter of more than 9,000 Palestinians "is not acceptable by any circumstances".

Amir Abdollahian further said that the United States' unwavering backing for the Israeli regime has exacerbated regional conflicts.

He continued by emphasizing that the region's resistance forces "do not take orders from Iran, but rather make decisions based on existing circumstances and in line with issues of national and regional security."

Cleverly, for his part, encouraged the Islamic Republic to attempt to prevent the spread of the conflict in the region.

He also emphasized the significance of collaboration between the Islamic Republic and his nation within the scope of current diplomatic norms.

Iran and Brazil discuss need for truce in Israeli war on Gaza

During a telephone conversation on Saturday with his Brazilian counterpart Mauro Vieira, the two chief diplomats stressed the need to establish a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip and dispatch humanitarian aid to the besieged enclave.

Since October 7, Israel has cut off food, water, medicine, electricity and fuel to the besieged Gaza Strip. However, after the passage of many days, Israel has allowed a small number of trucks to deliver aid to Gaza, which houses 2.3 million population

The top Iranian diplomat thanked the efforts made by the Brazilian government in submitting a draft resolution to the United Nations Security Council to end the conflict in Gaza.

For his part, Vieira praised Iran's positive efforts to create peace and security in the region and throughout the world, pointing out Iran's crucial position in the region.

In addition to the necessity of a truce in Gaza and providing humanitarian help to the people living there, he highlighted the need to provide foreign nationals a safe way out of the territory.

Displacement of Gazans a clear example of 'crime against humanity': Iran

TEHRAN- Iran's deputy permanent representative to the UN office in Geneva has vehemently denounced the Israeli regime's attempts to expel the Palestinian inhabitants from the Gaza Strip, calling it a "crime against humanity".

Mahdi Aliabadi made the comments on Friday at a session of the International Organization for Migration's (IOM) Permanent Committee.

"The Israeli regime's ruthless attacks on Gaza will lead to a new displacement crisis. The occupiers have resolved to forcibly evacuate Gaza's population, something which serves as another example of crime against humanity by the Zionist regime," Aliabadi stressed.

Aliabadi went on to add, "The IOM's members cannot remain indifferent towards this crisis, and simply bear witness to the formation of a new crisis of displacement and migration."

He stressed, "It is necessary that the organization adopt a strong and decisive position concerning whatever measure that leads to forcible evacuation of Gaza's population."

As a result, the envoy urged the international community to seriously consider revoking Israel's membership in the IOM.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

IPLAI issues statement on dire situations in Gaza

TEHRAN- Islamic Public Law Association of Iran (IPLAI) has issued a statement to lawyers around the world about the current conditions in Palestine.

The statement was made by more than 500 lawyers.

The original text is in the below:

Oppressor and oppressed have always been in battles, and history has ever since taught us that battles have the main role in political changes in the world. The contemporary era is not an exception to this rule, and there has always been a conflict between the oppressor and the oppressed. Among the most complicated of these conflicts is the Palestinian issue, during which one side, with the support of world powers, has committed many crimes against the Palestinian Muslim nation, and at the top of these crimes is the ignorance of the identity of an independent and noble nation. Unfortunately, during the recent conflicts, the occupying regime has reached new records of brutality towards these helpless people, who are the actual owners of this land. Most of all, the bombardment of Al-Ahli hospital in Gaza, which was a shelter and a safe place for women, children and the wounded, clearly revealed the criminal nature of this bloodthirsty regime and once again reminded us of their previous crimes such as the massacre of Palestinians in Deir Yassin, Sabra, Shatila and Tantura.

Defense Ministry warns enemies not to repeat mistakes

TEHRAN- On the occasion of National Student Day on November 4, Iran's Defense Ministry issued a statement warning the enemies not to repeat what they have tried before.

"National Student Day symbolizes the breaking of the chains of colonialism and it reminds the crippling of America's arrogance by the Muslim nation of Iran," said the statement, adding that the day also reminds great and historical events such as the exile of the late founder of the Islamic Revolution Imam Khomeini (RA), which was a response to the disgraceful capitulation law, the massacre of Iranian revolutionary students, and the U.S. embassy takeover.

The statement reiterated that the coincidence of this year's National Student Day with the child-killing regime's brutalities and war crimes once more depicted the "hideous and hypocritical" face of the U.S. backing the fake regime.

According to the statement, Imam Khomeini's wisdom and enlightened words again came true, calling the U.S. the "great devil".

"The United States has been the source of interference, discord, coup d›état, disturbance and encroachment for years," added the statement, suggesting "resilience and resistance" as the roadmap to push back the great devil.

The lesson that the Iranian nation learned from Imam Hussein (AS)has turned the nation into the road map for the oppressed nations worldwide, as stated by the defense ministry.

In accordance with the defense ministry's statement, the achievements of the Islamic Revolution, attained by the revolutionary nation and the ingenious commands of the Supreme Leader, have surprised and disappointed the enemies.

At the end of the statement, the Defense Ministry staff and their families' tribute was paid to all martyrs of the Islamic Revolution, especially those on November 4 (13 Aban in the Iranian calendar).

Why does axis of resistance see U.S as its opponent in the Gaza war?

By Faramarz Kuhpayeh

TEHRAN – The leaders and supporters of the Resistance Axis have now made it clear that the United States is the main enemy that should be taken on in order to reduce the suffering of the defenseless Palestinian people.

The U.S. has never been on the side of the Palestinian people, or even the broader Arab world. But the current Gaza-Israel war showed how far the U.S. could go to support the occupying regime of Israel, which has a long history of behaving as if it is above international law.

In the early hours of the October 7 attack by the Palestinian resistance groups against Israeli sites, the U.S. and other key Western leaders rushed to offer support, first emotional and then military and logistic, to the incompetent Israeli regime.

The Western support came at a time when Israel has adopted the inhumane strategy of collectively punishing the whole 2.3 million population of the already besieged Gaza Strip. They cut off water, electricity, food, and medicine all while relentlessly bombing hospitals, churches, refugee camps, mosques, schools and other civilian infrastructure. Their goal is crystal clear: now that Egypt has thwarted the displacement plan, Israel should inflict massive humanitarian suffering on the Gazans so that they would pressure the resistance groups not to target Israel again.

This inhumane and cowardly policy was evident from the hallucinations of the Israeli leadership in the wake of the October 7 operation. Israeli President Isaac Herzog has said that "the entire nation" in Gaza are responsible for the operation

because they could have risen up against the resistance groups there! This is akin to saying that ordinary Israelis are to blame because they could have toppled the occupying regime of Israel.

Israeli hubris has prompted many in the West Asia region to wonder why the U.S. is actively supporting Israeli policies that are based on overconfidence and a racist perception of inherent supremacy over all humanity, not to mention the Palestinian nation.

However, the U.S. enabling of the apartheid Israeli regime is now in the crosshairs of the resistance axis in the region.

Sayyid Hassan Nasrallah, the secretary-general of the Lebanese Hezbollah movement, has said in his recent speech that the U.S. is now the main responsible for the unbridled Israeli aggression against the Gaza Strip.

Nasrallah said the U.S. is directly responsible for all the ongoing killings, massacres, and barbarism that are taking place in Gaza.

Underlining that "American hypocrisy" is quite evident, he said American statements that they have advised Israel to adhere to international law in its campaign against Gaza is "empty words and hypocrisy."

Earlier, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, Ayatollah Seyed Ali Khamenei, had also highlighted the American responsibility for Israel's genocidal campaign against the besieged Gaza Strip.

"In the absence of the US's comprehensive support, the Zionist regime will be crippled in a matter of days," Ayatollah Khamenei said in a recent speech.

Referring to the reliance of the Zionists on US support, the Leader pointed out that, "If it were not for the support of the United States and its arms support, the corrupt, fake, and fictitious Zionist government would have collapsed that very first week. Thus, the atrocities in Gaza today by the Zionists have in fact been created with the support of and at the hands of the U.S."

The blind U.S. support for the murderous regime of Israel has put U.S. interests in West Asia in grave danger. The public opinion in the region, particularly among the Arab masses, is inflammatory, with the majority of Arabs seeing the U.S. enabling Israeli atrocities against their fellow Arabs in the Gaza Strip. The mood among Muslims around the world is similar. Even Arab leaders, who have historically been accused by their people as being pro-America, are now deeply resentful that they thought that the U.S. could take a more balanced position on the Palestinian-Israeli conflict. Ironically, Arab leaders are now working to keep America committed to the two-state solution, which they think America is trying to bury in a subtle way by liquidating the whole Palestinian question by displacing the Palestinian population into neighboring countries such as Egypt and Jordan.

And then there is the resistance axis which has already begun its retaliatory strikes against American interests in Iraq and Syria. Nasrallah said the U.S. has sent warning messages to Hezbollah, saying that the U.S. may target the Lebanese movement. The secretary-general responding to these warnings that they are not afraid of U.S. intervention and they even have prepared themselves for a confrontation with the American aircraft carrier stationed off the coast of Lebanon.

The resistance axis has so far acted in a restrained way to avoid a regional conflagration. But the ball is now in the U.S. court. Its blind support for Israeli carnage in Gaza could well ignite the whole region and deliver a fatal blow to American interests. On the other hand, putting an immediate end to the Israeli massacre of the Palestinian people could de-escalate tensions. At the end of the day, Arab and Islamic countries can't sit idly by while Israel is collectively punishing the Gazans.

Al-Aqsa Storm changes global order equations: speaker

TEHRAN – Mohammad Bagher Qalibaf, the speaker of the Iranian parliament, has described the October 7 operation by the Palestinian resistance groups as changing global equations.

Speaking before a gathering in Tehran on Saturday to mark the seizure of the U.S. embassy in Tehran on November 4, 1979, officially known as National Day against Global Arrogance, Qalibaf said, "Operation Al-Aqsa Storm shifted the equations of the world order and its elements and calculation factors. Operation Al-Aqsa Storm was a turning point and changed history. Everyone is talking about a new world order. No matter what America and the Zionist regime do, the situation after Operation Al-Aqsa Storm will not return to its original state."

The speaker pointed to increasing global support for the Palestinian people, underlining that this support derives from a growing sense of countering oppression. "Do those who wanted to support Gaza today have the same ideology as us? They stand against injustice and react if they see injustice. We must know that resistance has a cost and surrender also has a cost. The cost of resistance is like an investment, but the cost of giving up is like paying ransom."

He added, "The end of the path of compromise is bankruptcy and rebellion, and the end of the path of resistance is victory, pride and dignity. We see a clear example of it today, and we don›t need to go back and look back at the past decades. Operation Al-Aqsa Storm itself was a practical example and you will see that it will also be a theoretical example and everyone will write on these issues. This operation was a turning point that changed the history and basics of planning."

He continued, "I say frankly that all those who follow the issues of strategies and geopolitics are talking about a new world order. Undoubtedly, the Al-Aqsa Storm in Palestine shifted the equations of the world order and its elements and calculation factors at the global and regional levels. The Zionist regime and America will never return to their [previous] status no matter what they do."

Qalibaf said, "The Zionist regime always enjoyed foreign support, all they said was that 'we are waging a pre-emptive war' and they always took the battle outside the occupied territories. The Zionist regime always considered its internal security exemplary and was proud of its deterrence power. They used to boast of the Iron Dome. These were all the strengths that the

Zionist regime had drawn for itself during these 75 years, and you saw all this fake power."

The speaker also lambasted Israel's carpet bombing of Palestinian civilians, which he described as a sign of despair.

"The Zionist regime bombards children, women and houses with so many bombs. Is this power? This is the height of evil. This is the height of despicableness. This is the height of helplessness. The Zionist regime and criminal America should know that no matter what happens in Gaza, this turning point will not change. This failure will never be repaired."

Qalibaf said the United States is to blame for the human suffering in Gaza because the Zionist regime is committing its crimes with American support.

If Iran steps in, you'll be buried in Mediterranean, envoy tells Zionist ambassador

TEHRAN – Iran's Ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan, Seyed Abbas Mousavi, has warned that the Israeli regime will be buried in the Mediterranean Sea if Iran enters the conflict currently underway in the Gaza Strip.

The Iranian ambassador was responding to the Israeli ambassador to the Republic of Azerbaijan, George Deek.

"At this stage, only Hamas fighters are enough for you. You are weaker than the web of spider. Remember! If one day Iran intervenes, you will be buried in the Mediterranean Sea instead of the Nile River. You have no way to

escape," Mousavi said, addressing the ambassador of the Israeli regime.

He added, "Now, all the world is against you. The Muslim and brave people of Azerbaijan like other people around the world detest you racist occupiers."

Ever since the October 7 attack by the Palestinian resistance groups against Israeli sites, officials of the Israeli regime have been levelling accusations against Iran, which has denied any direct role in the attack while underlining its general support for the resistance forces in the West Asia region.

Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian spoke over the phone with Ismail Haniyeh, the chief of the political bureau of the Palestinian resistance movement Hamas, on Friday.

The two have had extensive communication during the past few weeks while Israel is continuing its relentless heavy bombardments of the besieged Gaza Strip. The regime has also been targeting Palestinians in the occupied West Bank.

Amir Abdollahian and Haniyeh have met twice since October 7. Their last meeting came on Tuesday, when Iran's senior diplomat held talks with the Hamas leader in Doha, Qatar.

During the meeting, Haniyeh underlined that the Israeli regime has resorted to the massacre of civilians, as it knows that it stands no chance against the fighters of resistance forces.

Millions of Palestinians ready to defend their homeland: IRGC

TEHRAN – The spokesman of Iran's Islamic Revolution Guard Corps declared on Saturday that millions of Palestinian people are ready to pick up arms and begin a fight with the Israeli regime to end 75 years of occupation.

"While the Zionists claim that Hamas should be eradicated, millions of Palestinians are ready to fight and today the spirit of resistance is present in every Palestinian individual. They are ready for the liberation of their land," Ramezan Sharif noted, referring to Israel's collective punishment against the 2.3 million population in Gaza, which ultimately aims to force Palestinians to cede the territory and leave their homes.

The IRGC spokesman added that Western states and Israel thought people around the world had forgotten about the Palestinian cause. But the public opinion of the world is now focused on shedding light on 75 years of tyranny and oppression that Palestinians have had to endure.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

SPORTS

Iran volleyball candidates at a glance

By Farrokh Hesabi

TEHRAN - The Iran Volleyball Federation has selected six coaches as potential candidates for the head coach position of the national men's volleyball team.

The list of contenders for a place on Iran's bench includes Vital Heynen, a Belgian coach, as well as Gianlorenzo Blengini and Roberto Piazza from Italy, Vladimir Alekno from Russia, and Peyman Akbari and Saeid Marouf from Iran.

Mohammadreza Davarzani, president of the Iran volleyball federation, is racing against time to find the perfect head coach for the national team before his four-year presidency term comes to an end.

"To select a foreign coach, it is essential to take into account their knowledge, experience in major competitions, and their ability to develop comprehensive plans and strategies," said Davarzani in a recent interview about the selection process.

"Our goal in negotiating with candidates is to determine who among them is the most suitable for the Iranian national team," he added.

When questioned about Marouf, the former captain of the national team and one of the greatest players in Iranian volleyball history who lacks coaching experience, Davarzani said, "coaching experience is not always a requirement for success, as we know some great players have turned successful coaches in football and volleyball. Their effective presence, leadership, and influence on players are key factors in their achievements.

"Saeid Marouf possesses all the necessary characteristics. We believed he could be a great coach for the Iran national team," added the president of the Iran Volleyball Federation.

Iran's chances of reaching the 2024 Paris Olympics are slim due to poor results in the 2023 FIVB Volleyball Nations League and the Olympic qualifiers.

Iran into Asia Rugby Sevens Trophy 2023 semifinals

TEHRAN – Iran booked its place in the semifinals of the Asia Rugby Sevens Trophy 2023.

Team Melli Banovan defeated Uzbekistan 31-12 and Qatar 22-0 but lost to the UAE 17-0 in its third match.

The 2023 edition feature teams from the host nation Qatar as well as Iran, Guam, Uzbekistan, India, Mongolia, and the UAE.

The event is being held at the Onazia Training Pitch in Doha, Qatar. With 22 teams from 17 countries with a total of 264 men and women participating, it is the biggest 7s event of the year.

The event's champion in the men's and women's categories qualifies to the Asian Series competitions that will be held next year and qualify for the 2027 Rugby Sevens World Cup.

The Asia Rugby Sevens Trophy for men's and women's kicked off on Friday. The two-day trophy is organized by the Qatar Rugby and Hockey Committee at the Al Ersal pitch in Onazia.

Iran's Choopan ready to win Mr. Olympia 2023 title

TEHRAN – Hadi Choopan of Iran is ready to defend his title at the Mr. Olympia 2023.

He has advanced to the final along with Samson Dauda and Derek Lunsford.

Mr. Olympia 2023, the most coveted bodybuilding competition organized by International Fitness and Bodybuilding Federation (IFBB), began on Friday before concluding on Saturday.

Choopan, also known as «The Persian Wolf,» is geared up to defend his title from last year, where he emerged victorious against the two-time champion Mamdouh Elssbiay, famously known as «Big Ramy,» from Egypt.

Elssbiay recently announced his withdrawal from this year's competition due to various injuries.

Choopan overcame years of close calls and watching as his dreams were dashed on the grandest stage known to his sport a year ago, besting one of the most impressive fields in recent Mr. Olympia history.

This year, there are noticeable absentees but Choopan will still have his hands full with a former champion and a group of competitors seeking to win their first title, all while establishing themselves as a force in the industry.

Iran's women's football team to play Jordan

TEHRAN – Iran's women's football team will play two friendly matches with Jordan in Amman.

The matches are scheduled for Dec. 1 and 4.

Jordan will play Iran as part of preparation for the 2024 WAFF Women's Championship, which will be held in Saudi Arabia.

Team Melli have recently participated in the AFC Women's Olympic Qualifying Tournament - Asian Qualifiers Round 2, where they lost to Australia and the Philippines and were held by Chinese Taipei.

Iran start IFCPF Asia Oceania Championships on high

TEHRAN - Favorites Iran earned a comprehensive 3-0 victory over Japan in their opening match in the International Federation of Cerebral Palsy Football (IFCPF) Asia Oceania Championships on Saturday.

All of the goals were scored in the first half. The first was a lovely finish from Abbas Torabi on his left foot, and the second a classic poachers goal from Shamseddin Shahbazikeivanani. The third – Torabi's second - was a powerful header at the back post.

Japan threatened in the second half and fought hard, but could not create enough opportunities to really challenge Iran's three-goal lead.

Team Melli will meet hosts Australia on Sunday.

IFCPF is the world governing body for cerebral palsy football. It was founded in January 2015, when the governance of the sport transferred from the Cerebral Palsy International Sports and Recreation Association (CPISRA) to the IFCPF.

It is a member organization, with members from five different continental zones. The IFCPF has relationships with other international association football sporting bodies. It organizes tournaments for the sport, and is in charge of Paralympic Games inclusion and participation. The IFCPF is a World Anti-Doping Agency (WADA) signatory, and international footballers may be subject to out-of-competition doping controls.

Jong-hyeok to officiate Sepahan v AGMK: ACL Matchday 4

TEHRAN – Korean referee Kim Jong-hyeok has been chosen to officiate the match between Iran's Sepahan and AGMK of Uzbekistan.

The match has been scheduled for Monday in Tehran's Azadi Stadium.

Sepahan sits third in Group C with four points, while AGMK is fourth without a single point.

Jong-hyeok is a South Korean football referee who has been a full international referee for FIFA.

He became a FIFA referee in 2009 and refereed in 2014 FIFA World Cup qualifiers.

New wind farms with capacity of 3,000MW to be constructed across Iran

TEHRAN – The Iranian government's Economic Council has approved a resolution for the construction of new wind power plants with the capacity of 3,000 megawatts (MW) across the country, according to the head of the country's Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Organization (SATBA).

Mahmoud Kamani said the funding for the construction of the mentioned power plants is going to be supplied by private sector investors and the government guarantees the purchase of the produced electricity, IRNA reported.

According to the council's resolution, the government guarantees the purchase of electricity from these wind farms for 4.5 years at a price of 9.5 cents per kilowatt, Kamani explained.

The electricity produced from these power plants can also be traded at Iran Energy Exchange, he said.

Referring to the technical specifications of the mentioned wind power plants, the SATBA head emphasized: "The technical specifications of wind turbines and other equipment of the wind power plants will be in accordance with the standards approved by the Ministry of Energy."

The development of renewable power plants in Iran has accelerated since the current government administration took office in August 2021.

The Energy Ministry in the 13th government has defined new investment packages and strategies to attract more capital to fund new renewable projects across the country.

According to energy experts, such investment models in the 13th government have been a good incentive for investing in this sector.

The mentioned measures led to the capacity of the country's renewable power plants reaching 1,085 MW, which is a very good figure.

Back in July, Kamani said the capacity of renewable power plants is increasing regularly and daily in the country.

Putting the under-construction power plants into operation will further increase this capacity, Kamani said.

Iranian Energy Ministry has put it on the agenda to add 10,000 MW to the capacity of the country's renewable power plants by the end of the current government administration (August 2025).

In January 2022, the Energy Ministry and some of the country's private contractors signed memorandums of understanding (MOU) for cooperation in the construction of new renewable power plants across the country.

Earlier in April this year, the head of SATBA announced the construction of 110,000 solar power plants with a capacity of five kilowatts for low-income groups in the current Iranian calendar year (began on March 21).

Kamani also announced that the tender for the construction of solar power plants with a capacity of 2,200 MW, left over from the plan for the construction of solar power plants with 4,000 megawatts capacity in the past year, will be also held this year.

Regarding the follow-up of the construction of renewable power plants in the current year, the official said that a plan for the construction of renewable power plants was announced by the minister of energy at the beginning of the 13th government, and in 1401 (past Iranian year), the necessary preparations for the implementation of this plan have been followed up and some measures have been taken in this due.

Renewables account for nearly seven percent of the country's total energy generation, versus natural gas' 90 percent share.

Steel ingot export stands at 3.7m tons in H1

TEHRAN- Iran exported 3.7 million tons of steel ingots during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22), the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA) announced.

As announced by the association, 15.422 million tons of steel ingots were produced in the country in the first six months of the present year, down 5.8 percent as compared to the same period of time in the past year.

As previously announced by the ISPA, Iran exported 7.372 million tons of steel ingots in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

The country's steel ingot export fell four percent in 1401, as compared to 1400 when the figure was 7.678 million tons.

The latest report by the World Steel Association (WSA) indicates that Iran's steel output reached 22.1 million tons in the first nine months of 2023, registering a 0.6 percent decline as compared to the same period in the previous year.

Iran was ranked 10th among the world's top steel producers during the first nine months of 2023.

The Islamic Republic's monthly crude steel output stood at 2.4 million tons in September, indicating a decrease of 12.7 percent compared to the figure for September 2022.

The WSA put the crude steel output by the world's top 64 producers at about 1.406 billion tons in the mentioned time span, 0.1 percent less than the figure for the previous year's January-September period.

The Iranian Steel industry has been constantly developing over the past years against all the pressures and obstacles created by outside forces like the U.S. sanctions and the coronavirus outbreak that has severely affected the performance of the world's top producers.

The country is expected to climb to seventh place among the world's top steel producers by the Iranian calendar year 1404 (March 2025).

TEDPIX gains 28,600 points on Saturday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 28,688 points (1.46 percent) to 1,999,208 on Saturday, which is the first day of the Iranian calendar week.

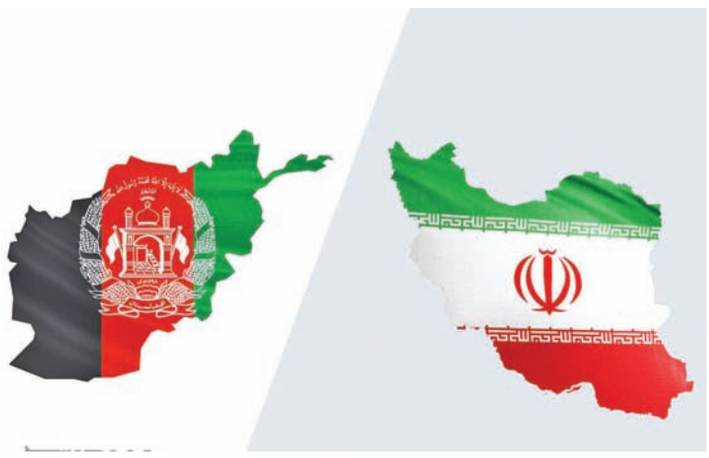
TSE is one of the four Iranian stock exchanges, and the most important one. The other three ones are Iran Mercantile Exchange (IME), Iran Energy Exchange (IRENEX), and Iran's over-the-counter (OTC) market, known as Iran Fara Bourse (IFB).

Iran accounts for 35% of Afghanistan's import market

From page 1 ▸ Speaking to IRNA, Ghanadzadeh said Iran is ready to cooperate with Afghanistan in the country's development and reconstruction projects.

Noting that Iran is Afghanistan's top trade partner, the official put the two country's trade in the previous Iranian calendar year at $970 million.

He said Iran and Afghanistan have previously had an annual trade of $3.0 billion, but Afghanistan's political instability, the lack of infrastructure at border crossings, and the unpreparedness of customs have hindered the development of trade between the two countries.



Stating that TPO is pursuing the signing of a preferential trade agreement with Afghanistan, the official said the negotiations in this regard are moving forward and the lists of the desired goods of the two countries, especially in the agricultural sector, have been exchanged for further investigation.

Increasing non-oil exports to the neighboring countries is one of the major plans that the Iranian government has been pursuing in recent years.

Iran shares land or water borders with 15 countries namely UAE, Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Iraq, Kuwait, Kazakhstan, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, and Saudi Arabia.

Iran exports non-oil goods worth $5.4b to Iraq in 7 months

TEHRAN- Iran exported non-oil commodities valued at $5.4 billion to Iraq during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA) announced.

According to Mohammad Rezvanifar, Iraq was the second top export destination of Iranian non-oil goods in the mentioned seven-month period.

As previously announced by an official with Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO), the value of Iran's export to Iraq increased by 15 percent in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20).

Farzad Piltan, the director-general of TPO's Office of West Asian Countries, said that based on the data released by the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration, Iran exported commodities worth over $10 billion to its neighbor in the previous year.

By stating that Iraq is one of the strategic partners of Iran in the field of foreign trade and especially exports, he put the value of Iran's import from Iraq at about $200 million in the past year.

Considering Iran's vast export capacity and Iraq's large market for Iranian goods, both sides want to expand the volume of bilateral economic exchanges.

Iran and Iraq have set a target of $20 billion in annual trade, and businessmen and authorities of both countries are determined to meet that target, Head of the Iran-Iraq Joint Chamber of Commerce Yahya Ale-Es'haq has stated.

> Iran and Iraq have agreed to improve relations and change monetary and banking conditions.

"In general, Iran and Iraq have agreed to improve relations and change the monetary and banking conditions so that the central banks of the two countries will ease the current situation and solve the problems," he has noted.

The current administration of Iran under President Raisi has shown great interest in broadening and enhancing trade and economic ties with neighboring states, Ale Es'haq has emphasized.

In late September, Iran's Trade Promotion Organization (TPO) hosted an Iran-Iraq business conference in which officials from the two sides discussed ways of expanding mutual business relations.

Speaking at the conference, TPO Head Mehdi Zeyghami stressed the need to balance the trade between the two countries, saying: "The level of trade and economic relations between Iran and Iraq has increased significantly in recent years, and the figure can be increased up to 40 billion dollars if the two sides' trade is balanced."

The government of Iran is ready to cooperate with Iraq for the industrial development of the country in the 2035 horizon, he noted, saying: "Iran is ready to transfer technology to Iraq and develop industrial projects in the country."

"We hope to achieve the goals outlined by the presidents of the two countries by solving issues related to logistics and financial transactions," the official added.

Iran and Iraq have stressed the need to use the national currencies of the two countries to enhance mutual trade relations.

During a meeting between Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Abbas Ali-Abadi and Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani in Baghdad on October 31, the two sides emphasized using the national currencies for bilateral trade exchanges.

In the meeting, which took place in the Iraqi Prime Minister's office in Baghdad, the economic relations between the two countries and ways to strengthen them and strengthen exchanges and partnerships at different levels were discussed and explored.

In a statement issued at the time, the Iraqi Prime Minister's Office said, "Today, Iraqi Prime Minister Mohammed Shia' Al Sudani hosted Iran's Minister of Industry, Mining and Trade Abbas Ali-Abadi. In this meeting, the two sides explored avenues for strengthening bilateral relations and bolstering mutual trade exchanges and participating in various fields."

The Iraqi prime minister expressed his country's readiness to expand bilateral cooperation in the fields of petrochemical industries and fertilizers.

According to this statement, Iran's minister of industry, while conveying the warm greetings of Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi, emphasized the need for advancing trade and economic projects in the face of existing economic challenges in the region and the world.

'SEO mainly focuses on guiding liquidity towards production'

TEHRAN - Head of Iran's Securities and Exchange Organization (SEO) Majid Eshqi has said his organization's current priority is to attract capital and direct liquidity towards constructive production, IRIB reported on Saturday.

Speaking at a meeting of the government and private sector dialogue council, Eshqi considered capital formation as the most important challenge of the economy and said: "Financing [economic projects] and directing liquidity towards production is the priority of the Securities and Exchange Organization."

"[currently] The most important economic challenge [in the country] is the issue of capital formation because the rate of the mentioned item [capital formation] has been negative in the last 10 years and is estimated to be lower than the depreciation rate," the official explained.

If the mentioned trend continues in the same way in the long term, it will cause non-development, depreciation of industries, and the stagnation of the economy, he noted.

"Injecting liquidity in the production sector is now considered one of our important goals, but we are facing a series of challenges among which the decrease in investor confidence can be pointed out," Eshqi said.

Back in June, the SEO head said our approach in the capital market is to create the basis for the active presence of the private sector in the market to attract the financing they need to achieve their economic goals.

According to the official, SEO would formulate, implement, and monitor its policies and programs including supporting investors, creating a transparent, efficient, and equitable market, and reducing inclusive risk based on the market's broad objectives.

Outlining SEO's main strategies in the current year, Eshqi said: "The first strategy is to use modern mechanisms to increase public monitoring of the entities offering shares in the market; the second strategy will be to develop regulatory tools in a preventive manner and in line with market development."

According to the official, the third strategy is to amend the market's rules and regulations to increase justice and accountability, while the fourth strategy will be strengthening the medium- and small-scale level financing through new mechanisms.

Facilitating the processes and developing the infrastructure for attracting and managing capital in the market, along with engineering the media mechanism to provide the shareholders with up-to-date information are the fifth and sixth strategies, he said.

The last strategy is to re-engineer the new generation of technical infrastructure with the aim of increasing security, sustainability, and ease of access.

Eshqi further noted that based on the strategies mentioned above, which have been developed taking into account the most important challenges of the capital market, various programs have been prepared.

SIF seeking to raise capital to support investments in SMEs

TEHRAN - Iran's SMEs Investment Guarantee Fund (SIF) is pursuing a plan to increase its capital by 100 percent in the current Iranian calendar year (ends in late March 2024), a member of the board of the fund said.

"In order to expand the role and duties of the SMEs Investment Guarantee Fund, the title and duties of the fund will be changed and developed," Mohammad-Sadegh Mohammad-Yari said.

"One of the basic problems of the fund, which is always considered a serious obstacle in the way of developing activities, is the limitation of capital compared to the fund's services," Mohammad-Yari said.

"In this regard and in order to resolve this issue, we had many follow-ups and correspondences with various government departments, including the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry, and finally, last year, 70 billion tomans [700 billion rials (about $1.3 million)] was allocated to the fund; this year we are seeking a nearly 100 percent increase in the fund's capital," the official added.

Israeli army losing heavily in Gaza

The regime's land operation falling apart

From page 1 ▸ 20 days after the start of the operation, while several thousand Israeli military forces were present in this area, it was suddenly announced that al-Qassem forces had attacked them "from behind enemy lines" in Erez.

Despite 20 days of unprecedented bombing, the al-Qassem tunnel network remained powerfully intact, and the fighters reached behind the iron wall from inside one of these tunnels and attacked the Israeli forces.

Despite this attack, the Zionists were expected to block all the routes leading to Erez, especially since the ground operations had already begun and the Zionists were busy "advancing" in the north of agricultural land toward Beit Hanoun.

But once again, on October 29, al-Qassem forces attacked Israeli forces "behind enemy lines", west of Erez.

First, they targeted Israeli military armor with anti-armor rockets, killing some of the troops, and then when the additional forces arrived, the resistance continued to attack from zero distance. The Israeli army, as well as a U.S.-based think tank, also confirmed the complex Palestinian operation.

In essence, despite the massive Israeli bombings, the tunnels were not destroyed, while ground offensives in the agricultural areas have also failed to locate these tunnels.

It is extremely difficult to predict what awaits the Israeli army from these tunnels, as it desperately tries to continue advancing and entering densely populated refugee camps in the coastal strip.

10 days after the clashes in the coastal Israeli settlement of Zikim, (northwest of the Gaza Strip and south of Ashkelon) on the first day of the al-Aqsa Storm, members of

al-Qassem managed to reach this settlement and confront Zionist military forces.

After the announcement of the martyrdom of two members of al-Qassem forces, it became clear that the number of freedom fighters who participated in the occupation was not very high.

Three days after this infiltration and days into the Israeli ground and sea offensives in the northwest of Gaza, the regime's forces sent a huge infantry to Zikim.

As Israeli forces were busy advancing in the agricultural areas in the northwest of Gaza, news emerged of another al-Qassem attack in Zikim.

This time, the fighters numbered 15 (Israel announced the death of ten of them and reported the size of the attacking cell).

In a statement, al-Qassam said its fighters reached Zikim by sea. According to the news of the Israeli army, the attackers entered through a tunnel.

The attack on Zikim showed that the strong Israeli military presence on the ground and in the sea was unable to destroy the resistance from attacking behind enemy lines.

Both Erez and Zikim witnessed another crucial development.

The Israeli forces, who had been advancing in the open agricultural areas for a few days, managed to reach the northwestern vicinity of al-Atatra on Friday and faced Palestinian resistance at several points.

On Saturday, Israeli forces were attacked again from behind enemy lines at a distance of approximately 300 meters from the line of fire. Israeli troops retreated about 400 meters toward the Gaza separation wall.

The reason behind this retreat was to set fire to the location from where they were attacked in an attempt to destroy tunnels or hideouts of the resistance so that they could advance again. These same points had already been under attack for 28 days. But this did not stop the resistance from attacking Israeli ground troops from behind enemy lines.

Advancing in open agricultural lands has proven very costly for the invading force that they are sometimes forced to retreat, even to the dense areas of Gaza.

At the same time, where the advance is about 2 to 3 kilometers, retreating even 400 meters is considered a strategic military failure.

What occurred in al-Atatra also occurred in Netzarim. Before the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and the dismantling of settlements in Gaza, there was a settlement called Netzarim in this area, whose name has been kept until today.

The attacking forces entered the weakest point of Gaza from the agricultural area of ??Juhor ad-Dik south of Gaza City and on Friday reached the western areas of Netzarim at a distance of 1.8 km from al-Rashid Road, which they occupied and put on fire.

But on Saturday, no fighting took place in the western areas of Netzarim, but in Netzarim itself, and the location of the Israeli army was 2.2 kilometers from al-Rashid Road.

Facing numerous ambushes by the resistance (an important part of which takes place through tunnels), the attacking forces have been forced to retreat about 400 meters to capture the area.

This is another sign of Israel's hard work to advance in Gaza, which has yet to reach urban areas.

The armed wing of Hamas issued a warning for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu.

The al-Qassem brigade published scenes of the resistance fighters destroying Israeli military vehicles.

Hamas said, "We published very shocking scenes of the occupying forces as well as important audio and video files."

The resistance group added it "didn't want to publish the images," adding that "we always warned Netanyahu not to force us to do this, but his criminality and political stupidity has made him risk everything; in the hope of regaining his credibility that has been lost forever."

Schools, mosques, and hospitals are being targeted by Israel

Israel's heavy bombardment of Gaza has intensified, targeting schools, shelters, hospital areas, and ambulances.

Since the start of the war on October 7, nearly 50 buildings and assets of the UN Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA) have been affected, with some being directly hit. These include buildings used as shelters where the UNRWA is hosting about 700,000 people. Twenty-five of these shelters are in northern Gaza, hosting 112,000 people.

Jordan King receives several Arab foreign ministers

Jordan's King Abdullah II has received several Arab foreign ministers and urged them to speak with one voice about Gaza, according to state media.

He added that it was the duty of Arab countries to put pressure on the international community to stop the war on the besieged enclave.

The monarch condemned the killings of civilians in Gaza and the occupied West Bank, state media reported. Turkish foreign ministry also says Ankara has recalled its ambassador to Israel for consultations due to the humanitarian crisis and continuing Israeli attacks in Gaza.

Meanwhile, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has said Netanyahu was "no longer someone we can talk to".

The number of journalists killed in Gaza war rises to 46

The number of journalists killed in the Palestinian-Israeli conflict has risen to 46, according to a statement from the Palestinian National Authority.

The report states that these journalists and media representatives, both men and women, were directly killed as a result of rocket attacks or Israeli airstrikes on their homes or while working.

EU state's most popular party wants Israeli ambassador expelled

Israeli ambassador Dana Erlich "should no longer enjoy diplomatic status in Ireland," Sinn Fein party leader Mary Lou McDonald said on Friday. McDonald's party, which has deep historical ties to the Palestinian cause, has repeatedly condemned Israel's bombardment of Gaza.

"[The Israel Defence Forces] are engaged in a ferocious military offensive against a civilian population; breaking international law by targeting civilians, destroying civilian infrastructure, forcing mass population displacement and cutting off vital supplies of water, food, medicines and fuel," McDonald told reporters.

Erlich's presence in Ireland has become "untenable," McDonald continued, adding that the ambassador should "no longer enjoy diplomatic status in Ireland while Israel refuses the imperative for ceasefires and as the suffering and death toll grow."

Israel bombardment intensifies; 9500 killed in Gaza

From page 1 ▸ 105 medical facilities were deliberately targeted, 16 of which are now out of service, and 32 prime care medical facilities are out of service, either due to lack of fuel or destruction.

On Saturday morning, Israel's military hit the family home of the exiled leader of Hamas on the outskirts of Gaza City with an air strike and pressed ahead with attacks across the besieged enclave where a humanitarian crisis is rapidly worsening.

The family home of Hamas' exiled leader Ismail Haniyeh, in the Shati refugee camp on the northern edge of Gaza City, was hit Saturday morning by an airstrike. It had no immediate details on damage or casualties and there was no immediate comment.

Meanwhile, the Islamic Resistance in Iraq targeted a US occupation base in al-Shaddadi, Syria. Also, Islamic Resistance in Iraq claims responsibility for the two drone strikes on the US Harir Base in the Iraqi Kurdistan Region.

Hezbollah leader clarifies issues to friend and foe

If Gaza breaks, Lebanon will be next

By Batool Al-Subeiti

The Secretary General of the Islamic Resistance in Lebanon gave a much-anticipated speech on the 3rd of November 2023, in what is anticipated to be one of the most watched speeches across the East and West at such a critical moment in world geopolitics.

There were five important orientations to his speech. The first was aimed towards the Muslim and Arab Ummah, the second towards the resistance movement and its various factions; the third towards the Israeli occupation entity, the fourth towards America and the fifth towards the Arab rulers.

The speech sought to clarify issues on all levels, both towards friend and foe. When speaking to the Ummah, the leader of the resistance focuses on key points of value. An important concept raised is the unity of the fronts, which he clarified does not negate the independence of each group in its respective region, whether in Gaza, the West Bank, or Lebanon; no entity receives direct order from the Islamic Republic of Iran. Rather each entity evaluates their own situation and decides the magnitude of operation they wish to carry out. The opening of the fronts was highlighted as a flexible matter upon necessity, depending on the developments and to ensure that no respective entity is weakened or defeated under pressure. The function of intervention was defined as a matter of enhancing the original move. Therefore, the Al-Aqsa Storm battle was a Palestinian victory, no matter the entrance of any other front. If the Gaza resistance on its own is able to break the Israeli occupation, that is more powerful than if multiple fronts caused this breakage as it highlights the extent of the fragility of the occupation entity. The responsibility of the Al-Aqsa battle falling solely on the Gaza resistance is to imply that this was their decision and it is Gaza facing the consequences of it.

The leader of the Hezbollah resistance movement projected towards those in the Ummah who question why the fronts should expand into Lebanon and other countries entering into the confrontation, in addition to those questioning what the resistance front at large has done whilst the people of Gaza are being massacred. The response given to the former is that if Gaza breaks, Lebanon will be next since that implies victory for the ferocious occupation, whilst his response to the latter is that this operation was the decision of the Gazan resistance that did not consult the wider resistance axis. The role of the axis is to function as a support through media, money, political and security measures. He highlighted how in this confrontation, the resistance in Lebanon has relieved pressure off the Gaza resistance, with three of the military elite battalions of the occupation forces absorbed on the border with Lebanon, that would have otherwise been strategizing for the defeat of the resistance in Gaza. He also addressed the supporters of the resistance who wish for the fronts to open at any cost, stressing that the overall holistic and long-term interest takes precedence over emotions.

When addressing the resistance movement, he labeled the Al-Aqsa battle a Palestinian victory, whilst bolstering the involvement of Yemen and Iraq, such that the nations feel pride in weakening the occupation entity. He stressed the consequences of this war as worth the sacrifices made, since this confrontation has completely turned the equations on its head and the occupation entity is now in the defensive mode, thinking of how to repel the Lebanese resistance. He stressed how just a few months ago, if one occupation soldier was killed that would shake the ground, however now they are targeting beyond the occupied Sheba Farms, having killed dozens of occupation soldiers, targeted their military positions and equipment. The leader of the resistance referred to how the Lebanese resistance is taking real action that has led to 57 of their soldiers being killed.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Blinken's empty proposals

From page 1 ▸ ground operations and faces new surprises almost every day while suffering heavy casualties.

In such circumstances, a temporary ceasefire is a forced choice for Netanyahu to be able to reorganize the field and the mental situation of his army. But Netanyahu is trying to sell this need to all parties with the help of America, at a very high price. From the international community, who are angry at the genocide of the people of Gaza, to Hamas forces.

Furthermore, Blinken has referred to the establishment of a Palestinian state as the only way to guarantee the security of the Israeli regime. It is necessary to pay attention to a few points in this regard.

The first point is that Americans, who had completely forgotten about the Palestinian issue, now talk about the necessity of establishing a Palestinian state, which can be seen as one of the several of the achievements of the Al-Aqsa Intifada.

The second point is that Americans lie and are never seeking the realization of a genuine Palestinian state. The Oslo Accords, which have been in existence for three decades, were supposed to reach this point, but they gave privileges to Israel and made empty promises to the Palestinians.

And the third point is that even if we assume such a thing becomes reality - which is unlikely - who would be willing to give away 70% of their land to occupiers and live with them? If your car gets stolen, are you willing to just take back two wheels and let go of the thieves?

A potential Palestinian government that's part of the two-state solution can only look like the Palestinian National Authority and will not be anything more than that. A corrupt entity that does nothing but suppress the resisters. As an Iranian proverb says: "A partner in theft and a companion on the journey!"

Christians of Gaza?

In one of the defining moments so far of Israel's ongoing war on Gaza, a deadly explosion at the al-Ahli Arab Hospital on October 17 killed close to 500 people, according to Palestinian health authorities.

Two days later, Israel bombed the Church of Saint Porphyrius, the Gaza Strip's oldest, killing at least 18 people.

The deadly attacks on the hospital — an Anglican institution — and the church have brought into sharp focus the enclave's embattled Christian minority, which, like the rest of the Gaza Strip, is under assault from relentless Israeli bombardment.

The Orthodox Patriarchate of Jerusalem described the attack on the church as a "war crime".

The Christian community was left reeling, yet most have not left the besieged city, which lays claim to a rich seam of Christian heritage going back two millennia.

So who are Gaza's Christians?

How many Christians live in Gaza and where did they come from?

The number of Christians in Gaza has dwindled in recent years. Today there are only approximately 1,000 left, a sharp drop from the 3,000 registered in 2007, when Hamas assumed complete control over the enclave.

According to Kamel Ayyad, a spokesperson for the Church of Saint Porphyrius, the majority of the population is from Gaza itself. The rest fled here after the creation of the state of Israel, which displaced about 700,000

Palestinians – an event they refer to as the Nakba, or "catastrophe".

Hamas rule brought an Israel-led land, air and sea blockade, accelerating the flight of Christians from the poverty-stricken enclave. "It's become very difficult for people to live here," says Ayyad. "Many of the Christians left for the West Bank, for America, Canada or the Arab world, seeking better education and health."

While most of Gaza's Christians belong to the Greek Orthodox faith, smaller numbers worship at the Catholic Holy Family Church and the Gaza Baptist Church. The former recently released a video of parish children praying, the din of bombs in the background.

There is a fluidity to the Christian community in Gaza, with many families comprising members of different denominations. Fadi Salfiti, whose family fled from Nablus to Gaza in 1948, attended all churches.

"On Sunday mornings, we would go to the Orthodox church, in the afternoons, we would go to the Catholic church, and at night we'd go to the Protestant church," he said.Salfiti was attending a youth conference in Madrid when Israel launched a ground offensive in 2008. To this day, he remains in Spain, where he now works as a management trainer. The attack on Saint Porphyrius killed his cousin's three children: Majd, 10; Juli, 12; and Suhail, 14.

How long have Christians lived in Gaza?

Gaza's Christian legacy stretches right back to the days when the faith was a persecuted sect promising salvation to the downtrodden.

In the Bible, after Jesus Christ's crucifixion, Philip the Apostle travelled down the desert road from Jerusalem to Gaza to spread the word. According to the scriptures, Philip was present at the wedding feast at Cana in Galilee, where Jesus turned water into wine.

(See full text at tehrantimes.com)

Minister lauds 'surprising' cave appeals, suggests recommendations in personal visit

TEHRAN – On Friday, Iranian tourism minister Ezzatollah Zarghami paid a visit to Katale-Khor Cave, whose main entrance is located some 150km south of Zanjan, off the Soltaniyeh–Hamadan road near Garmab, in western Iran.

Stepping inside, the minister lauded the natural splendors of the massive cave and suggested recommendations concerning tourism amenities and development work.

"Attractions in Katale-Khor Cave are incredible, surprising and wonderful," Zarghami said.

Katale-Khor (that literary means "Mountain of Sun") is estimated to date from tens of million years ago. It features millions of lime stalactites and stalagmites. The cave interiors embrace huge hallways and corridors, which are impressively lit by flashlights.

Calling for completion of lighting system, he said "The [existing] lighting highlights only part of the beauty of this cave, which if completed will definitely attract more tourists to the cave," he said.

Talking about a road that leads to the cave, the minister said: "I suggest adding other charms, to attract the audience along the way."

Elsewhere in his remarks, Zarghami emphasized the need for preparation of a comprehensive development plan while making proposals for developing sanitary and accommodation services and widening the road that leads to the cave.

Moreover, he said preliminary stages of work should be carried out for possible registration of the cave on UNESCO list of World Heritage.

"We must introduce this cave collection to the people of the world, whose tourism is their right," the minister concluded.

According to available data, some three-sevenths of the prolonged cave have been explored so far. A length of about 3km of the cave is open to the public, while a 4km-route is accessible to experienced cavers and researchers.

Having a wealth of geological and cultural treasures, caves have always been mysterious and fascinating for adventurers. Cave tourism is a unique and rewarding form of traveling that allows visitors to discover the hidden wonders of the earth, contribute to the local economy, and support conservation and scientific research.

Iran is geologically part of the Alps-Himalayan natural belt. According to the Britannica Encyclopedia, there is puzzling evidence of human presence on the Iranian Plateau as early as the Lower Paleolithic. The first well-documented evidence of human habitation comes from deposits from several excavated caves and rock shelters located mainly in the Zagros mountains of western Iran, dated to the Middle Paleolithic or Mousterian period (c. 100,000 BC).

Green tourism: new frontier for sustainable travel in Iran

From Page 1 ▶ The tourism industry of the country can benefit from green tourism in several ways. Firstly, it can help to diversify the country's tourism offerings beyond its historical and cultural attractions. By promoting its natural beauty and wildlife, Iran can attract a new segment of travelers who are interested in eco-tourism experiences.

Secondly, green tourism can help boost the local economies. Eco-tourism activities such as hiking and camping require local guides, porters, and other support staff, providing employment opportunities for people in rural areas. Additionally, eco-tourism can encourage the development of small businesses such as eco-lodges, organic farms, and handicraft shops, which can generate income for the locals.

Thirdly, green tourism can help to promote environmental conservation and sustainable development. By encouraging responsible tourism practices, such as reducing waste, conserving water, and protecting wildlife, Iran can help preserve its natural resources for future generations. Additionally, eco-tourism can raise awareness

about environmental issues and promote sustainable development practices in local communities.

Among the challenges are lack of awareness and decent education. Many tourists are not aware of the impact that their travel has on the environment, and many locals and even industry professionals are not trained in sustainable tourism practices. Such a deficiency can lead to unsustainable practices; overuse of natural resources, pollution, and destruction of ecosystems.

Another challenge is the lack of desired infrastructure and resources. For example, there may be a lack of recycling facilities, public transportation, or eco-friendly accommodations in some areas.

Experts, however, believe more needs to be done to ensure those efforts are bearable and have a positive impact on the environment and local communities. One of the key priorities in that regard is to promote eco-friendly transportation, reduce waste and carbon emissions, and support local communities through responsible practices.

Such investments can also help create new job opportunities and support the growth of small and medium-sized enterprises in the tourism industry to help diversify the economy and reduce dependence on traditional industries.

Over the past couple of years, the Iranian tourism ministry, for its part, has made efforts to popularize green tourism. For example, during tourism week (which started on Sep. 27 to mark World Tourism Day), Iran held more than 150 recreational programs to promote green tourism, the deputy tourism minister said in September. Ali-Asghar Shalbafian underlined that green tourism is becoming increasingly popular among travelers who are seeking an authentic travel experience while minimizing their environmental footprint.

Green tourism, also known as sustainable tourism, is a growing trend in the global tourism industry. It involves promoting environmentally friendly practices and supporting local communities to ensure that tourism has a positive impact on the environment and society.

Discover a city within another while in Isfahan

TEHRAN - In the heart of Isfahan, where time seems to stand still, lies arrays of vaulted traditional bazaars that have witnessed centuries of bustling commerce.

Those bazaars with a labyrinthine network of interconnected stalls and corridors may be more than just marketplaces. Some say they are living testimonies of the resilience of the human spirit.

Sometimes called "a city within another", a bazaar usually contains a maze of lanes, madrasas, caravanserais, and timchehs (domed halls or arcaded centers of a single trade, such as carpet vendors or coppersmiths).

Dating from the Deylamites and Seljuk eras, those glorious structures reached their zenith during the illustrious Safavid dynasty. Despite the passage of time, these bazaars remain the vibrant economic axis of the ancient city, and within their walls, a remarkable legacy continues.

For centuries, generations of skilled artisans and astute merchants have called these bazaars their second homes. Passed down from generation to generation, the businesses here have weathered countless storms and historical upheavals.

Their resilience, however, may be a testament to the enduring spirit of entrepreneurship that flows through the veins of Isfahan's people.

As you stroll through the narrow alleys of those marketplaces, the air is infused with the scent of exotic spices, intricate textiles, and the warm aroma of freshly brewed tea wafting from the traditional teahouses.

Each shop is a treasure trove of craftsmanship, showcasing the skills honed over generations. Here, intriguing displays of Persian carpets, delicate ceramics, and shimmering jewelry may catch your eye at every turn.

You may meet a third-generation carpet weaver whose nimble fingers effortlessly bring intricate patterns to life. Next to them, a spice merchant proudly shares tales of their great-grandfather, who first established the shop, sourcing the finest saffron and sumac from the nearby fields.

Face-to-face conversations here may reveal the true essence of the bazaars for enquiring travelers. Beyond the tangible goods, they are repositories of collective memory, preserving the traditions and customs of bygone eras. The merchants, custodians of this rich heritage, pass down not only their trade secrets but also the stories that have been whispered through the generations.

Browsing through a traditional bazaar may provide new experiences and fresh points of view on the ancient land. Such excursions can be made either in person or by "off-the-beaten-track" tours. Not only is it an opportunity to discover dozens of unique local ingredients, but it's also a chance to taste street foods and delicacies in some traditional bakery known only by locals and shopkeepers.

People-watching and even mingling with the locals is one of the best ways to take the pulse of the country. Bazaar is a top choice to do so as they have traditionally been major economic and social centers in any Iranian city.

From another point of view, bazaars are also synonyms of foods, with their unmissable colorful stalls of vegetables, herbs, and spices. Yet, most of these ingredients might be mysterious to a foreign eye. Teahouses help punctuate the walk

and a traditional restaurant is a perfect place for lunch.

As you leave the bazaars, the echoes of centuries past linger in your mind. The legacy of these traders, who have dedicated their lives to the preservation of their ancestors' trades, will continue to shape the destiny of Isfahan's bazaars for generations to come. Their unwavering commitment ensures that these hallowed halls will forever remain a vibrant symbol of the city's cultural and economic heritage.

Soaked in a rich history, Isfahan was once a crossroads of international trade and diplomacy in Iran and now it is one of Iran's top tourist destinations for good reasons. The city is filled with many architectural wonders, such as unmatched Islamic buildings, bazaars, museums, Persian gardens, and tree-lined boulevards.

Many international travelers to the central Iranian city believe that it equals an endless charm by embracing so many diverse monuments, landscapes, and above all, hospitable people. The historical core of Isfahan is a masterpiece of Safavid-era architecture popularly known as "half of the world", meaning seeing it is relevant to see the whole world.

Second Announcement

IN THE NAME OF GOD
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING
INTERNATIONAL TWO-STAGE TENDER No: 1402/108-47/03

Tender Holder:
ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN BROADCASTING (IRIB)

Subject of Tender :
Leasing of satellite transponder segment for DTH service and feed transmission in accordance with the technical specification and other terms and conditions mentioned in the tender documents.

Deadline and how to receive the tender documents:
From Monday 6 Nov 2023 (1402/08/15) 09:30 a.m until Wednesday 08 Nov 2023 (1402/08/17) by 14:00 p.m with presentation of introductory letter by company or its representative and the receipt of paying the documents fee.

Place of receiving the tender document:
Interested participants may refer to purchasing (KALA) Dept. ,4th Floor of IRIB Administration Complex ,Hotel Esteghlal St. Vali –Assr Ave,Tehran, Iran

The fee of the tender documents and how to deposit it:
Submission of payment receipt for the amount of 1,000,000 Rials to account 4101029171204273 with BIC No.IR 310100004101029171204273 IRAN Central Bank in the name of IRIB.

Type and amount of guarantee for participation to tender:
The amount of deposit for participating in tender is USD 30000 fixed or its equivalent in Rials 15/300/000/000 which should be in the form of Bank Guarantee.

Time and place of delivering Bidding Envelopes:
The sealed (A,B&C) packages/envelopes and the qualification evaluation package/envelope separately packed , should be submitted no later than 09:30 a.m. on Saturday 09 Dec 2023 (1402/09/18) at the address mentioned in 4th clause.

Time and place of opening Qualification Evaluation envelopes:
The date of opening the Qualification Evaluation envelopes is on Saturday 09 Dec 2023 (1402/09/18) at 10:00 a.m in the office of International Purchasing Dept.

Time and place of opening Envelopes:
The envelopes A & B of those eligible participants who meet the qualification criterion will be opened Sunday 10 Dec 2023 (1402/09/19) at 14:00 p.m in the office of Financial Vice President .
After opening the envelopes A & B of eligible participants and getting the approval ,the Envelopes B will be reffred to the Technical and Commercial committee for evaluation and the Envelopes C of the eligible participants that obtain the required technical points will be opened..
The participant must be qualified by the competent authorities.
Fore more information please see :
www.iriboffice.ir/tenders and http://iets.mporg.ir/ Tel: 00982122167053

Purchasing (Kala) Dept.,IRIB

Sacrificial pits filled with 120 horse skeletons found in Bronze Age city in China

Archaeologists in China have discovered the remains of a walled Bronze Age city that once contained a palace, moat, cemeteries, sacrificial pits, pottery workshops and a bronze-casting foundry.

The ancient city, known as Yaoheyuan, was situated in the foothills of the Liupan Mountains in northwestern China. It was once a political and cultural powerhouse that was prominent during the Western Zhou Period, a historical time in Chinese history that stretched from 1045 B.C. to 771 B.C. during the Zhou dynasty, according to a study published Aug. 3 in the journal Antiquity.

Although there are other Bronze Age sites dotting this part of the country, archaeologists consider Yaoheyuan the likely regional hub at this time based on the breadth and variety of structures unearthed during excavations.

Human and animal sacrifices were common practice at Yaoheyuan, evidenced by the abundance of tombs containing the remains of disarticulated human bones, horses, oxen, goats, sheep, chicken, dogs and rabbits buried alongside humans. Researchers discovered six sacrificial pits containing horses stacked in layers, with some of the skeletons broken into segments, indicating that the animals were likely dismembered before being thrown in. All told, archaeologists found the skeletons of 120 horses, including several foals.

(Source: Live Science)

Michelangelo's 'secret room' in Florence to open for visitors

A former coal cellar where the great Renaissance artist Michelangelo is thought to have hidden to escape from a furious pope will open to the public on Nov. 15, a museum in Florence said on Tuesday.

Michelangelo's "secret room" is located inside the Museum of the Medici Chapels and contains charcoal sketches of human figures which have been attributed to the artist, who is said to have taken refuge there in 1530.

The small room, 10 meters long, three meters wide and 2-1/2 meters high at the top of the vault, was used to store coal at one point before it was rediscovered during renovation work in 1975.

(Source: Reuters)

WFP releases September report on Iran

TEHRAN - The World Food Program (WFP) has released a report, expounding on activities in Iran over the month of September.

In September, WFP food assistance reached 32,668 beneficiaries, which includes Afghan and Iraqi refugees.

Of this 28% were women, 29% were men, 21% were girls, and 22% were boys. Refugees are assisted with a staple food basket which includes fortified wheat flour (12 kg per person per month) and vegetable oil (900 ml per person per month).

In addition to this in-kind food assistance, WFP provides cash assistance to 7,327 Afghan and Iraqi refugee households each month.

In September, households headed by refugee men received Iranian Rials (IRR) 2 million (US$ 5.3, according to the UN Operational Rate) per person.

Households headed by refugee women received a slightly higher monthly cash allocation, amounting to IRR 2.5 million (US$ 6.7) per person due to limited access to working opportunities, leading to higher food insecurity.

To maintain beneficiaries' purchasing power amid deteriorating economic conditions, since June, WFP increased its cash assistance to vulnerable refugee women and men facing serious risks over their food security and well-being.

The school feeding and cash incentive distribution is suspended for July, August, and September due to summer school break.

According to recommendations from the February 2022 WFP and UNHCR Joint Assessment Mission, refugees with disabilities were granted by WFP a monthly cash top-up of IRR 1 million (US$ 2.6) in addition to their regular entitlement.

WFP implemented a pilot initiative in two settlements, Shahid Naseri of Markazi and Mohajerin of Semnan provinces, providing refugees with disabilities a monthly cash top-up of IRR 1 million (US$ 2.6) on top of their regular entitlement. In August, the program successfully reached 93 beneficiaries out of the planned 100.

Meanwhile, according to WFP's 2022 report on Iran based on Interim Country Strategic Plan (2018-2023), Iran was one of the most affected countries by the COVID-19 pandemic.

While the pandemic gradually abated and restrictions were lifted by mid-2022, the country continued to struggle with its severe negative socio-economic impacts, the report said.

In mid-2022, the Government decided to cut subsidies from staple food items. As a result, the prices of meat and poultry, dairy products and cooking oil increased fourfold overnight.

Inflation and increased prices of basic food commodities combined with local currency devaluation and reduced job opportunities due to a stagnating economy have significantly reduced the purchasing power of vulnerable groups including refugees.

Against this backdrop and despite the tightening of trade restrictions and external barriers, WFP Iran succeeded in meeting its plan of supporting over 32,000 refugees living inside 20 settlements with unconditional food assistance through a combination of locally procured in-kind food and cash-based transfers.

From Agreement to Action: rebuilding biodiversity

From page 1 ▸The purpose of this international day is to promote the activities of Biosphere Reserves that aim to reconcile the conservation of ecosystems with their sustainable use (human society co-existing with nature) in a framework of the Man and Biosphere (MAB) Program.

Biosphere Reserves are protected areas, meant for the conservation of plants and animals. Not just the flora and fauna, but human beings also depend on these protected areas for their livelihood activities.

So far 553 biosphere reserves have been recorded in 107 countries.

Alireza Najimi, an official with the Department of Environment, said the theme of the 10th South and Central Asian Biosphere Reserve Network Meeting (SACAM) held in Chennai, India from November 1-3, was "Ridge to Reef" with a focus on ecosystems and climate resilience, ISNA reported.

"A national report of the country's biosphere reserves was presented; the report included introducing thirteen types of protected sites, programs, capacities, and challenges and the priority of developing the protected networks of biosphere reserves, the future internal and transboundary protected sites, and mountain glaciers of the country that are at risk due to the impact of climate change. Also, the expansion of collaborative approaches including Participatory Geographical Information System (PGIS) was highlighted."

He added preserving biodiversity is essential not only in biosphere reserves but also in all natural areas since it leads to the preservation of genetic reserves.

> Not just flora and fauna, but human beings also depend on protected areas for their livelihood activities.

On the other hand, due to the global importance and values of biosphere reserves the importance of biodiversity protection doubles.

Also, in biosphere reserves, in addition to preserving biodiversity, preserving the cultural and social diversity of native people and local communities is also very important.

Najimi said, "Getting local communities involved in most of the reserve sites, especially the wetland sites in the form of management plans, allocating a credit line for two biosphere reserves including Dena and Golestan to strengthen the protection of biodiversity, creating a collaborative management structure at provincial levels, in three reserves, to consolidate provincial capacities in the sustainability of biodiversity, are among taken actions regarding the preservation of the biosphere reserves."

The three reserves include the Golestan Biosphere Reserve Steering Council, Miankaleh Biosphere Reserve Steering Council, and Urmia Lake Restoration Headquarters.

However, there are other measures that need to be taken for the conservation of biospheres such as creating a cooperative management structure in all reserve sites, creating an organizational chart in the environmental organization, allocating a budget line for the implementation of the reserve management plan, creating a legal basis for reserve management, compiling a reserve management plan based on the Lima 2016-2025 action, which contains a comprehensive set of actions aimed at ensuring the effective implementation of the MAB Strategy, he added.

Najimi went on to say, "One of the goals of creating biosphere reserves is to use people's capacities and their interaction in the management of the region by providing the livelihood of local communities.

In fact, biosphere reserves become meaningful with the presence of people who, in addition to protecting the region, benefit from it."

By Maryam Tavassoli

World Tsunami Awareness Day: fighting inequality for a resilient future

TEHRAN- The World Tsunami Awareness Day is held annually on November 5th, encouraging all sectors of society to engage and collaborate on disaster risk reduction.

This year's event will be held under the theme of 'Fighting Inequality for a Resilient Future'.

A tsunami is a series of enormous waves created by an underwater disturbance usually associated with earthquakes occurring below or near the ocean.

Volcanic eruptions, submarine landslides, and coastal rock falls can also generate a tsunami, as can a large asteroid impacting the ocean. They originate from a vertical movement of the sea floor with the consequent displacement of water mass.

They are rare events, that can be among the deadliest and costliest hazards when they do happen. They affect many economic sectors, but agriculture, housing, and tourism are the most vulnerable.

Like other natural disasters, a tsunami with its unequal and unique impacts on the affected population poses a significant threat to everyone.

Specific populations such as women, children and youth, persons with disabilities, and older persons- often confront heightened challenges, both during and after a tsunami.

> Women, children, persons with disabilities, and older persons confront heightened challenges during and after a tsunami.

The main objective of World Tsunami Awareness Day is to raise consciousness about reducing the risks created by these giant waves and improving community preparedness.

Events, activities, and drills are organized globally, as a reminder of the ever-present threat of tsunamis.

This is especially important as the frequency and intensity of natural disasters are increasing and impacting coastal communities.

In the last century, only 58 tsunamis have occurred, but they have claimed over 260,000 lives. On average, each disaster has caused the death of 4,600 people, more than any other natural hazard (United Nations, 2022).

Tsunamis can be deadly, but they needn't be. Early warning and early action are effective tools to protect people, save lives, and prevent the hazard from becoming a disaster. To be effective, tsunami early-warning systems must cover every at-risk person, they must be multi-hazard, and communities must be prepared so they can act quickly.

The activities during this observance aim to explore the relationship between tsunamis and inequality. Specifically, they focus on how inequality can make tsunamis more dangerous for certain populations and how the aftermath of a tsunami can drive vulnerable people further into poverty, thus worsening inequality.

Tsunami exercises and drills are excellent ways in which to increase tsunami preparedness and awareness of coastal communities.

Regular exercises are essential to maintain the operational readiness of response agencies for real events and are especially important because of the infrequent occurrence of tsunamis.

Exercises evaluate one's ability to respond to local, regional, or ocean-wide tsunamis. Exercises test communications, review agency standard operating procedures, and promote emergency preparedness.

Tsunami exercise

The Indian Ocean-wide tsunami exercises (IOWave) are an example in this regard. They are effective tools for evaluating the readiness of the end-to-end Indian Ocean Tsunami Warning and Mitigations System (IOTWMS) and for identifying changes that can improve its effectiveness.

The seventh Indian Ocean-wide tsunami exercise (Exercise IOWave23) was held on October 25 along the Makran coasts, southeastern Sistan-Baluchestan province.

The exercise simulated Indian Ocean countries being put in a tsunami warning situation and required each country to implement its standard operating procedures. The exercise tested preparedness for responding to tsunamis generated by seismic and non-seismic (volcanic) events.

Regular exercises are important for maintaining staff readiness for the real event. This is especially true for tsunamis, which are infrequent but require rapid response when they occur.

"The scenario simulates a magnitude 9 earthquake off the Makran coast," IRNA quoted Ali Khoshkholq, an official with the National Institute of Oceanography and Atmospheric Sciences, as saying.

In addition to testing standard operating procedures and communication links at all levels of the warning chain, a primary objective of Exercise IOWave23 was to enhance tsunami preparedness at the community level.

It aimed to raise the level of international cooperation between the countries along the Indian Ocean as well.

This year, Iran took part in this exercise with the predicted hypothetical scenario on October 25, which simulated an earthquake with a magnitude of 9 on the Richter scale in the Makran trench of the North-West Indian Ocean, which is capable of causing fierce floods by tsunami waves.

World Tsunami Awareness Day

In December 2015, the UN General Assembly designated November 5 as World Tsunami Awareness Day, calling on countries, international bodies, and civil society to raise tsunami awareness and share innovative approaches to risk reduction.

World Tsunami Awareness Day was proposed by Japan, which due to its repeated, bitter experience has over the years built up major expertise in areas such as tsunami early warning, public action, and building back better after a disaster to reduce future impacts.

UN Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) facilitates the observance of World Tsunami Awareness Day in collaboration with the rest of the United Nations system.

ENGLISH IN USE

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Hospital beds capacity rises to improve medical system

Health Minister Saeed Namaki inaugurated 23 health centers, including 201 hospital beds, in Lorestan, Kermanshah, and Khuzestan provinces on Tuesday.

Built on 26,935 square meters area, the centers were constructed with a budget of 2.9 trillion rials (nearly $70 million at the official rate of 42,000 rials).

The Ministry of Health is scheduled to add 10,600 hospital beds to the capacity of the country's medical system within the next 7 months.

Two years ago, there were a total of 140,859 beds in the country, which means 1.7 hospital beds per 1,000 population.

افزایش ظرفیت تخت های بیمارستانی

سعید نمکی وزیر بهداشت امروز به صورت مجازی ۲۳ مرکز بهداشتی و درمانی را شامل ۲۰۱ تخت بیمارستانی در استان های لرستان، کرمانشاه و خوزستان افتتاح کرد.
به گزارش ایرنا، این مراکز در زیربنای ۲۶ هزار و ۹۳۵ مترمربع و با اعتباری بالغ بر ۲۹۸۰ میلیارد ریال ساخته شده است. وزارت بهداشت قرار است تا ۱۲ فروردین سال ۱۴۰۰، ۱۰ هزار و ۶۰۰ تخت بیمارستانی به ظرفیت بیمارستان های کشور اضافه کند.
در انتهای سال ۱۳۹۷ مجموعا ۱۴۰ هزار و ۸۵۹ تخت فعال در کشور فعال بود که اگر این میزان را به ازای جمعیت محاسبه کنیم، ضریب تعداد جمعیت به تختمان، ۱.۷ تخت به ازای هر ۱۰۰۰ نفر است.

ISNA / Masoumeh Ali-Akbar

Intl. equestrian archery competitions held

Sixteen participants from Iran, China, and Qatar took part in equestrian archery competitions which were held from November 1-3 in Alborz province.

TEHRAN TIMES

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NOVEMBER 5, 2023

GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

If you gain a blessing, do not refuse it by cool and poor thanks.

Imam Ali (AS)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:25 Dawn: 5:05 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:31 (tomorrow)

What's in Tehran art galleries

Painting

* Paintings by Nasim Hosnbakhshan are on display in an exhibition at Baam Gallery.

The exhibit named "Battle" will be running until November 14 at the gallery, which can be found at No.16, 19th Alley, Sanai St., Karim Khan Ave.

* A collection of paintings by Jalaleddin Kashefi is on view in an exhibition at Vista Gallery.

Entitled "Form and Color as Music and Dance", the exhibit will run until November 14 at the gallery located at No. 11, 12th Alley, Mir Emad St.

* Paintings by Amir Abbasi are on display in an exhibition at Doost Gallery.

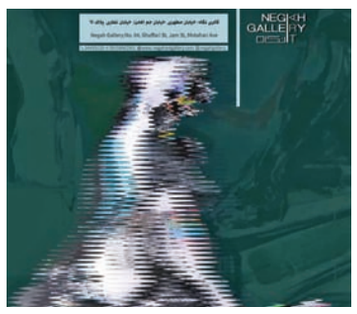
Entitled "52 Hertz Station", the exhibit will be running until November 21 at the gallery, which can be found at No. 4, 4th St. off Eshqyar St., Khorramshahr Ave.

* Saless Gallery is currently playing host to an exhibition of paintings by Elaheh Farmanian.

The exhibit will be running until November 14 at the gallery that can be found at 148 Karim Khan Ave.

* Alireza Zendehjan is putting his latest paintings on view in an exhibition at Bavan Gallery.

Entitled "Fool", the exhibit will run until November 20 at the gallery located at 7 Abdo off Lareztan St. off Motahhari Ave.



* Paintings by Alireza Mirza Rezai are on view in an exhibition at Negah Gallery.

The exhibit entitled "There Is Always Someone, Point" will continue until November 15 at the gallery located at 64 Ghaffari St., Jam St., Motahhari Ave.

* An exhibition of paintings by Ali Danaeian is underway at Shamis Gallery.

The exhibit entitled "Pure Land" will run until November 14 at the gallery, which can be found at 8 Daniali St., Andarzgu Blvd. in the Farmanieh neighborhood.

* Sohrab Gallery is hanging a collection of paintings by Anahita Abutorabi in an exhibition.

The exhibit will run until November 14 at the gallery located at 142 Somayyeh St.

* Paintings by Nilufar Qaderinejad are currently on view in an exhibition at Dena Gallery.

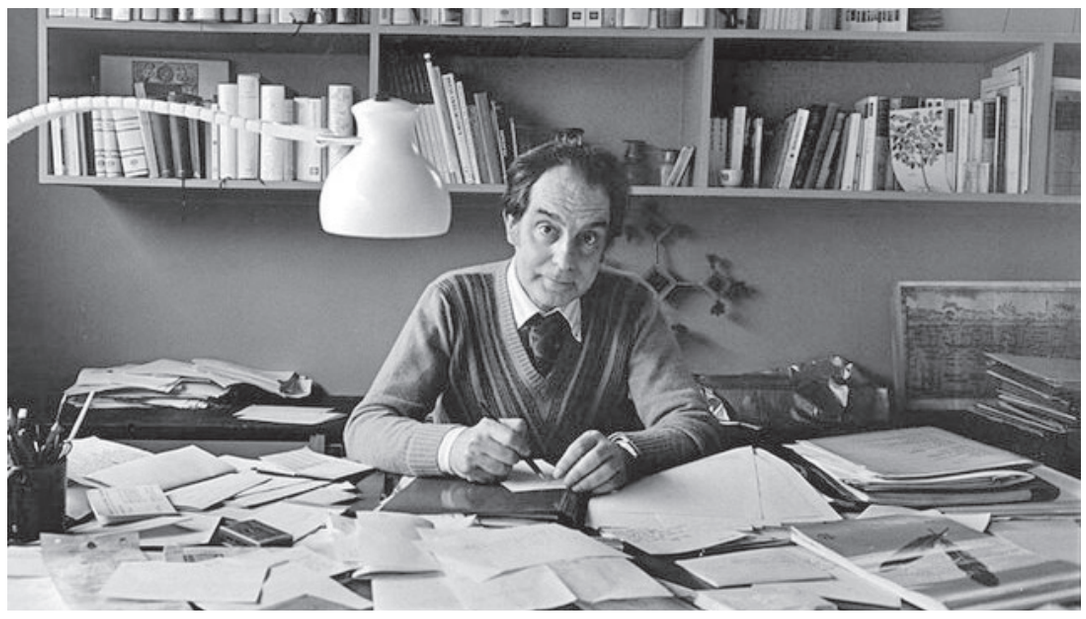
The exhibit named "Dizziness" will run until November 21 at the gallery that can be found at 4 Sussan Alley off Qarani St.

Sculpture

* Sculptures by Nasim Abolqasem are on view in an exhibition at Shirin Gallery.

The exhibit named "Light and Space" runs until November 15 at the gallery located at No. 5, 13th St., Karim Khan Ave

Italian writer Italo Calvino's 100th birthday celebrated in Tehran



TEHRAN – In honor of the 100th anniversary of Italo Calvino's birth, a renowned Italian writer, a commemorative event was held in Tehran on Thursday.

The Italian embassy in Tehran organized a series of events to mark the occasion, starting with an exhibit of photographs, entitled "A Collection of Views", taken during Calvino's 1975 trip to Iran, ISNA reported on Saturday.

Speaking at the ceremony, Italian Ambassador Giuseppe Perrone stated that writers have played a vital role in introducing people from different cultures to the Italian language and culture.

The vast number of Calvino's works that have been translated and published in Persian by Iranian publishing houses is evidence of this, he added.

Perrone also noted that Calvino was not only a writer but also a great intellectual with social and political ideas, who fought alongside partisans against Nazis.

"Calvino believed that literature had a political and social role and that one could obtain a precise and comprehensive understanding of the world by observing its realities."

He was a curious writer who was fascinated by different cultures, which compelled him to visit Iran in 1975, the ambassador mentioned.

He admired the charms of Persia's civilization after visiting particular cities there, and his admiration is evident in how many of his works have been translated into Persian, he said.

"The Shape of Time," an Iranian documentary co-directed by Masoud Mir and Mohammad Moghaddam and produced by the Italian embassy, was also screened during the event. The documentary's name comes from a section of Calvino's book "The Collection of Sand," where he recorded details of his travels to Iran.

Moreover, a panel discussion was held at the end of the event with the participation of Iranian translators and publishers of Calvino's works to discuss his works' dissemination in Iran.

Calvino, considered one of the most renowned modern Italian writers in the world, traveled to Iran in 1975 when Italian television was set to produce a documentary about ancient Iran in cooperation with Iranian television. Calvino, a passionate traveler who wrote about his journeys, was selected to travel to Iran with Italian critic and intellectual Pietro Citati.

Over the course of their two-month trip, the duo traveled to Tehran, Shiraz, Isfahan, and Yazd, exploring each city's historical and cultural features. Although the project was never completed, Calvino documented his trip to Iran in one of his books.

Born in 1923, in Cuba, Italo Calvino spent his early years in Italy and later moved to Turin after World War II. Calvino began his writing career as an editor for a publishing house before venturing into writing himself.

Calvino's writing career spanned over four decades, during which he wrote a vast range of books that placed him among the most celebrated writers of his time. His works explore themes such as the nature of language, the creative process, and the complexities of human existence.

Calvino is widely known for his collection of tiny stories, "Cosmicomics." Considered a masterpiece of Italian literature, the book blends scientific fact and fiction, exploring the origins of the universe and the evolution of human society. Other notable works include "If on a winter's night a traveler," "The Baron in the Trees," and "Invisible Cities."

Book containing Ayatollah Khamenei's speeches about Hazrat Fatima (SA) published in Turkish

TEHRAN-A book consisting of the compilation of the Supreme Leader of Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Seyyed Ali Khamenei's speeches about Hazrat Fatima (SA) has been published in Turkish.

Titled "Hz. Fatima Is a Role Model for All Humanity," the book has been translated by Aykut Pazarb and published by Önsöz Publishing House in Turkey, Honaronline reported.

The book includes the comments of the Leader on the personality of Hazrat Fatima Zahra (SA) - the daughter of Prophet Mohammad (PBUH) - delivered in various speeches over the past half a century.

Although the speeches in this book are generally about well-known topics, what makes these speeches special is their perspective on events and the story of Hazrat Zahra (SA). Also, many important points about her life that are overlooked have been touched upon. It is a demonstration of how to take the prophet's daughter as a role model in every aspect of life.

According to Ayatollah Khamenei, as stated in one of his speeches, Hazrat Fatima (SA) was a young woman who enjoyed such a lofty position of spirituality which was equal to saints, prophets and the like. Besides, each outstanding characteristic and each important role in the personal life of this great lady is a lesson.

Her piety, her modesty and purity, her jihad (striving for the sake of God), her care for her husband, her way of raising children, her understanding of politics and her presence in the most important arenas of the life of an individual of those times – whether during her childhood and teenage years or after her marriage – are each a lesson. They are a lesson not only for ladies but also for the entire humanity.

"We should pay careful attention to the life of Fatima Zahra (SA). We should understand her life with a new outlook and we should make it a model for ourselves in the real sense of the word."

Established in 2011, Önsöz Publishing House publishes books on the subjects of religion, philosophy, wisdom and history with the aim of raising awareness in the society. To date, it has published significant titles including the collections of works by the Iranian scholar and philosopher Morteza Motahhari, Iranian Shi'a Marja Ayatollah Javadi Amoli, Persian Islamic philosopher Mulla Sadra, and the first supreme leader of Iran mam Khomeini.

IAF cinematheque to show documentary about Japanese director Masao Adachi

TEHRAN-The cinematheque of the Iranian Artists Forum (IAF) in Tehran will screen the 2011 documentary "It May Be That Beauty Has Strengthened Our Resolve: Masao Adachi" directed by Philippe Grandrieux on Sunday.

This is the 36th film shown in the documentary program of the IAF cinematheque. It will be screened at 5 p.m. at Nasseri Hall, IRNA reported.

The screening will be followed by a review session with the presence of the cinema researcher Avesta Mahmoudvand.

In the movie, French filmmaker Grandrieux pays homage to Masao Adachi, a Japanese filmmaker with a turbulent past and now a recluse in his homeland, creating a portrait of this man always faithful in its very own way.

This tribute to the radical Japanese writer-director Adachi is the first in a series of documentaries that Grandrieux wants to dedicate to deeply political filmmakers. For decades, the eccentric Adachi was a member of the extremist Japanese Red Army.

Adachi is one of the most radically political, uncompromising and headstrong filmmakers of his generation.

Best known for his writing collaborations with directors Kōji Wakamatsu and Nagisa Oshima, often under the pseudonyms "Izuru Deguchi" or "De Deguchi", he also directed a number of his own films, usually dealing with left-wing political themes. Adachi was a prominent director in the Japanese New Wave film movement, producing feature films alongside documentaries. He stopped making films in the early 1970s and joined the Japanese Red Army.

He resided in Lebanon for 28 years, lending assistance to the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine until he was arrested and extradited back to Japan in 2000 due to his connections to the JRA. After being held for a year and a half, he was convicted and released based on the time he had already served. Since his release, he has resumed making films.

The Iranian Artists Forum is situated at Artists Park on North Mousavi Street, Taleqani Street.

Iranian films participating in Spanish environmental festival

TEHRAN-Six short films from Iran are present at the 30th SUNCINE International Environmental Film Festival, which was launched in Barcelona, Spain, on November 2.

The films include "Standing with the Wolf" and "The Sorrow of Forest" attending the Views section as well as "War and Color," "Journey," and "Line," in the Monarca section, and "The Small Red, Big Blue" in the Reels section of the festival, ISNA reported on Saturday.

Directed by Saeed Nabi and Maryam Khadivi, "Standing with the Wolf" is a 30-minute documentary about a park ranger named Jalali who has been hit by more than 90 lead bullets. This man, who is loyal to the country's environment, has come to the conclusion that he should teach in schools and that education is a practical weapon to preserve the environment.

With the duration of 29 minutes, "The Sorrow of Forest" directed by Maryam Razaghi, speaks of the damages to the Hyrcanian forests posed by human beings in the north of Iran. In this documentary, an old forester faces serious challenges to deal with this damage and take care of the forest and the endangered animals.

"War and Color" by Adnan Zandi is a 5-minute animation about a few children who are playing in a war-torn neighborhood when suddenly their ball is thrown towards the enemy trenches.

A six-minute animation, "Journey" by Shabnam Roshangheias centers around Dewi, a tiny dewdrop, who lives in a forest. Her dream is to travel and to see new things.

"Line" by Fardin Zarei is another short animation, running for 5 minutes, which shows the effects of the destruction and devastation of war on all works of life.

"The Small Red, Big Blue" by Hamed Nobari and Asghar Besharati is a one-minute film showing the importance of sea and fishes for all the children of world.

SUNCINE International Environmental Film Festival was first held in 1993 and is positioned as the oldest environmental film festival in the world; it is a reference in its genre.

SUNCINE is a multi-screen festival (in-person, online and televised). Its primary objective is to promote, disseminate and publicize environmental audiovisual works to raise awareness about the state of the environment, biodiversity and the planet's sustainability.

Awarding the winners of different sections, the festival will wrap up November 10.