Straight Truth

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Here to Stay

Why are the Palestinians not willing to leave Gaza despite Israel's endless brutality?

▸ Page 5

© Reuters

Palestinians search for casualties at the site of Israeli strikes on houses, in Khan Younis, in the southern Gaza Strip, October 25.

Israeli weakness one month after war on Gaza

By Ali Karbalaei

Hamas waged the al-Aqsa Storm Operation inside occupied territories on October 7. To understand why this operation took place, the events of the past ten months leading up to the retaliatory attack must be put into focus.

Since the barbaric cabinet of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu took power at the start of January, it significantly increased Israeli aggression against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and the besieged Gaza Strip.

This Israeli aggression included a record-breaking year for Palestinians killed and injured by Israeli forces since records began.

In addition to the mass murder of Palestinians in 2023, the regime also expanded its illegal settlement expansion while demolishing Palestinian homes, desecrating the holy Islamic al-Aqsa Mosque. Settlers have also gone on the rampage in occupied villages murdering Palestinians. ▸ Page 5

General likens Israeli pilots to animals attacking defenseless civilians

TEHRAN- Resembling the Israeli pilots as savage animals attacking defenseless people, the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh on Tuesday posed a question to upholders of international law.

"I am myself a fighter pilot and I witnessed that during the imposed war, our pilots never carried out an operation against civilians, but today Israeli pilots, akin to animals, kill defenseless people," General Nasirzadeh said in direct reference to Saddam Hussein's war against Iran in the 1980s.

Nasirzadeh, who was the commander of the Iranian Air Force from 2018 to 2021, emphasized that the biggest violation of human rights is happening in the Gaza war where phosphorous and cluster bombs are being dropped on residential areas.

Israeli piolets have been carpeting the coastal enclave of Gaza with bombs since October 7, killing more than 10,000 people, most of them women and children. Actually, Israel has dropped an equivalent of two atomic bombs on the people of Gaza. ▸ Page 2

At least 10,328 Palestinians have been martyred in Gaza

At least 10,328 Palestinians have been martyred in Israeli attacks on the Gaza Strip since October 7. In Israel, the death toll over the same period stands at more than 1,400.

One month since the start of the war, a "tragedy of colossal proportions" is unfolding, UN's chief Antonio Guterres says.

The secretary-general told reporters on Monday that Gaza was becoming a "graveyard for children", with more than 4,100 killed since the fighting began, according to the Ministry of Health in the enclave.

The death toll from the Israeli aggression rose to 10,328 martyrs and 25,956 civilians were injured since the start of the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip, Dr. Ashraf Al-Qudra, spokesman for the Gaza Ministry of Health, announced on the 32nd day of the Israeli aggression on the Gaza Strip.

Among the martyrs were 4,237 children, 2,719 women, and 631 elderly people.

So far, Israel has also killed 192 health personnel and destroyed 40 ambulances. ▸ Page 5

Ayatollah Khamenei rolls out new plans for maritime development

TEHRAN – Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, Leader of the Islamic Revolution, on Tuesday notified Iran's three government branches (President Ebrahim Raisi's administration, parliament, and the judiciary) about the country's new policies aimed to bring sea-based developments to a new level.

The Raisi administration is now obliged to present a comprehensive plan based on the new policies, including the submission of bills, approval of regulations, and necessary executive actions, with the assistance of parliament, the judiciary, and responsible organizations within a six-month period.

Ayatollah Khamenei defined the oceans as "divine blessings" that should be utilized for the development of science and technology. He said effective actions must be taken to ensure Iran will have an important regional and international position on seas and oceans across the world.

The new policies, which have been announced after consultations with the Expediency Council and are in accordance with Article 110 of the constitution, are as follows: ▸ Page 3

Iran, China reach new agreements under 25-year partnership

TEHRAN – Iran's Finance and Economic Affairs Minister Ehsan Khandouzi said the 25-year strategic partnership plan between Iran and China has entered a new phase with new agreements being reached between various ministries of the two countries, IRIB reported.

According to Khandouzi, the mentioned agreements have been reached between the two sides during the visit of Iran's delegation to the 6th China International Import Expo (CIIE).

"Specific projects were defined between the government departments of the respective ministries of Iran and China, and agreements were reached on the details of the implementation of the mentioned projects," Khandouzi said.

Regarding the private sectors of the two countries, some Iranian companies operating in China and some large Chinese companies operating in Iran faced obstacles, which were discussed and resolved by the relevant authorities, he explained.

"We are going to witness a significant growth in economic cooperation and investment between the two sides with the implementation of these projects," the minister noted.

Headed by Iran's First Vice President, Mohammad Mokhber, a senior delegation comprised of Economy Minister Ehsan Khandouzi, Industry, Mining, ▸ Page 4

FAO acknowledges New Agricultural Heritage sites in Iran

TEHRAN – The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) has formally designated two agricultural systems in Iran as Globally Important Agricultural Heritage Systems (GIAHS). This recognition was made during the GIAHS Scientific Advisory Group meeting held in Rome from November 7 to 10.

Flood-spreading gardens and walnut cultivation in Iran

The traditional Gardens of Qazvin, northwest of Iran's capital Tehran, are a flood-spreading system that dates back thousands of years. Situated in the foothills of the Alborz ranges, the creation of the gardens surrounding the city has protected its inhabitants from floods adapting to and taking advantage of the watershed to produce nuts and local delicacies. ▸ Page 7

Jewish New Yorkers protest at Statue of Liberty to demand ceasefire in Gaza

Activists from Jewish Voice for Peace Organization unfurl banners reading 'Palestinians should be free' at the base of New York landmark.

Hundreds of US Jewish activists have peacefully gathered at New York's Statue of Liberty to demand an end to Israel's "genocidal bombardment" of civilians in Gaza as well as a ceasefire.

Dressed in black T-shirts emblazoned with the slogans "Jews demand ceasefire now" or "Not in our name", the protesters from the Jewish Voice for Peace Organization on Monday unfurled banners reading "The whole world is watching" and "Palestinians should be free" at the base of New York's landmark.

It was the latest pro-Palestinian protest to take place in the United States since Israel began a series of onslaughts against the besieged Gaza Strip a month ago.

Iran ready to send humanitarian aid to Gaza via Egypt

TEHRAN – Iran has expressed readiness to provide the people of Gaza with humanitarian aid via Egypt amid a massive humanitarian crisis caused by the Israeli war against the Palestinian enclave.

The announcement was made in a phone conversation between Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian and his Egyptian counterpart Sameh Shoukry. The two ministers discussed the latest developments in Palestine on Monday evening.

Amir Abdollahian highlighted Iran's and Egypt's stances as two important Islamic countries, saying continuing bilateral talks is crucial in putting an end to the ongoing crisis in Palestine and the Israeli regime's savage strikes against civilians in Gaza and the West Bank, according to the Iranian foreign ministry. ▸ Page 3

TEHRAN PAPERS

A message from Washington to Tehran!

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

Hamshahri analyzed Iraqi Prime Minister Al Sudani's visit to Tehran and wrote: Considering that prevention of resistance groups' attacks on the American military sites (in Iraq and Syria) was the main focus of Blinken's negotiations in Iraq, some believe that the Iraqi Prime Minister probably carried a message from the Americans to Iran. Speculation about the message of the Americans can be interpreted whining the context of Iran's foreign minister' remarks, who in his latest position on the current developments in the occupied territories, stated that the wearing of the bulletproof vest by the U.S. Secretary of State in Baghdad shows "the reality of the role of the United States". He also declared that in the past three days, a message has been received from the Americans that they are looking for a "ceasefire". Amir Abdollahian stated though they make such claims, in practice they only support the "genocide" in Gaza. The minister hoped that America would change its policy in supporting the occupying side as soon as possible. Nevertheless, it is not yet clear whether the "ceasefire message" that Amir Abdollahian mentioned was transferred to Iran during Al Sudani's Monday visit to Tehran or not.

Kayhan: The growing pressure of Iran's allies on America

Kayhan wrote in a note: When U.S. President Joe Biden sent aircraft carriers to the Middle East after Hamas attacked Israel, he said one word to Iran and its allies: "Don't". Since then, there have been rocket, drone, and missile attacks on Israel and American forces by the network of Iranian-allied militias throughout the region, but so far it has not turned into a regional conflict. During the bloody fighting in Gaza between Israel and Hamas, a broader and potentially more dangerous rivalry with Iran is growing. After abandoning the approach of maximum pressure on Iran, the Biden administration quietly sought to reduce tensions in recent months. But today, Iran not only celebrated the attacks of Hamas but also threatened the interests of the United States through its proxies. Iran is currently trying to maximize diplomatic engagement, and Iran's Foreign Minister has been as active in regional consultations as Blinken.

Iran: Iran's return to the golden Silk Road

In a commentary, the Iran newspaper analyzed the signing of China's corridor protocol with Europe through Iran. It wrote: Iran, because of its special geographical position and due to its location in the middle of the Silk Road, has always been the focus of Western and Eastern countries as a transit route. This road has been important for Iran more than other countries in commercial and cultural fields, so it is important to revive this road and return to its golden age and be on its path. The signing of the strategic cooperation document between Tehran and Beijing is an important step to formalize long-term cooperation between the two sides; this step shows that Iran has defined itself as an important part of the "One Belt One Road" plan. The extensive economic benefits of reviving the Silk Road for the countries on the path can motivate countries to help establish regional security and diplomatic efforts.

Sisat-e-Rooz: Improving deterrence and offensive power

In an article, Siasat-e-Rooz discussed the level of Iran's deterrence and said: These days, when the radical Israeli minister spoke about dropping atomic bombs on Gaza, some analyses are being repeated about the need for Iran's nuclear deterrence. According to the defenders of acquiring nuclear weapons, Iran's nuclear program became an excuse to issue various resolutions against the country from the beginning of the 2000s. The government chose the best option to respond to these sanctions resolutions: "Unveiling a military achievement after issuance of a resolution". This move was a measure to stop the issuance of resolutions against the country, which is considered an achievement and has brought awareness to the decision-making process in the West. As a result, it is considered that, in response to the movements of the enemy, whether in diplomacy and soft war or during military conflicts, either one should be active or it is necessary to respond to his actions with an important and effective action such as making weapons or something like that. Otherwise, the enemy doubts the will of the system's decision-makers.

In case of cuisine bono, Israel is top priority for White House

By Ali Ahmadi

TEHRAN- The British think tank Unherd published a story on November 6 outlining a roadmap for the Biden administration to increase pressure on Iran and save the shaky Israel.

The analysis, written by Edward Luttwak, started with a briefing on the Iranian foreign minister's talks with his Turkish counterpart. It then pointed the finger at some White House staff and ended up offering suggestions over halting Iran's oil supply.

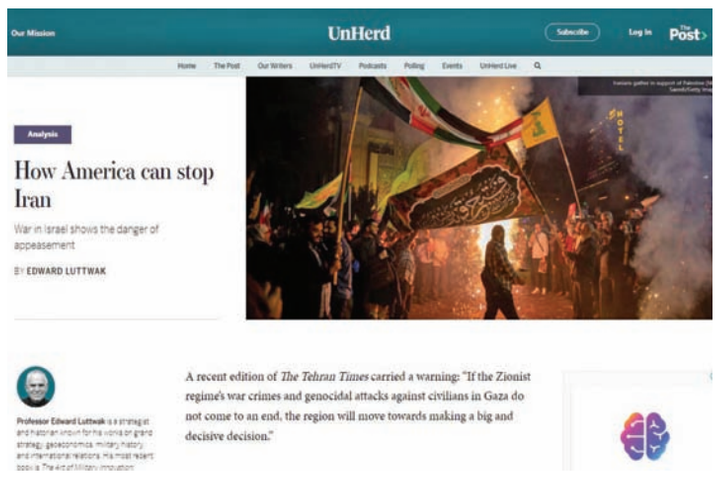
In the analysis, the Biden administration was sarcastically labeled as incompetent to push Iran to the corner; also, the cabinet was criticized for widening the gap between Washington and Tel Aviv.

A trip down memory lane reveals that U.S. presidents have done their best to keep the Israeli regime running a few more days, as if every U.S. president is mandated to help sustain the Zionist regime.

Biden has followed in the footsteps of his predecessors

Upon the start of the Hamas operation on October 7, Biden promised further support for Israel, so Washington provided political, military, and financial support for Tel Aviv, which is the United States' arm in West Asia.

Labeled as "appeaser in chief" by John Bolton on October 15, the self-proclaimed Zionist Biden once again underlined the importance of the Israeli regime in West Asia through his one-day visit from Tel Aviv on October 18, just a day after the bombardment of Al Ahli hospital in northern Gaza which left at least 500 Palestinians martyred.



Luttwak criticized some White House officials for their Iran policy, yet during Biden's tenure no sanction has been lifted and there has been no appeasement toward Iran.

Biden, who is said to be interested in the JCOPA revival, has followed Trump's Iran policy.

The U.S. exited the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action in May 2018 in a bid to put further pressure on Iran.

In an exclusive interview with CBN on 23 June 2020, Trump said: "Probably the biggest thing I did for Israel was Iran, breaking up that horrible deal made by President Obama $150 billion, $1.8 billion in cash."

A common tactic among U.S. presidents is to play the blame game, accusing their predecessors of ignoring Israel. However, reliable documents trace Washington's longstanding support for Tel Aviv.

Back in September 2016, Washington and Tel Aviv signed a military aid package worth $38 billion, which was the largest aid package in U.S. history.

The deal, billed by Barak Obama, was promised to be paid within a decade. It allowed Washington's chief West Asia ally to upgrade most of its fighter aircraft, its ground forces' mobility, and its missile defense systems.

Accusing U.S. presidents of negligence towards Israel is a popular topic during election campaigns, however, it remains a priority for the White House to allocate more money to Israel from American taxpayers.

America's inhumane stance

In line with the policy to halt Iran's progress, this time, Luttwak came up with a suggestion for exerting more pressure on Iran's oil supply.

"Starve the beast by intercepting oil exports on the high seas," said the author, calling for interception of the oil tankers carrying Iran's oil.

The action, according to the author, would lead to increased food prices, deprivation, and outright hunger.

"Starving" is the key word that was once uttered by the former U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo in November 2018. He said, "Iran must listen to the U.S. if they want their people to eat".

Putting barriers in Iran's oil supply is not a new strategy. It is within Washington's policy to halt Iran's oil supply.

Such a cruel stance, which is stated by U.S. officials, further outlines Washington's worry over the shaky Israel's du jour condition.

Growing worries over Israel's survival

Preserving U.S. interests, Israel is a top priority for the White House. Any threat to Tel Aviv is considered a threat to Washington.

In fact, the real threat to the Zionist regime is the spread of the Islamic Revolution's discourse.

The Tawhidic perspective and independence are two main factors that the Islamic Revolution and resistance have in common.

In the resistance lexicon, there is no word like "surrender".

Metaphorically, the Americans and Zionists are afraid of the resistance rockets on the one hand, and the spread of revolutionary concepts on the other. The former targets the military barracks, and the latter targets the essence of oppression and injustice.

Spending on Israel will bear no benefit for Washington: IRGC chief

TEHRAN – The Chief Commander of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) on Monday said Washington's resources that are being spent on Israel are essentially being squandered.

"Today, America has lost its former global position and is spending money on a regime that has no benefits for it, and this is the result of the lack of wisdom in American governance" explained Major General Hossein Salami.

Salami said the events that are taking place in the region and across the world, herald a big change in the course of global developments. He added that the valuable aspirations of the Islamic Republic are spreading to various parts of the world.

The commander stressed that Washington has not been able to acquire any strategies in regards to Gaza, and has merely resorted to killing civilians. "The Americans are now trapped in a path without logic and insight, acting like someone who has no goal and is unable to find a way," he noted

The military official said that while the West and Israel lack a concrete plan and clear strategies, recent developments in the world show that people are becoming more and more aware of the crimes that have been committed against Palestinians and the lies Western media has been feeding people.

The top military officer added, "This arena of confrontation between right and wrong is as vast as the geographical expanse of the earth."

Major changes unfolding in the region: minister

TEHRAN – Iran's Interior Minister on Tuesday stated that the Hamas October 7 offensive against Israel will give rise to fundamental changes in a wide arc and change all previous predictions.

Ahmad Vahidi said the current fight against the evil (the Zionist regime) in West Asia has awakened people across the globe, referring to huge rallies against Israel's crimes against the Palestinians in the Gaza Strip.

"The deep transformation that is taking shape is not limited to that land [Palestine]. Demonstrations against the Zionist regime in important universities such as Harvard and Oxford are one of the manifestations of this transformation," he stated.

Vahidi credited the fierce resistance of the Palestinian people for their latest victory against the Israeli regime. "This resistance created a miracle. The Quran promises that if you persevere and resist, you will achieve victory, and today Palestine is a very prominent example of that," he explained

He said Palestinians have so far lost more than 10,000 lives, which goes to show the cruel and brutal nature of the Zionist regime. "Despite all the bombs being dropped on the oppressed and resilient people of Gaza, we are still witnessing their perseverance. The oppression of Palestinian children and the killing of 5,000 children will certainly overthrow the Zionist regime."

The minister emphasized the need for cooperation among Islamic countries to sanction the Zionist regime and urged neighboring countries of Occupied Palestine to open their borders to provide aid to the oppressed people of Gaza.

He reiterated previous remarks by the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, saying the latest Israeli defeat at the hands of Palestinians is not compensable or reparable. He stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran takes the issue of Palestine very seriously and will continue to show unflagging support for the Palestinian cause.

The official added that since Israel has committed "colossal war crimes", it is important that international and regional courts hold the regime accountable once the dust has settled. "This oppression should not be allowed to escape the conscience of humanity," he pointed out.

Vahidi advised activists around the world to do their best to expose Israeli crimes, adding that those working in media have a bigger responsibility.

Israel has begun relentless onslaughts against Palestinians in Gaza after the Hamas Resistance movement managed to carry out a successful operation inside the occupied territories through air, sea, and land last month. 34 days into the war, the regime has so far murdered more than 10,000 civilians with half of the casualties made up of children. Thousands of people are also believed to be stuck under the rubble.

Israel says the high number of civilian casualties are justifiable as Hamas forces are living among the citizens. That's while the regime has also killed more than 160 Palestinians in the West Bank, where Hamas is not present.

The UN General Assembly has called for a ceasefire in Gaza with an overwhelming majority vote. The U.S. however has been preventing any resolutions from passing in the Security Council, claiming it does not believe a genocide is taking place at the hands of Israel.

General likens Israeli pilots to animals attacking defenseless civilians

TEHRAN- Resembling the Israeli pilots as savage animals attacking defenseless people, the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Iranian Armed Forces Brigadier General Aziz Nasirzadeh on Tuesday posed a question to upholders of international law.

"I am myself a fighter pilot and I witnessed that during the imposed war, our pilots never carried out an operation against civilians, but today Israeli pilots, akin to animals, kill defenseless people," General Nasirzadeh said in direct reference to Saddam Hussein's war against Iran in the 1980s.

Nasirzadeh, who was the commander of the Iranian Air Force from 2018 to 2021, emphasized that the biggest violation of human rights is happening in the Gaza war where phosphorous and cluster bombs are being dropped on residential areas.

Israeli piolets have been carpeting the coastal enclave of Gaza with bombs since October 7, killing more than 10,000 people, most of them women and children. Actually, Israel has dropped an equivalent of two atomic bombs on the people of Gaza.

Speaking on the occasion of the martyrs' commemoration on Tuesday morning, Nasirzadeh stated that enemies implanted some of their ideas and concepts into the minds of Iranian teenagers due to the negligence that was cast on Iranian teenagers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

According to the general, the best tribute for martyrs is "not bending knees to the arrogance," adding that it is a duty to fight the disbelief.

The best type of "explanatory jihad" in schools is to describe the path of martyrs to students, said the general.

The general underlined teachers' roles on the first front of the war, saying "cognitive war" is the main battleground these days.

"Teachers can preserve the values and ideals of the revolution," added General Nasirzadeh, emphasizing teachers' role in shaping the future of society.

Referring to the Israeli war crimes in Gaza, the top general said that students in Gaza are sitting on the ruins of their schools and houses instead of attending their classes.

Pointing to the status quo in the region, he also said that the paradigm of the late founder of the Islamic Revolution has affected most of the political happenings.

Raisi to visit Tajikistan and Uzbekistan

TEHRAN- Upon the official invitation of Tajik President Emomali Rahmon, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi will visit Tajikistan on Wednesday morning.

After the official welcome ceremony, the Iranian and Tajik presidents will hold a private meeting.

Following the meeting, both sides will attend a joint meeting with businesspersons.

During the visit to Dushanbe, Iranian and Tajik authorities will also sign several cooperation documents.

Upon the official invitation of Uzbek President Shaukat Mirzayev, Raisi will also leave Dushanbe for Tashkent to attend the 16th Economic Cooperation Organization (ECO) Summit, which will be held on 8-9 November.

During the tour in Tashkent, the Iranian president will also voice Tehran's stance and meet with some heads of state participating in the ECO summit.

Consultations over bilateral cooperation, especially in the commercial and economic field, and international issues, especially the critical situation in Gaza, will be the main topic of discussion between the Iranian president and his Tajik and Uzbek counterparts.

It is also said that Raisi will visit Riyadh, the capital of Saudi Arabia, on November 12, for participation in the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC)summit on Gaza.

Ayatollah Khamenei rolls out new plans for maritime development

Frome Page 1 ▶ 1- Integrated maritime policy-making and national division of labor and agile and efficient sea management to consolidate maritime power in the region, and in the world.

2- Expansion of sea-based economic activities and establishment of commercial hubs in coasts and islands. The aim is to leverage ocean-based economy at an exponential rate.

3- Facilitation and development of domestic and foreign investments through the creation of necessary infrastructure.

4- Formulation of a comprehensive sea-based development plan which takes into account agriculture, tourism and trade in Iran's southern coasts. The plan should be out within a year.

5- Maximizing and optimizing the use of marine ecosystem capacities, resources, and reserves while preventing environmental destruction by other countries.

6- Provision and promotion of human capital and committed and efficient management. There should also be sufficient support for research and scientific activities in the field of marine ecology and technology.

7- Expansion of economic and trade cooperation with neighboring countries, as well as other states, in order to develop the marine capacities of the country and take part in international and regional projects.

8- Increasing the country›s share in maritime transportation and transit by creating and strengthening a combined transportation network.

9- Supporting local investors through development projects and supporting economic activists and small and medium-sized enterprises in various fields including fishing, agriculture and tourism.

In recent years, Iran has put great emphasis on maritime development and made several efforts to expand its naval presence in the high seas. It was announced in October that the Iranian navy plans to permanently deploy forces to different oceans. The country has also declared plans for a naval base in Antarctica.

Both announcements came after the Iranian Navy's 86th flotilla managed to complete an eight-month mission that involved sailing around the world. The flotilla, which wrapped up its round-the-world trip in May, consisted of the Dena destroyer and Makran forward base ship. It sailed across the Indian, Pacific, and Atlantic oceans without needing assistance from land and traveled 63,000 kilometers while crossing the Equator four times.

FM calls on U.S. to end hypocrisy on Gaza

TEHRAN – Iranian Foreign Minister Hossein Amir Abdollahian says Tehran has received a message from Washington in which they hypocritically said they were in favor of a ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

Commenting on the U.S. message to Iran, Amir Abdollahian said, "Since last week, America has been after a humanitarian ceasefire. We received their message. They are completely wrong."

He added, "They manage the game of war against Gaza and the West Bank simultaneously. Stop hypocrisy and genocide against Gaza."

The comments come amid a global outcry over Israel's egregious disregard for international humanitarian law in its war against the Gaza Strip. So far, Israel has killed more than 10,000 Palestinians in the besieged strip, mostly women and children.

Despite claiming that they are in favor of "humanitarian pauses," the Biden administration continues to blindly support Israel's mass killings of the Palestinians in Gaza and the West Bank.

Amir Abdollahian said the White House preferred to be complicit in Israel's crimes against the Palestinian people.

"More than 120 countries called for an end to the war. Millions of people took to the streets in cities around the globe, including Washington, in support of Palestine and to condemn 'war crimes'. Yet, the White House prefers to be complicit and abet the collapsing regime of Israel at the expense of countering the global public opinion," he said, according to Iran's state news agency IRNA.

The Israeli aggression against the defenseless Palestinian people in Gaza took a dangerous turn earlier this week when an Israeli minister openly threatened to drop a nuclear bomb on the besieged enclave, which is one of the most densely populated areas of the world with a population of 2.3 million.

Israeli Heritage Minister Amichai Eliyahu urged the Israeli government to drop a nuclear bomb on the Gaza Strip. Speaking in an interview on Sunday, Eliyahu claimed that there were "no non-combatants" in the besieged strip and that using a nuclear bomb on the Palestinian enclave was one of the possibilities."

Amir Abdollahian said the remarks are indicative of Israel's failure.

"Israel›s regime minister›s statement to use atomic bomb shows the real defeat of the regime against the resistance," he said.

The Iranian foreign minister added, "The UN Security Council and the International Atomic Energy Agency must take immediate and uninterrupted action to disarm this barbaric and apartheid regime. Tomorrow is late. Full responsibility for this genocide lies with the White House."

Religious leader of Iranian Jews slams Israeli crimes against Gazans

TEHRAN – The religious leader of Iranian Jews on Tuesday slammed Israel's massacre of Palestinians, saying both the regime and its actions are antithetical to Jewish values.

During an interview with the Fars news agency, Younes Hamami Lalehzar clarified that a massive population of Jews around the world have been opposed to the establishment of the Zionist regime since the beginning.

Hamami noted that the actions of the Israeli regime are in no way acceptable to the Iranian Jews.

"Jews are opposed to the principle of the formation of this regime, which has been formed with oppression and abuse of religious Jewish ideals," he explained

He added that the October 7 offensive against Israel by Hamas, was only a response to years of occupation and aggression by the Zionist regime.

"Unfortunately, the Zionist regime has committed a great crime in Gaza with the aim of targeting civilians, especially women and children, which is a source of sorrow and concern."

Hamami also stressed that the killing of innocent civilians is innately wrong in accordance to any religion. "The massacre of women and children is not approved by any religion or creed, and everyone strongly opposes it, and we also emphasize the need to stop oppression and injustice against the people of this land [Palestine] as soon as possible," he declared.

Israel and the Western media have been trying to portray any opposition towards the regime as anti-Semitism. U.S. police even arrested hundreds of Jewish demonstrators who were calling for a ceasefire in Gaza last month. Hundreds of thousands of Jews in the West have long been complaining that they are forced to form some sort of allegiance to the Israeli regime. They also argue that accusations of anti-Semitism at the slightest objection to Israeli policies have been allowing Israel to commit numerous crimes against humanity.

Iran ready to send humanitarian aid to Gaza via Egypt

Frome Page 1 ▶ The Iranian foreign minister also noted that the upcoming summit of the Islamic countries in Riyadh is significant and said Tehran is ready to continue consultations with Cairo.

Amir Abdollahian asserted that the Iranian Red Crescent Society is ready to send humanitarian aid to Gaza through Egypt.

Meanwhile, the Egyptian foreign minister shed light on Egypt's measures to send international humanitarian aid to the people in Gaza, and hailed the positions adopted by Arab and Islamic countries as well as those of the Islamic Republic of Iran and their efforts in this regard.

Shoukry also underlined the necessity of continuing bilateral and multilateral talks to help stop the conflict, establish a truce in Gaza, and send humanitarian aid to the people in the besieged enclave.

Urgent OIC summit on Gaza

Iran's Foreign Minister also had a phone conversation with his Saudi counterpart and discussed the latest developments in Palestine.

During the talks, they stressed that the Organization of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) should hold an extraordinary summit to review the developments in Palestine, stop the "war crimes" against Gaza and the West Bank, and continuously send humanitarian aid to the region.

The summit proposed by the Iranian president and the heads of some other Islamic countries, including Saudi Arabia, will soon be held in Riyadh, as the rotating president and the country which hosts the headquarters of the OIC secretariat.

Genocide should stop

Amir Abdollahian also held talks on the phone with India's foreign minister Subrahmanyam Jaishankar on regional issues as well as the Zionist regime's criminal moves in the occupied Palestinian territories.

During the phone conversation, the Iranian foreign minister stated, "India, as well as other countries in the region and other parts of the world, are expected to come up with initiatives within the framework of establishing truce in order to send extensive humanitarian aid to the oppressed Palestinian people in Gaza, stop the occupying forces' inhumane moves to commit massive genocide and war crimes, and stop the forced displacement of the residents of the region."

The top Iranian diplomat also warned if the Zionist regime continues its attacks, the situation in the region will become more complicated and the resistance forces will open new fronts, which in turn will lead to escalation and spillover of the conflicts in the region.

Amir Abdollahian also briefed his Indian

counterpart on joint cooperation to launch the Chabahar Port project, noting that the two countries should hold more consultations in this regard and other issues of interest for both sides.

Meanwhile, the Indian minister of external affairs said the situation in Gaza is sorrowful, adding his country is closely following the regional developments.

He noted that India "believes that, despite the differences in tastes, joint measures and efforts are need to improve humanitarian conditions in Gaza."

Jaishankar further stressed that India is ready to play a role within the framework of the initiatives proposed by the Islamic Republic of Iran to help stop the military operations and prevent the spread of the war.

The Indian minister of external affairs also touched on some bilateral issues with Iran.

SPORTS

Discus thrower Hadadi officially announces retirement

TEHRAN – Iranian discus thrower Ehsan Hadadi officially announced his retirement from the sport on Monday, bringing an end to his 20-year career.

The 38-year-old discus thrower won a silver medal in the 2022 Asian Games in early October with a throw of 61.82 meters, behind his countryman Hossein Rasouli who threw 62.04 meters.

Hadadi is the first Iranian to win a medal in athletics in the Olympic Games. The discus thrower claimed a silver in the 2012 Olympic Games in London.

Haddadi also made history by becoming the first Iranian athlete to win a medal at IAAF World Championships in athletics, where he won bronze in the 2011 World Championships in Athletics in Daegu.

Hadadi won four gold medals in 2006 Asian Games (Doha), 2010 Asian Games (Guangzhou), 2014 Asian Games (Incheon) and 2018 Asian Games (Jakarta).

He also won six gold medals in 2005, 2007, 2009, 2011, 2017 and 2019 Asian Championships.

"I decided to bring an end to my career because I think it's right time to say goodbye," Hadadi said.

"In the recent years, I was forced to compete in the events through pain. I hope the Iranian athletes can win medals in the upcoming Olympics and Asian Games," he added.

Sepahan down AGMK in 2023/24 ACL Matchday 4

TEHRAN - Sepahan sent out a warning to their opponents in the AFC Champions League 2023-24 on Monday as Jose Morais' side handed AGMK from Uzbekistan a 9-0 demolition at the Tehran's Azadi Stadium to enhance their hopes of progressing to the last 16.

Eight of Sepahan's goals came in a ruthless second half performance from the hosts, who faced 10 men for the final quarter of the game following Akramjon Kolimov's expulsion for a direct red card offence.

The win moves Sepahan onto seven points from their four games in Group C so far, two behind leaders Al Ittihad from Saudi Arabia and level with Air Force Club of Iraq with only two rounds remaining.

Sepahan had dominated from early in the game, but their first half performance gave no indication of the serious damage they would inflict on their visitors in the second 45 minutes.

The home side went ahead in the eighth minute when the AGMK defense failed to properly clear Milad Zakipour's long throw in, possession eventually falling to Farshad Ahmadzadeh and he pulled the ball down before firing low past Botirali Ergashev, the-afc.com reported.

Sepahan's second eventually came in the 59th minute when Reza Asadi rose to meet Ehsan Pahlavan's inviting cross from the left, the ball swinging towards goal and the forward steered his header past Ergashev.

That goal led to a collapse by the visitors, Mohammadjavad Hosseinnezhad hitting his side's third a minute later when his shot looped up off a defender to give the goalkeeper no hope.

And a further two minutes later the Iranians had a fourth when Mohammad Ghorbani side-footed his volley home as Asadi redirected Ramin Rezaeian's corner into the goal scorer's path.

Things went from bad to worse for AGMK when Kolimov was sent off after stamping on Rezaeian and, with a man advantage, Sepahan continued to push.

Rezaeian capitalized on an error by Ergashev to stroke in the fifth in the 71st minute and eight minutes later the sixth came from the penalty spot when, after being brought down by Iskandar Businov, Isa Alkasir climbed off the turf to score.

Shahriyar Moghanlou rolled in the seventh when his deflected effort from distance wrong-footed Ergashev, Alkasir hit the eighth with three minutes left and Hosseinnezhad claimed the ninth in injury time.

Chinese company inks MoU to build stadium in Tehran

TEHRAN - China IPPR International Engineering Corporation has signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with Iran's Ministry of Sport and Youth to build a new stadium in the Iranian capital city of Tehran.

The signing MoU ceremony between the Iranian and Chinese sides was held in the presence of Iran's Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports Kioumars Hashemi in Tehran on Tuesday.

Earlier, Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi urged the Minister of Sports and Youth as well as the Vice-President for Executive Affairs to seriously pursue the issue of building a new stadium in Tehran to meet the sports needs of the youth.

Persepolis held by Istiklol: 2023/24 ACL Matchday 4

TEHRAN - Senin Sebai's 74th minute strike earned Tajikistan's FC Istiklol a 1-1 draw with Persepolis in the AFC Champions League 2023/24 on Tuesday to leave the side from Iran in second place in Group E with two matches remaining.

The draw came after Mehdi Torabi had given the Iranians a first-half lead and sees Persepolis move onto seven points, still adrift of group leaders Al Nassr ahead of the Saudi Arabian side's meeting with Al Duhail later.

Torabi's expertly taken 29th minute free kick gave the two-time runners-up the advantage and brightened a tepid first half of few opportunities for either side, the-afc.com reported.

Istiklol's Artur Kartashyan had struck the base of his own post in the early exchanges as Persepolis put the home defense under pressure but it took Torabi to step up to open the scoring.

The Iranian international steered his right foot effort over the Istiklol defensive wall and into the top left corner of Rustam Yatimov's goal prompting scenes of jubilation on the Persepolis bench.

Alireza Beiranvand almost gifted the home side the equalizer 11 minutes before the break, the FIFA World Cup goalkeeper redeeming himself after an initial rush of blood left him well out of position in an unnecessary contest with Amadoni Kamolov.

The Istiklol attack rotated the ball around the penalty area to Sebai but, by the time the Ivorian struck his shot goalward, Beiranvand was back in position to tip the ball over the bar.

Beiranvand maintained his side's lead again nine minutes after the restart when he kept out Tabrez Islomov's header, steering the goal-bound effort away with his left hand after Kamolov's cross from the right had found the full back free at the far post.

Kamolov snatched at his next sight of goal just after the hour mark, firing high of the goal when space opened up on the left side of the Persepolis defense but with 16 minutes remaining the 20-year-old unlocked the visitors' backline.

A defense-splitting pass on the run found Sebai in space and he made no mistake with a clinical first-time finish.

Five minutes later Istiklol could have taken the lead when Kamolov played in Alisher Dzhalilov but this time Beiranvand was equal to the task and the Iranians held on to escape from Dushanbe with a point.

Tehran, Kabul discuss ways of boosting annual trade up to $10b

TEHRAN – Senior officials from Iran and Afghanistan have explored ways of expanding economic ties between the two countries in order to increase trade exchanges to a target of $10 billion, IRIB reported.

In a televised program on Monday, Economic Adviser of the Iranian President's Special Envoy in Afghanistan Affairs Mohammad-Mehdi Javanmard-Ghassab, and Minister of Commerce and Industry of the Taliban Government Nooruddin Azizi said the current level of trade between the two sides is not satisfactory, and should be increased.

According to the officials, the two sides need to take the necessary measures in order to increase the level of trade up to $10 billion per year.

Asked about the areas in which the two sides can develop their economic ties, Azizi said mining industry, agriculture, and transit are among the areas in which the two sides have great potential to expand mutual cooperation.

"Afghanistan is very rich in terms of minerals and is one of the countries that is highly valued in this regard, and all Iranian economists agree on the potential for cooperation in this field," the Afghani official said.

"We can also grow the products needed by Iran, such as cotton, beets, sesame, etc., in our agricultural lands. Of course, extraterritorial cultivation is also a very large capacity in which we can be self-sufficient and export to neighboring countries," he added.

On Saturday (November 4), Iran's capital Tehran hosted an Iran-Afghanistan Joint Economic Committee meeting for the first time after the new government in Afghanistan took office.

The Iranian and Afghan representatives to Joint Economic Committee held the first day of their meeting, with high-ranking economic officials of both countries being in attendance.

The formation of joint working groups in fields such as trade, transit, transportation, customs and the environment were discussed on the first day of the two-day meeting.

The two sides also agreed on the formation of several more working groups tasked with identifying problems in the way of economic cooperation between the two neighbors.

Afghanistan's delegation arrived in Iran earlier on Saturday. The 30-member delegation was led by the Deputy Prime Minister for Economic Affairs of the Taliban Government Mullah Abdul Ghani Baradar.

Iranian Agriculture Minister Mohammad-Ali Nikbakht and President Raisi's special envoy for Afghanistan Hassan Kazemi Qomi were among the senior officials representing the Iranian side.

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

About 1.5m tons of steel products exported in H1

TEHRAN- As announced by the Iranian Steel Producers Association (ISPA), Iran exported about 1.5 million tons of steel products during the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-September 22).

As the association has announced, 11.112 million tons of steel products were produced in the country during the six-month period.

Iran exported 3.199 million tons of steel products in the past Iranian calendar year 1401 (ended on March 20), the ISPA has previously reported.

The country's steel products export fell six percent in 1401, as compared to 1400 when the figure was 3.406 million tons.

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).

Private sector ready to invest $12b in gas sector: ICCIMA

TEHRAN – The head of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines and Agriculture (ICCIMA) Energy Committee has said the country's private sector is ready to invest up to $12 in the country's gas sector in order to mitigate supply and demand imbalance in the cold season, the ICCIMA portal reported.

"If the government guarantees, the private sector is ready to invest 10-12 billion dollars to solve the gas imbalance in the cold season," Arash Najafi said in a press conference on Monday.

"Despite the fact that in the past two or three years, the private sector has repeatedly warned the government about the damage caused by gas and electricity imbalance, energy imbalance is still an important issue of the country's economy," Najafi said.

According to the official, representatives of the private sector are worried that, like the previous years, production units are going to face gas shortages in the current year's cold season as well, and their activities will be limited due to restrictions on gas supply, as a result, the country will face an imbalance in the production of strategic products like petrochemicals, steel, and cement, which will cause serious damage to the national economy and the country's foreign currency income.

Commodities worth $54.5m exported from North Khorasan in 7 months

TEHRAN- As announced by a provincial official, over 144,000 tons of non-oil goods worth $54.57 million were exported from North Khorasan province, in the northeast of Iran, during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22).

Abbas Baqeri, the director-general of the province's Customs Department, said that the seven-month export from the province indicates 18 percent growth in weight, while 36 percent drop in value, year on year.

The official also announced that 117,300 tons of non-oil goods worth more than $41 million were imported to the province in the first seven months of the present year, showing 465 percent growth in weight, and four percent rise in value, year on year.

As previously announced by the head of the Islamic Republic of Iran Customs Administration (IRICA), Iran exported 79.5 million tons of non-oil commodities worth $28.3 billion during the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year.

Mohammad Rezvani-Far said that the 7-month non-oil export indicates 29.32 percent rise in weight, and less than one percent drop in value, year on year.

The official further announced that 20.9 million tons of non-oil goods worth $36 billion were imported to the country during the seven-month period of this year, with 6.21 percent growth in weight, and 12.61 percent rise in value, as compared to the same period of time in the previous year.

Rezvani-Far, who is also the deputy minister of finance and economic affairs, went on to say that the country's seven-month non-oil trade stands at 100.4 million tons worth $64.4 billion, with 23.71 percent rise in weight, and 6.2 percent increase in value, year on year.

He named liquefied natural gas, liquefied propane and liquefied butane as the main exported goods, and China, Iraq, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Turkey and India as the main destinations of Iran's non-oil exports during the first seven months of the present year.

The IRICA head also mentioned corn as livestock food, mobile phones and soybeans as the main imported goods and the United Arab Emirates, China, Turkey, Germany and India as the main sources of non-oil imports of Iran in the said seven months.

During this period, the average customs value of each ton of exported goods went from $466 to $357, which shows a decrease of 23.43 percent, according to Rezvani-Far.

Iran, China reach new agreements under 25-year partnership

From page 1 ▸ and Trade Minister Abbas Aliabadi, as well as the deputies of various ministries and the economic deputy of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs visited China last week to attend the 6th CIIE.

Iran and China officially signed the document for 25-year comprehensive cooperation in March 2021.

The document was signed between Iran's former Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi at the Iranian Foreign Ministry.

Back in December 2022, Iran and China finalized 16 memorandums of understanding (MOU) under the framework of the two countries' strategic 25-year agreement.

The MOUs were signed in an Iran-China comprehensive cooperation program summit which was held in Tehran on December 13 in the presence of Iran's First Vice President Mohammad Mokhber and China's Vice Premier Hu Chunhua.

The summit was focused on four areas explored by four committees between the two countries with the aim of paving the way for the implementation of the 25-year agreement.

Iran and China also signed 20 memoranda of understanding in the presence of the presidents of the two countries in Beijing in mid-February.

Heading a high-ranking delegation, Iran's President Ebrahim Raisi was on a three-day state visit to China starting February 14.

During President Raisi's visit to China, Tehran and Beijing signed a number of bilateral cooperation documents in the fields of agriculture, trade, tourism, environmental protection, health, disaster relief, culture, and sports.

The documents include agreements in the field of transportation and industry worth $12 billion and $3.5 billion, respectively; the agreements cover various joint projects like the high-speed rail link between Tehran and Mashhad, and investment in the Imam Khomeini Airport City.

Investment in Iran's southeastern Mokran Coast and the purchase of Iranian oil were also mentioned in the documents.

Raisi's visit served as an example of the high level of mutual trust between China and Iran, as well as a milestone for bilateral ties.

Then in mid-July, the agreements signed between Iran and China during President Raisi's trip to Beijing in mid-February were turned into specified projects during the two countries' joint cooperation committee meeting, the Iranian finance and economic affairs minister announced.

Ehsan Khandouzi left Tehran for Beijing on July 12 to attend the Iran-China Joint Cooperation Committee meeting, which was held after four and half years.

"With the constructive atmosphere of the committee, we will soon witness good events in the fields of business and investment", the official wrote on his Twitter account on July 16.

Khandouzi further announced that Iran and China are going to begin the execution of some joint projects agreed upon in February by the presidents of the two countries, as of the following month.

According to the minister, the necessary follow-ups regarding the mentioned projects have been made over the last five months and the final decisions for the start of their implementations were made during a joint business event on July 13.

"President Raisi had an important trip to Beijing last winter and good agreements were made with the president of China; in this regard, the necessary follow-ups were made by various ministries during the last five months, and on Thursday (July 13) the first joint committee between Iran and China was held after 4.5 years," Khandouzi said.

"China is Iran's largest trading partner and the most important destination for the export of Iranian goods and an important part of our imports are also from China. Last year, China's share in Iran's (non-oil) trade was 24 percent," the minister added.

Back in early April, the Chinese ambassador to Tehran said: "This year is a good year for Iran-China relations."

Chang Hua made the remarks in a meeting with the members of the Iran-China Joint Chamber of Commerce and a number of Iranian traders and businessmen, who conduct trade with China, held at the place of the Iran Chamber of Commerce, Industries, Mines, and Agriculture (ICCIMA) in Tehran.

Referring to China's growing economy, the envoy said this year is a good year for Iran-China relations, adding that during the meeting between the leaders of the two countries, important agreements were made, including the implementation of the 25-year cooperation agreement between the two countries, and a number of bilateral cooperation documents were signed in the fields of agriculture, tourism, culture, relief, and rescue, etc.

Majid-Reza Hariri, the head of the Iran-China Joint Chamber, also emphasized the desire of Iran's private sector to develop business relations with China and said there are obstacles in this direction. Among other things, issuing visas for Iranian businessmen, especially for their presence at trade fairs in China, is associated with problems, and facilitating it will definitely help the development of relations between the two sides.

Iranian carmakers manufacture about 763,000 vehicles in 7 months

TEHRAN- Iranian automakers produced about 763,000 vehicles in the first seven months of the current Iranian calendar year (March 21-October 22), an official with the Industry, Mining and Trade Ministry said.

According to Abdollah Tavakoli Lahijani, the director general of the Iranian Industry Ministry's Auto Industry Office, Iranian carmakers managed to manufacture about 624,000 passenger cars in the mentioned seven months which shows a growth of 24 percent compared to 503,000 vehicles produced in the same period last year.

In the mentioned period, 91,000 trucks were also produced, registering a 47 percent growth compared to the same period last year.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

TEDPIX rises 21,800 points on Tuesday

TEHRAN- TEDPIX, the main index of the Tehran Stock Exchange (TSE), gained 21,823 points (1.7 percent) to 2,052,695 on Tuesday, which is the fourth 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).

شرکت مهندسی و ساخت تاسیسات دریایی ایران
(سهامی خاص)

Call for Tender 1th Announcement for the Purchase of Seamless & Welded Pipes Related to the Structural items of the Belal platform project, Tender No. 939468

Iran Offshore Engineering and Construction Company intends to purchase the Tender **of Seamless & Welded Pipes Related to the Structural items of the Belal platform project** through a public tender. Therefore, the applicants are allowed to have 30 days after the date of 1st publication of the tender notice in the newspaper to participate in this tender.

To download the tender documents, please visit the tender's section of the IOEC's website: WWW.IOEC.COM/TENDERS, and Please do not hesitate to contact with Mr. M.R. Edaltakhah with Tel: +9821-82842740 under sign for any inquiries and more information.

Why are the Palestinians not willing to leave Gaza despite Israel's endless brutality?

Here to stay

By Sadegh Fereydounabadi

TEHRAN – After more than a month of relentless bombardment and ruthless massacre, the Israeli regime has miserably failed to displace the people of Gaza.

Palestinians in the Gaza Strip have now demonstrated a heroic willingness to stay in their historical homeland despite the death and destruction Israel caused to their daily lives, which had already been tough under Israeli siege.

In the early days of their aggression on the besieged strip, Israeli leaders appeared to be rubbing their hands in glee believing that the time had finally come for Israel to apply the "final solution" to the Palestinian headache: a mass displacement of the Palestinian population from the Gaza Strip and then the West Bank into Egypt and Jordan respectively.

Israeli officials started a wave of bluster, all encouraging the Gazans to head south all the way to the Egyptian Sinai Peninsula. They used every tool at their disposal from air leaflets to SMSs to make the Gazans know their intent. While some Gazans moved south, the majority of them remained firmly anchored in their houses. Even those who departed in the first days, decided to return home, partially because there was no safe place throughout the Palestinian enclave. Interestingly, no one gathered at the Rafah crossing on the Egyptian border to flee to Egypt.

The Palestinians' attachment to their land is spectacular given the massive nature of Israel's barbarism. Israel has deliberately targeted each and every civilian infrastructure from hospitals and schools to water storages and churches, putting the lives of the civilians not just in danger of carpet bombing, but also starvation.

Doctors in Gaza have been forced to perform surgeries without anesthesia due to the humanitarian crisis caused by Israel. "Doctors and nurses in Gaza's teetering hospitals, which are nearing collapse without electricity and basic supplies, say they must now decide which patients get ventilators, who gets resuscitated, or who gets any medical treatment at all. They make snap decisions amid the screams of small children undergoing amputations or brain surgeries without anesthesia or clean water to wash their wounds," the New York Times reported on Monday.

Despite the harsh conditions, however, the Gazans are adamantly opposed to any displacement plots, which constantly invoke bitter memories of the Nakba.

To understand the Palestinian attachment to their land, one has to take a look at the painful history of Palestine. Ever since its establishment in 1948, Israel has been grappling with a Palestinian demographic "problem." Of note, Jews have historically been a minority in Palestine, who used to live in peace alongside the Arabs throughout history. This coexistence was shattered by Zionist figures who mostly migrated from Europe to Palestine in the early twentieth century. David Ben Gurion, the founding father of the Israeli regime, was a Polish Jew like many other Zionist leaders who had nothing to do with Palestine and the East in general.

When these Zionist fanatics declared the establishment of Israel in 1948, they had one big problem to deal with: how to rule a land with a majority of Palestinian Christians and Muslims. Their solution was simple: massive massacres and displacements of the original people. From day one, the Zionists embarked on a deadly campaign of terror and displacement. As a result, more than 700,000 Palestinians were forced to leave Palestine while many others were slaughtered by Zionist terrorist groups such as the Haganah, which later were incorporated into the so-called Israel Defense Forces (IDF).

The irony is that many Gazans hail from now-defunct Palestinian cities inside the Israeli apartheid regime such as Ashkelon, Ashdod, Negev, etc. In a sense, Gaza is a big refugee camp brimming with Palestinians from all across the lands occupied by Israel. And these Palestinians have already experienced displacement several times over the course of the history of the Palestinian tragedy.

So, when Israel asks Gazans to leave Gaza, it actually reminds them of their stolen lands and homes in Ashkelon, Haifa, Jaffa, Ashdod and so many other cities taken over by Zionists.

Ironically, Israel implied that displacement would be temporary and that the Gazans would return home after the end of the war. But with Israeli settlements metastasizing to wherever Israeli soldiers set foot, Palestinians know full well what Israel is up to.

In their quest for displacement, the Israelis also lobbied Europe and the U.S. to put pressure on Egypt, which has roundly rejected Zionist plans to transfer the Gazans into the Sinai. At the end of the day, the Egyptians have never forgotten how the Zionists' greed led them to build settlements on the Egyptian Sinai itself before 1973. What is astonishing here is the complete disregard of the Zionists for how they are seen in the region. They are morally bankrupt in the eyes of the whole region. Yet, they think that some would be naïve enough to fall for their machinations.

All in all, the Palestinians are here to stay- in their historical land. Perhaps, it would be better for the patchwork society of Israel to do justice to Palestine and leave what they stole from their previous hosts.

Israeli weakness one month after war on Gaza

The war on Gaza has proven to the world how barbaric the Israeli regime is

From page **1** ▸ This is while 6,000 Palestinian prisoners kidnapped by regime forces faced brutal conditions and attacks in Israeli dungeons, as directed by Netanyahu's extremist cabinet ministers.

To divert international attention from the failures of the Israeli army on October 7, and maintain its self-proclaimed prestige as the number one military power in West Asia, the regime was quick to spread fake news and propaganda.

These included fake claims that children had been burnt alive, women were raped and settlers were burnt in their houses.

The only evidence the Israelis offered was photos and videos of the burnt settler units and the charred remains of Israelis.

The United States and its Western allies were very quick to back up the regime's so-called evidence.

Experts have since concluded that the evidence of the buildings that Israel says were set on fire with Israelis inside were shelled and bombed by the Israelis themselves.

The footage of the buildings shows the aftermath of Israeli tank shells, not Hamas fighters, who took up light weapons in comparison with the regime's military capabilities.

In another attempt to save face, Netanyahu sold a false narrative that the Hamas's operation was an attack on "Jews" not seen since the "holocaust" and that this was "Israel's darkest hour".

Survivors of Hamas's retliatory operation admitted to Israeli media that Israeli forces bombed their settler homes whilst Hamas fighters were inside, killing entire Israeli families.

Israeli forces, in a state of shock, killed their own people and left them to burn.

Western media outlets followed suit with the same false narrative.

Whilst this all went under the radar, experts say the many false Israeli assertions about the nature of the Hamas operation will be exposed at a later time, when the war on Gaza ends.

To escape jail, Netanyahu and his henchmen launched a fake propaganda to justify the brutal bombing campaign against the 2.3 million people of Gaza.

Israeli warplanes have been conducting hundreds of airstrikes on a daily basis, amid another Israeli false claim that the targets were Hamas positions, which the regime has repeatedly compared the Palestinian resistance group to Daesh to justify its other brutal measures against Gazans.

Very few freedom fighters belonging to Hamas and other Palestinian resistance factions have been killed whilst the number of civilians in the Gaza Strip killed by the regime has surpassed 10,000.

Tens of thousands of others have been injured, with the majority of the fatalities and casualties being women and children.

Critics say the stupidity of Netanyahu, who wants to spend as much time in Gaza as possible to avoid a prison sentence, is evident in that he has not learned anything from his predecessors.

All the wars waged by the regime on Gaza as well as Lebanon over the past two decades have failed to achieve their goals.

The July 2006 Israeli war on Lebanon that followed Hezbollah's capture of two Israeli troops, also ended with 33 days of indiscriminate bombardments on Lebanese civilian sites. The war ended with a Hezbollah victory and the exchange of Lebanese prisoners for the Israeli troops captured by Hezbollah.

Israel will eventually face the same fate by being forced to release the Palestinian prisoners it has kidnapped in exchange for the Israeli soldiers being held by Hamas.

The Israeli land offensives and the humanitarian catastrophe it has created in the Gaza Strip coupled with the lack of water, food, medicine, fuel, and other essential supplies will not bring about an Israeli victory in Gaza.

Israel will fail to achieve victory in Gaza even though the U.S. is transferring tens of millions of dollars worth of weapons to the invading army, flying drones over Gaza to support them, or sending warships and a nuclear submarine to the region in a show of support.

The administration of U.S. President Joe Biden has gone as far as casting doubt on the number of Palestinian civilians being killed by Israeli forces, while the Pentagon admits there have been "thousands" of casualties in Gaza, but still refuses to specify how many.

This is while the United Nations and human rights groups say the Gaza health ministry numbers on casualties are "reliable" and "clearly sourced".

The United Nations Secretary-General says Gaza is becoming a "graveyard for children," yet still experts say an Israeli victory in the Gaza Strip will not occur.

Though homes are being destroyed, hospitals and other civilian sites are being bombed in a barbaric way, the resilient people of Gaza are standing steadfastly behind Hamas.

Netanyahu knows fully well how to kill civilians. He has mastered this atrocious practice. But he has no idea how to defeat a resistance group defending their land.

WORLD HEADLINES

US invites Russians to San Francisco summit

The US has sent invitations to the other 20 members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) to take part in a leader's summit slated to kick off on Saturday. Washington does not expect Russian President Vladimir Putin to represent his nation at the event.

The upcoming week-long gathering was discussed by the senior American official for APEC, Matt Murray, during a press conference on Monday. He stressed that as the host of the summit, the US was looking forward to welcoming foreign delegations, provided that US sanctions are observed.

"We've been very consistent [and] clear that participating in APEC will be in accordance with US laws and regulations, and we have been working towards appropriate participation of all APEC member economies," he told journalists.

The sanctions issue came up specifically regarding two member economies, Hong Kong and Russia. The autonomous Chinese territory announced last Tuesday that it would be sending Financial Secretary Paul Chan to the event, rather than Chief Executive John Lee, who is sanctioned by the US.

Over 100 British firms admit violating Russia sanctions – FT

More than 100 UK companies have admitted breaching British sanctions against Russia since the beginning of the Ukraine conflict, the Financial Times reported on Monday, citing official data.

In total, 127 firms had voluntarily disclosed to the UK government that they had violated Russia-related sanctions as of May 17, according to a response to a freedom of information request obtained by law firm Pinsent Masons.

The disclosures were made to the Office of Financial Sanctions Implementation (OFSI), which is responsible for monitoring compliance with sanctions and suspected breaches. British companies can reduce government penalties by voluntarily admitting violations and cooperating with investigations, the outlet noted.

"We of course consider any relevant efforts and checks undertaken as a mitigating factor when assessing any possible enforcement action," an OFSI spokesperson said, adding that the agency was "not trying to unduly penalize honest mistakes."

London has placed over 1,600 Russia-affiliated individuals and companies under restrictions as part of "the most severe" sanctions Moscow has ever faced, the FT said.

South Africa recalls its diplomats in Israel for consultations

Khumbudzo Ntshavheni, a minister in the president's office, told a press briefing that all diplomatic staff in Tel Aviv would be asked back to Pretoria for consultations.

"We are... extremely concerned at the continued killing of children and innocent civilians in the Palestinian territories and we believe the nature of the response by Israel has become one of collective punishment," Foreign Minister Naledi Pandor told a press conference, adding: "We felt it important that we do signal the concern of South Africa while continuing to call for a comprehensive cessation (of hostilities)".

Earlier, Turkey, Jordan, Bolivia, Honduras, Colombia, Chile, Chad, Honduras, and Bahrain also did the same.

Bolivia also cut all diplomatic ties with Israel following its atrocities in Gaza.

At least 10,328 Palestinians have been martyred in Gaza

From page **1** ▸ It has targeted 120 health institutions and put 18 hospitals and 40 primary care centers out of service.

"We received 2,450 missing persons since the start of the aggression, including 1,350 children who are still under the rubble," said the spokesman for the Gaza Ministry of Health.

Funeral held for Lebanese schoolgirl sisters and grandmother martyred in Israeli strike

Sisters Reemas, Talin and Layan Chour, aged 14, 12 and 10, and their grandmother Samira Ayoub were laid to rest in Blida cemetery, south Lebanon, on Tuesday morning.

The relatives of Lebanese journalist Samir Ayoub were killed on Sunday near Ainata, when an Israeli air strike hit their car.

Their mother Huda Hijazi was severely injured but is now in a stable condition in hospital.

Photos from Tuesday show a large gathering paying tribute, with women holding pictures of the three sisters. Hezbollah MP Ali Fayyad attended the funeral of the "Lebanese civilians martyred by Israeli aggression", Hezbollah-owned Al Manar TV said.

The four civilians were killed on the road in their native southern Lebanon. Mr Ayoub, who was driving in another car in front, told The National they had been heading back to their hometown to retrieve schoolbooks the girls had left behind.

"I watched them burning before my eyes, there was nothing I could do," he said.

The sisters and their grandmother are among the 14 civilians killed on the Lebanese side in the border conflict, which has also claimed the lives of about 60 Hezbollah fighters, six Israeli soldiers and two Israeli civilians. On the Lebanese side, civilian deaths include Reuters journalist Issam Abdallah.

The continuing clashes between Israel and Hezbollah, an ally of Hamas, erupted a day after the start of the war in Gaza, the blockaded Palestinian strip controlled by Hamas. But to date, Hezbollah and Israeli forces have managed to restrain attacks on each other, avoiding the intense violence of their 2006 confrontation, in which about 1,300 were killed in just over a month.

Of the family's loss, Lebanon's caretaker Prime Minister Najib Mikati said: "This crime is a new stain on the global conscience that condones what the Israeli occupation is doing in southern Lebanon and Gaza."

Lebanon has lodged a complaint with the UN Security Council regarding "the murder of children and civilians" by Israel in southern Lebanon, Foreign Affairs Minister Abdallah Bou Habib said.

Hezbollah leader Hassan Nasrallah has warned "all options are open" on the Lebanese front, promising every attack would provoke retaliation.

"For every civilian, a civilian," he said in the televised speech.

UK government calls emergency meeting ahead of planned protest

Over the past month, there have been enormous pro-Palestinian protests in London with tens of thousands of people rallying to express their solidarity with the people of Gaza.

On Monday, the Metropolitan Police asked organizers to consider postponing any demonstrations in the UK over the weekend, which coincides with the anniversary of the end of World War I.

Now, a spokesperson for Prime Minister Rishi Sunak says the government will hold an emergency meeting to coordinate the "response to the situation in Israel and Gaza".

"It will look at a wide range of areas, but it's obviously particularly focused on the impact of the terrorist attack on the UK domestically, and how we can address some of the importance around community cohesion particularly," the spokesperson added.

Association for cultural heritage benefactors launched

TEHRAN – Iran's tourism minister on Monday publicized the launch of a special association for cultural heritage benefactors to raise funds for urgent restoration projects.

"A cultural heritage benefactors' association has recently been launched to help sustain the (required restorations of) historical monuments across the country," Ezzatollah Zarghami said.

He made the remarks in the opening ceremony of a pomegranate harvest festival, which is annually held in Saveh, a semi-arid county famed for that treasured fruit.

Referring to the insufficiency of government funding to safeguard all historical monuments countrywide, the minister said government budgets are not enough for [the restoration of some] 36,000 historical monuments that exist in the country.

"Although the government's budgets for cultural heritage increased by 50% this year, it is still not enough."

For this purpose, the association of cultural heritage benefactors has been set up so that we can take advantage of the people's capacity to restore buildings and historical monuments and witness the sustainability of historical monuments, the minister explained.

Elsewhere in his remarks, the minister pointed to having lease agreements as a solution for some historical monuments to ensure their sustained maintenance.

"Renting historical works that are not considered exquisite is another way to preserve and restore them," Zarghami said.

The minister said investors (tenants) in this sector under the supervision of the Cultural Heritage Ministry [and based on its criteria] may launch profitable businesses such as traditional restaurants.

Over the past couple of years, hundreds of Iranian historical sites and monuments have been auctioned to be temporarily ceded to the private sector reportedly aimed at achieving higher productivity and better maintenance.

As the minister said lack of a sufficient government budget for the restoration of all centuries-old sites is the main reason behind the ceding project.

This trend is observed under the close supervision of the Revitalization and Utilization Fund for Historical Places, however, there have been many opponents saying the scheme will not result in better maintenance in some cases.

There have been reports that some of the historical monuments have been mistreated by private investors, such as damages caused to the walls, and arches, or the lack of proper restoration.

Upon an initiative scheme, the Fund (known by its Persian acronym Saabta) provides the opportunity for privately-owned businesses to run certain old structures to be maintained and repurposed into hotels, traditional restaurants, or lodging places.

According to cultural heritage officials, this sort of investment seems to be attractive for private investors, because accommodation in [well-preserved] monuments is attractive for both domestic and foreign tourists.

Iran hosts some of the world's oldest cultural monuments including bazaars, museums, mosques, bridges, bathhouses, madrasas, and gardens, as well as rich natural and rural landscapes some of which have been registered on the prestigious UNESCO World Heritage list.

Glimpses of World Heritage sites

L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site

At the tip of the Great Northern Peninsula of the island of Newfoundland, the remains of an 11th-century Viking settlement are evidence of the first European presence in North America.

This UNESCO-designated exceptional archaeological site consists of eight timber-framed turf structures built in the same style as those found in Norse Greenland and Iceland from the same period.

The buildings include three dwellings, one forge, and four workshops, on a narrow terrace overlooking a peat bog and small brook near the shore of Epaves Bay in the Straight of Belle Isle.

According to the UN cultural body, artifacts found at the site show evidence of activities including iron production and woodworking, likely used for ship repair, as well as indications that those who used the camp voyaged further south. The remnants correspond with the stories told in the Vinland Sagas, which document the voyages of Leif Erikson and other Norse explorers who ventured westward across the Atlantic Ocean from Iceland and Greenland to find and explore new territory, a significant achievement in the history of human migration and discovery.

Measuring 7991 ha, L'Anse aux Meadows National Historic Site is of sufficient size to ensure that the property is protected, remains intact, and takes in the full extent of the known Norse remains in the region. Its boundaries extend far beyond the areas that contain Norse archaeological remains, thus providing ample protection of the complete representation of the features and processes that convey the property's Outstanding Universal Value.

Tourism education the focus as UNWTO hosts Ministers Summit in London

UNWTO celebrated the biggest Ministers Summit on record as it brought tourism leaders together on the opening day of the World Travel Market in London to focus on education and skills development.

Welcoming a record 40 Ministers of Tourism, representing every global region and destinations of all sizes, UNWTO Executive Director Natalia Bayona underscored the vital importance of investing in education.

The Summit, hosted at WTM for the 17th time, also featured inputs from key private sector players and from co-organizer the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC).

According to UNWTO with 1.2 billion people worldwide aged between 15 to 24, tourism can establish itself as a top employer of youth and driver of youth empowerment. However., according to the Office for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) around 10% of that demographic are unemployed and 14% hold only basic qualifications.

Outlining how UNWTO is leading the way in promoting tourism education, Executive Director Bayona emphasized the need to support education and skills development at every stage.

UNWTO launched its Education Toolkit in October 2023. The landmark resource will enable countries everywhere to introduce tourism as a high school subject.

(Source: hospitalitynet.org)

History of Burnt City goes down 300 years earlier than previously thought

TEHRAN – The earliest period of human settlement in the UNESCO-designated Burnt City might have occurred in about 3500 BC, more than 300 years before what was previously thought, an Iranian archaeologist has said.

"In recent research and tests, based on the evidence and findings, we found out that the burnt city, contrary to what we thought, does not belong to 3200 BC," archaeologist Seyyed-Mansour Seyyed-Sajjadi said on Tuesday.

"The site is at least 300 years older than what we thought, which means that this city was founded at least 3500 BC."

Seyyed-Sajjadi made the remarks in a meeting in which he unveiled some prehistorical table games once played in Burnt City millennia ago.

Located at the junction of Bronze Age trade routes crossing the Iranian plateau, the remains of the mud brick city bear witness to the emergence of the first complex societies in eastern Iran.

Also known as Shahr-e Sukhteh, or Shahr-i Sokhta, Burnt City is associated with four rounds of civilization, all burnt down by catastrophic sets of fire. The site is situated in the Sistan-Baluchestan province, which was once a junction of Bronze-Age trade routes crossing the Iranian plateau.

According to the UN cultural body, changes in water courses and climate change led to the eventual abandonment of the city in the early second millennium. The structures, burial grounds, and a large number of significant artifacts unearthed there and their well-preserved state due to the dry desert climate make this site a rich source of information regarding the emergence of complex societies and contacts between them in the third millennium BC.

Burnt City was populated during four main periods up to 1800 BC. Previous rounds of excavations showed that its residents had great skills in weaving, and creating fine arts such as decorative objects, stone carving, and pottery painting.

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Universal network dedicated to Persian-speaking tourism professionals formed

TEHRAN – Several veteran Iranian experts have formed an Internet website and association devoted to Persian-speaking tourism professionals and experts from across the globe.

The network has been established at the suggestion of the Cultural Heritage, Tourism and Handicrafts Ministry, the deputy tourism minister said in an address to a working group from the High Council of Iranian Affairs Abroad.

So far, some 450 tourism experts have joined the network (Shegarf.org), Shalbafian said.

The official said it is expected to become a firm tourism platform to rely on the expertise and capacities of Iranians abroad.

"A network has been formed to exchange the experiences of Farsi-speaking tourism activists and experts in various countries, and they are going to have monthly meetings in the future," said Jafar Jafari, a professor of hospitality and tourism at the University of Wisconsin-Stout, Department of Hospitality and Tourism.

[The primary core of] Shegarf was born on the sidelines of the three-day conference on sustainable development and resilience of tourism, which was held in Istanbul, Turkey last year, with the presence of a group of activists, specialists, university professors, and researchers in the field of tourism, Following the establishment of this network, Jafari said in a recent interview with Mehr reporter.

"On the sidelines of this conference, Persian-speaking tourism activists and experts from Iran and other countries reviewed and approved the process of establishment and activity of a Persian-speaking tourism experts network."

The expert added that for a long time, tourism activists have been demanding the creation of a space for an exchange of ideas and communication between Farsi speakers from all over the world who are active in the scientific and practical field of tourism, so that they can connect professionally and, in fact, by doing this, build a linguistic bridge for science and practice.

The author of the World Tourism Encyclopedia added: It is not only Iranians who speak Farsi; other nations such as Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and the people of other neighboring countries of Iran, as well as many people scattered around the world, speak Persian and have tourism expertise.

The network is intended to establish a network that will facilitate synergy and exchange of information and experiences among experts in the Persian language, Jafari explained.

"In fact, this is an opportunity for more interactions, cohesion, participation, and companionship that will lead to help for the sustainable development of tourism in Farsi-speaking countries and to improve the level of skills and knowledge of activists in this field in other parts of the world."

"We have been thinking and consulting about the formation of this network for more than a year, we raised various challenges in the team of enthusiasts, and finally we agreed," Jafari stated.

While inviting those interested, he added: The main office of the network is in Spain where the headquarters of the World Tourism Organization is located.

Jafari said the statutes of this network have been compiled and approved and have been registered with the legal authorities of Spain.

The added professional and specialized monthly webinars and meetings are held by inviting experts.

"Congresses and the annual meeting of the network of Persian language tourism experts will also be held in the future."

According to data compiled by the tourism ministry, Iran saw 3.35 million tourist arrivals in the first half of the current Iranian calendar year (started March 21), which soared 38 percent year on year.

The rate of tourist arrivals, mainly from Iran's neighboring countries, has been "promising", Shalbafian said.

"In close collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, we seek a border-easing strategy based on which it may unilaterally drop visa requirements for passport holders of 60 states," the official said. The scheme recommends the unilateral cancellation of visas by Muslim countries and neighboring states to increase international arrivals.

The Islamic Republic recorded about 850,000 foreign tourist arrivals during the first two months of the year, which shows over 50 percent growth year on year, the tourism ministry announced earlier this year.

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

Ancient clay seals restored, documented

TEHRAN – A collection of ancient clay seals bearing various themes, from realistic characters to mythical animals has recently been restored and documented in Semnan province.

The seals, which are being kept at Shahrud Museum, were completely de-sedimented and the surface pollution and mud behind the works were removed, IRIB reported.

According to restorer, Razieh Taheri, seals of the Shahrud Museum are made of soft clay and are ocher and pea red in color, and on them, there is a large stamp in the center and one or more smaller stamps around.

"The motifs depicted on these beads range from naturalistic characters to images of mythical animals, symbols and signs.... and leather strips can be seen behind them."

Seals are considered important legal documents in all historical periods and play a significant role in recognizing and reconstructing historical, political, administrative, cultural, and social situations, the expert explained.

"A clay seal can represent part of the ownership or control and inspection of government officials and convey important information about power structures to its audience."

The restorer, however, did not mention the date or historical periods associated with the clay seals.

According to Iranica, the seals of the eastern Iranian area reflect the composite nature of the region's culture. On the one hand, this is characterized by the various local traditions and their contacts with South and East Asia and the Hellenistic world; on the other hand, there is the link with the Iranian plateau and its craft traditions, exposed to the influence of the Iranian dynasties from the Achaemenians to the Sasanians that held power in western Asia.

The technique of engraving semi-precious stones with drills and emery flourished in Mesopotamia and the Mediterranean basin in pre-Classical and Classical times, giving rise, on the one hand, to the tradition of Mesopotamian seals, stamps, and cylinders, in all their chronological and regional variants, and on the other to the production of intaglios those refined engraved gems of the Greek and later the Hellenistic World. Other, local traditions of seals in metal or terracotta developed in some regions of the area, including Central Asia. On the whole, therefore, it is easier to follow the development of the various groups of seals than it is with other craft classes.

The Iranian world, beginning with the glyphics of the Achaemenian period, recalls both the Mesopotamian and the Greek traditions, with the Achaemenian cylinders on one side and the so-called Greco-Persian gems on the other. In the Arsacid and Sasanian periods, local glyptic production was introduced from the Mesopotamian stamp seals of the Achaemenian and Seleucid periods. We also see some intaglios of Hellenistic tradition, probably imported.

Iran, Iraq sign MOUs to expand scientific co-op

TEHRAN – Iran's National Institute of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology (NIGEB) signed memorandums of understanding with six Iraqi universities to strengthen scientific and research relations.

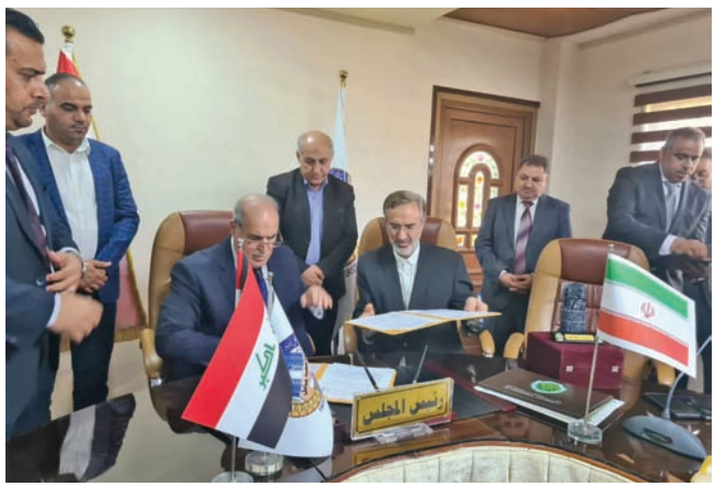
A delegation from the NIGEB visited Basra, Al-Zahra, Babel, Al-Mustaqbal, Wasit, and Qasim Al-Khadra universities in Iraq on Sunday and held meetings with chancellors and officials of the universities and scientific centers on how to expand cooperation, IRIB reported.

Previously, some officials and faculty members of Basra University had visited NIGEB with the aim of promoting scientific interactions with the neighboring country.

In this regard, six memorandums of understanding were signed by the two sides.

The memorandums included starting joint research projects for post-graduate students, sharing efforts to start approved joint credit courses in biotechnology, holding professional workshops in Iraqi research institutes and universities to update the knowledge and expertise of the faculty members, following legal procedures to establish a branch of the research center in Iraqi universities and to pave the way for opening a genetic engineering and biotechnology research center in mentioned universities.

The two sides also agreed to collaborate on advertising, encouraging and sharing potential in holding congresses relating to biotechnology, start-ups, and innovation exhibitions in Iraqi research institutes and universities.



Moreover, the officials agreed on launching an international journal of biotechnology in Iraqi universities, exchanging professors and students, promoting marketing biotechnology start-ups of both sides, creating permanent centers for joint cooperation at NIGEB and Iraqi universities, as well as holding regular annual meetings to review and promote the progress of joint programs.

> Iran's National Institute of Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology signed agreements with six Iraqi universities.

On the sidelines of the signing ceremonies, Javad Mohammadi, head of the NIGEB, referred to the achievements of the meetings, saying that according to the policies of the Ministry of Science, Research, and Technology on the expansion of scientific diplomacy and the capacities of the two countries, "We hope to be able to implement the joint programs, and research, educational and technological projects in the near future."

Calling these agreements positive, he went on to say that joint working groups will be formed to follow up on the projects.

Boosting educational co-op

In May, Iraqi Minister of Higher Education and Scientific Research, Naeem Al-Aboudi, said many Iraqi youths are interested in continuing their higher education in Iran.

Now the demand for studying in Iran is very high and a large number of Iraqi students are interested in continuing their higher education in Iran as a friendly and neighboring country, he added.

The Iraqi official made the remarks in a meeting in Tehran with Iran's Minister of Science, Research, and Technology, Mohammad-Ali Zolfigol, IRNA reported.

He pointed out that some 75,000 Iraqi nationals are currently studying in Iranian universities.

"The scientific abilities and capacities of the two countries require that we boost cooperation in the field of science and research, and in this field, we need detailed planning and the formation of special working groups," Al-Aboudi highlighted.

Zolfigol, for his part, while emphasizing the need to increase joint scientific exchanges between Iran and Iraq and holding joint seminars, said holding a joint meeting between heads of universities and research and technology centers of the two countries can help increase cooperation.

In July 2022, the Iranian deputy science minister Vahid Haddadi-Asl said from among Islamic and neighboring countries, Iran puts priority on increasing academic cooperation with Iraq.

In a meeting with Iraqi Ambassador to Tehran Naseer Abdul Mohsen Abdullah, he said Iraq has the largest number of foreign nationals studying in Iran, so removing their problems is one of the most important missions of the science ministry, IRNA reported.

FAO acknowledges New Agricultural Heritage sites in Iran

From page 1 ▶ By capturing, redirecting, and sharing floodwaters, local communities have been able to cultivate and grow fruits all around Qazvin. Today, the system provides food and employment opportunities for people but also cools the temperature of the city and serves to replenish groundwater tables.

The Traditional Walnut Agricultural System in Tuyserkan, Iran, is known not just for its walnut orchards but also for its delicacies as well as its landscapes and historical monuments. Based on family farming, the cultivation of walnuts supports the livelihoods of a major part of the households in the area.

This cultivation is mainly developed in valleys and is irrigated using water canals designed at different levels and fed mainly by rivers and springs as well as Qanats. Among the local practices is irrigating walnut trees in the cold and frost season, which farmers believe helps to eliminate pests and diseases.

So far, two Iranian sites of the Qanat-based Saffron Farming System in Gonabad and the Grape Production System in Jowzan Valley in the provinces of Razavi Khorasan and Hamadan have been granted GIAHS awards. It is noteworthy that in 2014, the Qanat Irrigated System of Kashan, Isfahan province was designated as a Globally Important Agricultural Heritage System.

Under the FAO's GIAHS program, the selection criteria stipulate that sites must be of global importance, have value as a public good, support food and livelihood security, agro-biodiversity, sustainable knowledge systems and practices, social values and culture as well as outstanding landscapes. With the newest addition to the global agricultural heritage systems list, FAO's worldwide agricultural heritage network now consists of 86 systems in 26 countries around the globe.

"Now over 20 years strong, GIAHS has proven to be a great model for showcasing longstanding practices to render agrifood systems more resilient to climate change," said FAO Deputy Director-General Maria Helena Semedo.

'Environmental Protection Education Day' on national calendar

TEHRAN – The fifteenth day of Esfand – the last Iranian calendar month, which falls on March 5, has been approved to be registered on the national calendar as the 'Environmental Protection Education Day'.

Nourollah Moradi, the deputy head of the Department of Environment for educational affairs, said on Tuesday that the Environmental Protection Education Day is the second environmental event to be registered in the country's official calendar, IRNA reported.

Clean Earth Day, April 22, was the first environmental event registered in the national calendar.

He referred to the registration of the Environmental Protection Education Day in the country's official calendar as a valuable event for the environmental society of the country and said, "Education in the field of environment is one of the basic steps to preserve and protect the country's environment."

It will be an important measure taken to enhance environmental literacy and empower the next generations."

National tree planting day

National Tree Planting Day is annually celebrated on the fifteenth day of Esfand - the last Iranian calendar month, falling on March 5. The day also marks the beginning of the National Week of Natural Resources.

On November 17, 2015, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Leader of the Islamic Revolution, announced the general policies on the environment, emphasizing the need for comprehensive, harmonious, and organized management of vital resources based on ecological capability and sustainability, particularly by increasing capacities and appropriate legal and structural capabilities accompanied by public participation.

Improving environmental conditions with the purpose of helping society enjoy a healthy environment, administering justice and observing intra-generational rights, preventing and prohibiting the circulation of all kinds of unlawful pollutants, recording crimes related to the environment, administering efficient and preventive punishment of polluters and destroyers of the environment and forcing them to compensate for their actions, were also among the policies.

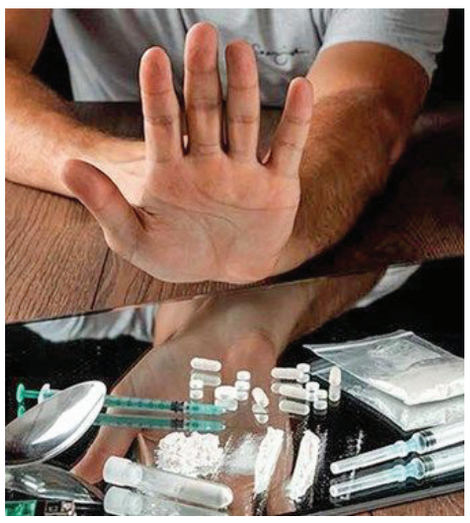
On March 5, the Leader marked the National Tree Planting Day by planting three saplings.

Referring to the slogan "Each Iranian, Three Saplings", the Leader said: "If each Iranian plants three saplings, the government's goal to plant one billion saplings over the next four years will be realized."

Ayatollah Khamenei pointed to the importance of planting saplings in preserving the environment, emphasizing that with the help of the people, it is possible to plant one billion saplings.

Experts believe that in addition to planting fruit trees, trees that produce wood should be planted because the export of wood has a significant effect on the country's economy, the Leader stressed.

National week on dealing with narcotics, social harms in schools to be held



TEHRAN –The national week on the fight against drug addiction and its social harms in schools will be held from November 13th to 19th.

The decrease in the age of drug addiction in different countries of the world, including Iran, in recent decades has been a source of concern for authorities of the anti-narcotics headquarters.

Therefore, they have put various programs on the agenda to deal with the prevalence of drug abuse among young people, IRNA reported.

"The average age of drug abuse and addiction in Iran is 24, in the world it is 19, which shows that Iran has a better situation compared to the other parts of the world," IRNA quoted Eskandar Momeni, the secretary general of the anti-narcotics headquarters, as saying.

Accordingly, the week to combat addiction and its social harms in the new academic year (started on September 23), will be held in schools.

Global support 'essential'

In October, Iran anti-narcotics police chief, Iraj Kakavand, in a meeting with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) representative in Tehran, Alexander Fedulov, called it essential to support Iran in the fight against drug trafficking.

During the meeting, Fedulov said the Islamic Republic of Iran has always been committed to a serious and decisive fight against narcotics at the regional and global level, IRIB reported.

Iran has spent a huge sum of money fighting the war on drugs, and apart from that, many anti-narcotics forces have sacrificed their lives in this way. The high number of martyrs and injured shows Iran's serious determination to deal with this scourge, the UN official added.

"Considering the fact that the Islamic Republic of Iran is at the forefront of the fight against drug trafficking, the UNODC and the international community support of Iran should be proportionate to the activities and actions at the regional and global level."

He stated since new smuggling routes and concealment methods are emerging, it is necessary for the anti-narcotics police to be equipped with new detection equipment and tools. Needless to say, the UNODC in Tehran plays a prominent role in providing some of these tools.

Kakavand, for his part, highlighted the need to promote regional cooperation and said, "The Anti-Narcotics Police of Iran has always announced its readiness to collaborate and improve cooperation with all the countries in the region and the world to eradicate narcotics."

Holding meetings with the anti-narcotics police of Pakistan and Afghanistan in the form of a tripartite initiative in previous years is a strong proof of this claim, he noted.

ENGLISH IN USE

LEARN NEWS TRANSLATION

Female Asiatic lion to join male companion

Iran will play host to a female Asiatic lion from Ireland to accompany the recently returned male lion under a population management program aiming at endangered species reproduction by the European Association of Zoos and Aquaria, a veterinarian at Eram Zoo has said.

The female lion, born 4 years ago, now is coming back to its motherland after being extinct for 8 decades, YJC quoted Iman Memarian as saying.

The lion has undergone genetic tests under the EAZA supervision, and the results have showed that the animal is completely healthy.

Both will be kept at Tehran Zoological Garden separately for a period, and then will live together.

شیر ماده ایرانی به جفت نر خود می پیوندد

دامپزشک پارک پردیسان و مدیر باغ وحش ارم از پیوستن شیر ماده ایرانی از ایرلند به جفت نر خود تحت نظر برنامه تکثیر گونه‌های در خطر انقراض خبر داد.

ایمان معماریان در گفتگو با باشگاه خبرنگاران جوان، اظهار کرد: شیرماده ایرانی که در باغ وحش دوبلین ایرلند به دنیا آمده و ۴ ساله است، پس از ۸۰ سال در راه بازگشت به وطن است.

شیر ماده ایرانی از نظر ژنتیک و نبود بیماری چک شده و هیچ گونه مشکلی نداشته، این شیر پس از استانداردسازی مورد تایید اتحادیه باغ وحش‌های اروپا به ایران جابه جا شد.

دو شیر ماده و نر ایرانی مدتی جدا از هم زیست خواهند کرد و به صورت تدریجی این دوگونه به هم معرفی خواهند شد.

Mehr / Mina Noei

Aras River in northwestern Iran

Aras River is the most important and largest river in the northwestern part of Iran, bordering the Republic of Azerbaijan.

Being some 1,072 km in length, it originates in Turkey, flowing ultimately into the Caspian Sea.

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GUIDE TO SPIRITUAL AWAKENING

Keep yourself far from envy; because it eats up and takes away good actions, like a fire eats up and burn woods.

Prophet Muhammad (S)

Prayer Times » Noon:11:48 Evening: 17:22 Dawn: 5:08 (tomorrow) Sunrise: 6:34 (tomorrow)

Tehran to host Iran Music Industry Exhibition

TEHRAN –The first edition of Iran Music Industry Exhibition is set to be held in Tehran from December 26 to 29.

The exhibition, aimed at introducing the latest achievements in music and fostering connections among professionals in this field, will be held in Tehran's Milad Tower, ILNA reported on Tuesday.

The first-ever Music Industry Exhibition intends to become a significant reference point for industry activities throughout the year, the report added.

The exhibition will feature various equipment manufacturers and music institutes, music research centers, recording studios, music-based start-ups, music book publishers, and suppliers of audio equipment and sound systems.

In addition to music professionals and critics, media outlets dedicated to music will also attend the exhibition.

Detective Maigret's new story available in Persian

TEHRAN-The Persian version of "Maigret at the Crossroads," another novel by the Belgian writer Georges Simenon from his detective Maigret's stories, has been released in the Iranian book market.

Translated by Abbas Agahi, the book has been brought out by Jahan-e Ketab Publishing House, based in Tehran, in the 'Neqab' (mask) series, which focuses on detective stories, Mehr reported.

Originally published in 1931, "Maigret at the Crossroads" is one of the earliest novels to feature Inspector Maigret in the role of the chief police investigator, a character that has since become one of the best-known detectives in fiction.

The plot of the novel is driven by the murder of Isaac Goldberg, a Jewish diamond merchant, in a place outside Paris known as the Three Widows' Crossroads.

It is a sensational tale of deceit and back-stabbing in an isolated community in which only Inspector Maigret, the commissioner of the Paris Criminal Affairs Brigade, can intervene.

Georges Simenon (1903-1989) was most famous for his fictional detective Jules Maigret. One of the most popular authors of the 20th century, he published around 400 novels, 21 volumes of memoirs and many short stories, selling over 500 million copies.

Between 1931 and 1972, 75 novels and 28 short stories about Maigret were published. With the creation of Maigret, Simenon renewed the detective novel-genre. The novels and stories have been translated into more than 50 languages. The Maigret stories have also received numerous film, television and radio adaptations.

The character of Maigret was influenced by Chief Inspector Marcel Guillaume (1872-1963), said to be the greatest French detective of his day, who became a long-time friend of Simenon.

Abbas Agahi, 83, is a prominent translator of French literature. A graduate of Paris-Sorbonne University, he has translated over 80 books, mainly works of detective fiction, which is a subgenre of crime fiction and mystery fiction in which an investigator or a detective investigates a crime, often murder.

The veteran translated has rendered works by various authors into Persian, including George Simenon, Frederic Dard, Michel Bussi, Olivier Norek, Jean-Christophe Grangé, Fred Vargas, Stanislas-Andre Steeman, Pierre Boileau and Thomas Narcejac among others.

Neqab series of Jahan-e Ketab Publishing House is a rich collection of more than 100 books in the genres of crime, thriller and mystery. Although most of the works are from French literature, there are translations from English and German literature as well.

Cartoon of Day

Israel: "We don't target civilians".
Cartoonist: Hamzeh Hajjaj from Jordan

Alireza Qorbani's concert tour from Canada to Europe

TEHRAN-The concert tour of the Iranian traditional vocalist Alireza Qorbani has started in Canada and after two more performances, he will take his tour to Europe.

Having performed in Calgary (November 3) and Vancouver (November 5), the well-known singer will have performances in Toronto on November 11 and in Montreal the day after, Mehr reported on Monday.

Traveling to Europe in late November, Qorbani will hold seven concerts in three countries until early December.

The first European country he will perform in is Germany. On November 21, he will sing in Düsseldorf. Going to Frankfurt, he will stage a concert on November 26.

His next stop will be Malmö, Sweden, where he will have a performance on November 29. Returning to Germany, Qorbani will perform in Munich on December 1.

The Netherlands will be the third country in his European tour. The traditional singer will hold a concert in Rotterdam on December 2.

Back to Sweden, he will have his last performance in the tour in Stockholm on December 3.

Qorbani started his vocal lessons at the age of 12 and became a solo vocalist of the National Orchestra of Iran at 27. Three years later, he became a foreground singer of Persian song, having mastered the numerous scales of Middle Eastern music. Flawlessly controlling the rarest vocal techniques in singing, his very ramified repertory constitutes the radif (non- rhythmic) and the tasnif (rhythmic) techniques.

An artist of great calibre, Qorbani is deeply rooted in the tradition with an insatiable curiosity and open-mindedness towards other cultures. He has laid claims to being a worthy successor of Mohammed Reza Shajarian, the man regarded as the undisputed master of Persian classical song. He is attributed with dozens of musical albums, numerous live performances and concerts, and scores of international multicultural projects and festivals in many countries around the world.

The versatility and creativity of his work is illustrated by his many collaborations with artists of various backgrounds, such as Alim Qasimov (Azerbaijan), Jobran Trio (France), Dorsaf Hamdani (Tunisia), Bombay Jayashri (India), Celia Woodsmith to name a few.

In the late 2010s, the singer performed with the Vancouver Opera Orchestra in "A Persian Night," the first of what would be many collaborations between the two.

Qorbani is also the founder of the Voices and Bridges project, which brings together composers and musicians from diverse world music styles. Songs on the project feature lyrics by well-known poets such as Youshij, Rumi and Pablo Neruda.

Qorbani also has a great deal of experience with cinema and television and has sung some of the famous pieces in many popular TV series. He is recognized as one of the most active traditional contemporary singers of Iran.

Iranian films, series, animations present at 35th Girona Film Festival

TEHRAN-A total of 28 Iranian films, series, and animations, feature and short, have been selected by the 35th Girona Film Festival in Spain, which kicked off in the city of Girona on November 7.

Among the notable works attending the festival are the series "Lily's Turn" directed by Ruhollah Hejazi, feature-length animated movie "Loupetoo" by Abbas Askari, and short animated films "The Lovely Sky" and "Being Ten" by Amir Mehran and Fatemeh Jafari respectively, Honaronline reported.

In "Lily's Turn," the main character Lili, through a mysterious book, discovers that she and her family have lived in many times and places, and now it is Lily's turn to decipher the book and find a valuable painting of her ancestors to make a choice that gives meaning to all these lives.

The fantasy romance drama series stars Pardis Ahmadieh, Hamid Farrokhnezhad, and Merila Zarei among others.

Hejazi, 44, is a director, writer and producer. He directed his first short film "Start" in 1995, then followed up with ten more, shown at domestic and international festivals. He directed television dramas before making his debut feature film "Among the Clouds" in 2008, which gamered several awards at festivals around the world. His second feature film "The Private Life of Mr. & Mrs. M" (2012) and Third Film "The Wedlock" (2013) were shown at numerous international film festivals too.

His other movie "The Dark Room" (2018) was named best film at the 5th Hanoi International Film Festival and Kerala International Film Festival. In addition, he has won the best screenplay award at Asian Film Festival Barcelona for the film.

In the award-winning animation "Loupetoo," Mr. Kamali, the owner of a sanitarium, treat the patients by teaching them to make toys. The toys are creative, so they are very attractive for the children. But the toy studio is shut because of sabotage and it leads to patients' critical mental status. While Mr. Kamali efforts bear no results, an angel of hope appears to help him.

"Loupetoo" has won awards at several international festivals, including the award for best animation film at the 2022 Ahmedabad International Children Film Festival in India.

A production of the Institute for Intellectual Development of Children and Young Adults (IIDCYA), "The Lovely Sky" is a 14-minute 2D animation, dealing with the issue of war.

The Iranian work follows an impatient fighter pilot who bombs cities every day. He returns to his little girl every night after completing his mission. The girl loves to fly, but the father doesn't fulfill his daughter's dream because of the bitter memory of his wife's death. The war is getting closer every day. One day an incident changes their lives, forever.

Produced in 2022, it has so far won the best animation prize at the 52nd Roshd International Educational Film Festival in Tehran, Best Music at the 18th Vancouver Island Short Film Festival in Canada, and Best Animation in Itauna International Film Festival in Brazil.

Amir Mehran, 42, has an M.A. in animation directing from Soore Art University in Tehran. He has made several short animations so far and won awards at various international film festivals, including Warsaw, ANIMA, Grand OFF, Interfilm Berlin, Banja Luka, Cinefiesta, Imperia, Short Soup, Silk Road, and Noor among others.

Another production by the IIDCYA, "Being Ten" is about a father and his ten-year-old son who live in a lonely cottage in the middle of a dense wood. The father, a hunter, spares one of his prizes and brings it home as a present for his son. What, at first, was just a plaything forever will change the young boy's life.

The 18-minute animation recently won the third prize of the 11th international festival Constantine's Gold Coin in Serbia.

Fatehmeh Jafari, 46, graduated from Tarbiat Modares University with an M.A. in animation. She has begun her been active as an animator, script writer and director since 2005.

Dedicated to talent, especially emerging talent, the Girona Film Festival is a platform to show short films, feature films, documentaries, animations, video creation (experimental art), and music film (video clips).

The best in each category will be awarded at the closing ceremony on November 12.

Adaptation of "A Place with the Pigs" to go on stage in Tehran

TEHRAN –An adaptation of South African playwright Athol Fugard's short play "A Place with the Pigs" will go on stage at Tehran's Shahrzad Theater Complex on Wednesday.

Translated by Houshang Hesami, Amir Sina Javadi is the director of the play, which has been renamed "A Man, A Pig".

Samira Hosseini and Mohsen Javadi are the main members of the cast for the play, which will remain on stage until December 14.

Based on an absurd but true story, the play is about a Russian soldier who deserted during World War II and spent ten years hiding in his pigsty.

As the play begins, Pavel Ivanovitch is preparing to rejoin the world and throw himself on the mercy of his countrymen, but his wife has used his old uniform for rags and he refuses to wear the suit she has pressed.

Instead, she goes alone to the ceremony to unveil a monument to the war dead and returns reporting that the townspeople wept at the mention of him and his martyr's death fighting fascism.

Also, a local bigwig proposed to her now that she is officially a widow. What should she do? Will Pavel Ivanovitch ever be able to leave the pigsty, or is it his only safe haven?

Athol Fugard is a South African playwright, novelist, and actor who is renowned for his political and socially conscious works. Born in 1932, Fugard grew up in an environment that was heavily influenced by apartheid, and this inspired him to become involved in the fight against the racial segregation that was rampant in South Africa at the time.

In 1961, he wrote his first play, "No Good Friday," which explored the plight of black South Africans living under the apartheid regime. This play was followed by several other plays, including "Blood Knot," "Boesman and Lena," and "Master Harold and the Boys."

Fugard's plays and writing have received widespread acclaim and have been translated into several languages. He has won numerous awards, including the prestigious Tony Award for Lifetime Achievement in the Theatre. In addition to his writing, Fugard has also been involved in various social and political causes, including the fight against apartheid and the promotion of human rights in South Africa.

Today, Fugard is regarded as one of the most important voices in contemporary theater, and his works continue to be performed and studied around the world. His ability to combine social commentary with poetic beauty and compelling storytelling has made his works timeless and relevant, even in today's world.